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**Appropriate Development for Nomadic Pastoralists**

PhD, Malcolm I. Hunter

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## **Appropriate Development for Nomadic Pastoralists**

A Study of the Waso Borana of Northern Kenya Illustrating the Value and Meaning of a Holistic Understanding of Development Amongst Nomadic Peoples.

PhD Thesis, Malcolm Hunter, 1997

### **Abstract**

This study focuses on what is meant by appropriate development for nomadic pastoralists. It is based on the perception that those societies which traditionally live in arid and semi-arid lands with their main livelihood derived from herding animals, have their own objectives and a wealth of indigenous knowledge, both of which must be taken into account when development plans are being made.

This premise forms the basis of the method used in conducting the field research, depending chiefly on responses of a semi-nomadic group of pastoralists to the various development projects and interventions which had been attempted on, for and around them. The southern Borana of Kenya were chosen as a case study as they have been the target group for a range of development efforts. The history and geography of the Borana are discussed as these are important in understanding the recorded responses and possible options for their development as perceived by them to be appropriate.

A particular feature of this study is that it addresses the need for inclusion of the spiritual values of nomadic pastoralists when planning with them for development which will be appropriate and therefore most likely to be attractive to them. It will seek to show the need for a broader understanding of holistic or transformational development by looking at all the components or interventions used amongst the Waso Borana. A comparison of the relative appeal of Islam and Roman Catholic missionary work is made to show their relevance to nomadic pastoralists like the Waso Borana to retain their traditional life style. This perception will lead to a consideration of what is needed for a more appropriate and attractive presentation of Christianity, including the adaptation of the Christian Church to be an essential part of holistic development which is most appropriate to nomadic pastoralists.