



Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Maasai Climate Change Adaptation Strategies, Northern Tanzania

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Abstract

This study explores how Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) are integrated into climate change adaptation strategies among Maasai herders in Northern Tanzania. Qualitative methods were employed, including semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and participant observation among Maasai communities in four districts of Northern Tanzania. Maasai herders employ diverse IKS that include seasonal agricultural cycles, weather forecasting through animal behaviour, and traditional medicinal practices to adapt to climate change impacts. These strategies demonstrate significant effectiveness in mitigating drought effects on livestock health. The integration of IKS into formal adaptation programmes can enhance the resilience of Maasai communities against climate shocks. Policy makers should integrate IKS into climate change adaptation policies and support community-led initiatives to preserve traditional knowledge systems. Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Climate Change Adaptation, Maasai Herders, Northern Tanzania

Keywords: *Maasai, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Climate Change, Adaptation, Ethnography, Oral Tradition, Community Engagement*

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