



Indigenous Maasai Knowledge on Climate Phenomena and Adaptation Strategies: Insights from Northern Kenya

Koech Kibet¹, Mwangi Cheruiyos²

¹ University of Nairobi

² Department of Advanced Studies, University of Nairobi

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Correspondence: kkibet@yahoo.com

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Author notes

*Koech Kibet is affiliated with University of Nairobi and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.
Mwangi Cheruiyos is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, University of Nairobi and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

Abstract

The Maasai people of Northern Kenya have a long history of pastoralism, closely tied to environmental conditions such as climate phenomena like droughts and rains. Indigenous knowledge among these herders plays a crucial role in their daily life and adaptation strategies. Qualitative research methods were employed, including semi-structured interviews with local herders and observations of their daily routines. Data collection took place over a period of six months in selected communities. Maasai herders identified specific weather patterns that affect grazing lands and water availability, such as the onset of long rains which typically occur between March and May, influencing herd movements and crop cultivation. This study reveals how indigenous Maasai knowledge is essential for understanding climate phenomena in their region, offering practical insights into local adaptation strategies. Further research should focus on integrating traditional practices with modern agricultural techniques to enhance sustainability. Maasai herders, Indigenous Knowledge, Climate Phenomena, Adaptation Strategies

Keywords: *Maasai, Northern Kenya, Pastoralism, Indigenous Knowledge, Climate Change Adaptation, Livestock Management, Ethnoecology*

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