

**“AN ANALYSIS OF CUSTOMARY INSTITUTIONS EMPOWERMENT AND
RESOURCE BASED CONFLICT RESOLUTION”.**

A CASE OF TURKANA AND POKOT PASTORAL COMMUNITIES OF KENYA.

NAME: EKIRU FRANCIS ANNO

REGISTRATION NO. MGE/2014/66985

**RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF
MASTER OF ARTS IN GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS DEGREE OF MOUNT KENYA
UNIVERSITY.**

JUNE 2015

ABSTRACT

This research study is focusing on customary institutions empowerment and conflict resolution using a case of Turkana and Pokot communities of Kenya. Like many parts of the world, Africa as a continent and Kenya as a country; insecurity is contributing negatively to people's way of life. Depicting the current state of Turkana and Pokot pastoral resource based conflicts, such rivalry calls for more action to be done to redirect efforts of such producer communities towards maximizing the economic returns from livestock and pastoralism other than creating terror which indeed promotes poverty and sociological suffering among them. In thought of this, this study aims at discussing causes and impacts of resource based conflicts between Turkana and Pokot communities with consideration of empowerment of traditional institutions to help manage peace and security. The objectives of this study are: Finding out the immediate causes of conflicts among the pastoral communities under study; Determine the effects of conflicts among the pastoral communities under study with their closest neighbors; Identify the possible ways through which these conflicts can be stopped; Map out essential capacities with customary institutions regarding empowerment and conflict resolution; and Investigate what governments, private entities and customary institutions have done to resolve the current resource based conflicts in the study area. The study area is Turkana and Pokot counties. The study will cover areas of Alale, Lorogon and Marich in Pokot County and Lorengippi, Kotaruk and Kainuk in Turkana County. 140 pastoralists, 40 civil society representatives and 20 government officers will be interviewed using standard tools designed for this study. Poor governance, allocation and utilization of scarce resources have marginalized further service provision to pastoralists leading to poverty and underdevelopment. Need for peace is a pressing issue and a priority in the area of study and efforts by all will relief residents of many years of suffering. The outcome challenge in this case is peaceful coexistence and development by engaging 'Boundary Partners' to participate actively in nurturing a healthy society and pastoral economy through peace and security. This study is highly justified. The study engages stakeholders in review, consolidation and adoption of lessons resulting to peace building efforts. Will also empower peace and development implementers i.e. Customary Institutions, Civil Society and Government departments by creating knowledge database of the study area. Since conflicts have retarded economy of the target counties, the study will facilitate avenues for sustainable food and income security through livestock and dry land crop production, lucrative businesses and diversification to others sources of living. It is on this ground that the researcher finds a lot more of cherished outcomes from the study for purposes of alleviating security threats in Turkana and Pokot counties of the Republic of Kenya.