

# **EXPLORING THE DYNAMICS OF ORGANIZED VIOLENCE AS A MEANS OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: A COMPARATIVE CASE OF SAMBURU AND ISIOLO COUNTIES, KENYA.**

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## **Abstract**

In this paper, we examine the impact of informal arrangements between non-state actors such as Northern Rangeland Trust (NRT), a Non-Government Organization (NGO), and the state actors, looking at how their partnership affects Natural Resource Management (NRM) in the pastoral rangelands concerning the effect of the formal institution of the Community Land Act (hereafter CLA 2016). We focus on a comparative analysis of Samburu and Isiolo counties because these cases demonstrate a different impact of NRT on NRM. The introduction of the NRT, using conservation as an objective and applying what Lunstrum (2014) calls 'green militarization' —the use of military personnel in conservation efforts through policing the community conservancies and other resources such as minerals, leading to the emergence of the armed rangers and hybrid security, a state and private reservist in Northern Kenya community conservancies. In addition, the focus on conservancy as an economic opportunity eroded the main aim of conservation, leading to what Fairhead et al. (2012) refer to as green grabbing —appropriation of land with the aim of NRM. The contemporary world is experiencing new forms of social order, and violence and conflict have become more complex to solve. There is little empirical evidence of organised violence —legitimate and illegitimate monopoly of force practiced by state and non-state actors. Thus, we investigate how organised violence practiced by state and non-state actors contributes to NRM and conflict/insecurities in Samburu and Isiolo. The paper benefits from interviews collected from key informants such as government representatives and civil societies, with current follow-up from our Ph.D. research work in Samburu and Isiolo, and the vast conservation literature is the basis of our data collection. We are interested in investigating how the partnership between NRT, pastoral communities, and national/local governments contributes to NRM or facilitates conflict/violence in Northern Kenya. NRM needs a framework of local partners to allow transparency and better coordination of priority investment set by different actors such as the pastoral community, global conglomerates, and government. However, organised violence is applied in the conservation agenda, exacerbating conflict/violence.

**Keywords: Northern Rangeland Trust, Natural Resource Management, Social Order, Organised Violence, Pastoral Communities.**

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