

## **JEREMY SWIFT**

### **Curriculum vitae**

#### **SUMMARY**

My professional interests are in the creation and management of sustainable and productive livelihoods for nomadic herders in the mountains and deserts of Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. I approach this through research and through a concern for improved policies and practice.

#### **EXPERIENCE**

Within the broad category of pastoralism I focus on six main issues:

1. *Pastoral economy and society.* My early research examined the nature and functioning of the pastoral economy, the relationships between economy and society, and the links between what nomads think and do on the one hand and the functioning of the modern state on the other hand. This work was largely done among Tuareg and Fulani in the Saharan and Sahelian areas of Mali and Niger, but also among Bakhtiyari in Iran and Mongols in Mongolia.
2. *Food security and famine: resilience and risk management.* I was in the field in northern Mali during the great drought and famine of 1971-73. Based on this experience, I worked on preventing famine in Turkana in northern Kenya during the 1980s. I was asked by the Kenyan government and Oxfam to draft a plan giving the Turkana district administration and non-governmental organisations early warning of an impending food security crisis and the means to manage and mitigate its effects. This plan was operational from 1985 in Turkana, and over the following years was adopted progressively by all the arid and semi-arid districts in Kenya. I did further work on the system from the 1990s onwards, including making proposals for contingency planning in drought-prone areas, and on appropriate funding mechanisms for such a plan. In 2009 this system was adopted as the national drought management strategy and plan. In 2013 the system's role within central government was strengthened as the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA). Based on extensive fieldwork on pastoral risk, I have prepared similar institutional proposals for drought and famine contingency planning in the pastoral areas of Darfur (Sudan), Ethiopia, Iran, Mongolia and on the Tibetan plateau in China. In a related piece of work, in 2006 I prepared on behalf of the

African Union the first draft of a document subsequently adopted as the Pan-African Pastoral Policy.

3. *Conflict and insecurity.* I have worked extensively on conflict especially in Kenya, Ethiopia, Niger and Mali. In the 1990s, working for the UN, I mediated the return home to Mali and Niger of drought-affected Tuareg from refugee camps in Algeria. In Kenya I organised and directed research on conflict in the homelands of the Turkana, and on the links between conflict and development. I designed DFID's challenge fund on conflict in Kenya. In the 2000s I was a member of the team which developed an approach to conflict resolution based on customary procedures among Boran pastoralists in Ethiopia and Kenya. More recently I have been involved in attempts to resolve the conflict between northern and southern Mali. In 2011-2012 I was a member of a small team commissioned by the President of Mali to identify options for the future political and economic status of the Tuareg areas of northern Mali, and the peaceful reintegration of Tuareg soldiers returning from Libya to Mali. Since the outbreak of fighting in Mali I have been advising key actors (including DFID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence in the UK and the Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) in France) about likely events and possible options.
4. *Management of natural resources.* I have worked extensively on natural resource use, management and conservation in pastoral areas, including especially the links between formal legal systems of resource ownership and control, and the customary legal systems all pastoral societies possess concerning such things. This work was carried out in Somalia, Mali, Niger, Sudan (Red Sea Hills), Kenya, Oman, Mongolia and on the Tibetan plateau in China. In the case of the Fulani grazing systems of the flood zone of the Niger river in Mali, and the flood retreat systems of Boran in Kenya, the work developed into detailed proposals for a formalisation of customary systems. In Kenya this work provided the basis for detailed proposals for new formal systems of pasture and water use acceptable to the herders and which are now operational. In Iran in the 2000s I worked on the conservation of the rare Iranian cheetah and drafted a plan setting out the activities needed and the respective roles of government and rural people in assuring this.
5. *Nomadic pastoral education.* Since 2009 I have been involved in nomadic education. I have worked in the field on Kenya and Chad on this. I direct a team which has worked on the strategies to be adopted for providing education of nomadic pastoralists, especially in Kenya.
6. *Evaluation.* Since around 2000 I have done several major evaluations. These include:
  - World Bank Mongolia sustainable rural livelihoods programme
  - EU Kenyan poverty programme
  - IFAD Mongolia rural poverty reduction programme

- IFAD/FAO Engagement with Pastoral Development (2003-2013. Joint Evaluation Synthesis. Rome; IFAD 2015.

In August 2013 I was given a Lifetime Achievement Award for my work with nomadic pastoralists by the Commission on Nomadic Peoples of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnographic Sciences. The citation for this award, only five of which have ever been made, says “Dr Jeremy Swift has made major contributions to the fields of economics and anthropology, where he has promoted the wellbeing of pastoralists the world over.”

## **PUBLICATIONS**

List of around 150 publications available on request.

## **PERSONAL**

Born 28 May 1939 in England

Studied at University of Oxford (1958-62, BA, MA English literature), and Sussex University (1969-73, DPhil in development economics, with thesis on the economics of Tuareg pastoralism in the Malian Sahara).

## **EMPLOYMENT**

2004-2015, Visiting Fellow, International Institute for Environment and Development, and freelance consultant on pastoral development policies and practice.

1973-2004: Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. Research and policy formulation on pastoral development.

1965-69: Project officer, Forestry Department, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome, Italy. Responsible for FAO's programme on national parks and environmental conservation in West Africa.

1962-65: Project officer, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Camargue, France. Developed and administered a programme of identification and conservation of key Mediterranean wetlands.

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