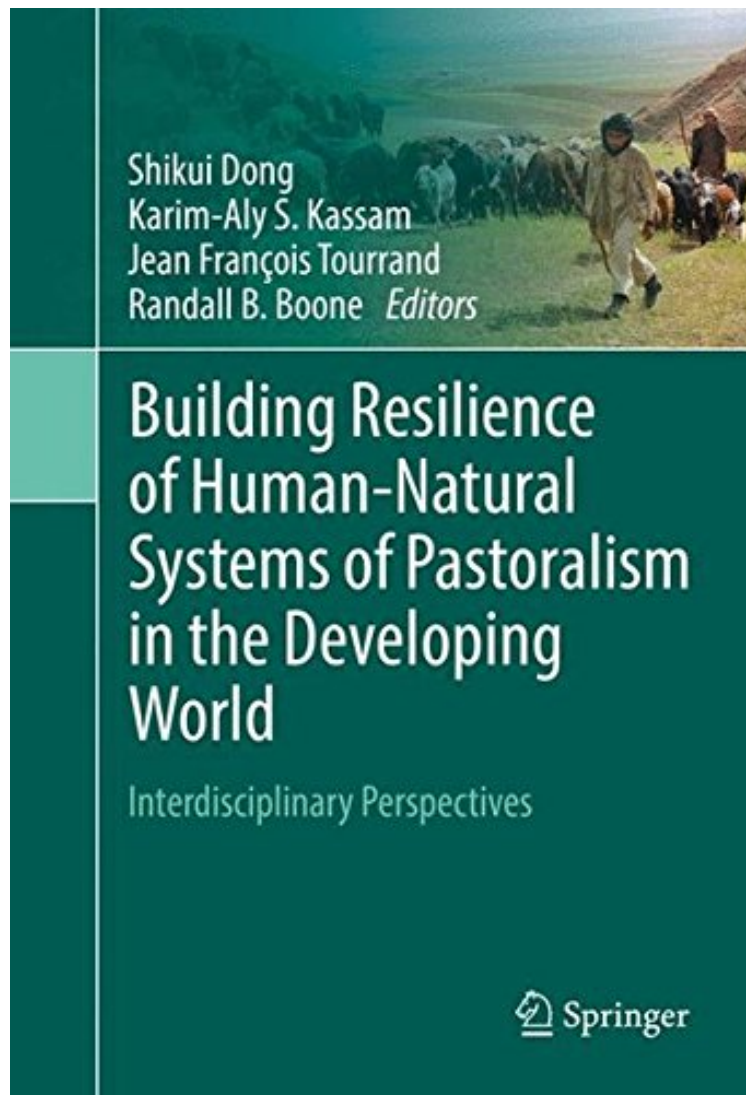


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Building Resilience of Human-Natural Systems of Pastoralism in the Developing World: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

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This edited volume summarizes information about the situational context, threats, problems, challenges and solutions for sustainable pastoralism at a global scale. The book has four goals. The first goal is to summarize the information about the history, distribution and patterns of pastoralism and to identify the importance of pastoralism from social, economic and environmental perspectives. The results of an empirical investigation of the environmental and socio-economic implications of pastoralism in representative pastoral regions in the world are also incorporated.

This is a fantastic book, which provides an album of rich information and deep insights for both researchers and policymakers in framing research/monitoring programs and designing policy actions in vast pastoral regions worldwide. I highly recommend it to scientists, planners, educators, students and many more who are involved in the actions for promoting the sustainability of worldwide pastoralism. This is a book that attracts you to read, think, and act right away. (Xinquan Zhao, PhD, Professor, Director, Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences) This book represents an important contribution to understanding and protecting the worlds extensive grasslands that convey critical ecosystem services to millions of people in developing countries. Challenges to maintaining pastoralism in the face of global change have led to continuing land degradation and the concurrent loss of rural livelihoods, biodiversity, and critical watershed functioning. Professor Dong and his colleagues have successfully addressed the complexity of this wicked environmental problem by coupling the dynamics of human behavior and ecosystem processes and providing strategies for promoting sustainable pastoralism worldwide. Their comprehensive assessment will provide guidance for scientists, managers, and government agencies seeking the sustainable development of the worlds valuable grassland ecosystems. (James P. Lassoie, Ph.D., International Professor of Conservation, Cornell University) Pastoral systems are good examples of the coupled linkages between human and natural systems. Current impacts of globalization, global environmental changes and local social-economic changes are affecting the adaptive capacity of the systems beyond the historic ranges of the pastoral communities to cope. Exploring how to build enhanced resilience in these systems are critical to the survival of these communities in their current situations. The book provides an excellent insights in how to harness available ecosystem services, enhance land management practices, and to better align policy and socioeconomic instruments to support these pastoral systems in the developing world. (Dennis Ojima, Professor, Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory, Colorado State University) From the Back Cover This edited volume summarizes information about the situational context, threats, problems, challenges and solutions for sustainable pastoralism at a global scale. The book has four goals. The first goal is to summarize the information about the history, distribution and patterns of pastoralism and to identify the importance of pastoralism from social, economic and environmental perspectives. The results of an empirical investigation of the environmental and socio-economic implications of pastoralism in representative pastoral regions in the world are also incorporated.