

APPLYING A CONFLICT-SENSITIVE APPROACH TO
DEVELOPMENT:
THE CASE OF RURAL GRAZING AREAS IN NIGERIA

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Nigeria's Rural Grazing Area (RUGA) program was designed as an attempt to respond to the conflict between farmers and herders. Efforts toward addressing this conflict have become imperative because of the devastating and social costs on the country. The article acknowledges government intervention to stem the conflict to be necessary and uses developmental state theory to explain such intervention and the government's role in promoting peace, development, and economic prosperity. Positive, progressive, and sensitive state intervention is needed, especially in a diverse society like that of Nigeria; however, the approach adopted by the government does not consider a conflict-sensitive approach that would take into account the different contextual economic, social, and political imperatives. The article argues for a greater consideration of conflict sensitivity within the development and implementation of all developmental programs, including RUGA in Nigeria.
