



# NRT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023







# NRT Newsletter

## April 2023 Issue

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Dear NRT Partners,

An ancient African proverb reminds us, “If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together”.

The wisdom of this adage applies nowhere more than in conservation. When it comes to the success of the community conservancy model, and the survival of nature, strategic collaboration is a crucial part of the conversation.

The environmental issues we face today, including climate change and wildlife poaching transcend borders and can only be effectively tackled when nations’ leaders, organisations and communities, join forces, develop conservation best practices, exchange ideas, and lobby for the enactment of progressive pro-conservation legislation.

By pooling the available resources to address shared conservation challenges, NRT member community conservancies are conserving over 15 million acres of land, home to an astounding variety of wildlife and over a dozen endangered species, including the world’s rarest antelope, the hirola.

The NRT community conservancy model has always been about empowering indigenous communities and propelling their development through conservation. Therefore, since 2015, NRT has disbursed over Ksh 522 million through the Conservancy Livelihoods Fund for community initiatives, and implemented 181 projects based on community priorities.

As 2023 unfolds, we continue to collaborate with our partners and with local communities to deliver solutions that benefit people, land, and wildlife. These combined efforts are increasing the resilience of NRT member community conservancies, transforming lives, building peace, and conserving natural resources.

In this journey of a thousand steps, every milestone reached counts. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we invite you to read about the progress we made in April in conserving the Earth and making life better for both people and nature.



## Collaboration for Conservation: Kenya's Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Visits NRT and Nasuulu Community Conservancy

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The recognition that Kenya is receiving around the world, is not only because of its national parks and game reserves, but also due to the community conservancies, which protect 65% of the country's wildlife. I'm impressed by the good work that NRT is doing in this space, and I'd urge you to keep it up.

Hon. Peninah Malonza,  
Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage



Community conservation in Kenya has grown over the years thanks to the joint efforts and support of local communities, national and county governments, and partners in wildlife conservation and other sectors.

Indigenous communities, are reaping significant benefits from conservation, with avenues such as tourism, beading, and the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project providing employment and funding for community development projects, addressing needs such as access to education, hospitals, and clean water.

Community conservancies have had a significant impact on conservation resulting in numerous positive outcomes including: reduced poaching, the creation of safer spaces and dispersal areas for elephants, a rise in the populations of endangered wildlife species, improved livelihoods, enhanced coexistence among different ethnic groups, and a high level of community buy-in on matters conservation.





Despite all the challenges around conservancies right now, I am giving my unequivocal support for conservancies.

Silvia Museiya,  
Principal Secretary for the  
State Department for Wildlife

There is an urgent need, however, for community conservancies to be self-sustaining.

Hon. Peninah Malonza, Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage, pointed out during her April visit to the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and Nasuulu Community Conservancy that collaboration on areas of expertise and collective action is the best way to achieve wildlife conservation goals.

“We must start and uphold strong cross-sectoral partnerships and collaborations if we are to succeed in conservation. There should be cooperation on all levels, from NRT to the county governments, to the national government, to the communities. The recognition that Kenya is receiving around the world, is not only because of its national parks and game reserves but also the community conservancies, which protect 65% of the country’s wildlife. Human-wildlife conflict needs to be addressed with more rigid policies, but we can only get there if we collaborate closely,” the Cabinet Secretary (CS) said.

While pledging her support for NRT’s community conservancy model, the CS described it as a grassroots conservation platform that improves community livelihoods while preserving Kenya’s wildlife.

She encouraged conservation organisations to leverage the relationships among numerous stakeholders working in the wildlife sector to achieve greater outcomes, increase community resilience, and ensure sustainable conservation.

The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Wildlife, Silvia Museiya, the Tourism and Wildlife Chief Administrative Secretary, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, and officials from the Isiolo, Samburu, and Laikipia County Governments, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) among other distinguished guests.

During the visit, the government officials sought to deepen their understanding of NRT’s community conservancy model and our work, particularly on biodiversity conservation, livelihoods’ improvement, tourism, the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCPP), and wildlife conservation across the Kenya-Uganda border.





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I don't think anybody has found a silver bullet yet for the challenges we are facing in terms of wildlife conservation and sustainability of pastoralists' way of life and climate change impact in arid and semi-arid lands. This is something everybody is grappling with, and if there's no silver bullet that has been found, NRT has come close to it, or at least the closest that I have seen so far in trying to find solutions that are [not only] good for the people, but also for the animals, and for the land.

Henriette Geiger,  
Ambassador of the European Union to Kenya

“The government believes in supporting community wildlife conservancies and is ready to work with these institutions on issues related to sustainable tourism, human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation, and community awareness,” added CS Malonza.

After visiting our headquarters, the CS went to Nasuulu Community Conservancy, where she met with community members and launched Nasuulu's tourism banda (self-catering accommodation facility), which was constructed with funds from the NKRCP. The banda's revenue will also support community development projects.

Our esteemed partners, USAID Kenya, and delegations from the Embassy of Denmark in Kenya, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi, and the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) were also present during the CS's visit.

## U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Visits NRT and Nakuprat-Gotu Community Conservancy



It was an honour to host the United States Ambassador to Kenya, Meg Whitman, when she visited our headquarters, and Nakuprat-Gotu Community Conservancy in Isiolo County, where she engaged and conversed with community members and learnt about the impact of the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project.

## Nakuprat-Gotu Community Conservancy **Receives Relief Aid** from Khalsa Aid International

UK-based Khalsa Aid International, through Ramgharia Youth Association, donated 500 relief aid hampers to communities in Nakuprat-Gotu Community Conservancy to assist the most vulnerable members affected by the prolonged drought.



At least 10 tonnes of various food rations, and other basic commodities such as soap and sanitary towels, were distributed to households in seven drought-stricken conservancy areas of Kiwanja, Attan, Ngaremara, Manyatta Zebra, Daaba, Nakuprat, and Gotu.

Despite the start of the March-April-May rainy season, NRT East Regional Director, Kadir Boru observed that many more families in the region still face starvation.

“Many households in the Isiolo and Marsabit Community Conservancies are still struggling to recover from the devastation caused by the prolonged drought, as most of their livestock, which are their lifeline, perished,” said the Director.

## The Women Peace Council Undergoes **Training** in Peacebuilding

NRT’s Peace Team trained 40 female peace champions on several peacebuilding topics including, women’s roles in peacebuilding, ways to participate in peace processes, and conflict prevention and reconciliation, enabling them to effectively build peace among ethnic communities in Isiolo and neighboring counties.

Samburu East MP, Jackson Lekumontare, and Waso ward MCA, Kelvin Lemantaan, later joined the peace champions—who came

from Isiolo’s 12 NRT member community conservancies—in conducting peacebuilding outreaches in many villages in Kalama Community Conservancy.

NRT’s Peace Programme focuses on an indigenous-led approach that promotes non-violent conflict resolution, empowers peace champions, and engages women, conservancy managers, local elders, interfaith religious leaders, youth, and the county and national government to facilitate peace meetings.



**40**  
female peace  
champions

**12**  
conservancies

## Overcoming Tragedy: Peter Lepedo's Inspiring Story of Courage and Resilience



When Peter Lepedo was a young man, his world was turned topsy-turvy by bandits when they raided his village in Baragoi, Samburu County at night, a memory permanently etched in his mind.

He vividly recalls the terror, the flying bullets, and the many lives lost.

When he woke up in a hospital bed, he found he had lost a limb as a result of the attack. Many in his community thought his life was hopeless and devoid of a future.



Peter, on the other hand, refused to be defined by his disability. Determined to rise above all odds and improve his situation, he joined NRT Trading's Ujuzi Manyattani Program and enrolled in the mobile phone repair course, which provided him with the knowledge, skills, and equipment he needed to start his own phone repair business.

Peter is now the proud owner of a profitable phone repair store in Karare, Songa Community Conservancy. His skills have made life easier for many in his village, who previously had to travel to Marsabit Town to have their phones repaired. Peter's business not only provides him with a stable source of income but also with a sense of purpose.

"Ujuzi Manyattani transformed my life. The training I received from the Program restored my hope and will to live," says Lepedo. He has since expanded his business to include a barber shop, which has increased his income while providing more services to his customers.

Ujuzi Manyattani empowers youth and women in underprivileged communities in northern Kenya by training them on a wide range of vocational skills, including phone repair, hair-dressing, and motorbike repair. The Program equips participants with skills and resources to start their own enterprises, making them self-sufficient and increasing their resilience.



779

youth and women have benefitted from Ujuzi Manyattani in the region since its inception



## NRT Trading's NR Sacco Hosts 2023 Annual Delegates Meeting, Records Impressive Growth

The Northern Rangelands Sacco (NR Sacco), held its Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM), bringing together 50 delegates from NRT member community conservancies from nine counties.

The Sacco, an independent, community-owned organisation that serves as a vital financial intermediary by providing access to financial services through savings and loans, presented its financial report and plans for 2023, among other items.

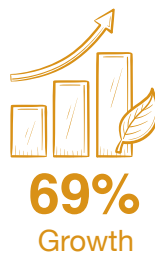
NR Sacco has helped its members build businesses and diversify their livelihoods, experiencing massive growth over the last five years. Sacco membership has grown from 2,013 in 2018 to 5,563 in 2022, with women making up a whopping 69%.



Members' savings and shares have grown from Ksh 8 million in 2018 to Ksh 37.2 million in 2022. Earlier this year, the Sacco disbursed over Ksh 1.65 million in dividends for 2022. Since its inception, the Sacco has disbursed over Ksh 182 million to 5,050 members to finance business start-ups and expansion.



**2018**  
2,013 members



**2022**  
5,563 members



## Women Leaders Attend LAMP Training Impact Assessment Forum

35 women leaders from Leparua, Ltungai, and Melako Community Conservancies met to assess NRT's bespoke Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) training.

They evaluated LAMP's success in reducing gender disparities, empowering local women, and increasing their involvement in governance, conservation, and community development. The four-module program, supported by Conservation International through NRT, seeks to promote good governance and gender inclusivity within NRT member community conservancies.

Since LAMP's inception in 2016, the program has benefited at least 1,195 indigenous leaders from NRT member community conservancies, including conservancy board members, managers, women, and committee members.



## NRT Trading's Biashara Mashinani Program Trains 40 Entrepreneurs in Pate Conservancy

NRT Trading's Biashara Mashinani Team conducted an entrepreneurship training for 40 entrepreneurs in Pate Marine Community Conservancy.

The training aimed at increasing participants' entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills and assisting them in building profitable businesses that would result in increased household income in community conservancies.

Following the training, an impact assessment was conducted to evaluate its impact.

Biashara Mashinani seeks to support and foster entrepreneurship in the community to drive sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty.



## Sowing Seeds of Peace in Shurr and Jaldesa Community Conservancies

NRT's Marsabit Peace Team convened a wet-season peace meeting between the Borana and Gabbra communities, the two indigenous inhabitants of Jaldesa and Shurr Community Conservancies, respectively.

The meeting, held at a shared watering point near the border of the two conservancies, aimed at strengthening cohesion between the two communities that had previously clashed violently due to competition for grazing land and water and political incitement.

During the dry season, the two conservancies held several discussions to develop a practical resource-sharing plan to enable the two communities to weather the extended drought.

The area's members of the county assembly (MCAs), local administration leaders, the Marsabit County Government Cohesion Team, local clergy, and other regional peace actors also attended the meeting.

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## NRT Trading's Ufugaji Bora Mashinani Program Trains 60 Herders on Rangeland Health and Climate Change

The Ufugaji Bora Mashinani Team conducted a training on rangeland health and climate change for 60 herders in Naibunga Lower and Ltungai Community Conservancies.

The training sought to educate the herders on the most effective rangeland management techniques and also covered rangeland governance, grazing, rehabilitation, and restoration.

The training is one of four modules developed to encourage pastoralist herders to adopt better rangeland management and improve their livelihoods.





## Our Team is Growing! Eva Warigia and Joy Obuya Join NRT's Board of Directors

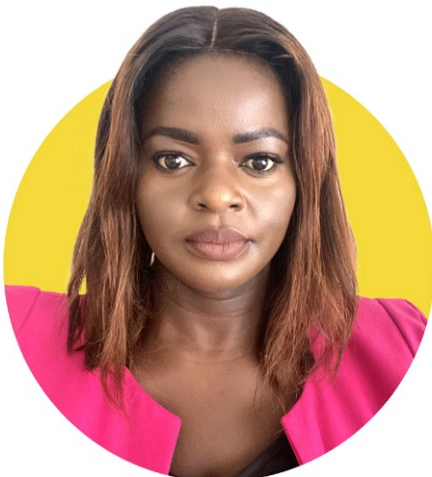


Eva Wairigia

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of NRT's Board, Eva Wairigia and Joy Obuya.

Eva Warigia is the Associate Director of Investor Relations at New Forests, a global asset manager investing in forestry and agriculture. Previously, she was the Chief Executive Officer of the East Africa Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (EAVCA), a regional network representing over 100 firms working in the private ecosystem in East Africa that seeks to develop and nurture the local ecosystem, making it easy for the region's entrepreneurs, financiers, and the public sector to gain access to funding.

Eva's professional experience spans over a decade, working at the intersection of the private sector, finance, and development. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nairobi, where she double majored in Psychology and Communication. Eva is pursuing her Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Strathmore Business School.



Joy Obuya

Joy Obuya is the Founder and CEO of Eyeris Communications, a communications solutions firm providing services to development and donor organisations. An unparalleled Development Communications Specialist with over a decade of experience, Joy spearheads the formulation of communication and advocacy strategies and conducts program documentation exercises within the Horn of Africa.

Her coveted A-list clientele includes Oxfam Great Britain, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF), Save the Children's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, Trócaire Ireland, and Adam Smith International. Joy graduated from Daystar University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication and Media Studies where she majored in Electronic Media. She also holds a Master of Arts Degree in Development Communication from her alma mater.

## NRT and NRT Member Community Conservancies Commemorate Earth Day



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, NRT and NRT member community conservancies joined people across the globe in celebrating the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Earth Day by issuing a call to action to stakeholders to protect the Earth—our shared home—by combatting climate change, conserving biodiversity, and raising environmental awareness.

Songa Community Conservancy in Marsabit County marked Earth Day by planting trees at Bishop Cavallera Girls' Secondary School in Karare, and supplying kits to 16 football teams competing in a tournament held to raise awareness about community-led environmental conservation efforts.

The event was also attended by Jaldesa Community Conservancy members and officials from the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Marsabit Forest Community Forest Association.

In Samburu County, Kalama Community Conservancy conducted a clean-up exercise in Archers Post Town.



### Newsbytes from the Conservancies

#### REGIONAL NEWS

##### NRT Centre

- NRT Centre's Leadership Team met with the newly appointed members of Samburu County's Committee of Tourism and Conservation to discuss NRT's Community Conservancy model, paving the way for collaboration and partnership.

##### NRT East

- NRT member community conservancies in Marsabit County received 4,000 seedlings of various indigenous tree species, including *Croton megalocarpus*, *Olea africana*, *Acacia tortilis*, *Acacia mellifera*, *Acacia seyal*, *Acacia polyacantha*, *Cassia senna*, and *Markhamia lutea*, from Marsabit Forest Community Forest Association (CFA).

The seedlings were equally distributed to each of the four conservancies: Jaldesa, Melako, Shurr, and Songa, in order to increase afforestation while capitalizing on the current rainy season.



### NRT Coast

- Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA) successfully established a new fish replenishment zone (no-take zone) in Kiwayu, Shimo la Tewa, after conducting outreach to increase the community’s understanding and support for the Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA).
- KICOWA collaborated with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), local fishermen, beach management units (BMUs), Pate Marine Community Conservancy, and the Lamu County Fisheries Department to map and demarcate the location.

### NRT Mountain

- 35 women from Il Ngwesi Community Conservancy successfully underwent Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) training in an effort to promote inclusivity and good governance in the conservancy.
- An inter-community peace meeting was convened to resolve conflict between communities from Laikipia, Samburu, and Baringo Counties, and develop a long-term peace strategy that allows the communities to coexist peacefully.

## CONSERVANCIES



### Kalama

The Conservancy hosted its Annual General Meeting in which the 2022 progress and audit reports were released. Community members were also provided with updates on the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCP), Kalama Resource Centre, and other programs. The elders and local leaders organised an engagement for 300 morans of the current generation to provide them with direction and guidance.



### Nasuulu

Education bursaries amounting to Ksh 5.5 million were disbursed from the NKRCP’s Carbon Community Fund, benefitting 890 students in secondary and tertiary institutions.



### Pate

The Conservancy received a Ksh 2.9 million grant from Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development (KEMFSED) for a plastics project to be implemented on Pate Island.



### Nannapa

72 conservancy members traveled to Amboseli's Mbirikani Group Ranch for a four-day learning tour centered on wildlife corridor preservation and human-wildlife conflict mitigation, among other conservation initiatives.

Support from the NKRCF's Community Carbon Fund, Loisaba Conservancy, and Nannapa Conservancy made the visit possible.



### Ngilai

A solar-powered lighting system was installed at Ngilai Health Centre's maternity wing and the new outpatient block with support from the NKRCF's Carbon Community Fund.

The solar panels will increase productivity and efficiency at the Centre, as well as its impact on the community.



### Naibunga Lower and Nannapa

52 individuals from Nannapa and Naibunga Lower Community Conservancies, including grazing committee members and conservancy board representatives, attended a joint three-day rangelands rehabilitation training at Westgate Community Conservancy.



### Jaldesa, Melako, Shurr and Songa

The Kenya Wildlife Service's (KWS) recently appointed Senior Assistant Director for the Northern Conservation Area, Gideon Kebati, visited the four NRT member community conservancies in Marsabit County for the first time to learn more about the community conservancy model.



The Director also met with the leaders of each of the Conservancies to discuss various matters, including wildlife security, human-elephant conflict, and elephants' movement, and foster synergy and collaboration.



### Ngilai and Kalepo

Community members from Ngilai and Kalepo visited the Save The Elephants (STE) Research Centre at the Samburu National Reserve to learn how to effectively protect elephants in their conservancies.





## In the Media

### NATION

**Daily Nation:** <https://nation.africa/kenya/counties/meru/community-defends-carbon-offset-projects-in-northern-kenya-4196204>

**Daily Nation:** <https://nation.africa/kenya/counties/meru/human-wildlife-conflict-on-rise-as-animal-space-shrinks-4217254>



**The Standard:** <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/central/article/2001471987/savings-group-helps-women-to-fight-for-their-place-in-society>

**The Standard:** <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/central/article/2001471987/savings-group-helps-women-to-fight-for-their-place-in-society>

**The Standard:** <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/health/opinion/article/2001470613/provide-youths-in-asals-with-education-skills-to-end-banditry>



**Radio Jangwani:** Jamii za Borana na Gabra zatakiwa kuzidi kushirikiana: [https://youtu.be/CgWCy2N1a\\_Y](https://youtu.be/CgWCy2N1a_Y)

**Radio Jangwani:** NRT Marsabit County peace and cohesion meeting: [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid0cJP91kK4yai-Y99MNYP5W2LcA8bveW5U9vLoHv1Uw6Ysnbs5Pq9qsXTnxy2pXh-Jzil&id=220947378251874&mibextid=Nif5oz](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0cJP91kK4yai-Y99MNYP5W2LcA8bveW5U9vLoHv1Uw6Ysnbs5Pq9qsXTnxy2pXh-Jzil&id=220947378251874&mibextid=Nif5oz)



**Nomad Times:** The Carbon Project has transformed lives in Isiolo Communities ~ Adan M., Chairman, Leparua Conservancy: <https://youtu.be/5X0Wvcjltkd>

**Nomad Times:** Nasuulu Community Conservancy issues Ksh 5.5 million education bursary 2023 to schools: <https://youtu.be/il7k5h8zLzQ>

**Nomad Times:** Women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in Isiolo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFQjilQI55o>



**Tuko.co.ke:** <https://www.tuko.co.ke/editorial/opinion/501867-ujuzi-man-yattani-skills-development-craft-income-solution-banditry/>



**The Star:** <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2023-04-19-how-chopper-came-to-rescue-of-isiolo-expectant-woman-in-distress/>



**Kamachu TV:** NRT Sacco, a boon for pastoralist women; beneficiary speaks: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7\\_rzla3zfc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7_rzla3zfc)



**Tukio News:** <https://www.tukionews.co.ke/nrt-sacco-releases-dividends-to-shareholders/>



**Kenya News Agency:** <https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/sacco-benefits-pastoralist-communities/>

No single organisation, acting alone, can address the multitude of conservation challenges that exist today.

It takes a village to successfully implement our community conservancy model and increase our member community conservancies' resilience to climate change.

We are grateful to all our partners and donors who share our commitment to conservation and unwaveringly support us in transforming the lives of people in indigenous communities in northern and coastal Kenya and Uganda.





# ASANTENI SANA

The Northern Rangelands Trust would like to thank the following principal donors, partners and investors (with many more listed on our website) for their invaluable support.

