



NRT NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022





NRT Newsletter

June 2022 Issue

Dear NRT Partners,

June left an indelible impression, like the months that preceded it. As we pass the mid-year mark, it is only natural to take a minute to hit the pause button and reflect on 2022 so far—our biggest wins, the challenges we have faced, how we navigated them, the moments that built us, or broke us, and the lessons we have learnt.

Looking back at the last six months, we are filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering support we have and continue to receive from our donors and partners.

We are proud of the milestones NRT member conservancies have achieved so far as they strive to increase their resilience against climate change and we are inspired by the efforts NRT teams tirelessly put in every day to solve the toughest problems our member conservancies face.

The beginning of the year's second half presents a fresh opportunity to become better at what we do and how we serve our member conservancies. We are excited to continue doing the work! But first, here is an update of the progress NRT and NRT member conservancies made as curtains fell on 2022's second quarter.

2022 World Giraffe Day Celebration

Joy, pomp and dance marked this year's World Giraffe Day celebration at Ruko Community Conservancy in Baringo County.





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Nearly two decades ago, we the Njemps and the Pokot could not see eye to eye, but now, we are united by giraffe conservation.

Faith Muge,
Ruko Conservancy

The annual event, which honors and raises awareness of the local Rothschild's giraffe population, drew throngs of elated community members to the Conservancy's headquarters on the 21st of June to commemorate the occasion.

Cultural dancers of all ages, drawn from Ruko Conservancy's indigenous communities donned their dazzling traditional regalia during the event. They wore multi-coloured beaded jewelry, shell-lined waistbands, beautiful shukas and eye-catching ostrich-feathered headdresses. Their leg bells and musical anklets jingled as their bodies moved gracefully to the rhythm of the songs and dances they performed. Their energy was contagious, and most people—guests included—could not help but join them in their dancing.

“Today, we sang, danced and celebrated with many people, including our brothers and sisters from the Njemps community,” said a cheerful Faith Muge, a small-scale farmer from Komolion area in Ruko Conservancy.

‘Njemps’ is another name for the Il Chamus community. The Njemps and the Pokot are Ruko Conservancy's native communities.



“Nearly two decades ago, we the Njemps and the Pokot could not see eye to eye, but now, we are united by giraffe conservation,” Faith added.

In attendance were key partners including the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA), Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS), Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), and Twiga Walinzi. Another key partner, Save Giraffes Now also celebrated the day.

World Giraffe Day coincides with the summer solstice. It is fitting that on the longest day of the year, the world celebrates the longest-necked animal on the planet.

“I am very impressed by how much Ruko Conservancy, with whom we have been working closely, has advanced in the conservation of the Rothschild’s giraffe,” Jeniffer Putunoi, the Deputy Warden for the Kenya Wildlife Service’s Kabarnet Station, said during the event. She thanked all partners for their remarkable contributions over the years and urged prospective ones to come on board.

In December 2020, Ruko Conservancy won the hearts of millions around the world when working with partners, it successfully translocated nine Rothschild’s giraffes from Lake Baringo’s Longicharo Island—which was fast being marooned by water—to a community-run sanctuary on the mainland.

“Ever since we translocated all giraffes to the mainland, we have seen an undeniable change in their health, innate behaviours, foraging and movements and witnessed the growth of their numbers,” James Cheptulel, the Ruko Conservancy Warden elucidates. “There are currently a 12 male giraffes, and a female who will deliver her calf in less than three months,” he adds.

Thanks to the partners and community’s extraordinary efforts the Giraffe population is healthy and growing, giving much to celebrate on World Giraffe Day. [Read more.](#)



NRT Cleared of all Human Rights Abuse Claims

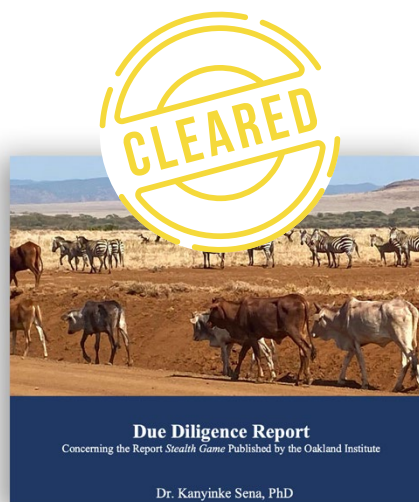
In response to the grave allegations made against Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) by the Oakland Institute Report in November 2021, six of NRT's funding partners commissioned a new independent due diligence review (DDR), carried out by Dr. Kanyinke Sena, a Kenyan human rights specialist and former Chairperson of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The DDR focused on the most serious allegations made in the Oakland Report and found all to be false, noting that there was strikingly little evidence to corroborate the claims made against NRT. Furthermore, it was found that the Oakland Report's methodology used a small number of individuals as sources for almost all of the allegations, the most prominent being a single local politician.

The allegations the DDR covered included conflict, corruption, coercion and loss of rights and access to land. NRT's own internal investigation and the DDR arrived at the same conclusion: the claims made were groundless and erroneous.

The DDR found, in its own words:

1. No evidence suggesting that any killing cited in the Oakland Report was linked to NRT in any way.
2. No evidence suggesting that NRT-directed assets (vehicles, weapons) were being used to "fuel conflict".



3. No evidence validating or verifying any of the Oakland Report's allegations of corruption, whether or not linked to NRT.
4. No evidence that communities or individuals had lost land rights or access to NRT or its member conservancies, [and] ... no evidence of NRT itself controlling or impacting grazing rights and allocations.
5. No evidence that the procedures or operations of conservancies identified in the Oakland Report were subject to direct control, coercion, "strong-arming", or improper use of influence by NRT.



The DDR discovered that many claims against NRT were made, in the Review’s words, “for reasons of political and personal self-interest” and that “the role of politics and the practice of strategic leverage of false allegations was woefully underappreciated in the Oakland Report”. It suggested that Oakland’s researchers “parachuted into a highly complex situation and allowed themselves to be manipulated by a small group of politically-motivated and self-interested NRT critics.”

The Due Diligence Report was released on the 9th of June 2022 and published on the website of The Nature Conservancy, who commissioned the Due Diligence Review on behalf of the joint supporters. The full Report is accessible here: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-insights/perspectives/kenya-nrt-report-oakland-institute-due-diligence/>

Read More:

- <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/news/counties/northern-kenya-trust-cleared-of-rights-violations-3843790>
- <https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/north-eastern/2022-06-07-report-clears-northern-rangelands-trust-of-rights-abuse-claims/>

NRT’s Women in Conservation Caucus Conducts Inaugural LAMP Training

27 women from eight conservancies in NRT Central’s Samburu region underwent training on the first module of NRT’s transformative Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) training, making history. The training was LAMP’s first under the newly-adopted Women in Conservation Caucus, which aims at amplifying women’s voices in leadership and conservation across the NRT landscape.

The Caucus will give women in northern and coastal Kenya opportunities to take on leadership roles and influence decision-making processes concerning local natural resources, community development, and governance.



LAMP training improves communities’ capacity in conservancy governance and resource management.



NRT’s bespoke LAMP training, based on a four-module syllabus, improves communities’ capacity in conservancy governance and resource management. The training provides skills in leadership and management, problem-solving, innovation, communication, time management, stakeholder and investor management, motivation and staff, asset, and financial management.

Ready, Set, Go! The Lewa Safari Marathon Returns

The 23rd Lewa Safari Marathon returned to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy on the 25th of June after being held virtually for two consecutive years due to the ubiquitous coronavirus and the measures put in place to curb its spread.

The Marathon was organized by the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Tusk Trust in partnership with Safaricom and Huawei as the co-lead sponsors. Kenya Breweries Limited and Tetra Pak made their inaugural entries in the event as the Entertainment Partner and Environmental Sustainability Partner, respectively.

The event is held annually to raise funds to support biodiversity conservation efforts and numerous learning, healthcare and community projects across the country. This year's marathon saw over 1,000 runners from 35 countries participate in the full and half marathons. The event also featured a 10-kilometer Executives' Run and a five-kilometer Junior Run for participants aged 10 to 17.

Participants raced through undulating dirt road courses within the Conservancy's landscape — amid a sweltering mid-morning heat as they treated themselves to the breathtaking sights and sounds of Lewa's rich flora and fauna, including the endangered Black Rhino, Grevy's Zebra and African Elephant.

This year's edition of the Marathon aimed at recovering key species, restoring ecosystems and reconnecting people with nature. The event also sought to be the most environmental-friendly edition ever, since the Marathon's inception more than two decades ago. Through the funds raised from the participants' entry fees, more than 3,000 trees were planted within the Conservancy in a bid to offset the event's carbon footprint. In addition, during the event, Tetra Pak provided drinking water packaged in bio-degradable containers, helping eliminate over 300 kilograms of single-use plastic water bottles.

Funds raised by the Marathon over the last two years have supported four health clinics serving communities within





I always struggle through the race, but the pain and exhaustion are worth it, when I think of how much my participation will impact many communities and conservation efforts.

Frank Bora,
Chief Finance Officer (NRT)

Lewa Conservancy and helped in facility maintenance, acquisition of medical supplies and equipment, running mobile outreach programs, and staff remuneration and training.

Five NRT member conservancies neighbouring Lewa Conservancy have also benefitted from close to Ksh 10 million raised from the last two editions of the Marathon. These include Lep-arua, Lekurruki, Il Ngwesi, Nasuulu and Kipsing Conservancies. These funds have supported the Conservancies' operations, community-led conservation efforts and other community development programs within the Conservancies.



Phase 2 of LAMP Training of Women Leaders at NRT Coast Begins

The first phase of LAMP training of women leaders in NRT Coast is now complete! The training, whose goal is to increase women's participation in community natural resource management, has been facilitated by NRT, with the support of The Nature Conservancy, USAID, and Forward Consulting,

52 women leaders were successfully trained in Phase 1. Phase 2 kicked off with module one, and the training sessions were held from the 21st to the 23rd of June. Phase 2 of the LAMP training was attended by a whopping 104 women, registering a 100% rise in the number of women enrolled.

The training consists of 4 LAMP modules customized for women leaders across NRT member conservancies and centered on various conservation and community development projects.

LAMP is one of NRT’s most impactful programs, transforming conservancy leaders, particularly women, as evidenced by their higher levels of participation in decision-making and dispute resolution and increased self-esteem and self-confidence.

Six NRT Coast women leaders are now qualified LAMP Trainers and delivering LAMP training locally.



NRT and Partners Initiate the Development of Samburu County’s First Tourism Strategic Plan

The development of Samburu County’s first Tourism Strategic Plan (2022 – 2031), is currently underway, in a process supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and guided by NRT, working in collaboration with the Samburu County Government, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), National Government, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), hoteliers and conservancy representatives.

As an initial step towards the ten-year Plan’s development, a baseline survey was conducted and a report was prepared. The survey was conducted to determine the current position of tourism in Samburu County, to review relevant tourism development policies, laws, and regulations, as well as to explore the building blocks of creating suitable tourism destinations in Samburu County.

As part of the plan’s development process, an inception meeting was held, data collection and engagement activities were completed, and a benchmarking visit to the Masai Mara was undertaken. A final draft of the Plan has been prepared and will be reviewed at a validation workshop scheduled for July 2022.



Biashara Mashinani Conducts Business Ideation and Life Skills Training in 6 NRT Member Conservancies

NRT Trading's Biashara Mashinani Team (Ujuzi Manyattani and Sacco) trained 40 entrepreneurs from six NRT member conservancies on the first module of a 4-module training targeting entrepreneurs in 10 conservancies, under the Local Works Project. The training was conducted in Shurr, Ruko, Naibunga, Ishaqbini, Masol, and Pate Conservancies. This initiative will enable the entrepreneurs to generate business ideas, appreciate entrepreneurship as a vocation, identify their strengths and weaknesses, become self-aware and develop their sole proprietorship businesses into bigger ventures that create employment opportunities.

Biashara Mashinani aims to bring women and youth into the economic mainstream by supporting the creation of diverse income sources and an asset base that is not solely reliant on livestock. It is the only Program in northern Kenya that focuses on young men as well as women.

Westgate Community Conservancy and Sasaab Lodge Sign Land Lease Agreement

In a new land lease agreement signed by Westgate Community Conservancy and Sasaab Lodge, Westgate Conservancy, the lessor, agreed to lease certain parcels of its land to Sasaab Lodge, the lessee, for 25 years, for commercial and development purposes, as permitted by Section 56 (a) of the Land Act No. 6 of 2012.

This renewed partnership will see the Westgate community continue to directly benefit from Sasaab Lodge, as Lodge guests visit local Samburu villages and experience their unique indigenous culture. The Lodge also mainly hires from the community, creating jobs for many locals.

Sasaab Lodge has had a long-standing relationship with Westgate Community Conservancy, partnering with the Conservancy on numerous conservation efforts and community projects, including student scholarships, annual health clinics, and nutrition programs for school children.



NRT Trading's Ufugaji Bora Mashinani Trains Field Agents on the Pastoral Field Approach

NRT Trading's Ufugaji Bora Mashinani trained 90 trainer of trainees (TOTs) on the Pastoral Field Approach, in Garba Tulla and Isiolo, in partnership with NAWIRI, the County Government of Isiolo's Livestock Department, and Sidai Africa-Isiolo.

The training aimed at equipping farmers with skills in livestock disease identification, management and control, improving breeding management, and increasing access to quality pasture, fodder, milk and other livestock products.

The Pastoral Field Approach enables farmers to adopt improved livestock husbandry practices, augmenting livestock production.

Ufugaji Bora Mashinani is a farmer's field school that offers instruction in better livestock husbandry with the goal of inspiring a movement among morans. The Program seeks to drive change by bridging the gap between traditional and modern livestock management and embracing the best aspects of both approaches while also taking into account the communities' ecological and socioeconomic realities. Through harnessing the power of information, education, analysis, and better decision making, the Program strives to empower morans, increase the productivity of their herds, and enhance their livelihoods.

Livestock Team Conducts Animal Health and Livestock Marketing Training in Sera and Biliqo Conservancies



30 herders in Sera and Biliqo Conservancies are now fully trained on module two of the livestock curriculum, which focuses on animal health and livestock marketing.

The 30 were trained by NRT Trading's Livestock Team from the 14th to the 17th of June, and gained skills in market orientation, livestock grading, pricing, and other critical components of livestock marketing, thanks to the Ufugaji Bora Mashinani Program.

During the training sessions, several beneficiaries reported that applying lessons from module one had improved their livestock breeding.

BeadWORKS trains 30 Women Beaders On Leather Technique

NRT Trading's BeadWORKS has been on a mission to make its artisans more efficient and effective in their production by equipping them with new technology skills to improve product quality and enable them to fulfill and sustain customer orders. In June, BeadWORKS trained 30 women beaders in Westgate Conservancy on the leather technique, increasing their skillset and earnings potential.

Earlier this year, the IBU Foundation enabled BeadWORKS to accelerate the beaders' growth and the achievement of production goals by providing funds to procure and distribute 1,000 toolkits to women beaders across 8 participating conservancies. IBU is a global movement that celebrates the imagination and skill of women and has been supporting BeadWORKS through donations and purchasing beaded products.

Samburu Conservancies Women in Conservation Caucus LAMP Training

27 women from eight conservancies in NRT's Central Region of Samburu underwent training on the first module of NRT's transformative Leadership and Management Program (LAMP), making history. The training was LAMP's first under the newly-adopted Women in Conservation Caucus, which aims at amplifying women's voices in leadership and conservation across the NRT landscape.

The Caucus will give women in northern and coastal Kenya opportunities to take on leadership roles and influence decision-making processes concerning local natural resources, community development, and governance.

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Lekurruki Conservancy Board Members Undergo Tourism Enterprise Training

In northern Kenya, tourism is a complementary land use that can be explored in addition to the current pastoralist way of life, giving youth and women an alternative source of income to pastoralism. Tourism-related activities encourage communities who have peacefully co-existed with wildlife for centuries to step up efforts to conserve their dwindling natural resources.

The NRT Trading Tourism Team provided training on tourism enterprise to the Lekurruki Conservancy Board from the 14th to the 17th of June at Tassia Lodge. The training's goal was to increase the Board's expertise in marketing, product development and packaging, financial literacy, and general tourism management. With these newly-acquired skills, the Board will be able to direct the development of the Conservancy's tourism business and provide stronger leadership. Board members also expressed their appreciation for the ongoing refurbishment of Tassia Lodge.



In the Media



The Standard: [Pastoralists alternative source of livelihood as drought persists](#)



DW: [Kenya: Beadworks for wildlife conservation](#)



K24: [Evolving to Survive](#)



Nation: [Reclaiming Laikipia's grazing fields, one dead cactus at a time](#)



KBC: [A cactus plague - Laikipia suffers from invasive plant \(KBC\)](#)



K24: [Hundreds of women from Samburu embrace bead work to meet their family needs \(K24\)](#)



People Daily: [Conservancy fund offers needy children chance at education](#)



The Guardian: [Beetle v killer cactus: Kenyan herders fight to stop a plant destroying their way of life](#)



People's Daily and Shahidi News: [Ujuzi Manyattani: A Moran's Tale Of Triumph Amid Haunting Ghosts Of Banditry](#)

People's Daily: [Conservancy Funds Offer Needy Children chance at Education](#)



Business Daily: [50 Years of Investing In Rhinos](#)



KBC: [Pastoralist communities trained on how to diversify income](#)



Newsbytes from the Conservancies



80 community members in Nasuulu Conservancy are clearing the 13-kilometer Loruko-Ngarentare Road so that community members can easily access essential goods and medical services.



The Kalama Grazing Committee visited Nashulai Maasai Conservancy to impart their knowledge on sustainable holistic rangelands management and planning.



The Kenya Wildlife Service's Senior Warden and Nairobi-based Pangolin Team visited Nasolot in Pellow Conservancy to discuss the Pangolin Conservation Program and the community's awareness of the Program.



Rangers from Songa and Jaldesa Conservancies showcased their skills at the Madaraka Day Celebrations held at Moi Girls' School grounds in Marsabit.



Additional buoys were placed at the Locally-Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) in Pate Conservancy to better mark and secure their borders.

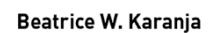
Pate Conservancy's Octopus Enclosure was opened for the season on the 29th of June. The phenomenal work of the women fishers, whose efforts have transformed the community, was documented by a BBC film crew.

NRT and NRT member conservancies accomplished plenty in the first half of the year but much more remains to be done. We are grateful for all our donors and partners, whose continuous support makes it possible for us to continue transforming lives in northern and coastal Kenya, build peace and conserve the natural environment.



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.



Garissa County Government

Baringo County Government

Isiolo County Government

Laikipia County Government

Lamu County Government

Marsabit County Government

Meru County Government

Samburu County Government

Tana County Government

West Pokot County Government

