

# NRT NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2022



# **NRT Newsletter**

## **November 2022 Issue**

Dear NRT Partners,

Global warming is arguably the most serious issue confronting the world today. Its catastrophic effects not only transcend national borders but also pose an existential threat to people, wildlife and livestock, leaving a trail of devastation in their wake.

To address global warming and subsequent climate change, a multi-pronged approach is required, as well as swift action by people everywhere. NRT is assisting indigenous communities in northern Kenya in adapting to climate change through the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project—the world's largest carbon removal project to date.

This trailblazing Project is not only enhancing conservation efforts but is also serving as a drought buffer in an arid landscape, reducing conflict over pasture and fostering peace in the region. The Project benefits wildlife as well, as its activities improve the habitats of four endemic endangered species: the eastern black rhino, Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, and Beisa Oryx.

Continue reading to learn more about how NRT and our member conservancies are addressing climate change and advancing conservation and economic development.

## The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project: A Community-Based Climate Solution 10 Years in the Making

A decade ago, NRT embarked on its most ambitious conservation undertaking yet, the development of the world's first large-scale grasslands soil carbon project—the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project.

Developing a carbon project is a long, expensive process requiring very specific technical expertise and proper structures to credibly verify the project's soil carbon sequestration and ensure its long-term success. Collaborating with Soils for the Future and Native, NRT facilitated this work over the past ten years with the goal of reaching 2022, when the sale



# November 2022 Issue Image: Constrained on the second o

of the sequestered carbon on global markets would first generate sustainable income for member conservancies, which they would then use to restore their environment and fund community-led development projects.

Work on the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCP) officially started in 2012, with 14 NRT member conservancies involved.

In the Project, cattle herders rehabilitate overgrazed grasslands by combining traditional grazing practices with rotational grazing, which improves soil health (and pasture quality) and allows perennial grasses to regrow. As grass cover increases, more atmospheric carbon is captured and deposited in the soil, improving rangelands across 1.9 million hectares (4.7 million acres).

By restoring the savannah grasslands in an arid region, the NKRCP is anticipated to remove 50 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over 30 years—the equivalent of the annual emissions from over 10,000,000 cars.

The NKRCP is Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) certified by Verra—one of the carbon sector's leading and most respected carbon standards—and was awarded Triple Gold status by the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) due to the additional benefits it provides to wildlife and communities.

To attain the Triple Gold status, the NKRCP successfully underwent stringent additional audits in 20 different categories, over and above Verra's own Verified Carbon Standard, becoming one of only 21 out of 200 projects worldwide to have attained this status. This distinction enables the NKRCP to sell carbon credits at a higher price, increasing the benefits to the participating community conservancies. NRT receives no profit from the sale of the Project's carbon credits.





The NKRCP's first carbon credits were generated in 2013 and these, along with subsequent years of verified credits, were offered to the international voluntary market, generating USD 14.6 million for local conservancies to date. In February 2022, each of the 14 participating conservancies received USD 324,000—their first of three payments from this sale.

Funds generated from the NKRCP are channeled directly to the communities, who hold sole financial control and use them to finance conservancy operations and community-identified needs, including education, sanitation, and health. Lekurukki Conservancy, for example, used its NKRCP funds to renovate the community-owned and run Tassia Lodge, which has generated Ksh 3 million for the Conservancy since the completion of the renovation earlier this year.

Each community conservancy participating in the NKRCP contributes 5% of its revenue to County Government development mechanisms that support NKRCP-related rangelands activities. In November, NRT handed over levy fees from the Project to the Samburu, Isiolo, and Laikipia County Governments, which were received by the respective County Governors. The 5% levy which collectively amounted to Ksh 18,345,000 will be used to support drought relief interventions in the 3 counties and will also be distributed to Marsabit County.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, at a COP27 event in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, the Natural Climate Solutions Alliance (NCSA), awarded the NKRCP as a Lighthouse Project. This prestigious award recognizes the Project as a Natural Climate Solution (NCS) that is a true beacon for best practice, and that delivers high-integrity NCS carbon credits, generates biodiversity gains, and provides substantive social and economic benefits to indigenous communities.

H.E. President William Ruto heralded the NKRCP for expanding the frontiers of carbon removal. Addressing an audience during the launch of the African Carbon Markets Initiative at COP27, he said, "I am pleased to share the encouraging news of an exemplary Kenyan project which is the first and largest in the world focusing entirely on soil carbon removals through sustainable grazing management. It is on course towards its inspiring target of removing up to 50 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the ecosystem over the next 30 years."





# **Another Feather in the Cap:** Ian Craig, NRT's Conservation Chief, Wins Prince William Award for Conservation in Africa

On one fine day in 1990, Ian Craig set out for what he thought would be an enjoyable hike in the Matthews Mountain Range.

He and his hiking companion, Kinyanjui, were having a wonderful time exploring the great outdoors when unexpectedly, gut-wrenching cries rendered the air.

Instinctively, they hid in nearby bushes and watched helplessly as six poachers, armed to the teeth, slaughtered nine elephants, cutting out their ivory. This experience in 1990 left an indelible print on Craig's mind, setting him on a path to protect wildlife.

At the peak of the elephant and rhino poaching epidemic, Craig converted his family's 62,000-acre cattle ranch into a rhino sanctuary, which flourished and was later re-established as Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Craig's vision propelled Lewa to great success, and the Conservancy has grown to become a world-renowned catalyst and model for conservation, protecting endangered species and promoting the development of neighboring communities.

In 2004, in line with his commitment to conservation, Craig championed the formation of NRT. Today, NRT serves 43 community conservancies, spread across 63,000 square kilometers, and supports indigenous Kenyan communities in conservation, security, wildlife monitoring and research, livestock management, and economic development.



"

At the Northern Rangelands Trust, we've developed an entrepreneurial model of putting communities at the forefront of conservation. The community-conservancy model benefits not just thousands or hundreds of thousands of people. We're talking about one million people seeing benefits from conservation in northern Kenya. — lan Craig, NRT's Chief of Conservation



To stop the killing, trafficking and demand for ivory and ensure a secure, stable future for elephant populations and people across Africa, 2014 saw Craig spearhead the establishment of the Elephant Protection Initiative. He campaigned to shut down domestic ivory markets worldwide, resulting in the successful closure of ivory markets in the US, Canada, the UK, the EU, and China.

and Development

For his dedication and exceptional continued contribution to conservation in Africa, Craig was presented with the 2022 Prince William Award in November.

In his acceptance speech, Craig, who currently serves as NRT's Chief of Conservation and Development, underscored the importance of the community-led conservancy model stating, "It's no longer a case of working with communities or bringing communities into conservation. It's a case of keeping up with communities. Wealth and opportunity shouldn't solely be in these big, protected areas—it needs to be on the other side, and that's where NRT is going."

This Award is the latest Craig has received for his extraordinary contributions to conservation. In October, Craig was bestowed the 2022 Scientific Exploration Society (SES) Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes and celebrates those individuals who have achieved great things and whose passion, determination, and grit inspire all.



<u>Click on this link to watch</u> <u>a video about lan Craig's</u> <u>conservation work.</u>







Congratulations Ian Craig! Your Award win means a Iot to all Kenyans, rangers, communities, Africa and the whole world. Together we can achieve a lot in uplifting the lives of communities.

Eliud Kipchoge, EGH

## Carbon Project Distributes Levies to three Counties

In a historic moment this November, the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NK-RCP) handed over levy fees amounting to Ksh 23,848,500 to the Isiolo, Samburu, and Laikipia County Governments. The 5% levy was received by Governors H.E. Ibrahim Guyo (Isiolo), H.E. Lati Leleliit (Samburu), and H.E. Joshua Irungu (Laikipia) and will also be distributed to Marsabit. As a priority, the funds will be used to support drought relief interventions.

The NKRCP's carbon credits have generated USD 14.6 million for local conservancies to date. In February 2022, each of the 14 NRT member community conservancies participat-

ing in the Project's activities received USD 324,000, their first of three payments from this sale. Future sales are expected to be even higher.

Funds generated from the NKRCP are channeled directly to the communities, who hold sole financial control and use them to finance conservancy operations and community-identified needs. NRT receives no profit from the sale of the NKRCP's carbon credits.







## Josephine Ekiru, NRT's Peace Coordinator, Ranked Among the Top 100 Kenyans of 2022



who has contributed to my growth

both professionally and personally.

It is through your support and

encouragement that has pushed

me to become better in what I do.

Josephine Ekiru, NRT's Peace Coordinator Every year, Kenyans.co.ke publishes a list of the Kenyans who disrupted the status quo across the nation. This list aims to honor those who have made outstanding contributions to Kenya's national aspirations by exercising leadership in significant economic sectors.

Josephine Ekiru, our Peace Coordinator extraordinaire, made the Top 100 Kenyans List this year!

Josephine was honored as one of the exceptional people who despite the difficulties the nation faced, made a positive impact and exemplified what it means to be a great Kenyan.

Last year, Josephine became the honoree of the 2021 U.S. Institute of Peace Women Building Peace Award. Josephine was selected as the winner out of a pool of 125 nominees who hailed from more than 30 countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

## Sweden's Crown Princess Victoria Visits NRT



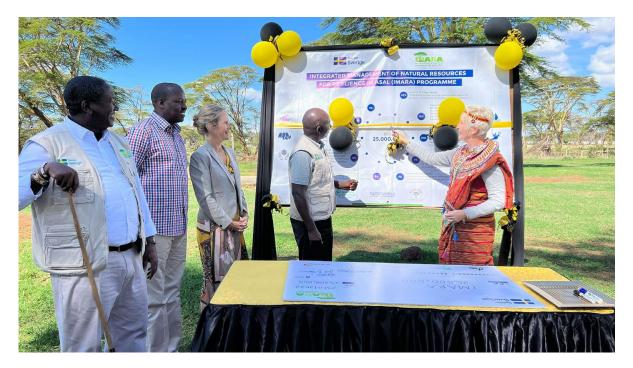
It was a distinct pleasure to host Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, recently when she visited the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) to learn about the projects promoting resilience funded by the Swedish Embassy in Nairobi through the Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA) Program.

The Crown Princess, who was accompanied by Caroline Vicini, the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya, was also keen to learn about the severe challenges that the ongoing drought poses to indigenous communities.



Part of Sweden's funding, provided through the Integrated Management of Natural Resources for Resilience in ASAL (IMARA) Program, is aimed at assisting communities in coping with the effects of the prevailing drought and climate change, addressing food insecurity, and providing access to clean water for both people and livestock.

The Ambassador signed an agreement for additional funding to support phase II of the IM-ARA Program.



## Joy, Celebration, as **NRT Trading's Ujuzi Manyattani** Program Graduates **87 Youth and Women**

We had a wonderful time celebrating with 87 young men and women from Ruko and Masol Community Conservancies in NRT West as they graduated from NRT Trading's vocational training Program, Ujuzi Manyattani.

Ujuzi Manyattani, which is supported by USAID's Local Works Program, seeks to provide youth with opportunities to diversify their livelihoods, breaking poverty and conflict cycles. With increased infrastructure investment in the region, Ujuzi Manyattani Program provides participants with training in sought-after skills, empowering them economically.



The courses offered in the Program include masonry, carpentry, motorcycle mechanics, mobile phone repair, welding, plumbing, electrical engineering, tour guiding, and solar panel installation and maintenance.

Ujuzi Manyattani operates in Samburu, Marsabit, Isiolo, Garissa, Laikipia, Baringo and West Pokot Counties.



people have benefited from the Ujuzi Manyattani Program since its inception in June 2019



## Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy Hosts USAID's PREG Partners

A delegation from USAID Kenya, led by USAID's Climate Change Coordinator, Gillian Caldwell, visited Nakuprat-Gotu Community Conservancy (Ngaremara Ward, Isiolo County) to learn more about our efforts in combating climate change, and our community-led peace-building, rangelands management, enterprise, and clean energy programs, among others.

Afterward, the Coordinator was taken through various program presentations in which she learnt how USAID's Partnership and Resilience for Economic Growth (PREG) Program partners are working with indigenous communities to mitigate the effects of climate change and foster resilience.

Ms. Caldwell noted that the cross-sectoral PREG Program had increased the community's resilience, mitigating the devastating effects of the prolonged drought. "This is a good example of how to turn a climate crisis into an opportunity to rejuvenate a community and to build something better out of a tremendous tragedy," she said.

The Coordinator also presided over the groundbreaking ceremony of a maternity facility in Daaba, which will be constructed with support from NRT and the Conservancy and in partnership with the Isiolo County Government.

The PREG Program brings together multiple USAID programs and implementing partners to coordinate resilience and economic growth activities with county governments and the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA).

## Kalama Community Conservancy Hosts Groundbreaking Ceremony for Resource Centre

Kalama Community Conservancy took a giant step forward in its development by holding a groundbreaking ceremony for the Kalama Resource Centre in collaboration with the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT).

The proposed facility, whose groundbreaking was presided over by the Samburu County Governor, H.E. Lati Leleliit, and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Africa Program Project Manager, Chantal Migongo-Bake, will create employment opportunities and generate revenue, providing the Conservancy with a direct additional income stream while also having a positive conservation impact.

In this ambitious project aimed at enhancing the sustainability of Kalama Community Conservancy, NRT, in collaboration with the Conservancy and supported by TNC, the M-PE-SA Foundation, National Geographic, Samburu County Government, and SIDA (through the IMARA Program), will establish Kalama

Resource Centre, a greenfield training and conference.

NRT supports the creation of community conservancies for conservation and development and places indigenous communities at the forefront of its efforts to transform lives, build peace, and preserve natural resources for future generations.

Hon. Lentoijoni Lekumontare, the Samburu East Member of Parliament, was also present at the groundbreaking ceremony.









# NORTHERN RANGELANDS TRUST

## 47 Conservancy Wardens and their Deputies **Graduate from KWS Leadership Training**

47 wardens from NRT member community conservancies and their deputies graduated in November after completing an intensive two-month junior leadership course at the Kenya Wildlife Service's Law Enforcement Academy (LEA) in Manyani, Voi.

The 47 were trained in supervisory duties, patrol planning, asset care, general discipline, and camp cleanliness.

Earlier this year, 322 community rangers from 38 NRT member community conservancies graduated from the Academy's Basic Ranger Training Course, which aimed to improve the rangers' capacity in various fields, including wildlife monitoring, anti-poaching law enforcement, and general ranger discipline.



# NRT Takes Part in **Tembo Naming Festival**, Names Elephant '*Amani*'

NRT had the pleasure of participating in the Tembo Naming Festival, organized by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Magical Kenya and held at the KWS Nairobi National Park Club House.

NRT named one female elephant, 'Amani,' which means peace in Swahili, at a dinner attended by our Board Vice Chairman Jarso Mokku and our Board member Dr. Betty Radier, who is also the CEO of the Kenya Tourism Board.

The Tembo Naming Festival raises funds for conserving elephants and reducing human-wildlife conflict in Kenya's parks and reserves.

Several other conservation partners also named elephants and donated funds towards the conservation of elephants.

# Welcome to the World, **Baby Ltesekwa!**

The NRT family is growing! On the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, Napanu, a ten-and-a-half-year-old female black rhino, delivered a healthy male calf at Sera Rhino Sanctuary, East Africa's first and only community-run black rhino sanctuary.

The birth of the calf, named Ltesekwa, which means "to arrive quickly," brings the Sanctuary's total population to 21.

Ltesekwa's father is Loitemu and he is born into a family with two older siblings. Napanu was eight years old when she first calved and has a 2.4-year inter-calving interval.

## 3,000 Kalama Conservancy Members Receive Relief Food

Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy distributed 32 tonnes of food to its 15 settlement zones, each receiving nearly 2.1 tonnes.

At least 3,000 community members affected by the prolonged drought received large amounts of rice flour, cooking oil, maize, and beans to last them the rest of the year.

## The European Union (EU) **Conducts Monitoring of the Ustahimilivu Program**

The European Union (EU) undertook a fiveday results-oriented monitoring (ROM) exercise of the Ustahimilivu Program in West Pokot County through a consultant and ROM expert.

The consultant who visited several Ustahimilivu project sites and interacted with beneficiaries also discussed the project's annual work plan, progress reports, monitoring of updated results, the current state of the execution budget, steering committee minutes, and project outputs.

Ustahimilivu is a four-year EU-funded project consortium that seeks to increase the resilience of communities in arid and semi-arid (ASAL) areas to drought and other effects of climate change through the community conservancy model. The Program aims at restoring drought resilience in 11 wards of West Pokot County's lowlands.







## NRT Coast Hosts High-Level Delegation from **The Nature Conservancy** and **MACP**

NRT Coast had the honour of hosting a delegation of donors from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP) when they visited Pate Marine Community Conservancy (PMCC) to learn more about NRT's marine programs.

The high-level team was impressed by the positive impact of the programs and NRT's community-led conservation model and discussed opportunities for more collaboration and support in coastal and northern Kenya.



# NRT West Communities Embrace Dialogue in Conflict Resolution



Peacebuilding can be a journey of a thousand miles, in which each milestone achieved provides cause for celebration.

The NRT Peace Team, led by Mzee Golicha, facilitated peace talks among morans and elders across the Turkana-West Pokot-Marakwet-Tiaty border. The Team worked in collaboration with the government and with support from USAID's People-to-People (P2P) Program.

The peacebuilding mission bore fruit as the communities agreed to use dialogue to resolve conflicts, restoring calm and harmony to the region.

## NRT Member Community Conservancies Present **2023 Plans and Budgets**

The Conservancy Managers of 42 NRT member community conservancies gathered at NRT's headquarters from the 14<sup>th</sup> of November to the 17<sup>th</sup> to present the plans and budgets of the community conservancies for the coming year.

The conservancies' plans and budgets will be aligned with NRT's 2023 operational plan and programs to ensure effective implementation.



# **NRT Trading's Tourism Team** Meets with the Tourism Regulatory Authority

To ensure that all conservancies' lodges' operations comply with the guidelines outlined in the Tourism Act, NRT Trading's Tourism Team met with officials from the Tourism Regulatory Authority and the Tourism Fund.

As a result of this meeting, both teams agreed to develop procedures for ensuring that the community-run conservancy lodges remain compliant.





#### **REGIONAL NEWS**

#### NRT Coast

 The Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF) Investment Committee visited the NRT Coast office to learn more about the region's conservation work, obtain updates on WSTFfunded projects under the Green Growth and Employment Program (GGEP), and discuss potential collaboration opportunities.

For the next two and a half years, the WSTF will invest Ksh 150 million in water projects in four coastal community conservancies: Pate, Kiunga, Ishaqbini, and Ndera.

• NRT Coast conservancies participated in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual cultural festival in Lamu where they showcased their conservation and community development work.

#### NRT East

- The community conservancies in Marsabit are expanding their social media and digital presence to increase their brand visibility, publicize their programs that aim to improve community members' livelihoods, promote wildlife conservation, and share community success stories.
- The NRT Marsabit Team facilitated a meeting of 200 multi-age set morans and elders, national government officials, and conservancy leaders to foster peaceful coexistence.



#### **NRT Centre**

 51 board members and local leaders from Ngilai and Kalepo Community Conservancies underwent training on the first module of the transformational Leadership and Management Program (LAMP), which seeks to improve conservancy governance and communities' capacity to manage resources.

#### **NRT Mountain**

• The NRT Mountain Team held awareness meetings in preparation for the handing over of the Naibunga elephant fence to the community.

#### CONSERVANCY UPDATES



**Kalama:** Kalama Conservancy handed over the Lorubae ranger outpost to the community. The facility will help in dealing with the now frequent incidents of insecurity.



**Nasuulu:** Nasuulu Community Conservancy launched a Reseeding Program to increase its grass cover and reseeded 350 acres of land.

Following an influx of livestock in Nasuulu, the Conservancy convened a peace meeting at Loruko between Turkana and Samburu herders to discuss resource sharing and peaceful coexistence.

Lower Tana: The Community Forest Associations (CFAs) in the



Tana-Lamu seascape and the Lower Tana Delta Conservancy Board underwent training on module three of the Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) to improve their leadership capacity and promote sustainable resource management.









mary schools visited Buffalo Springs and Shaba National Reserves and planted trees at the Reserves' gates and the Conservancy's headquarters. IUCN Save Our Species supported these activities through the Beisa Oryx Project.

Nakuprat-Gotu: Wildlife Club members from Ngaremara Ward's pri-

**Westgate:** 17 rangers from Westgate Community Conservancy graduated from NRT's bespoke LAMP training.

**Shurr, Songa, Jaldesa:** 60 Grazing Committee members from these three conservancies completed module 1 of a rangelands management training which focused on proper grazing planning and outlined the committee's role in ensuring effective grazing planning occurs across their respective conservancies.







**Nkoteiya:** 70 members of the Kirisia Nkoteyia Zonal Grazing Committee attended a three-day rangelands management course aimed at improving their ability to manage rangelands.

**Melako:** The Conservancy Management attended a meeting convened by the County Government to involve the public in the development of the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP). The team's priorities included the construction of ranger houses, the registration of community land, the training of grazing committee members to improve grazing planning, and the management of Prosopis juliflora, an invasive species.





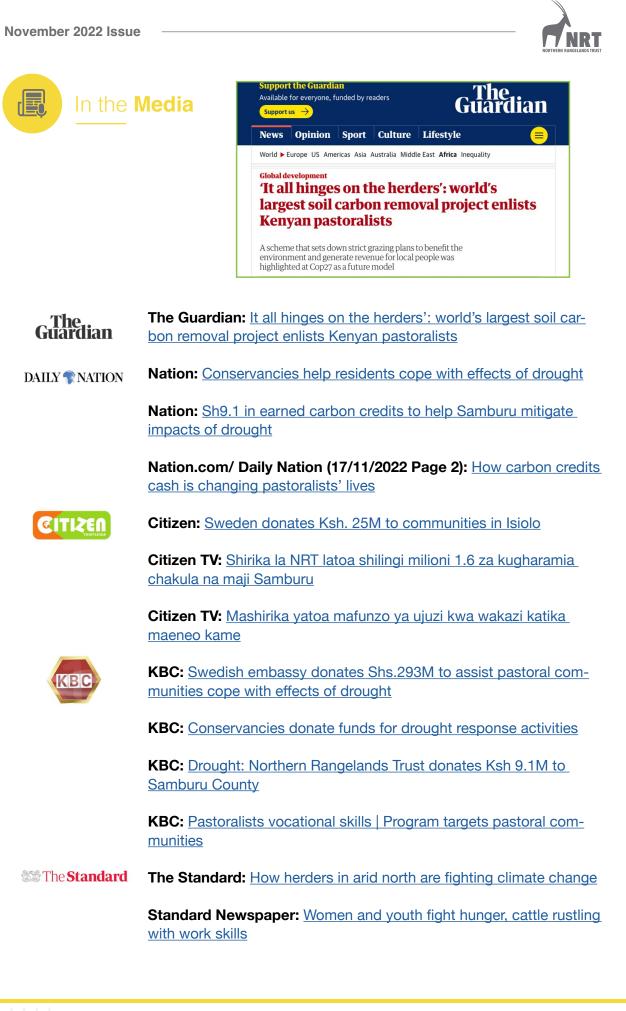


**Pellow, Masol:** 288 youth participated in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and life skills training to help them identify and participate in productive activities that create jobs and positively transform their lives.

**Ruko:** The Conservancy held a successful meeting at the sanctuary to discuss livestock invasion and warn morans about livestock theft.

**Pate, Kiunga:** A needs assessment was conducted at Pate and Kiunga to better understand the challenges and opportunities that will arise when scaling up the fish-to-market pilot project.









Zawya.com: World's largest soil carbon project in Kenya receives award during COP27

Business Daily: Conservancies support communities with carbon

The Star: Are carbon credits next frontier for marginalised North?

VOA: (Item 2): Kenya Yapiga Hatua Kukabili Mabadiliko ya Hali ya

News Ghana: https://newsghana.com.gh/worlds-largest-soil-car-

Business Ghana: Conservancies donate funds for drought response

African Media Agency: World's Largest Soil Carbon Project in Ken-

Business Quest: World's largest soil carbon project in Kenya re-

IAfrica: Kenya's Pastoralists Pilot an Exemplary Project Highlighted

KTN News: Ujuzi Manyatani program aims to help the youth earn a

bon-project-in-kenya-receives-award-during-cop27/

ya Receives Award During COP27

decent living and prevent cattle rustling

Mutembei TV: Combating Cattle Rustling in Baringo!!

Utana TV: Mbeu njithi kuuma kaunti ya Baringo kwanjiriria

ceives award during COP27

kwamukira kotho cia moko

Lookup TV: <u>Silencing the gun</u>

**BUSINESS DAILY** 

credit harvests

Hewa

activities

at COP27



**EWS** GHANA

EneriDezenieue



Business <u>Quest</u>

**i**Africa



**N**T

**Stana** tv

LOOK UP TV



NRT Trading website: <u>Celebrations and Jubilations as 59 Youth and</u> Women Graduate from Ujuzi Manyattani



Kenya News Agency: Education Shaping Pastoral Community

**TV 47 News:** <u>Wakenya katika maeneo ya ufugaji wanufaika na elimu</u> <u>ya kiufundi</u>



## **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.

