

NRT NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023



NRT Newsletter

November 2023 Issue

Dear NRT Partners,

Communities in northern Kenya grapple with complex, interlinked issues including poverty, insecurity, human and livestock population growth, climate change, and severe degradation of rangelands, necessitating innovative, holistic, and sustained solutions.

Effective rangeland management at scale remains one of the toughest challenges for NRT and member community conservancies. There is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to rangeland management, and we strive to promote best practices, which communities adapt to their individual circumstances.

This newsletter takes a look at actions we are taking to support member community conservancies in improving rangeland productivity. It also shares the latest news updates and stories of unmatched courage and resilience from across the NRT landscape.

Follow along to learn how NRT's community conservancy model is making a real difference for nature and transforming the lives of the indigenous communities we serve.

Building Greener Futures: NRT Member Community Conservancies Lead in Rangeland Rehabilitation

Across northern Kenya, the health of the rangelands determines the wellbeing of the pastoralist communities who reside there.



November 2023 Issue

Image: Description of the second sec

In the NRT member conservancies in this region, indigenous communities are combatting climate change by rehabilitating degraded rangelands, charting a brighter future for all.

January this year saw Ruth Rana, Chairlady of Enduata Women's Group in Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy lead women in her group in clearing parcels of land that had been overrun by *Opuntia stricta*, an invasive plant species commonly known as the prickly pear. The shrub had dominated vast stretches of grasslands, hampering the growth of native flora.

The women then diligently sowed grass seeds and ingeniously repurposed the prickly pear's matter as a natural mulch that protected the seeds, preventing them from being blown away by gusts of wind or eaten by birds and rodents.

To support the women's efforts in improving the health of the rangelands, the Conservancy organised tours for them to various NRT member community conservancies and other parts of Kenya where grass reseeding had been successfully performed, and trained them on various rehabilitation techniques including the use of semi-circular earth bunds. Bunds, low embankments of compacted earth or stones in a semi-circle, are simple, cost-effective water conservation techniques that enhance soil's water retention capacity, reduce rainwater runoff, and promote the natural regeneration of indigenous perennial grasses.

In October this year, 32,000 semi-circular earth bunds were created by over 300 women in the community, supported by Fauna and Flora and the Darwin Initiative. Ruth is optimistic that this will accelerate the growth of indigenous grasses, providing pasture for livestock and securing the communities' livelihoods, which are dependent on a livestock economy.





Similar community-led land rangeland rehabilitation drives have taken place in Westgate Community Conservancy in Samburu County, where like in Naibunga Upper, rangeland degradation was prevalent.

James Lenantoiye, from Westgate's Lempaute Village, recalls how the landscape gradually deteriorated, leaving community members puzzled. "Despite the area receiving rainfall in the rainy seasons, the ground hardly improved. The once-rich vegetation slowly dwindled, and most of our livestock and wildlife as well, succumbed to hunger." He adds that to protect their surviving herds, some community members encroached on inhabited territories in search of pasture and water, sparking inter-ethnic conflict.

In 2022, Westgate, keen on solving the underlying issue, conducted a learning tour of the Kuku Group Ranch in the Amboseli ecosystem in Kajiado County for its grazing committee members, who gained valuable insights on effective rangeland management practices. Upon their return, they disseminated the knowledge they had acquired.

Westgate's initial rangeland rehabilitation efforts were mainly carried out by groups of women and youth who aimed at planting *Cenchrus ciliaris* grass species on 250 hectares of land at different sites in the Conservancy, supported by the Conservancy's Carbon Community Fund. Further, 1,200 semi-circular earth bunds were established in the Conservancy.

Between October and mid-November this year, with technical support from Justdiggit under the TWENDE (Towards Ending Drought Emergencies) Project, 13,844 semi-circular earth bunds were established in Westgate after potential sites were identified, community sensitization was conducted, and community members were trained on bund usage.

The TWENDE project is also supporting similar land restoration efforts in Kalama Community Conservancy and overseeing the development of 5,770 semi-circular bunds.

As Kenya continues to experience above-average rainfall due to El Nino, it is expected that the rangeland rehabilitation efforts of the communities in both Naibunga Upper and Westgate Conservancies will be rewarded by rich grass harvests, securing the livelihoods of indigenous pastoralist communities and ensuring abundant pasture is available for livestock and wildlife.





Rising Above Terrorism Scars: Mumina's Extraordinary Journey from Tragedy to Triumph

Kenya's northern and coastal regions have long been plagued with insecurity, upending the lives of community members, such as Mumina Omar.

In 2017, en route to Kiunga Primary School in Lamu County from Marani Village, Mumina, then in seventh grade, and other pupils with her experienced a tragedy that no child should ever have to suffer.

While travelling along the Mararani-Kiunga Road which passes through the dense and extensive Boni Forest, the vehicle transporting them drove over an improvised explosive device that had been planted by terrorists. A deafening explosion and a fiery inferno ensued, engulfing the vehicle.

The remote location of the incident hampered rescue efforts, and regrettably four of Mumina's schoolmates succumbed to their injuries during the lengthy wait that continued late into the night. The impact of the explosion had flung Mumina far from her peers, making it hard to trace her. She spent the harrowing night alone in the forest, writhing in pain and consumed by fear, before eventually drifting into a state of unconsciousness. It was not until 11 a.m. the following day that Mumina was found during a renewed search mission prompted by her distraught family's report of her disappearance. She was rushed to the Aga Khan Hospital in Mombasa for treatment but showed no signs of improvement. After a fortnight, she was transferred to Kijabe Mission Hospital in Nairobi.

Her extensive injuries necessitated the amputation of one of her legs three months later to save her life. This profound loss not only impacted her education, dreams, and self-esteem but also strained her family's resources.

Despite the prevailing circumstances, Mumina's indomitable spirit shone through the darkness. With the help of a prosthetic leg that was purchased by a good samaritan, she resumed formal learning in 2019, persevering through bouts of excruciating pain to complete her primary and secondary school education.

Mumina aspired to attain higher levels of education, but the pain searing through her body confined her to the walls of their family home, where she dutifully assisted





her parents with light tasks. As destiny would have it, in 2023, Mumina heard about NRT Trading's Ujuzi Manyattani Program, which provides vocational training in highdemand skills to young men and women in marginalized communities.

The Regional NRT Trading-Coast Ujuzi Manyattani Coordinator encouraged Mumina to enroll in the Program, where she underwent three months of training in tailoring and dressmaking.

Despite her fears and doubts, through sheer determination and the unwavering support of her parents, trainer, and fellow trainees, Mumina learned to sew a wide array of garments and mastered the art of operating a sewing machine with one leg.

During her graduation from Ujuzi Manyattani, Mumina's face lit up with a radiant smile. "Terrorists may have robbed me of one leg, but not my destiny," she said defiantly. Upon graduating, Mumina and 30 other graduates from Kiunga Community Conservancy were issued with startup toolkits, enabling them to launch their businesses.

Operating in eight counties in northern and Coastal Kenya and supported by the United States Agency for International Development's Local Works Program, Ujuzi Manyattani remains a beacon of hope for communities in NRT member conservancies.

In January this year, NRT Trading conducted a survey that revealed Ujuzi Manyattani graduates contribute over Ksh 60 million to the local economy through their incomegenerating activities, and at least 88% of the Program's graduates were self-employed and had started their own businesses.

To date, 962 young women and men have graduated from the Program with training in vocational skills and startup toolkits, empowering them economically and securing their livelihoods. Currently, 140 more youth are undergoing training through Ujuzi Manyattani.

Tech for Good: NRT, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Harnessing the Power of Internet of Things and Radio Technology to Save Lives

For many mothers-to-be around the world, the final days before their baby's birth are filled with a plethora of preparations, including last-minute shopping, clinic visits, baby showers, and home childproofing.

27-year-old Hadija Diba has a different tale to tell.

On the night of 1st November, she sat in her northern Kenya home, counting down the hours to when she would deliver and hold her precious baby girl in her arms. Her feet ached, but she was excited and ready as could be.

As she rested from the day's activities and her mind drifted to cuddles with her newborn, sharp labour pains pierced the tranquility of her thoughts. Hadija's husband and mother rushed her to Malkadaqa Dispensary in Garbatulla Ward, Isiolo South.



A quick checkup revealed that her blood pressure had spiked, necessitating an emergency caesarian delivery. Unfortunately, the Dispensary lacked the capacity for the procedure, and Hadija was referred to Garbatulla Sub-county Hospital.

She urgently needed treatment, but travel was a nightmare. Heavy rains had resulted in flooding, rendering roads impassable. Accessing an ambulance under these circumstances was impossible. Fortune smiled at them as an NRT-owned vehicle in the vicinity successfully navigated the treacherous roads and swiftly transported Hadija to Garbatulla Sub-county Hospital. The crisis had been averted, it appeared, and all would be well. Despite the pain she felt, Hadija breathed a sigh of relief. She was finally going to get the medical assistance she and her unborn baby needed. But Murphy's law prevailed. Upon arriving, the hospital informed them that the attending doctor in charge of emergency cases was unavailable, prompting a second referral, this time to Isiolo County Referral Hospital.

En route, they encountered a flooded *lugga* (seasonal watercourse) in the Kulamawe area, hindering their journey. Hadija's family requested the use of the NRT vehicle again, which promptly arrived to serve them, but high levels of water made it dangerous to drive through the *lugga*.







Time was of the essence, and Hadija's mother and husband made a desperate plea for help to Isiolo County officials. The Isiolo County Deputy Governor, Dr. James Lowasa, and County Secretary, Dadhe Boru, phoned the Joint Operations and Communication Center (JOCC) based at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, requesting airlift assistance.

The JOCC and Lewa Wildlife Conservancy teams swung into action and mapped out a plan for safely airlifting Hadija despite poor visibility due to terrible weather at the time. They promptly transported Hadija to Isiolo County Referral Hospital, where a team of waiting doctors immediately attended to her.

At 3 pm, Hadija delivered a bouncing baby girl weighing 3.2 kilograms. "I really want to thank the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and NRT teams for airlifting me to the hospital safely, as well as all the doctors who attended to me and ensured I had a safe delivery," she said.

On the 8th of November, at Buffalo Springs National Reserve, Richard Kariuki, a Sarova Shaba Game Lodge driver and tour guide, found himself stranded at the White River for two hours after dropping off guests at the Serena airstrip. The Kenya Wildlife Service Company Commander Isiolo-Samburu Complex, George Bakari, alerted the JOCC team who collaborated with Lewa to deploy the Conservancy's helicopter and rescued Richard.

On the 24th of November, a Border Patrol Unit Police vehicle was stuck in Kalama Community Conservancy's Laresoro area. The vehicle's three occupants were rescued when community members informed the JOCC and Lewa's helicopter airlifted them to safety.

The coordination of these life-saving rescues is made possible by cutting-edge radio technology and NRT's newly established Internet of Things (IoT) network, which creates a vast communication web that connects 22 NRT member community conservancies, with plans underway to bring more on board.

Deployed in collaboration with Connected Conservation Foundation, Cisco, 51 Degrees, EarthRanger, and the European Union's Community Policing Initiative Biolive Project, NRT's network is Africa's largest landscape-wide, IoT conservation network.

Kiunga Community Conservancy: Transforming Lives and Livelihoods in NRT Coast

Kiunga Community Conservancy held a colourful ceremony to celebrate the graduation of 30 students from NRT Trading's Ujuzi Manyattani Program, the beginning of a new phase of the Women's Microfinance Program, and the issuance of cold storage equipment to fishers.

The graduates were issued with certificates and toolkits so they could launch their businesses upon graduating.

In the Microfinance Program, the women beneficiaries received a Ksh 10 million cheque, which will go into a revolving fund, enabling them to start businesses of their choice.

In line with NRT's commitment to continue supporting the fishers who voluntarily exchanged their beach seine nets for sustainable ones under the Gear Exchange Program, 22 cooler boxes and bags were issued, facilitating and enhancing the fish preservation process.

These livelihood development projects are generously supported by USAID's Local Works Program, Base Camp Foundation, Fauna and Flora, the Darwin Initiative, and The Nature Conservancy.







Community Conservancies Commemorate **Kenya's National Tree-Growing Day**

NRT member community conservancies observed Kenya's inaugural National Tree-Growing Day on November 13th by planting trees across the NRT landscape.

Tree planting was undertaken in various sites in several member conservancies, including Nkoteiya, Ltungai, Meibae, Westgate, Sera, Kalama, Ngilai, Kalepo Ngare Ndare, Naibunga Upper, Il Ngwesi, and Lekurruki Community Conservancies.

The Kenya Government aspires to have 15 billion trees planted in the country by 2032. This ambitious goal is part of a broader effort to reduce greenhouse emissions, halt and reverse deforestation, and restore 5.1 million hectares of deforested and degraded land.



NRT Commences the Development of a **Grievance Handling** Mechanism



NRT is committed to protecting human rights and has developed a new Human Rights Policy whose implementation is ongoing. Recently, NRT convened a meeting with community conservancy representatives and other stakeholders to discuss a draft grievance handling mechanism, which outlines how grievances and complaints will be heard and resolved.

The meeting facilitators also discussed the importance of conducting the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes which are embedded in the grievance mechanism so that communities are



well informed and give consent before adopting it. This is the standard procedure for NRT which all projects undergo before commencement.

Recently, the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association published its FPIC guidelines to help conservancies develop their FPIC practices. NRT has also published its own guidelines.

For more details on our
Human Rights Policy, please
visit this page.

NRT Attends Marsabit County's Lake Turkana Cultural Festival

NRT participated in the 13th edition of the annual Lake Turkana Cultural Festival held in Marsabit County. The week-long festival was held to showcase the cultural diversity and heritage of Marsabit County's communities and the importance of peaceful coexistence.

During the event, the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCP), through Melako Community Conservancy, issued Ksh 2,032,582 (a 5% levy) to the Marsabit County Government.

H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of Kenya, graced the Festival, which was attended by national and county government leaders.



NRT's Rangelands Team Attends the **East Africa Rangelands Workshop**

Our Rangelands team participated in The Nature Conservancy's two-day East Africa Rangelands Workshop, which brought together partners working on rangelands management in East Africa.

The workshop centered on East Africa's rangeland management practices and the interventions required for rangeland rehabilitation.

Workshop attendees discussed various topics including the existing rangeland monitoring approaches and datasets, data gaps, tools for rangelands' health monitoring, and the development of the NKRCP.



NRT Trading Tourism and BeadWORKS Teams Participate in the **2023 Joint East Africa Regional Tourism Expo and Magical Kenya Travel Expo**.

NRT Trading's Tourism and BeadWORKS teams participated in the 3rd East African Regional Tourism Expo and the 2023 Magical Kenya Travel Expo, whose theme was "Tourism for Green Growth."

At the Expos, held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre from the 20th to the 23rd of November, the Tourism team presented <u>'The</u> <u>Big North'</u> (community-owned lodges in NRT member conservancies), and <u>BeadWORKS</u>, a handicraft business which has transformed the lives of 1,200 women beaders.





The Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Alfred Mutua, visited NRT Trading's booth at the Expos and commended the efforts made to improve livelihoods in northern Kenya through enterprise.



REGIONAL UPDATES

NRT West

All zones of all NRT member community conservancies in the Region peacefully held elections, overseen by various stakeholders including representatives from NRT, the Kenya Wildlife Service, Baringo County Government, and area chiefs.

To prepare the community for the elections, awareness sessions were held.

The elections provided an opportunity to decentralize Masol Community Conservancy's governance structure and enhance community ownership, accountability, and representation.

NRT Centre

- The NRT Centre team hosted a delegation from Turkana County, led by the Speaker, Hon. Christopher Doye, who toured Samburu County to benchmark on conservation and visited Kalama Community Conservancy, where they interacted with the Conservancy's leadership and community members.
- The regional team met with national government officials, community conservancy members, Samburu County leaders, and other partners to discuss solutions for insecurity in Samburu East and develop a shared roadmap to address the issue. The meeting was organized in collaboration with Samburu County and USAID's Nawiri Program.

NRT East

100 participants from NRT member community conservancies in Isiolo County's Bulesa, OI Donyiro, Burat, Merti, Malkagalla, Garbatulla, and Ngaremara areas attended a public participation meeting convened by the Isiolo County Government to discuss the formulation of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Bill, Tourism Bill, and Community Conservation Bill.



These bills contribute to the protection, conservation, and sustainable use of wildlife. While addressing the participants, Isiolo County Tourism Chief Officer, Ibrahim Challa, stated that the Community Conservation Bill would establish a legal framework for the creation and management of community conservancies, which foster peaceful coexistence among neighboring communities.

NRT Mountain

Conservancy staff from eight community conservancies in the Region attended a practical two-day training organized by NRT's Grants Team, to build their capacity in fundraising.

The training covered various topics including resource mobilization, donor mapping, and the art of crafting concept notes and proposals.

NRT Coast

The Region hosted a delegation from the Royal Danish Embassy that included ten Danish journalists who documented the Danish Government's support towards climate change mitigation and adaptation, ahead of COP28, scheduled to take place from the 30th of November to the 12th of December in Dubai this year.

During the visit, NRT's CEO, Tom Lalampaa, and regional staff presented NRT Coast's community conservation and conducted site tours of water projects in Kizingitini and Shanga Rubu in Pate Community Conservancy that are funded by the Danish International Development Agency, as well as of mangrove forests and octopus farms that are an initiative of women from the community.





CONSERVANCY UPDATES



Kalama

A groundbreaking ceremony was held to kick off the construction of accommodation units at Kalama Resource Centre, marking the beginning of the project's second phase. This expansion, supported by the Mpesa Foundation, is anticipated to create jobs and provide the conservancy with another direct revenue stream.



Meibae

A rangelands governance training was conducted for 16 women rangelands champions from all of the Conservancy's zones, promoting women's inclusion in conservation.



Ngilai

36 women benefitted from loans amounting to Ksh 1 million issued by the Northern Rangelands Sacco. The women underwent a two-day training on entrepreneurship and financial literacy before the funds were disbursed.



Ltungai

The Conservancy Board convened a meeting that converged 60 professionals from diverse fields to discuss areas of collaboration in conservancy management Also in attendance at the meeting were Samburu County Executive Committee Members, County Directors, school principals, and headteachers.



Westgate

The Conservancy hosted delegations from partnering organizations, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Conservation International, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, and Justdiggit, who visited to evaluate the progress of ongoing land rehabilitation efforts, and the use of semi-circular bunds by local communities.



Narupa

NRT's Water and Peace Departments and NRT Mountain Region hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Tura-Narasha Water Supply Project in Narupa Community Conservancy. This cross-border project, implemented by NRT through the Swedish-funded IMARA consortium, aims at addressing water-related conflict between communities in the Tura and Narasha areas by supplying water from the Tura borehole to Narasha.

National Government Administration Officers and representatives from World Vision, the Integrated Management of Natural Resources for Resilience in ASAL (IMARA) Program Secretariat, and USAID's Nawiri Program also attended the event.









Pate and Naibunga Upper

Pate, in collaboration with NRT's communications team, hosted journalists from mainstream and international media outlets to spotlight the impact of NRT's marine programs. The journalists visited marine project sites and witnessed mangrove rehabilitation in Mtangawanda, sustainable octopus fishing in Shanga Ishakani and coral reef restoration in Chipopo.

In Naibunga Upper, local journalists also visited Opuntia stricta control sites and observed rangeland rehabilitation activities for coverage. The engagement of the journalists was prompted by the need to showcase how NRT member community conservancies are adapting to and mitigating climate change, ahead of COP28.

Lower Tana Delta

An awareness meeting was conducted to increase the community's understanding and seek their consent and support for a project involving the construction of a fence to protect the community members' farms from elephants that have been encroaching on their land and destroying their crops. The project, funded by the Innocent Foundation, will be piloted in Ozi Village before expansion to other affected areas within the Conservancy.



Masol

The Conservancy's Annual General Meeting was held and attended by various stakeholders, among them community members. The topics of discussion included: a review of Masol's finances, conservancy governance, wildlife monitoring, rangelands management, and the upcoming Board elections. Community members lauded the Conservancy's initiatives, particularly the Ujuzi Manyattani, Fodder Production, and Bursary Programs.



Ruko

The NRT family grew, as a giraffe named Nalangu delivered a healthy male calf, increasing the number of endangered Rothschild's giraffes in Ruko to 15.

Morung'ole

The Conservancy recruited eight community conservancy scouts, who will work closely with the Uganda Wildlife Authority and the National Forestry Authority to safeguard Morung'ole's biodiversity, achieving a significant governance milestone.



Video Highlights of the Month

Citizen TV: Campaign to Restore Mangrove Forest Intensifies in Lamu

The women of Pate Marine Community Conservancy are dedicated guardians of the mangrove. Their mangrove restoration sites have become a blueprint for nurturing mangrove forest growth, attracting visitors from all over the world. <u>Watch this video</u> to learn how they are blazing the trail in mangrove restoration on Pate Island.

Citizen TV: Womenfolk Team up for Octopus Farming in Lamu

To reverse the effects of illegal, destructive, and unsustainable fishing in nearshore waters, indigenous communities in Pate Marine Community Conservancy have established Locally Managed Marine Areas which they actively manage and monitor. <u>Click on this video</u> to watch how their efforts are increasing the sizes and catches of octopus and improving fishers' livelihoods.

Citizen TV: Group Starts Restoration of Coral Reefs in the Indian Ocean

All over the world, coral reefs have earned the moniker "rainforests of the sea" due to the richness of life they contain. Their importance is undisputable as they support an estimated 25% of all marine life.

<u>Watch this video</u> to learn how Pate Marine Community Conservancy is enhancing the health and resilience of coral reefs and safeguarding the habitats of critical marine species.





In the Media



Citizen TV Wateja kutoka Somalia watafuta huduma huko Lamu

Watu 8 waponea chupuchupu katika mto Lerata Samburu

Campaign to restore mangrove forest intensifies in Lamu

Kundi la wanawake wajihusisha na ufugaji wa pweza

Lamu octopus farming: Womenfolk team up for octopus farming in Lamu

Matumbwawe ya matumaini: Wakazi wa Lamu wafanya juhudi kurejesha matumbawe baharini

Artificial reef restoration: Group starts restoration of coral reefs in the Indian Ocean



Citizen Digital Relief as helicopter rescues expectant mum stranded i

Relief as helicopter rescues expectant mum stranded in ambulance during heavy rains



Inooro TV

Mũtumia mũritũ kũhonokio nĩ ndege ya gĩbĩrĩrĩki thutha wa ambulance ararĩ gũkwama ndoro-inĩ, Isiolo



Ramogi TV Midhiero mag koth



NTV Kenya Pregnant woman rescued from deadly Isiolo floods via helicopter

Mafuriko Isiolo: Mama mja mzito aokolewa na helikopta baada ya ambulensi kukwama

Helicopter flies in to rescue pregnant woman from deadly Isiolo floods



KTN News

<u>Vijana kadhaa wahitimu mafunzo ya kurekebisha injini za maboti na</u> <u>mafunzo pia ya kushona</u>

Pregnant woman airlifted after ambulance got stuck in mud



Women from Mosul, Kijabe and Nkilitiri join hands to fight the invasion of Opuntia

Kina mama wajiweka mstari wa mbele kuhifadhi mazingira kaunti ya Laikipia



KBC Channel 1 The unwanted american cactus: Laikipia residents find alternative method to fight Opuntia plant



Laikipia pastoralists plead with the government over a dangerous plant

LOOK UP TV

LOOK UP TV

<u>Mama mja mzito ameokolewa kutoka kwa makali ya mafuriko ya mvua</u> <u>kubwa inayoendelea kunyesha kaunti</u>



The Star

TV 47

Helicopter rescues pregnant woman after ambulance gets stuck in Isiolo



Kenyans.co.ke Isiolo governor abdi hassan calls helicopter to save pregnant woman from floods



Tuko.co.ke

Isiolo: helicopter rescues expectant woman stuck in submerged ambulance

DAILY NATION

The Daily Nation Meet the young mums rising from the ashes of child marriage

As the year has unfolded, our unfailing partners and donors have walked the conservation journey with us, sharing our commitment to transform lives every step of the way.

We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have supported us throughout the year as we worked to increase the climate resilience of our member community conservancies 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.

