



NRT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022





NRT Newsletter

October 2022 Issue

Dear NRT Partners,

The world is getting hotter. The last seven years have been the warmest ever recorded, with the Earth's temperature reaching a high of 1.1°C above pre-industrial era levels in 2021.

While a 1.1°C rise seems insignificant, the reality is that brutal heat waves, angry rain storms, wildfires, hurricanes, and floods experienced in various parts of the world, not to mention the drought ravaging much of East Africa are all consequences of the Earth's temperature rising.

Every year, the world releases 50 billion tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels for energy, resulting in unprecedentedly high atmospheric CO₂ levels, accelerating global warming and its cataclysmic effects, particularly climate change.

Today, due to climate change-induced drought, millions in arid and semi-arid parts of the country are facing food insecurity, and pastoralist communities in northern Kenya are suffering unacceptably huge losses of livestock and their livelihood.

Wildlife, including the Big Five, have not been spared. Hundreds of grazers have been lost to this year's drought. It is unconscionable that wild creatures are bearing the brunt of the consequences of human actions.

From conducting livestock vaccination campaigns to providing supplementary feed to endangered wildlife, NRT is using every tool at its disposal to ensure conservation gains are not reversed. Follow along to learn about additional actions NRT and NRT member conservancies are taking to build resilience.

Surviving an Unprecedented Drought: When Limits Get Tested

The northern Kenya rangelands are home to an incredible variety of birds and wildlife species, including mighty elephants, towering reticulated giraffes, fearless lions, majestic eland, shy oryx, elegant cheetahs, beautiful rhinos, buffalo, and even the hirola—the world's most endangered antelope!

The region is experiencing the worst drought in 40 years. Searching for water, an elephant herd moves, hoping to find some to quench their thirst or dip in and enjoy a mud spa bath to cool off from northern Kenya's sweltering heat.





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When it gets really dry, as it is now, communities struggle to find the little water and grass left on the land for their livestock. With civilians having easy access to illegal firearms, they often clash over limited resources. We are using the conservancy model to bring these communities together.

Tom Lalampaa,
CEO, NRT

Months pass. No rain falls, reducing the amount of water available to them and livestock, triggering human-wildlife conflict.

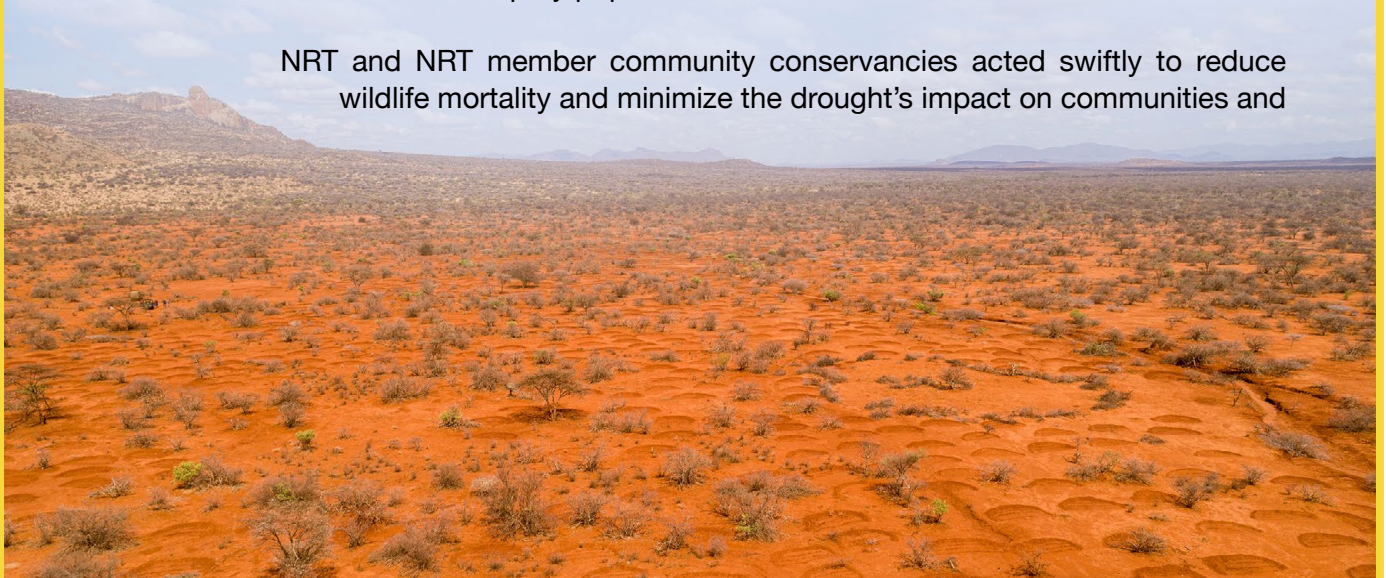
In a nearby village, the head of a pastoralist household scans the clear blue skies for any sign of rain. His livestock are parched. His livelihood at stake and concerned for his family, he sits under a nearby acacia tree's shade, pondering his next move.

This is northern Kenya's fourth consecutive failed rainy season. The dire situation is exacerbated by La Niña, a phenomenon bolstered by climate change that is pushing away the rains normally received in East Africa, upending lives.

A new report by the Wildlife, Research and Training Institute reveals that between February and October 2022, 205 elephants, 512 wildebeest, 381 common zebra, 51 buffalo, and 49 Grevy's zebra died due to drought, with 14 different wildlife species affected, and the most impacted ecosystems including Amboseli, Tsavo, and Laikipia-Samburu.

Lions are safe, for now. The drought has weakened prey, making it easier for carnivores to grab a quick lunch or dinner. Currently, they have plenty of food, especially the scavengers like hyenas and vultures who hunt weak animals and carcasses. However, eventually, carnivores will suffer from a reduced prey population.

NRT and NRT member community conservancies acted swiftly to reduce wildlife mortality and minimize the drought's impact on communities and



livestock. Through the Supplementary Feeding Program, NRT is providing hay for multiple species at the Sera Rhino Sanctuary, Ishaqbini Conservancy’s hirola, and with the support of the Wildlife Conservation Network, Beisa Oryx at Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy.

Since the prolonged drought has dried up numerous watering points, NRT is providing wildlife with drinking water. An irrigation scheme NRT is currently implementing in collaboration with the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance and the SideKick Foundation is 90% complete, and will irrigate approximately three hectares of land within Ishaqbini Conservancy.

Supported by San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, Dr. Stephen Chege, NRT’s wildlife veterinarian, has conducted vaccination campaigns for over 60,000 community cattle, sheep, and goats in Ishaqbini Conservancy, preventing livestock diseases that threaten pastoral livelihoods, increasing livestock resilience, and protecting the area’s critically endangered hirola, which are susceptible to the same illnesses.

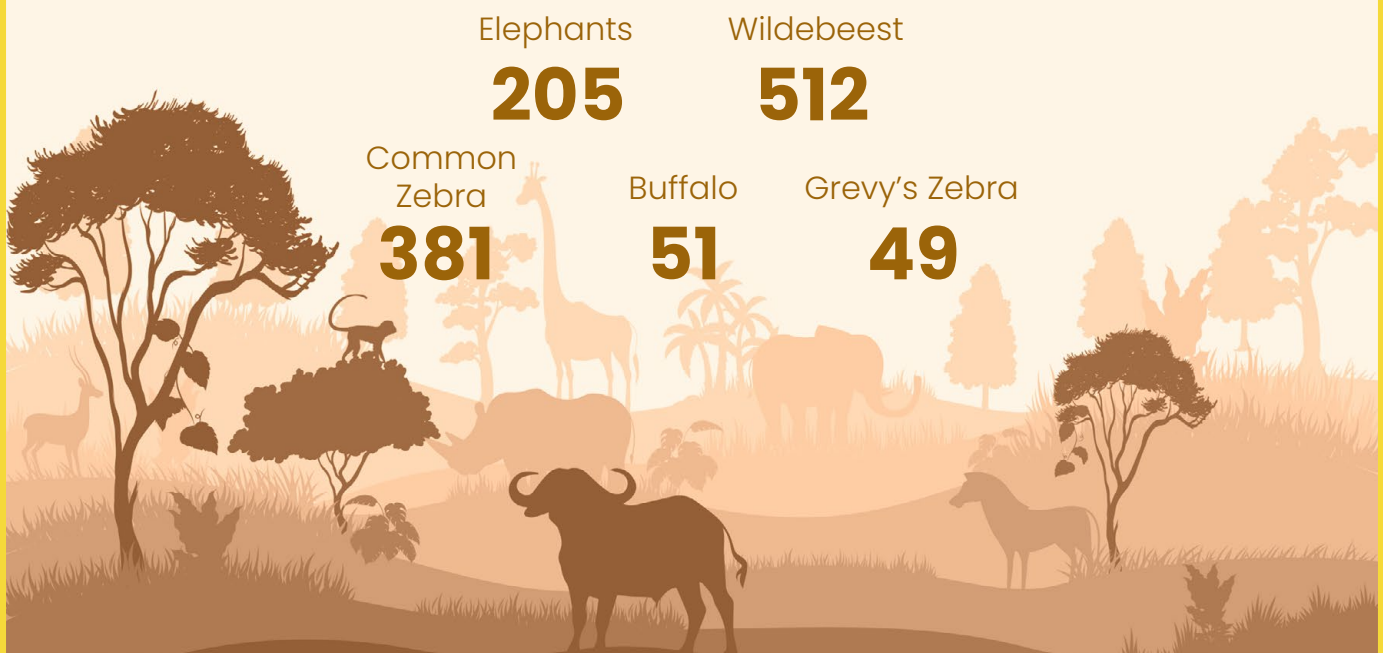
To prevent human-wildlife conflict and promptly address deteriorating animal health while the drought persists, NRT is tracking wildlife across member conservancies using enhanced wildlife monitoring systems.

With forage amounts dwindling, Kalama Conservancy donated a truckload of hay to the Grevy’s Zebra Trust. 250 bales of hay were delivered to the Archer’s Gate storage facility and another 150 to the Shaba National Reserve to feed buffalo.

As the drought rages on, wreaking havoc, the spotlight falls on the 2022 UN Climate Change Conference, COP 27. Unequivocally, global warming is hindering development and adversely affecting the most vulnerable.

It is high time world leaders honor the Paris Agreement, prioritize decarbonization, drive responsible growth, and make this world a greener, healthier, and safer place for everyone.

Drought-related Mortalities



NRT Coast Hosts a Group of 60 Women for an **Exposure Visit**

60 women from northern Kenya had the wonderful opportunity to visit NRT Coast, where they shared their conservation stories and learnt from their Lamu counterparts about successful conservation program implementation.

The women from Sera and Kalama Community Conservancies visited Pate Marine and Kiunga Community Conservancies in NRT Coast for two days, learning about women empowerment programs, women-led conservation projects, and community development work.



NRT Coast has effectively run several marine programs, including mangrove restoration, sustainable fishing, coral reef restoration, and ocean plastic recycling. NRT continues to empower women since their involvement is critical to the success of conservation and community development efforts.

The Kalama and Sera women groups plan to replicate some of the projects back home, particularly the Integrated Plastic and Waste Management Project, and identify other projects that women in the north can lead in implementing.

NRT Coast Director Speaks at **Scientific Symposium on Marine Conservation**

Hassan Yussuf, the NRT Coast Director, attended the five-day Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) Symposium in Durban, South Africa, where he presented and shared learnings from NRT Coast's marine conservation work.

During two sessions co-hosted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Mwambao Coastal Community Network, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), and GIZ, the Director presented NRT Coast's work on reef restoration and locally managed marine areas (LMMAs), and gender mainstreaming initiatives. The Symposium also provided the team with insights on the latest developments in the Western Indian Ocean region and opportunities to network with key players in marine conservation, laying the groundwork for future collaboration.



The WIOMSA Symposium is the largest open scientific conference in the region on marine and coastal issues. It offers a unique regionwide platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, capacity building, strategic action, and cooperation, and showcases innovative solutions for addressing the challenges facing coastal communities, policymakers, management authorities, and the private sector in the Western Indian Ocean.

Nasuulu Conservancy Launches Carbon Project-funded Community Development Initiatives

On the 7th of October, Nasuulu Community Conservancy launched four initiatives under the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project, using a total of Ksh 20 million raised from the sale of sequestered carbon units.

The launch event included the opening of the entire 11-kilometer Loruko-Langailer-Ngaren-tare all-weather road, the groundbreaking of tourism banda construction sites, the presentation of 38 beds and mattresses to Samburu Community School, and the awarding of bursaries amounting to Ksh 4.15 million to the same school.

Ksh 550,000 was allocated for the road's construction, while Ksh 300,000 funded the acquisition of the school beds. Ksh 15 million has been set aside for the construction of the bandas.



Samburu's Ilpiroi Elders **Broker Peace** in Oldonyiro Ward

The last five months Oldonyiro Ward has been a hotbed for crime, with perpetrators targeting institutions such as Oldonyiro's Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) station, markets, and schools.

Therefore, 40 elders from Samburu's Ilpiroi Council of Elders held ten peace meetings covering Nannapa and Narupa Community Conservancies at which they promoted peace, discussed security, and urged various stakeholders to support early warning systems in order to prevent attacks and expose criminals. As a result of these peace meetings which were facilitated by the EU RangER Program, no cases of road banditry, livestock market attacks, or livestock theft were reported in Oldonyiro Ward last month.

The Nature Conservancy's **Africa Affinity Group** Visits NRT Coast

NRT Coast had the pleasure of hosting a high-level team from The Nature Conservancy's Africa Affinity Group on October 11th and 12th.

The team was given a tour of NRT's marine project sites in Pate Marine Conservancy (PMCC), where they learnt about NRT Coast's marine work, observed the impact of NRT's community conservation model, and identified opportunities for future collaboration and support.

The outcomes of the women-led conservation programs impressed the team, and they pledged to continue supporting priority conservation and community development initiatives in coastal and northern Kenya.



NRT West Team Presents Work Plan to West Pokot County Government

NRT's West Pokot team and the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) met with officials from the County's Public Works and Agriculture ministries, to discuss various projects that will be implemented in Masol and Pellow Community Conservancies, as part of the EU-funded Ustahimilivu Program.

NRT intends to open up access roads in Masol and Pellow Conservancies to enhance security patrols, boost tourism, and ease livestock migration and transportation. Through public participation, the target areas have already been identified.

NRT also plans to produce fodder, vaccinate livestock, improve livestock breeds through artificial insemination (AI), purchase bulls, and eradicate invasive species.

NRT Trading Launches New Website

NRT Trading, NRT's business accelerator for social impact and conservation enterprises, has unveiled a brand new website! Now you can access all of the latest information on NRT Trading and ways your purchases empower communities, improve livelihoods and conserve nature in one convenient location.

The new website's development was supported by USAID Kenya and its stories focus on the accelerator's impact. The website also provides details about NRT Trading's enterprises and programs including, Biashara Mashinani and Ufugaji Mashinani, which are funded by USAID Kenya through the Local Works Program.



Click on this [link](#) to take a quick look at the new website.



Ishaqbini Conservancy Representatives meet Garissa County Leaders

Representatives of the Ishaqbini Conservancy met the Garissa County senator, Hon. Abdulkadir Mohamed Yussuf, and the Ijara Constituency Member of Parliament (MP), Hon. Abdi Ali Abdi, to discuss the Conservancy's collaboration with NRT and KWS Masalani, whose goal is to protect wildlife and improve the livelihoods of local communities.

The Conservancy's great contributions to the community-led conservation mission inspired the government leaders, who committed to supporting the Conservancy in raising additional funds and serving in an advisory capacity to maximize its conservation and climate change mitigation efforts.

The MP promised to donate Ksh 2 million annually through constituency development funds (CDFs) to support Conservancy priorities.

ICEP Team Visits Kalama and Ngare Ndare Conservancies

We had a wonderful time hosting a team from ICEP led by the CEO, Bernhard Weber, when they visited our offices and Kalama and Ngare Ndare Community Conservancies to deepen their knowledge of NRT's projects.

The team met with Ujuzi Manyattani graduates, then proceeded to Lerata Primary School for project inspection, and then passed by households in Manyangalo in Ngare Ndare Conservancy to evaluate the impact of the Biogas Project.

ICEP has been a long-term supporter of NRT's work.



Improving Organizational Cybersecurity: NRT Conducts Data Protection Training

In this day and age of increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks, taking precautions to protect data has become critical. Consequently, NRT contracted Duo-Tech Management to train its employees on the recently enacted Data Protection Act and organizational data protection.

This will pave the way for the creation of a data protection framework, ensuring we meet the compliance requirements of donors and partners, while reducing the risk of a data breach.

Kenya's Data Protection Act, passed in 2019, and the subsequent regulations, gazetted earlier this year, impose several obligations during data collection and processing and necessitate changes in organizational operations to ensure compliance with the law.

Engaging Local Government: NRT Facilitates Forum for Isiolo Conservancy Leaders and County Officials

It was a great pleasure facilitating the Isiolo Conservancies Association and Leadership Forum, which brought together 16 chairpersons and managers from NRT member conservancies, and a delegation of 8 Isiolo County Assembly (MCAs) led by the County Assembly Clerk, Salad Boru.

Discussions at the Forum centered on enhancing working relationships with the newly elected leaders, cultivating synergy, developing joint approaches to peace and security interventions, and conservancy business.



NRT Kicks Off Second Phase of **Organizational Review**

NRT has begun the second phase of its engagement with Boston Consulting Group, which has been contracted to review NRT's organizational structure and processes to increase efficiency.

The second phase of this project will focus on developing NRT's 2050 vision, formulating a sustainable finance strategy, executing phase one recommendations, and recruiting a Transformation Director to implement the recommended changes.

Adopting Renewable Energy: Biogas Digesters Installed in Hanshak Nyongoro Conservancy

NRT conservancies are leading the charge in harnessing renewable energy sources and reducing the pressure on shrinking forest habitats caused by charcoal and firewood harvesting.

In October, NRT's Clean Energy Team installed an additional 22 biogas digesters in Hanshak Nyongoro Conservancy, in NRT Coast, with the support of USAID-DOI.

The Clean Energy Project has been implemented in 8 NRT member community conservancies in northern Kenya. The second phase is underway in 20 more conservancies, including some from the NRT Coast region.



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Biogas digesters installed.

Livestock Team Conducts **Livestock Feeding Training and Feed Distribution Exercise** in 4 Community Conservancies

The NRT Livestock Team organizes trainings for pastoralists to improve their livestock production and sales, as pastoralism remains the principal source of livelihood for northern Kenya communities.

In October, the Team held a feeding demonstration session and distributed livestock feed in Naibunga, Melako, Biliqo Bulesa, and Ltungai Community Conservancies, increasing the capacity of 300 herders it has been training. Subsequently, the Livestock Team monitored and evaluated the outcomes of these two exercises.



Lower Tana Delta Community Conservancy Board, CFA Management Committees Undergo **LAMP Training**

The Lower Tana Delta Conservancy Board and the management committees of five mangrove community forest associations (CFAs) in the Tana-Lamu seascape underwent training on module 2 of NRT’s customized Leadership and Management Program (LAMP).

LAMP training is provided as part of the NRT-TNC IKI Project and consists of four modules tailored for community conservancy leaders and CFA leaders. It enables participants to effectively manage their community conservancies, CFAs, and natural resources.



NRT Trading’s **Ujuzi Manyattani** Program Conducts **Assessments** in 3 Conservancies

Approximately 90 youth from Naibunga Lower, Ltungai, and Ruko Community Conservancies were assessed after undergoing NRT Trading’s Ujuzi Manyattani training and completing coursework in hairstyling, catering, tailoring, and motorcycle repair.

Ujuzi Manyattani is a mobile, village-based vocational training program that partners with polytechnic institutions to provide training as part of a wider effort to diversify livelihoods and encourage entrepreneurship among women and young morans in conservancies.

The Program is tailored to the pastoralists’ needs and lifestyles, allowing students to attend classes at their convenience, maximizing enrollment and participation, and ensuring women and youth without access to formal education can learn.



Biashara Mashinani Program Trains 20 community Enterprise Agents

NRT Trading’s Biashara Mashinani Program conducted a two-day training on credit management, national regulatory frameworks, and savings and credit cooperative societies policies for 20 community enterprise agents.

The training aimed at improving community leaders’ credit management skills, and raising their awareness of the regulatory frameworks and policies governing savings and loans.

During the training, the agents also learned about the development of Northern Rangelands Sacco (NR Sacco), a savings and lending platform owned and run by indigenous communities in northern and coastal Kenya.



Newsbytes from the Conservancies

REGIONAL NEWS

NRT Coast

- NRT Marine Conservancies participated in the inaugural Bahari Yetu Festival in Shella, Lamu Island, held to increase community awareness of the value of marine ecosystems and disseminate knowledge gained from Lamu’s marine conservation initiatives. Conservancy leaders, including women leaders, were also given the platform to speak about their experiences and contributions.
- Rangers from NRT Coast conservancies participated in this year’s Mashujaa Day fete, increasing the visibility of local conservancies and resulting in recognition from the National and County governments.



NRT West

- The NRT West team and the EU-funded Ustahimilivu Program team met with West Pokot County officials to present their work plan and progress to the new County leadership.
- Conservancy chairpersons, managers, finance, and rangelands teams from the Kaptuya, Pellow, Masol, and Ruko Conservancies attended a two-day NRT West Regional Council meeting to discuss the conservancies' progress in relation to the 2022 work plan, conservancy policies, and regional gender inclusion strategies and partnerships.

NRT Centre

- On October 31st, NRT Center representatives met with counterparts from other non-governmental organizations at a stakeholders' consultation forum convened by the Samburu County Government and presided over by Governor Lati Lelelit to discuss drought-related interventions and programs and create partnerships for drought mitigation.
- The National Museums of Kenya, Institute of Primate Research, Ngilai Conservancy, Kalepo Conservancy, and NRT signed a five-year memorandum of understanding to foster international, national, and local collaboration and promote research, conservation, and training while supporting the development of sustainable community livelihoods within Kalepo and Ngilai Conservancies.

NRT East

- The NRT Isiolo team held a health assessment planning meeting for the four conservancies to review a previously presented health report and discuss ways to improve the region's health facilities. The Isiolo County Deputy Governor, Dr. John Lowasa, was in attendance.
- NRT East organized a consultative forum that converged all peace stakeholders to develop a joint action plan for reducing potential conflict triggers and ethnic violence in all four sub-counties and discuss ways to maintain the peace Marsabit has experienced in recent months.
- The region also participated in the creation of the draft of the 2022-2027 Marsabit County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).

CONSERVANCY UPDATES



Kaptuya: Over 120 youth were trained by NRT Trading's Biashara Mashinani Team on entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and life skills to build their capacity in identifying and capitalizing on available economic opportunities.



Ruko: A stakeholders' meeting was convened in Ruko Conservancy to discuss methods for controlling the spread of the invasive species, *prosopis juliflora*, in the giraffe sanctuary. The Conservancy has received five tree poppers to facilitate prosopis seedling removal.



Kalama: Conservancy rangers teamed up with the Grevys Zebra Trust (GZT) to distribute 250 bales of hay as part of a supplementary feeding program for a herd of buffaloes camping in the area.



Cherab, Kinna, Garbatulla, Biliqo Bulesa & Sericho managers received joint finance training to ensure proper financial and accounting management.



Nakuprat Gotu: In Chafa Gafarsa, Samburu and Turkana communities held a successful peace meeting and agreed to share pasture.



Nasuulu: Morans meetings have been organized to encourage the next generation of Samburu morans to network and take ownership of community projects.



Nannapa and Narupa: The Grazing Committees of both conservancies visited Ruko Community Conservancy on an exposure tour.



Pate Marine: Coral reefs within the restoration area and their surrounding habitat were ecologically monitored.



In the Media



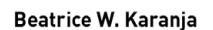
[Kina mama Lamu wapokea mafunzo maalum kuhusu usimamizi wa rasilimali.](#)

At this time when many parts of Kenya are receiving below-average or no rainfall, NRT's conservation and community development work are more critical than ever.

We remain eternally grateful to our unwavering donors and partners, whose kind and generous support enables us to continue addressing the needs of NRT member community conservancies and wildlife, increasing their resilience against climate change and its effects, especially during this drought season.

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

