



NRT NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2022





NRT Newsletter

February 2022 Issue

Dear NRT Partners,

If February drew to a close and you barely noticed, you are not the only one. The profiles of courage emerging from Ukraine in the face of an assault on the country's freedom have been impossible to ignore. It is heartbreaking that the prevailing situation requires Ukrainians to be brave.

At a time in history when world peace is at stake, temperatures are the highest ever recorded, and the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released a damning report of the existential threat global warming poses, NRT's work in northern and coastal Kenya is now more crucial than ever.

We are glad that NRT is a part of the solution to a world problem, and NRT member conservancies' rangeland rehabilitation programs contribute towards global efforts to cool the planet. This is why we are delighted to invite you to read about the progress we made in conservation and transforming lives in NRT member conservancies in February 2022.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Visits NRT

Ademola Ajagbe recently joined The Nature Conservancy (TNC) as the Regional Managing Director. He visited NRT accompanied by Munira Bashir, the TNC Kenya Program Director, and Kalama Community Conservancy, an NRT member, hosted them.

Ademola sought to familiarize himself with TNC-supported partner programs and operations across Africa. TNC supports NRT's core operations.



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I am pleased to see that NRT member community conservancies are advancing wildlife and natural resource conservation.

Ademola Ajagbe,
Regional Managing Director,
The Nature Conservancy



NRT Mountain Regional Office Opened

As part of a newly introduced regional transition approach that aims at devolving programs and services to our member conservancies, increasing their independence and sustainability, NRT has established regional offices in NRT Center, NRT West, NRT Coast, and now, NRT Mountain.

In early February, the NRT Mountain office was opened in Nanyuki Town at an event attended by our partners from national and county governments, conservation-led organizations, community-based organizations, and non-governmental organizations. The event was presided over by H.E. John Mwaniki, the Laikipia County Deputy Governor.

The NRT Mt. Kenya office will serve the Il Ngwesi, Lekurruki, Ngare Ndare, Naibunga Upper, Naibunga Central, and Naibunga Lower Conservancies.



60 Water Tanks Distributed in Jaldesa Conservancy

To increase water storage, Jaldesa Community Conservancy in Marsabit County distributed 60 5,000-liter water tanks, to 60 families.

The communities in Jaldesa initially relied primarily on a nearby dam and a few pipes from neighboring forest water springs, which were frequently destroyed by elephants, resulting in an inconsistent water supply.

An increasing population relying on a limited water supply from the springs caused perennial human-wildlife water conflict, forcing women and girls to travel long distances, in search of water, in an insecure area.

NRT is increasing household water storage capacity to improve water availability and facilitate the participation of women in other income-generating activities such as farming.

NRT purchased the tanks with funding from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Group, Rainforest Trust, and the French Facility for Global Environment.

NRT Board Visits Pate Conservancy, Lamu County

The NRT Board of Directors convened in Lamu County in early February and visited Pate Community Conservancy. The board was exposed to NRT's Coastal marine programs, including women-led octopuses closures, mangrove restoration sites, and locally managed marine areas.



Peace Dialogue of the Regional Council of Elders (CoEs)

An influx of livestock and herders along the Nasuulu-Leparua corridor led to an increase in livestock theft cases and a recent raid at a police station in Loruko where one police officer was killed by morans and two firearms stolen.

Consequently, 300 elders from four ethnic groups from Laikipia, Samburu, and Isiolo Counties converged in Isiolo to deliberate conflict prevention, led by NRT's peace team. The elders were tasked with engaging with the morans of their respective areas to quell the conflict.

Samburu County's Tourism Strategic Plan

Representatives from relevant national, county, community, civil society, and private stakeholders convened in Maralal for an inception meeting to deliberate on the development of the Samburu County Tourism Strategic Plan, a 10-year plan supported by the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

The Plan shall include the vision of tourism in Samburu County, management of tourist destinations and destination branding and positioning, marketing strategy, the definition of top and unique experiences (wildlife, birds, culture, scenery, e.t.c.) in Samburu County, and the creation and inclusion of tourism circuits targeting both domestic and international tourists.

The Plan will also place a strong emphasis on community conservancies and draw on lessons learned from the country's top tourism destinations.



3 New Ujuzi Manyattani Training Sites Opened in Masol, Ruko and Ishaqbini Conservancies

NRT Trading’s Ujuzi Manyattani Program launched additional training sites in Masol, Ruko and Ishaqbini Community Conservancies, where 90 trainees began acquiring vocational skills.

Ujuzi Manyattani is a mobile, village-based vocational training program that partners with polytechnic institutions in response to a wider drive to diversify community livelihoods and encourage entrepreneurship amongst women and young morans in NRT member conservancies.



Lower Tana Delta Conservancy Peace Dialogue

Lower Tana Delta Conservancy and NRT, in collaboration with national government agencies, held a peace meeting in Ozi Village to raise awareness of the need for peaceful coexistence. The meeting was presided over by the Deputy County Commissioner of Tana Delta and other key stakeholders and brought together communities from all the ethnic groups in Chara, Ozi, and Konemansa Locations.



Elephant Collaring in West Pokot

In a joint effort, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), NRT, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, and Save the Elephants collared 20 elephants in the Nasolot-South Turkana ecosystem. The satellite collars used will facilitate wildlife monitoring and enable rangers to identify and respond to elephant threats in real time.



Elephants Collared

New Isiolo Conservancies Recruit 60 Rangers

The newly established NRT member conservancies in Isiolo County (Garbatulla, Cherab, Kinna, and Sericho) recruited 60 rangers to supplement the government's efforts in wildlife and human protection. The rangers will undergo training at the Kenya Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Academy in Manyani before they embark on their duties.

Peace Engagement in Kom to Quell Conflict

Samburu herders recently invaded Kom in search of pasture. Consequently, insecurity in Kom-Biliqo has increased due to fights, cattle rustling, and highway banditry brought on by the influx of armed herders. Therefore, NRT's peace team engaged the Samburu herders and encouraged them to coexist peacefully with the neighboring Borana herders.

Increasing Community-led Bandas' Visibility

NRT Trading's tourism team visited community bandas, including Nkoteiya Eco-lodge, Koija Star Beds, and Olgaboli Bandas to create content for advertising on social media and marketing platforms, such as Airbnb and Booking.com, increasing the community bandas' visibility and income. To optimize the community conservancies' revenue from tourism, NRT Trading supports them in the development and marketing of tourism products.



New Lower Tana Delta Conservancy Board Completes Governance Training

On 26th February, the newly elected Lower Tana Delta Conservancy Board completed a training on governance and leadership, which equipped them with knowledge on natural resource management. The Board, led by NRT's Council of Elders Chairperson Said Rova, who was elected for a second term, also developed a three-year roadmap for the conservancy, based on the Conservancy Management Development Plan (CDMP).



Meibae Conservancy Members undergo LAMP Training

At least 30 members from Meibae Community Conservancy underwent the Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) training, NRT's bespoke training that seeks to improve governance and develop effective leaders within NRT member conservancies.

The trainees, among them 20 board members, the Member of the County Assembly (MCA), two village administrators, a ward administrator, 4 chiefs, and 3 management staff, have enrolled for the fourth LAMP module.



NRT Trading's Livestock Team Visits an Agribusiness Farm for Benchmarking

NRT Trading's livestock department technical team visited Invems Agencies, an agribusiness farm in Isiolo that specializes in dairy farming and intensive poultry production, for benchmarking purposes. For the pastoralist trainees in the team, the tour provided an opportunity to meet with potential business-to-business (B2B) suppliers. NRT Trading will use the knowledge gained to design a model for women in Northern Kenya that fits into the poultry farming program.



Lamu County Stakeholders' Meeting Held at NRT Coast Office

NRT Coast and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) jointly held a county stakeholders' meeting to improve their understanding of NRT's, TNC's and the community conservancies' work.

During the meeting, the TNC team provided an overview of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) Project and elaborated on its alignment with County plans. NRT is one of the IKI Project's implementing partners. The Project aims at restoring, protecting and managing critical mangroves and their associated ecosystems in the Lamu-Tana seascape for biodiversity conservation, community livelihood, and climate action benefits.

Representatives of the Lamu County Government, Ministry of Environment, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), and the County Commissioner's Office were in attendance.

Biashara Mashinani and Livestock Extension 2021 Baseline Survey on Annual Income Conducted

NRT Trading completed a 2021 baseline survey on annual income earned by individuals in 16 NRT member conservancies involved in USAID's Local Works Program. The survey's findings will be used to assess the income level of target beneficiaries, their awareness of climate change, and their knowledge level of livestock husbandry, among other aspects, before Program implementation this year.





In the Media



[Humanitarian agencies challenge govt to double its efforts to bring peace in Northern Kenya](#)



[Serikali yatakiwa kuimarisha juhudi za kutafuta amani Kaskazini](#)



[Government asked to boost peace efforts in Northern Kenya](#)
[Serikali yatakiwa kusuluhisha mizozo ya kijamii, Marsabit](#)



Newsbytes from the Conservancies



Westgate Conservancy's Tourism Committee visited Naibunga Lower Community Conservancy on a study trip to learn more about tourism.



An inter-community peace dialogue was held in Ltungai Community Conservancy to address insecurity in conflict hotspots.



Ruko Community Conservancy launched its Ujuzi Manyattani training for 30 women specializing in hairdressing and tailoring at Rugus and Komolion Locations.



Nasuulu Conservancy held a two-day herders' meeting to spearhead peaceful co-existence among herders of various ethnic groups.



Elders and conservancy managers from Nasuulu, Leparua and Oldonyiro Conservancies met in Nasuulu to deliberate on peace.



Ltungai Fodder Cooperative members were trained on the beef value chain.



Songa and Jaldesa Conservancies convened a joint peace meeting to address insecurity within the conservancies.

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report has renewed our resolve in supporting NRT member conservancies in increasing their resilience against climate change. We cannot do this alone, and we appreciate your continued support in achieving this goal. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for everything you do.

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.

