



NRT NEWSLETTER

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NRT Newsletter

September 2021 Issue

Dear NRT Partners,

Join me in welcoming the four Isiolo community conservancies of Cherab, Kinna, Sericho and Garbatula to the NRT fraternity. This now makes NRT an umbrella organization supporting 43 community conservancies in Kenya.

Kenya Rangelands Ecosystem Services pRодукtivity (RangER) Program Launched

On September 28, The Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), European Union (EU) in Kenya, E4Impact, World Agroforestry (ICRAF), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Community Safety Initiative (CSI), AMAYA Triangle Initiative (ATI) counties of Baringo, Laikipia, Samburu and Isiolo successfully launched the Kenya Rangelands Ecosystems services pRодукtivity (RangER) Program, an European Union (EU) funded project that seeks to adopt an integrated landscape approach in the four arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) counties constituting the AMAYA Triangle counties of Laikipia, Baringo, Samburu and Isiolo.

The program aims to enhance the productivity of ecosystem services provided by rangelands within AMAYA Triangle counties through investments in evidence-based climate-smart feed resources, an array of climate-smart tree-wildlife-and natural resource-based livelihoods, and enhancing the capacity of AMAYA Triangle counties in governance, peace and security



for both wildlife and people. The launch was presided over by the European Union Ambassador to Kenya H.E Henriette Geiger and attended by AMAYA region Governors led by Chairperson H.E Stanley Kiptis (Baringo), H.E Nderitu Mureithi (Laikipia), Deputy Governors; Dr. Julius Leseeto (Samburu) and Dr. Abdi Issa (Isiolo) among other leaders.

The Ambassador lauded the partners for the good progress made in the implementation of the Kenya RangER program.

“

I have worked on development cooperation for more than 20 years and I have seen many projects, what I have seen here (NRT) is really a model of how development cooperation should take place.

—— H.E Henriette Geiger, EU Ambassador to Kenya



U.S. Embassy in Nairobi Chargé D’Affaires Visits NRT-Member Conservancies

We were pleased to host the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi Chargé D’Affaires Eric Kneedler and a delegation from USAID Kenya who visited three of our member conservancies to learn about the partnership and see the impact of our work in promoting eco-tourism and clean energy initiatives, supporting youth and women through enterprise, and building resilient communities. The Chargé D’Affaires also visited a community led-endangered wildlife species recovery programme, Reteti Elephant Sanctuary. USAID Kenya is working with NRT to support governance and peace, resilient livelihoods, security, enterprise, wildlife, and rangelands programmes in conservancies.



I enjoyed learning about the partnership between USAID and NRT, conservancy projects, and what you’re doing to promote eco-tourism, support youth, build resilient communities, and tackle the climate crisis.

—— Eric Kneedler, U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires



EU Ambassador to Kenya Visits Conservancies

European Union Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Henriette Geiger visited three of our community conservancies to see the work NRT is doing on the ground. The ambassador toured the Sera Conservancy and Sanctuary to better understand the Earth Ranger Monitoring Systems, how tourism is assisting the conservancy, and how the local community is benefiting. She also visited Malako Conservancy and its tourism project, and the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary. H.E. Geiger sent warm greetings from the European Union and spoke about how the Global Pandemic has connected us all in the need to care for each other and conserve our natural resources.



NRT CEO Tom Lalampaa Speaks at the IUCN World Conservation Congress

Our CEO Tom Lalampaa was among the panelists who spoke on pertinent environment and conservation related issues during the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France. Among the topics of discussion was how to restore the fabric of nature and humanity, peace, conflict, and environment in a post-Covid world. The nine-day congress brought together IUCN's government, civil society and indigenous peoples' member organisations to take decisions related to major conservation issues.



2021 Women Building Peace Awards, Josephine Ekiru Nominated

NRT's Peace Coordinator Josephine Ekiru has been nominated as a finalist for the 2021 Women Peace Award by the United States Institute of Peace. Josephine is among nine finalists who have been nominated owing to their amazing efforts to end and prevent violent conflict in their communities. She, alongside with her NRT Peace team has pioneered an innovative approach to peacebuilding using environmental conservation as an entry point.



Bi-Annual Managers Forum Held

43 conservancy managers under the umbrella of NRT met for a two-day bi-annual managers forum in Isiolo to discuss governance issues, NRT regional formation, capacity assessment, budgeting plans and updates on Conservancy Livelihoods Funds (CLF) that seeks to support community projects in conservancies. This forum is held twice a year with an aim to strengthen governance and discuss way forward for respective conservancies.



NRT Rangers Emerge 5th in the Wildlife Ranger Challenge



NRT's four-ranger team comprising of Josphat Lesirama, Emmanuel Tonkiya Keshine, Martin Leperere and Abdullahi Abdi Halakhe emerged fifth with a time of 2hrs 13mins in the September 18th Wildlife Ranger Challenge organized by our partner Tusk Trust. Team NRT joined wildlife ranger teams spanning 20 countries across Africa to complete in a half marathon carrying their typical 22kg backpack. They were running to support their fellow rangers and protect the wildlife they have dedicated their lives to. We're immensely proud of our team!

Naibunga Upper issues Education Bursaries to 425 Students

Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy on September 21st during their Annual General Meeting (AGM) launched their Conservancy Livelihood Fund (CLF) Education Bursary Program where 425 students in universities, tertiary colleges and secondary schools benefited from Ksh 2.04 million. During the AGM, the community also officially opened the manager's office and the conservancy's radio room.



35 Samburu North Peace Champions Learning Trip

NRT's Peace team hosted 35 women from Samburu North representing the newly formed Baragoi, Nyiro and Ndoto Conservation areas (under the County Government of Samburu) for induction on NRT's peace programme, which is supported by USAID Kenya's People to People (P2P) Program. The women, now peace champions in Samburu North visited Kalama Community Conservancy and Reteti Elephant Sanctuary where they were

exposed to conservation programmes and the benefits accrued as a result of peace. Going forward, these women who are key pillars of our society made a commitment to spearhead peace and dialogue within the insecurity-prone areas of Samburu North.



197 Women Receive Ksh 8 Million to Start up and Expand Businesses

Pate Marine Community Conservancy in Lamu County through NRT Trading launched its 3rd phase of women micro-finance program that saw 197 women receive Ksh 8 Million to start up and expand their businesses. At least 103 women (1st phase) received Ksh 1.8 Million while the remaining 94 (2nd phase) received Ksh 5.85 million.

The program, co-funded by the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), USAID Kenya and The Nature Conservancy in Africa has provided alternative livelihood to the local communities with over 270

women in Pate Conservancy now actively engaged in different small- and large-scale businesses.

The women micro-finance program has turned to be a catalyst for fisheries co-management and community development, including behavioural change and active involvement of women in conservation activities. Women are now spearheading various conservation projects including the mangrove restoration, ocean plastic recycling project, octopus closures among others.



Phase 1

103 women received

1.8 Million to start and expand their business

Phase 2

94 women received

5.85 Million



NRT Trading Conducts Livestock Baseline Survey Validation

In August 2020, NRT-Trading carried out a livestock baseline survey validation of an assessment of knowledge gaps on livestock husbandry and productivity among pastoralists in northern Kenya. The validation, which sought views from representatives of the county government (livestock department) from Isiolo, Samburu, Laikipia and Marsabit, the National Directorate of Veterinary services and livestock production, sector leads, partners working in the livestock sector and 10 conservancies will help guide the roll out of a USAID Kenya-funded livestock extension service provision under Local Works programme.

The program seeks to improve and increase livestock income and productivity amongst pastoralists in the NRT member conservancies in northern Kenya. The survey report was approved by the stakeholders, paving way for the development of a training curriculum and materials by the technical experts on livestock health and production. The program was also applauded by the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) as competency based.

10 conservancies will help guide the roll out of a USAID Kenya-funded livestock extension service provision

Ishaqbini and Leparua Women and Youth Benefit from NRT Trading's Microfinance

Ishaqbini Hirola and Leparua community conservancies in Garissa and Isiolo counties respectively in September launched women and youth micro-finance programs that targeted to establish and expand variety of income generating business ventures, provide an alternative source of livelihood and amplify the voice of women and youth in conservation and development initiatives. In Leparua Conservancy, Ksh 6 million was disbursed to 108 women, each receiving Ksh 25,000 business start-up capital while

22 youth benefited from motorcycles to create employment and diversify livelihoods.

In Ishaqbini Hirola Conservancy, 176 women received Ksh 6.71 million to start up and expand businesses. Before receiving the amounts, NRT-trading's economic empowerment team provided training on entrepreneurship, financial literacy and life-skills to enhance their capacity and skills to run and manage a sustainable business.



NRT's Bespoke LAMP Programme: 60 Conservancy Leaders Graduate

Sixty community leaders (45 men and 15 women) from Pate Marine, Kiunga and Awer community conservancies on September 15th graduated after completion of a four-month Leadership and Management Programme (LAMP). NRT's bespoke LAMP trainings is a four-module training customized for community conservancy leaders that aims to empower them to effectively lead and manage their conservancies and natural resources.



In the Media

NRT's Conservancies Sustainability Director Daniel Letoiye was live on KTN News on September 16th to discuss how NRT's Community Conservation model works. Watch [part 1](#) & [part 2](#).



NRT's Isiolo and Marsabit Regional Director Latif Boru was live on KBC TV on September 28th to elaborate the role of community conservancies. [Watch full interview here.](#)



Curriculum Launch

NRT-Trading launches curriculum to train herders on livestock keeping. [Read the story here.](#)



Video of the Month

On September 22 during the World Rhino Day, we featured Sera- the first community conservancy in East Africa (likely in the whole of Africa) to establish a black rhino breeding sanctuary, and an instrumental chapter in the rapidly changing narrative of endangered species conservation in Kenya. In 2015, a collaboration between the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Sera community and NRT saw 10 critically endangered black rhino reintroduced to Samburu ranges, 25 years since the last individual was poached in the area. To date, Sera has 19 black rhinos! Watch Sera Rhino [video here.](#)



Briefs from the Conservancies



Hanshak-Nyongoro Conservancy launches Ksh 2 million to benefit 15 youth who will venture on boda boda business.



18 women and Youth in Biliqo Bulesa Community Conservancy received Ksh 500,000 under NRT Trading's Biashara Mashinani programme to start-up businesses.



- Joint Songa and Melako grazing committee met in Melako to develop mechanisms that supports delivery of grazing plans, planned grazing management and peace and security.
- Melako Conservancy held its AGM.



Lekurruki and Il Ngwesi community conservancy youth visit Kalama and Namunyak for an exposure tour.



Ltungai Conservancy recovers 19 stolen cattle with help from the community.



Nannapa Conservancy holds its stakeholder's forum in Oldonyiro to discuss increased Human-Wildlife conflict across Isiolo-Laikipia-Samburu landscape.



170 youth in Nakuprat Gotu Conservancy trained on entrepreneurship and life skills.

60 women in Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy benefit from enterprise fund.



Nasuulu Conservancy board validates Nasuulu Community Conservancy and Community Development Management plan.



Ruko Conservancy conducted its ranger recruitment exercise.

Kinna Community Conservancy

Newly formed Kinna Community Conservancy conducts its first board meeting, holds awareness meetings in Duse, Kinna South and Kinna North.



- NRT West Finance committee training held in Baringo to impart respective conservancies finance committee members with financial management and oversight skills.
- NRT's Wildlife team conducts wildlife aerial count in Sera Conservancy.
- Local Works Training manual launched, to improve and diversify livelihoods.

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.



Ngare Ndare Forest, Ngare Ndare Conservancy