



# NRT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021





# NRT Newsletter

## October 2021 Issue

Dear NRT Partners,

I am proud to share with you an update of the ongoing work at NRT. We continue our growth with a total of 43 community conservancy partnerships allowing us to transform people's lives, secure peace and conserve natural resources across a landscape nearly 50,000 square kilometers in size.



### Highlight of the Month



#### 16 Years of Conservation: Westgate Community Conservancy

Hunted for their meat and threatened by habitat fragmentation, land degradation and unpredictable climate change, the population of the long necked Reticulated Giraffes had drastically fallen in Westgate Community Conservancy. Even with their exceptional height, no one could spot them.

Today, 16 years later, the area has over 70 giraffes, abundant elephants, impala, waterbuck, leopard, eland, buffalo, gerenuk, oryx and even resident lions.

Historically, Westgate had abundant wildlife, however, over the past few decades the wild-life numbers have declined due to rangeland degradation, expansion of settlements and poaching; however it has remained a stronghold for the critically endangered Grevy's zebra.

Read [Westgate Conservancy's success story](#)



## TNC Council Visits NRT

During the last week of October, NRT and two of our member conservancies hosted The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Council led by TNC's CEO Jennifer Morris and 16 other council members for a visit to Kalama and Namunyak where they learned about our conservation work.

The council had an opportunity to interact with the diverse communities we work with and witnessed part of the impacts of our community conservation-led model. They later proceeded to NRT Coast to visit some of the marine projects implemented by NRT with TNC's support.

TNC is one of our key partners in conservation, supporting both NRT and our member conservancies operations and programs.



## Josephine Ekiru Wins Women Building Peace Award

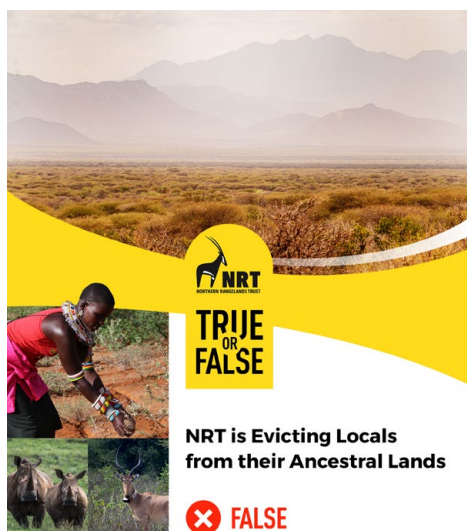
NRT's Peace Coordinator Josephine Ekiru won the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) 2021 Women Building Peace Award. This prestigious global award is given each year to a woman peace builder who has made a major contribution to peace in her country.

“I never knew that one day I will be recognised, all my peace efforts were for the future generations. I always desired to have my community and our neighbours co-exist in peace instead of causing pain to each other. This award is a call to women, youth, and men to embrace peace and do what is right. In this world, all we need is inspiration, the award gives us all and especially women an inspiration to not only champion for peace but to be decision makers in our homes and communities while raising our children,” says Josephine Ekiru.



## NRT’s Communications Kicks Off Social Media Campaign to Quell Misinformation

In October, NRT Communications in consultation with the Senior Management Team (SMT) initiated a set of TRUE and FALSE question and answer posters to share over the course of the month to help the public understand and differentiate between allegations and the truth about the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT).



**NRT is Evicting Locals from their Ancestral Lands**

**FALSE**

Neither NRT nor its controlling community conservancies have the authority or right to move people or settlements anywhere, or deny any community access to natural resources. In northern Kenya, wildlife, people and livestock continue to be nomadic across the landscape as they have for centuries. Community conservancies will never put up fences to stop nomadism, except for three cases where the community themselves have set aside a small amount of land, and fenced it, for the protection of an endangered species (the Black Rhino in Sera, the Rothschild Giraffe in Ruko, and the Hirola in Ishaqoini). This was done at their own discretion in consultation with their respective County Governments and in compliance with all statutory requirements including KWS and NEMA.

Learn more: [nrt-kenya.org](https://nrt-kenya.org)



**NRT Protects Wildlife and Tourist instead of Pastoralists**

**FALSE**

NRT’s primary objective is to uphold the rights of communities, protect their properties and their livelihoods, and conserve their wildlife. Wildlife attracts tourism and is an additional source of income for communities through conservancies. Alongside herding and other agriculture, communities benefit from the tourism brought by balanced wildlife conservation. The benefits include peace, employment, local businesses, and also health, water, and education bursaries. This increases community resilience in drought and reduces dependency on one source of income. A healthy environment leads to more tourism, and thus more income to the community. Communities do not have to choose between herding and tourism. They can balance the two.

Learn more: [nrt-kenya.org](https://nrt-kenya.org)

## NRT Meets ATI County Coordinators to Discuss Kenya RangER Programme

NRT representatives met AMAYA Triangle Initiative (ATI) County coordinators to discuss ways on how to better coordinate and support the four counties of Samburu, Laikipia, Isiolo and Baringo to fast-track implementation of the European Union (EU) funded Kenya RangER program. The teams also reviewed the program launch, implementation, challenges, and way forward. Kenya RangER program seeks to eradicate poverty, promote wildlife conservation, enhance livelihoods and promote peace and security within the AMAYA counties.



## First Baby Giraffe Born in Ruko Sanctuary

On the 4th of August 2021, a Rothschilds Giraffe named Awala gave birth to her second calf in the the new Ruko Giraffe Sanctuary, Ruko Community Conservancy. The calf, a female, has not been named yet by Ruko rangers.

The baby giraffe is the first calf born in the sanctuary since the successful translocation of nine giraffes from a disappearing island which was conducted with support from the community in Ruko Conservancy, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), NRT, and Save Giraffe Now, among other partners. The new birth brings to 10, the total population of Ruko giraffes in the mainland.



the total population of Ruko

giraffes in the mainland

## NRT Meets Security Teams from 5 Counties

On October 5, NRT's Peace and Security teams met top security officers from Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu, Laikipia and Meru counties led by Eastern Regional Commissioner (RC) Isaiah Nakoru to discuss partnership, stronger collaboration, and peace interventions for the Eastern region.

The Regional Commissioner who appreciated NRT's and our member conservancies' efforts on peace initiatives, emphasized the importance of partnership and engaging local communities in peace building.

As NRT and our member conservancies, we compliment national government efforts on peace building.



## Rangers Engaged on Pangolin Awareness

18 mobile team rangers were engaged on pangolin conservation by the pangolin project team. This follows a number of endangered pangolins sighting in Pellow and Masol Conservancies, West Pokot which has since inspired a fresh conservation action by the community. This training seeks to identify protocols for different scenarios that rangers may encounter concerning pangolin during their daily work.



## Business and Vocational Skills Mapping

In October, NRT Trading's economic empowerment team carried out business opportunity and vocational skills mapping under the USAID supported Local Works program in Biliqo Bulesa, Masol, Ruko, Meibae, Ltungai and Shurr community conservancy to identify viable entrepreneurial opportunities for the community. The team also conduct capacity assessment for star entrepreneurs to identify existing gaps and come up with a training module to build the community's capacity in entrepreneurship.

About 240 participants including local administrative officials, conservancy board members, women and youth leaders

were engaged in mapping exercises while 60 members from each of the six conservancies took part in entrepreneurs' capacity assessment.

Ten conservancies are targeted to benefit from the USAID local works program.

**240 participants. 60 members from each of the six conservancies took part in entrepreneurs' capacity assessment.**



## Maasai Mara Governance Visit

NRT regional directors toured Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA) this month for an exchange visit to learn about their governance model of the Mara conservancies, fundraising, sustainability strategy, community land management and ownership, wildlife and research programs, tourism, gender mainstreaming among other programmes. With lessons learnt, NRT governance hopes to strengthen governance within NRT member conservancies.

## Samburu North Conservancies 2021 Activities Review

Representatives of NRT led by CEO Tom Lalampaa, Samburu County Government officials among them CEC Tourism Peter Leshakwet and Samburu County Conservancies Fund (SCCF) Board Chairperson Daniel Letoiye met to review 2021 activities including governance, peace building and security, the region's tourism agenda and solar power opportunities.

The five Samburu North conservancies (Baragoi, Ndoto, Nyiro, Ltungai-Malaso & Kirisia-Nkoteiya) were formed by the county government through SCCF Act of 2019. Strong areas of strategic partnership

and mutual engagement were mapped out especially on operations, ranger support and security as well as peace building in the conflict prone region.



### Video of the Month

Did you catch Ujuzi Manyattani graduation video shared on our social media channels?

[Watch here](#)

## About Ujuzi Manyattani

In 2019, NRT Trading in collaboration with the National Government (Ministry of Education, under TVET) and our partners launched the Ujuzi Manyattani program, an innovative initiative that takes vocational courses to remote manyattas within our member conservancies. This village-based vocational training targets youth and women, some of whom have never received any formal education by partnering with polytechnic institutions.

NRT Trading intends to train 5,000 women and youth in income-generating vocational skills through the Ujuzi Manyattani program in the next 5 years

The program seeks to equip beneficiaries with alternative opportunities and economic empowerment skills to diversify their livelihoods, mitigate continued poverty and conflict cycles.

Vocational skills offered include masonry, carpentry, motorcycle mechanics, mobile phone mechanics, welding, plumbing,

electrical engineering, solar installation and maintenance, hair dressing, tailoring, and catering. These are skills required by our communities especially with the growing infrastructure investments in northern Kenya.

In July 2021, at least 150 youth graduated after achieving key economic empowerment skills. So far, 210 beneficiaries from our member conservancies have graduated, started their businesses, or employed, and are now earning income from vocational training. NRT Trading intends to train 5,000 women and youth in income-generating vocational skills through the Ujuzi Manyattani program in the next five years.



## In the Media

**NATION**

[Josephine Ekiru wins prestigious peace building award](#)

**YallaAfrica**

[Kenya: Josephine Ekiru Wins Prestigious Peace Building Award](#)





[USIP Announces Josephine Ekiru as the 2021 Women Building Peace Award Recipient](#)



[Kenyan woman, Josephine Ekiru, bags US peacekeeping award](#)

## Briefs from the Conservancies



Songa Conservancy held its Annual General Meeting (AGM)



Baragoi exposure visit to NRT, NRT Trading, Westgate, Kalama, Sera and Reteti Elephant Sanctuary



Jaldesa Conservancy held its Annual General Meeting (AGM)



Ltungai Conservancy rangers complete their refresher training



Women from Loruko, Nasuulu Conservancy trained on indigenous conservation of Ewaso Ng'iro river for peaceful co-existence in partnership with Isiolo Peace Link



Nasuulu Conservancy held a consultative meeting on the planned establishment of Nasuulu tourism lodge

## 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.

