



NRT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021





NRT Newsletter

November 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 63,000 square kilometers in size.

European Union - Funded Ustahimilivu Program Launched



A four-year resilience program dubbed 'Ustahimilivu' was launched on the 18th of November in Masol Community Conservancy, West Pokot County to support the increased resilience of communities to drought and the other effects of climate change in Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) areas of the region.

Professor Margaret Kobia, the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs, and Special Programs, together with Her Excellency Henriette Geiger, European Union (EU) Ambassador to Kenya presided over the launch. In their remarks, they lauded the progress made by the program, stating it would assist in alleviating food insecurity and improving livelihoods.

The program, supported by the European Union (EU) in Kenya is implemented under a consortium of partners among them the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), E4Impact Foundation, European Committee for Training and Agriculture (CEFA), Social Ministry Research Network (SOMIRENEC), AMREF Health Africa and the West Pokot County Government with the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) playing the oversight role.



The program also aims to promote the fundamental socio-economic human rights, such as the right to health and the right to food of acceptable quality, endorsed by the Kenyan Constitution. It also aims to contribute to enhanced climate-resilience, economic development, and prosperity as well as improve stability, peace, conflict prevention and security in the fragile and challenging region of the lowlands of West Pokot.

Read: <https://www.nrt-kenya.org/news-2/2021/11/19/european-union-eu-funded-ustahimilivu-program-launched>

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The European Union is pleased to be part of the effort to build the resilience of communities living in the lower and drier regions of West Pokot faced with the effects of drought and climate change. This has been one of the greatest challenges of our generation. We, therefore, appreciate that this action is promoting a multi-sectoral approach to reducing the effects of drought and climate change.

— H.E Henriette Geiger, EU Ambassador to Kenya



NRT Marine Strategy Review

On November 28th-29th, NRT Coast led four NRT-member coastal conservancies: Pate, Kiunga, Awer and Lower Tana Delta, and representatives of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), Fauna & Flora International (FFI), Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Fisheries Service (KFS), Lamu and Tana River County Governments and other marine conservation stakeholders in reviewing NRT's Marine Strategy.

The goal of the review was to track progress, share feedback, establish priorities, and chart a course for the future.

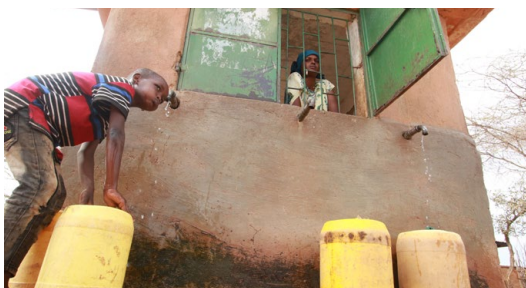


HUNGARY HELPS

Hungary Visit NRT, Biliqo Bulesa and Kalama Conservancies



NRT hosted a delegation from the Embassy of Hungary in Nairobi, led by Mr. Zoltan Fodor, the Chief Advisor to the State Secretary, in Biliqo Bulesa and Kalama community conservancies, whose mission was to understand and evaluate a variety of project proposals.



The Hungary Helps Program supported the construction of the Phase 2 Biliqo Dispensary and is seeking to expand the project through the Northern Rangelands Trust and Biliqo Bulesa Conservancy.

The team also visited Kom Primary School, where they intend to fund the construction of classrooms since the existing structures are dilapidated, and a water project in Kalama Conservancy.

Danida Monitoring Visit

On November 24th-26th, a delegation from the Denmark Embassy in Nairobi visited NRT and Ngare Ndare Community Conservancy for evaluation and to see the impact of our work. The team toured some projects funded through NRT's Conservancy Livelihood Fund (CLF) including the Ngano Water Project which benefits over 200 households, the Clean Energy Project and a community tree nursery.

The Danish International Development Agency (Danida) supports NRT's operations and programmes.



EMBASSY OF DENMARK
Danida



Fauna and Flora International (FFI) Visits NRT



We hosted a delegation from Fauna and Flora International (FFI) Nairobi office who were on a mission to understand NRT's ongoing priorities regarding community development initiatives and potential areas of partnerships. FFI is rapidly advancing and investing in a wide range of initiatives, including the development of large-scale green energy projects worldwide. They are deeply committed to supporting economic growth, employment creation, empowerment of youth and SMEs, and the alleviation of poverty in the local communities they operate in. NRT and FFI signed an MOU earlier this month that will pave the way for potential collaborations in green energy.

II Ngwesi WCoMMS SMART Training

NRT's wildlife team in November trained II Ngwesi Conservancy rangers on SMART Wildlife (WCoMMS) digital platform. Unlike before where wildlife data collection was done on sheets during wildlife monitoring, rangers have now migrated to using custom-made cell phones. Data is stored in a customized database which feeds into other applications such as the Earth Ranger for easier wildlife monitoring.



350 Herders and Board Members Sensitized on the New LivestockWORKS Program

NRT Trading's livestock teams has engaged 300 morans and 50 board members from 10 community conservancies including Naibunga Lower, Biliqo Bulesa, Ltungai, West Gate, Kalama, Sera, Jaldesa, Shurr, Melako and Songa to create awareness on the new LivestockWORKS program supported by USAID's Local Works.

At least 30 morans and five board members were engaged from each conservancy with their responses being positive.



300 morans and **50**
board members engaged



Conservancies Planning Week

Conservancy managers from the 43 NRT member conservancies met early November for the annual planning week to present their 2022 budgets and plans. They also applied for the 2022 Conservancy Livelihoods Fund (CLF) and shared their respective 2021 annual reports.

NRT Program Leads were on hand to review and provide guidance to the conservancies on their respective program plans.

NRT Trading Explores Business Opportunities in Four Conservancies

In November, NRT Trading's Biashara Mashinani team carried out business opportunity mapping in Ishaqbini, Pate, Oldonyiro and Naibunga Lower conservancies and engaged 160 community members in identifying viable business opportunities for communities. The team also conducted a capacity assessment of star entrepreneurs to identify existing skills gaps which will inform the development of a training module that seeks to build the community's capacity in entrepreneurship.



160

community members engaged in business opportunity mapping exercise

160 Community Members Engaged in Vocational Skills Mapping

At least 160 participants from Pate, Ishaqbini, Oldonyiro and Naibunga Lower conservancies were engaged in a vocational skills mapping exercise carried out by NRT Trading that seeks to develop a database of marketable vocational skills that will help with conservancy-focused business training and skills development under USAID's Local Works program. It is part of a wider effort by community conservancies to diversify indigenous livelihoods and encourage entrepreneurship amongst women and young morans.



35 Morans Trained, to Spearhead Peaceful Coexistence in Samburu North

To spearhead peaceful coexistence in conflict-prone areas of Samburu North, a team of 35 multi-ethnic morans from Samburu North has been organized, trained, and exposed to peace initiatives.

The morans, from Elbarta Plains, Lesirkan, Latakweny, Masikita to Marti, Morijo, Nachola, Tum, Parikati and the Suguta Valley landscape learned about peacebuilding, inter-ethnic community working relations, grazing land management and the importance of wildlife conservation. Great strides were made through their commitments to spearhead peace by sensitising the younger age-sets of multiethnic morans, in the conflict prone landscape.



Conservancy Rangelands Coordinators Forum

Twenty-one Rangelands Coordinators (RCs) from Samburu, Isiolo, Laikipia and Marsabit conservancies met in Melako Conservancy this month together with NRT's peace team and representatives from the Grevy's Zebra Trust, to discuss strategies to improve planned grazing management, address challenges, and map a course for the future. The respective conservancies resolved to consolidate their 2022 annual operational plans under regions for ease in administrative purposes.



Meet Esther, an Empowered Woman from BeadWORKS

Like many young Masaai girls, Esther was married off when she was just 13 years old. Her husband moved her from Laikipia to Southern Kenya, where they had 3 children.

Poverty and a turbulent marriage left Esther longing to return to Laikipia, but her husband's family refused to allow the children to go with her.

She decided to go by herself and sold beaded crafts to tourists in Laikipia. Her aim was to earn enough money to bring her children to Laikipia and send them to school.

Esther has been with BeadWORKS for about 5 years now, building on the skills she learned while beading independently.

With a consistent income, she has been able to bring two of her children up to Laikipia, and send them to school.

“As a single mother, I feel empowered by the opportunities that the income from BeadWORKS gives me.”

Esther never went to school herself, but says that people in the community often assume she has a higher education because she is prudent in operating her business, saving money, and paying back loans. As a Star Bearer, Esther has 9 women working under her.



As a single mother, I feel empowered by
the opportunities that the income from
BeadWORKS gives me.

— Esther, Star Bearer





Video of the Month

Safe Water for Biliqo

This month, we featured our efforts in providing safe and clean water for Biliqo Town - a small but growing town in the arid and semi-arid lands of Isiolo County. From its inception in the late 1980s, the communities here have never accessed clean water. Up until recently, residents (often women and girls) have had three options for fetching household water, none of them ideal. They could either trek five kilometers to fetch water at the Ewaso Ngiro River (this river water can trigger diarrhoea and other health problems), rely on highly saline water from a borehole drilled in the area, or walk six kilometers to fetch safe drinking water in the nearby Dima Ado Centre, for which they have to pay a small fee. The majority of the population in Biliqo rely on livestock to generate income, and finding reliable water for their animals is another ongoing challenge. As the population in Biliqo and the surrounding areas grows, the challenges around water are exacerbating. That is why the Biliqo Bulesa Community Conservancy partnered with NRT and the Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi (through the IMARA program) to provide the community at Biliqo with an alternative source of clean water. Now, 500 households and the Biliqo Health Centre have access to clean water for the first time. The shallow wells supply clean water to the Biliqo Dispensary (NRT-supported) through solar-powered pumps, which help to fill two 10,000-liter storage tanks for the new maternity wing and the rest of the facility. About 70,000 liters of water is pumped daily through an extended pipe for redistribution through the normal supply system, serving about 500 households with an average of six people.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mwf4mqYRrsY>



In the Media



KTN News: [CS Kobia launches irrigation scheme](#)



KBC: [CS for Public Service, Prof. Margaret Kobia launches irrigation scheme in West Pokot County](#)



Kenya Digital News: [Joy as CS Margaret Kobia launches irrigation scheme in West Pokot](#)

Briefs from the Conservancies



16 youth teams participate in peace soccer tournament in a bid to foster peaceful co-existence in Laikipia's Olmoran area



Jaldesa Conservancy held its 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM)



50 women in Ltungai Conservancy take part in Leadership and Management Programme (LAMP) training



Ujuzi Manyattani assessment conducted in Shurr Conservancy



Woody Weeds, CETRAD and CABI meets Ruko Conservancy management to discuss and address invasive Prosopis Juliflora in Ruko



90 community members participate in peace engagements in Nasuulu Conservancy

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.

