



# **THE NORTHERN RANGELANDS TRUST**

## **STATE OF CONSERVANCIES REPORT 2018**

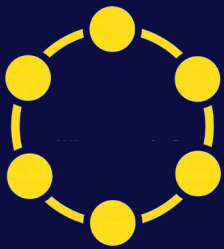




The Northern Rangelands Trust works for **39** community conservancies across 42,000 square kilometres of northern and coastal Kenya.

**TOGETHER,  
WE ARE  
CHANGING THE CONSERVATION MODEL  
IN KENYA...**

## SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO:



**Govern their  
wild spaces**



Identify and  
**lead their own  
development  
projects**



**Spearhead  
peace efforts**  
to mend years  
of conflict



**Build  
sustainable  
economies**



**Protect some  
of Kenya's  
most iconic  
wildlife**

The success of community conservation has shaped best practices and **influenced county and national government legislation**. It is also helping to **focus international development efforts to where they will have the greatest impact**, and give historically marginalised communities the tools they need to shape a sustainable future alongside nature.

## MISSION

To develop resilient community conservancies that transform lives, secure peace and conserve natural resources.

## WITO

Kuendeleza maadili ya hifadhi za jamii ambayo hubadilisha maisha, kulinda amani na kuhifadhi rasilimali za asili.

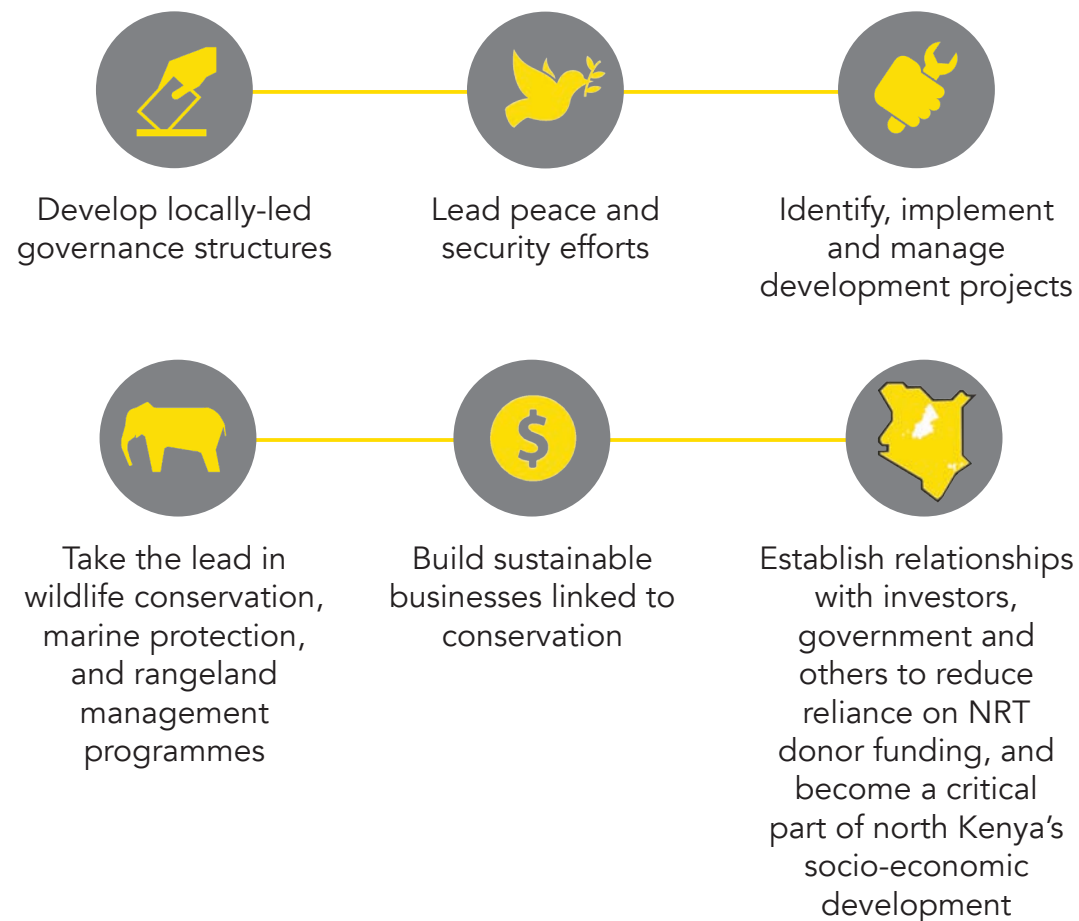
## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY?

A community conservancy is a community-based organisation created to support the management of community-owned land for the benefit of livelihoods. They are legally registered entities, governed by a locally elected board of directors and run by a local management team.

## HOW WE WORK

The Northern Rangelands Trust was established in 2004. Our mission is to develop resilient community conservancies that transform people's lives, build peace and conserve natural resources.

We do this by providing communities with funding and training to:

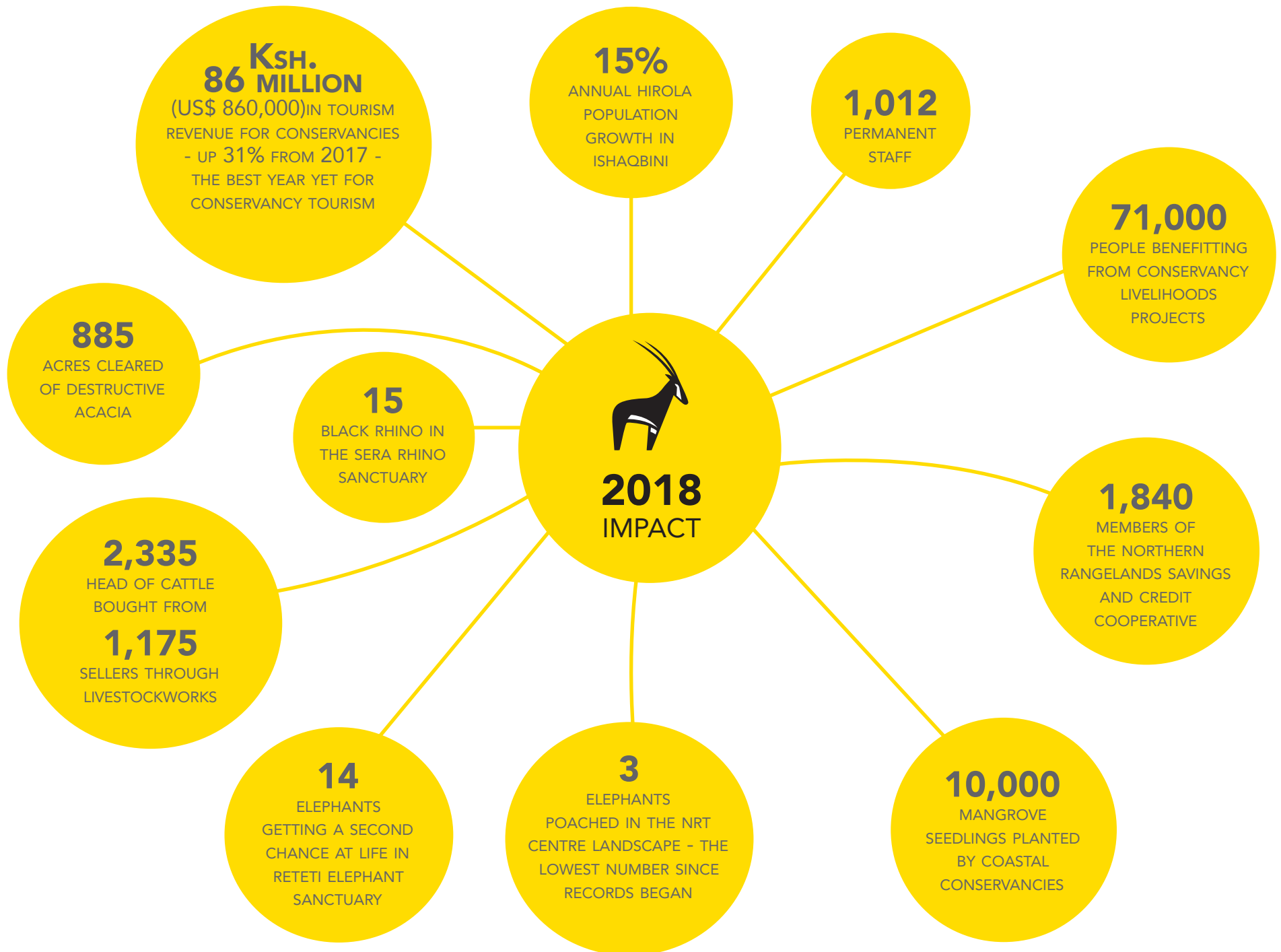




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# 1. | WHERE WE ARE, AND WHERE WE'RE GOING

"The first northern Kenyan community conservancies were established in 1995 - and there are now 39 NRT member conservancies across 42,300 square kilometers.

As this report shows, these conservancies are having a significant impact on conservation and livelihoods. But there remain immense challenges.

In 2018 we launched our new Strategic Plan, which sets out four key objectives, and identifies how we ensure that what we're building is sustainable."



I've been fortunate enough to be a part of the NRT journey right from the beginning, and as I come to the end of my first year as CEO, I can't help but feel proud of what we have achieved with the communities we work for, and the fantastic partnerships we have built, and continue to strengthen.

The first northern Kenyan community conservancies were established in Il Ngwesi and Namunyak in 1995. Another seven were established over the next few years - Lekurruki, Melako, Ngare Ndare, Sera, Naibunga, Kalama and Westgate - prompting the birth of the Northern Rangelands Trust in 2004 to support this growing movement.

Since then, growth has been steady, impact has been spreading, donor backing has increased, and many lessons have been learned.



There are now 39 member conservancies across 42,300 square kilometers of northern and coastal Kenya\*. As this State of Conservancies Report shows, these conservancies are having a significant impact on conservation and livelihoods. But there remain immense challenges, particularly in building sustainable peace and rangelands management.

In 2018 we launched our new Strategic Plan (available to download on our website) which builds on all of our progress and learning so far. It sets out four strategic objectives, by which this State of Conservancies Report is ordered.

\* For more effective management and operations, three conservancies (Oldonyiro, Naibunga and Namunyak) have been split into independent institutions, previously known as 'units' of the original conservancy. A management decision was taken at the end of 2018 to officially recognise these units as individual conservancies.



## OBJECTIVE 1: GOVERNANCE

To strengthen the governance of Community Conservancies, and increase Government support to these conservancies.

- **Output 1** - Well-governed **community conservancies**
- **Output 2** - Supportive **Government policies, laws and finance**



## OBJECTIVE 3: LIVELIHOODS AND BUSINESS

To invest in community priorities for improving their lives, and create the conditions for growing jobs and businesses

- **Output 5** - Equitable and responsive **livelihood investments** in conservancy communities
- **Output 6** - Successful **enterprises and financial services** for households, community groups, conservancies and NRT Trading policies, laws and finance



## OBJECTIVE 2: PEACE AND SECURITY

To build peace between ethnic communities and support Government in ensuring security for people and wildlife.

- **Output 3** - Effective **peace-building** between ethnic communities.
- **Output 4** - Effective **community policing** in support of Government security agencies



## OBJECTIVE 4: NATURAL RESOURCES

To stabilise and improve the productivity of grasslands for livestock, and the health and diversity of the wildlife and natural resources which underpin the economy of northern Kenya

- **Output 7** - Sustainable **rangelands management** systems
- **Output 8** - Flagship **species and habitat conservation** programmes
- **Output 9** - **Forest and marine ecosystem management** systems

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## BUILT TO LAST: ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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To follow through on each of these objectives, and sustain the significant momentum that is now behind community conservation, requires a combination of financial resources and talented people, specialist long-term partnerships, supportive policies, regulations and finance from government, and an awareness, capability and mindset change amongst traditional communities fit for the future.

There is also pressure and opportunity for further growth, from County Governments, communities and private investors – although NRT will resist further growth without securing long-term funding.

To ensure that what we are building now is sustainable we need:

### CAPABILITY

the skills, knowledge, incentives and partners to succeed.

A proven **leadership and management training** programme is building the capabilities required for **conservancy boards and managers to lead a sustainable and independent future**. More emphasis will be placed on local communications in conservancy communities, raising awareness and **building knowledge and understanding of the critical challenges**. Incentives and pressure for conservancies to **graduate from financial dependence** on NRT will be developed. A wide set of partners will further strengthen capability, notably with partners that can offer financial and technical support in livelihoods development, natural resources management and peace-building – to reduce the burden on NRT.

### FINANCES

the funds and people to sustain community conservancies.

The annual operating costs of NRT with 39 member conservancies is huge. Currently, this **funding is provided mainly by international donors**, who show continued strong support, and NRT is making headway with generating more commercial and County Government support. The strategy for long-term financial sustainability is to **re-balance the current ratio of donor, commercial and government funding**, and to develop an **NRT Trust Fund** to deliver a more appropriate proportion of funds from each source.

### POLICY

supportive government policies and regulations.

A number of **critical areas of national policy and legislation are starting to shape the future of community conservancies in Kenya**, as are local government policies. NRT has been **influencing the shape of this legislation**, through support to the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) in drafting policy advice, drafting regulations with KWS, and lobbying legislators.



I have immense trust and belief in NRT staff, our Board and Council of Elders. I know that together we can be ambitious, that we can continue to transform conservation and development in northern Kenya, and have the humility to recognise when we need to change direction or ask for help.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the diverse communities we serve, for their trust in NRT, and for their partnership.

With thanks to you, reader, for your support and belief in NRT, in whatever form it takes.

Tom Lalampaa,  
CEO



Isabella Jusková

## KENYA'S CONSTITUTION

Chapter 5, Article 61 (1) ensures:

- Sustainable exploitation, utilisation, management and **conservation of the environment** and natural resources
- **Equitable sharing** of the accruing benefits
- Protecting and enhancing intellectual property and **indigenous knowledge**, biodiversity and the genetic resources of communities
- **Public participation** in the management, protection and conservation of the environment
- Protecting genetic resources and **biological diversity**.
- Recognising **challenges** of climate change, population growth, property rights, markets, knowledge, technology and infrastructure.

## VISION 2030

Promotes a vision of holistic and sustainable management of land and natural resources across Arid and Semi-arid Lands, with specific focus on:

- **Peace and security:** recognising the role of traditional institutions in dispute resolution
- **Human development & employment:** increasing institutional capacity and funding for arid lands, enhancing the direct benefits to communities from natural resources
- **Community land laws and regulation:** respecting the authority of customary systems of natural resource management, water access, dry season grazing
- **Natural resource management :** integrating traditional systems of natural resource management, intensifying environmental conservation efforts for water and rangelands
- **Drought resilience:** strengthening environmental planning and management

## COMMUNITY LAND ACT

- Recognition, protection and registration of community land rights
- Management and administration of community land
- Role of county governments in relation to unregistered community land

## OTHER DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

- Poverty alleviation and social protection
- Women's empowerment
- Green economy: green jobs, technologies, rangelands rehabilitation, conservation, eco-tourism
- Curbing illegal wildlife trade
- Family planning and reproductive health
- National Cohesion and Integration

## RELEVANCE OF NRT TO WIDER KENYAN DEVELOPMENT



## KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE

- Community conservancies have a significant role in new wildlife strategy.
- Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) is a strong national lobbying agency, and all NRT conservancies are members

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- Newly elected 2017-2022
- Fresh mandates and growing support for conservancies
- Priority sectors in County Integrated Development Plans include livestock, rangelands, water, tourism, wildlife and drought
- Conservancies can be major local institutions for delivery of county services and investments

## ENDING DROUGHT EMERGENCY

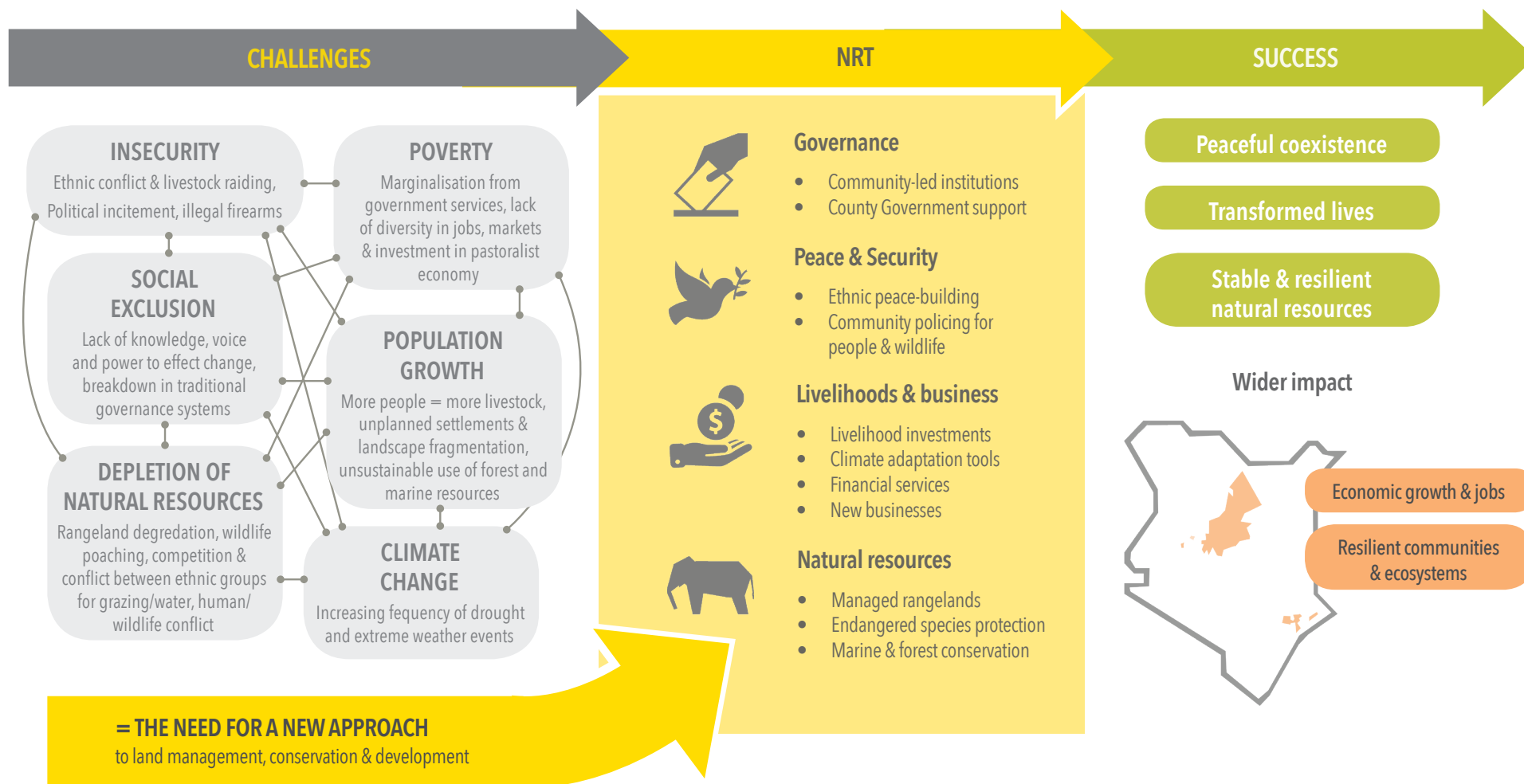
- Adaptation to climate change and more frequent droughts
- Building resilience of people and ecosystems
- Investments in sustainable development, including peace & security, livelihood adaptations, managed water, productive rangelands





# THEORY OF CHANGE

**Complex challenges** - like those facing communities and ecosystems in the arid and semi-arid lands of northern Kenya - need **need holistic, integrated solutions**. NRT's **model of community conservation** puts local people at the forefront of development and conservation, **empowering communities** to transform their lives, secure peace, and **conserve natural resources**.



## NRT member conservancies - an overview

Community Conservancy	Date of Registration	Ethnicity	Livelihood*	Area (ha)	Population**	Number of Permanent Employees	2017 Operating Budget (Ksh.)	Commercial Income Ksh. (40%)
<b>Baringo County</b>				<b>27,439</b>	<b>4,311</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9,901,339</b>	<b>84,400</b>
Ruko	2006	Njemps, Pokot	P	17,897	2,462	20	7,428,209	84,400
Kaptuya	2018	Pokot	P	9,542	1,849	6	2,473,130	
<b>Garissa County</b>				<b>68,700</b>	<b>8,752</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>16,417,020</b>	<b>58,800</b>
Ishaqbini	2007	Somali	P	68,700	8,752	40	16,417,020	58,800
<b>Isiolo County</b>				<b>632,711</b>	<b>38,261</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>57,246,269</b>	<b>34,200</b>
Biliqo-Bulesa	2007	Borana	A, P	376,657	4,781	35	10,618,498	-
Leparua	2011	Ndorobo, Turkana, Somali, Borana	A, P	33,550	8,590	20	7,168,350	-
Nakuprat-Gotu	2010	Borana, Turkana	P	72,418	5,240	31	9,468,710	29,000
Nasuulu	2011	Samburu, Turkana, Somali, Borana	P	34,568	4,262	26	8,339,515	-
Narupa (Oldonyiro)	2018	Samburu , Turkana	P	115,518	15,388	14	21,651,196	5,200
Nannapa (Oldonyiro)	2018 (2016)	Samburu , Turkana	P			14		
Naapu (Oldonyiro)	2018 (2016)	Samburu	P			15		
Nanapisho (Oldonyiro)	2018 (2016)	Samburu	P			14		
<b>Laikipia County</b>				<b>88,642</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>30,649,496</b>	<b>-</b>
Il Ngwesi	1995	Laikipiak Maasai	A, P	8,933	1,752	23	7,166,551	-
Lekurruki	1999	Laikipiak Maasai	P	16,856	2,264	46	10,773,966	-
Naibunga Lower (Naibunga)	2018 (2001)	Laikipiak Maasai	A, P	46,541	11,344	30	9,558,352	-
Naibunga Centre (Naibunga)	2018 (2001)	Laikipiak Maasai	A, P					
Naibunga Upper (Naibunga)	2018 (2001)	Laikipiak Maasai	A, P					
Kirimon	2018	Laikipiak Maasai	P	16,312	1,040	13	3,150,626	-



Community Conservancy	Date of Registration	Ethnicity	Livelihood*	Area (ha)	Population**	Number of Permanent Employees	2017 Operating Budget (Ksh.)	Commercial Income Ksh. (40%)
<b>Lamu County</b>				<b>292,865</b>	<b>25,949</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>17,734,816</b>	<b>-</b>
Awer	2013	Boni	A	164,107	2,916	16	4,130,963	-
Hanshak- Nyongoro	2013	Orma, Swahili, Boni	A, P, F	77,896	11,102	14	3,481,791	-
Kiunga	2013	Boni. Somali, Bajuni	A, P, F	22,755	84	20	5,292,365	-
Pate	2013	Bajun	F	28,107	11,847	14	4,829,698	-
<b>Marsabit County</b>				<b>1,774,273</b>	<b>41,715</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>30,124,270</b>	<b>1,784,000</b>
Jaldesa	2013	Borana	A, P	60,327	13,565	16	6,309,309	-
Melako	2004	Rendille	P	550,270	17,192	37	12,770,104	-
Shurr	2013	Gabbra	P	1,040,792	1,204	13	4,622,490	-
Songa	2013	Rendille	A, P	122,884	9,754	16	6,422,367	1,784,000
<b>Meru County</b>				<b>5,511</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2,498,208</b>	<b>6,075,193</b>
Ngare Ndare	2000	Meru, Laikipiak Maasai	A, P	5,511	1,614	33	2,498,208	6,075,193
<b>Samburu County</b>				<b>966,631</b>	<b>47,574</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>109,115,758</b>	<b>20,160,824</b>
Kalama	2002	Samburu	P	49,588	4,797	48	12,064,580	5,568,542
Meibae	2006	Samburu	P	101,385	10,029	35	10,120,138	-
Ngilai (Namunyak)	2018 (1995)	Samburu	P	384,024	17,691	166	32,160,414	9,164,680
Kalepo (Namunyak)	2018 (1995)	Samburu	P					
Nalowuon (Namunyak)	2018 (1995)	Samburu	P					
Sera	2001	Samburu	P	339,540	6,301	85	30,984,339	1,200,800
Westgate	2004	Samburu	P	36,294	2,979	47	12,259,287	4,226,802
Nkoteyia	2016	Samburu	P	15,715	3,051	21	5,296,048	-
Ltungai	2002	Samburu, Pokot	P	40,085	2,727	24	6,230,951	-

Community Conservancy	Date of Registration	Ethnicity	Livelihood*	Area (ha)	Population**	Number of Permanent Employees	2017 Operating Budget (Ksh.)	Commercial Income Ksh. (40%)
<b>Tana County</b>				<b>168,156</b>	<b>21,924</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7,195,763</b>	<b>-</b>
Lower Tana Delta	2013	Orma, Pokomo, Giriama	A, P, F	51,785	14,624	13	3,677,689	-
Ndera	2010	Pokomo, Wardei	A	116,371	7,300	11	3,518,074	-
<b>West Pokot County</b>				<b>203,800</b>	<b>59,973</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18,877,382</b>	<b>-</b>
Masol	2015	Pokot	P	151,427	47,967	18	9,354,364	-
Pellow	2015	Pokot	P	52,373	12,006	18	9,523,018	-
<b>Totals</b>				<b>4,221,483</b>	<b>320,650</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>241,627,368</b>	<b>28,676,944</b>

\*Livelihoods key: agriculture (A), pastoralism (P), fishing (F)

\*\* Population: 2009 population census data

**NORTHERN RANGELANDS TRUST COMMUNITY CONSERVANCIES 2018**

**Legend**

- NRT Centre Conservancies
- NRT North East Conservancies
- NRT West Conservancies
- NRT North Rift Conservancies
- NRT Coast Conservancies
- NRT-County Partnership Conservancy
- NRT Affiliated Conservancies
- Sanctuaries
- County Initiated Conservancies
- Protected Areas
- Kenya Counties
- Army Training Unit
- Lakes and Ocean
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads
- Major Rivers
- Seasonal Rivers
- Conservancies HQ
- Tourism Facilities
- Major Towns
- Minor Towns
- TYPE
- Forest Reserve
- National Park
- National Reserve

**Coordinate System:** WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N  
**Projection:** Transverse Mercator  
**Datum:** WGS 1984  
**False Easting:** 500,000.0000  
**False Northing:** 0.0000  
**Central Meridian:** 39.0000  
**Scale Factor:** 0.9996  
**Latitude Of Origin:** 0.0000  
**Units:** Meter

**Notes:**  
This map has been developed by Northern rangelands Trust to show NRT Community Conservancies and is to be used for Conservation purposes only and therefore not an authority on National Administrative boundaries. No liability can be derived.

The map displays various conservancies across Kenya, including Nyiru, Baragoi, Malaso, Kirisia, Kalepo, Sera Rhino Sanctuary, Biliqo Bulesa, Nakuprat-Gotu, Lekurruki, Nasulu, Leparua, Borana Lewa, Ol pejeta, Kaptuya, Ruko Chemoigut, and others. It also shows major towns like Maikona, Segel, Choba, Karare, Songa, Jaldesa, Shurr, Melako, Laisamis, Merille, Bilesa, Dimado, Kula Mawe, Kinna, Maua, Nanyuki, Timau, Ngare Ndare, Meru, Kiunga, Pate, Garsen, Witu, Witu, Mpeketoni, Kipini, and others. The map includes an inset showing the location of the Northern Rangelands Trust area within Kenya and its proximity to neighboring countries: Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, and Tanzania.



## 2.

## STRENGTHENING CONSERVANCY GOVERNANCE



Jeff Waweru

For community conservancies to be **strong, independent, sustainable and well-managed local institutions**, with **genuine community-led decision-making**, there must first be **good governance**.

That is why we continue to provide conservancy decision-makers and members with access to tools and training that can support peace and security initiatives, livelihoods development and sustainable natural resource management, and work towards **democratic and representational leadership** that is supported by partners and government.

# Ruko

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Top in governance scoring

## 102

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Conservancy leaders completed the bespoke Leadership & Management Programme

## 67% - 70%

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The increase in average governance score from 2017 to 2018.

The average governance score for conservancies increased from 67% in 2017 to 70% in 2018. Conservancies showed improvements in hosting effective AGMs, improving operational and communication structures and incorporating balanced gender, youth and elderly representation within their decision-making structures.

Top performing conservancies in 2018 were Ruko (92%), Ishaqbini (90%) and Il Ngwesi (84%). Their success can be attributed to:

- Ruko: Cohesion of the local communities in decision-making and conservancy support, (demonstrated by the relocation of the giraffe sanctuary, recruitment of a new manager, successful AGM and community feedback).
- Ishaqbini: Has one of the most mature strategic planning and execution structures, and a motivated leadership who provide continuous feedback to communities on resource management. The conservancy continues to be a top performer in financial reporting and management.
- Il Ngwesi: Streamlining of the various board committees into a single board, and the election and training (LAMP) of a new youthful and educated board that drove results.

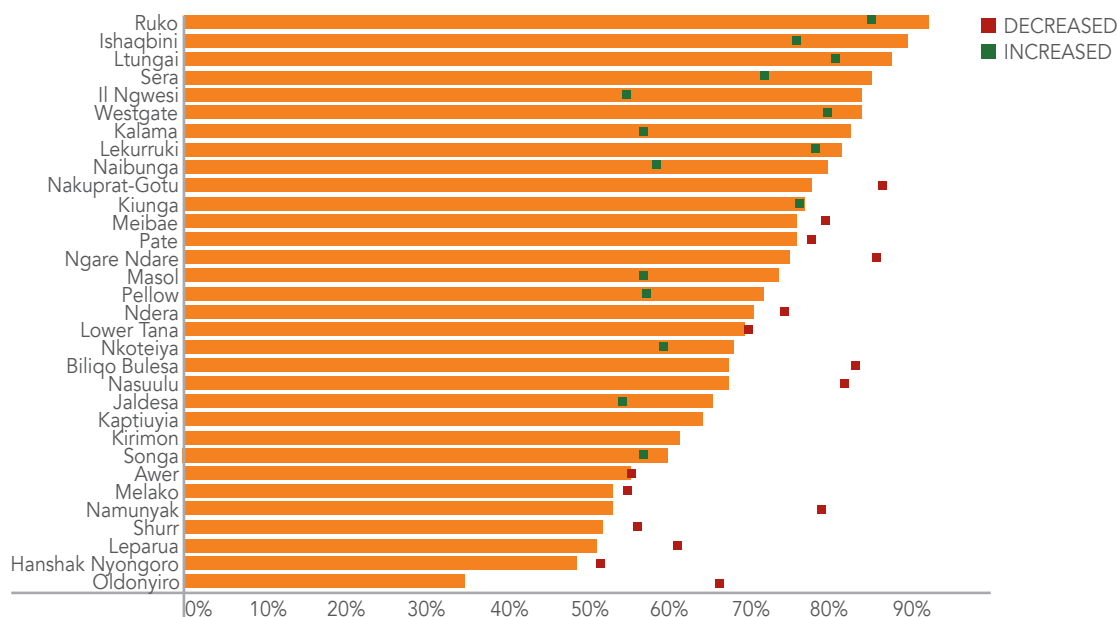
Kaptuya and Kirimon are new conservancies so had no 2017 score to compare change. The most poorly performing conservancies in 2018 were Oldonyiro (35%), Nkoteiya (49%) and Hanshak-Nyogoro (49%). This was because:

- Oldonyiro: Each of the four units in Oldonyiro has a manager. Resignation of one unit manager in 2018 left a management gap, and created political tension within the various clans when nominating a replacement.
- Nkoteiya: Parallel governance structures in conservancy operations and the greater conservation area caused duplication in decision-making, leading to poor execution.
- Hanshak-Nyongoro: Lack of cohesion at the board level and leadership challenges within management. Execution of programs was also impeded by insecurity within the conservancy.

Conservancies that demonstrated the most significant improvement in governance in 2018 were Il Ngwesi (29%), Kalama (26%) and Naibunga (21%). Improvements were caused by:

- Il Ngwesi: Due to streamlining of board structures and decision making.

## Governance Scores 2018



The average governance score for conservancies increased from **67%** in 2017 to **70%** in 2018. **Il Ngwesi** demonstrated the most significant improvement in governance.

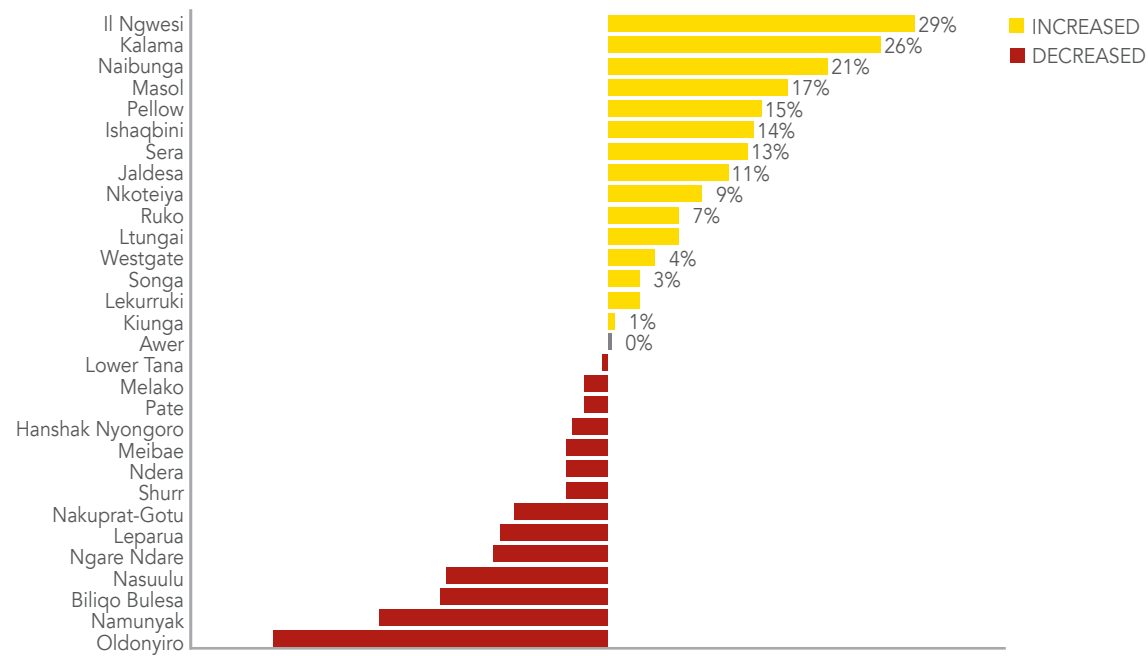
- Kalama: A new proactive manager was recruited who has been working with the full support of the board and communities. The management has demonstrated improvement in conservancy infrastructure, works closely with other stakeholders and has begun to create financial sustainability through independent fundraising.
- Naibunga: Restructuring of the nine group ranches into three manageable units. Working with the support of the local MP.

Conservancies that dropped the most in performance in 2018 were Oldonyiro, Namunyak and Biliqo Bulesa. This was because:

- Oldonyiro (32%): Failure to select a new board and disharmony within the conservancies management structures.
- Namunyak (22%): The conservancy was divided into three units that were all hosted under a hierarchical management structure, creating inefficient decision-making. Politics around board election processes in Ngilai and Nalowuon.
- Biliqo Bulesa (16%): A poorly attended AGM was hosted in a remote part of the conservancy, compounded by the lack of effective communication by boards.



## Change in Governance Scores 2017-2018



Juliet King



Ami Vitale





## SPOTLIGHT

### The Leadership And Management Programme (LAMP)

In 2014 NRT partnered with a management consultancy company based in Nairobi to see if their traditional corporate leadership training could be tailored for conservancy managers.

The success and impact of the training led to a roll-out of LAMP for conservancy chairpersons (2017), then to conservancy board members (2017/18). The impact that this bespoke programme has had on conservancies is incredibly tangible to NRT staff, trainees and even community members.

102 people took part in LAMP training in 2018;

- 90 board members
- 5 conservancy managers (Masol, Pellow, Sera, Nakuprat-Gotu, Westgate)
- 1 KWS officer
- 1 accountant
- 3 rangelands coordinators
- 2 conservancy wardens

NRT is working with Forward Consult to develop a board training curriculum.



Jeff Waweru

*"My biggest takeaway from LAMP is that leadership and management go hand in hand - as someone in authority, you should not only inspire people, but also create systems that help them to execute the vision."*

— **JOY LENAWALBENE**

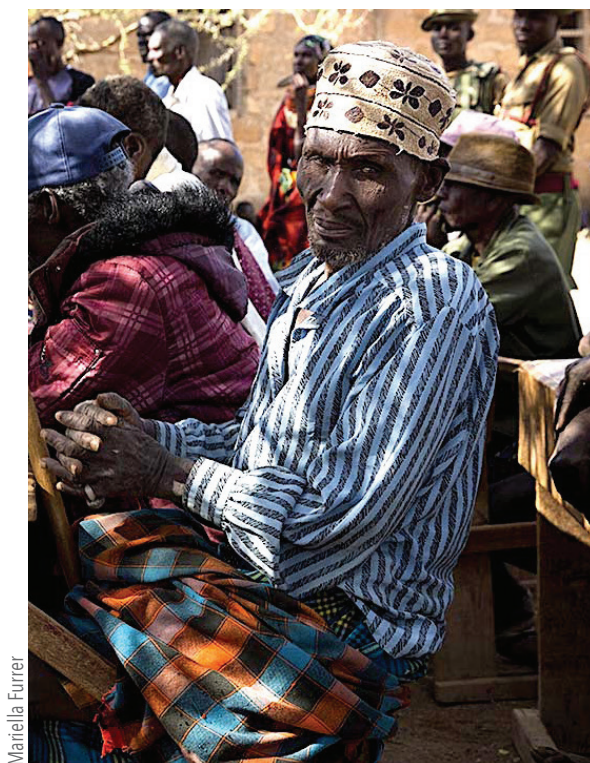
Chief, Ewaso West Location (Ex-Officio Board Member, Westgate Conservancy).

"I have learned that dialogue changes everything. Before LAMP, I would use my authority to issue directives; especially in cases of cattle theft. Now, when cattle are stolen, we go into homesteads and ask for advice, making it clear that we're there to help and not to punish. This approach has worked so well for our location and conservancy and I can now say that cases of cattle theft have greatly reduced.

LAMP has also challenged us to think of ways in which we could be self-sustaining. We encourage our members to take on a more active role in supporting their conservancy - we have seen them respond in simple but effective ways, such as donating a goat for food to their conservancy rangers.

I don't think we would have the same kind of co-operation and transparency among stakeholders that we have now, if we had not had the LAMP training. Additionally, we would not be working in the orderly way in which we do now, respecting the fact that each and every stakeholder has a unique and important role to play in achieving our vision."





Mariella Furrer

## WELL-GOVERNED COMMUNITY CONSERVANCIES

Conservancies should provide the local institutional platform for building dialogue and peace between ethnic communities, for seeking investments in socio-economic development, and for negotiating sustainable management and conservation of communal land, water and other natural resources. They have been working toward this in 2018 by:

### (i) Promoting democracy and leadership: elections, annual general meetings and board collaborations

- Eight conservancies held board elections in 2018: Hanshak-Nyongoro, Il Ngwesi, Leparua, Lower Tana Delta, Nakuprat-Gotu, Namunyak, Sera and Westgate). 152 board members were elected across these conservancies; 33 of those were women, 32 were classed as 'youths' and 87 were elders.
- NRT regional directors conducted board training for the elected members, covering roles and expectations, conflict resolution and mitigation tools, resource mobilisation, the importance of building and maintaining partnerships, and human resource management.
- Conducting an Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a condition of the conservancies' Memorandum of Understanding with NRT. It is open to all conservancy members to attend, and its date, location and purpose must be adequately advertised across the conservancy beforehand. AGMs are a chance for boards to provide feedback to their constituents on the conservancy's progress and plans,

and are a critical part of generating support, ownership and governance accountability. 24 conservancies held AGMs in 2018. Participation from conservancy members was generally higher in 2018 compared to previous years. Nkoteyia, Kaptuya, Hanshak-Nyongoro and Songa did not conduct 2018 AGMs, but have them scheduled to take place the first quarter of 2019.

**8 conservancies held board elections in 2018.**

**24 held annual general meetings.**

- To provide regular feedback to their members, 32 conservancies conducted quarterly awareness meetings in each conservancy 'zone'. This creates an opportunity for members to interact with the conservancy board and staff and clarify any misconceptions about the programmes and activities.
- Collaborative meetings were held between the boards of Masol and Pellow conservancies, Nasuulu and Leparua conservancies, and Songa, Jaldesa, Shurr and Melako conservancies to address key cross-cutting issues such as livestock movement and damaging misinformation about conservancies circulating in communities. The need for a more landscape-level approach to grazing planning was apparent in all meetings, and boards shared their individual conservancy grazing plans with each other for discussion.

## (ii) Getting the right information to the right people

- With the widespread availability of smart phones and cheap data, social media and messaging apps have become commonplace in conservancies. While this presents great opportunities for managers and boards to speak to constituents, it also enables misinformation about conservancies to spread rapidly, in some cases weakening trust and support that has taken years to build.
- Il Ngwesi, Kalama, Kaptuya, Ltungai, Nakuprat-Gotu, Namunyak, Nkoteiya, Oldonyiro, Ruko and Sera regularly use social media and messaging apps (Facebook and WhatsApp) to share information on the conservancy's progress, to great effect.
- NRT, conservancies and County Governments worked together to hold awareness meetings specifically targeting youths from different conservancies. 120 youths from Melako, Songa, Shurr and Jaldesa joined several County Government representatives at a meeting in Marsabit. 300 youth

**More than 420 youth were engaged in conservancy awareness initiatives, while over 850 youth were engaged in dialogue meetings around key rangeland & peace issues**

from Ltungai attended a meeting with Samburu County Government, and similar meetings occurred with youth from Namunyak, Meibae and Westgate. The purpose of these meetings was to explain the reason and role of community conservancies, and share relevant facts to quash misinformation. Reports from the field suggest that these meetings led many participants to correct their peers online when misinformation was quoted.

- Seven conservancies made efforts to engage the young warrior class (morans) in issues of peace, rangelands management and human/wildlife conflict. Morans cover vast distances across the north Kenya landscape with their cattle; picking up and sharing information as they go. They are also predominantly the ones at the front line of conflict. Biliqo-Bulesa, Melako, Namunyak, Nasuulu, Oldonyiro, Sera and Westgate conservancies reached more than 850 morans through these awareness meetings. Programme leads state that these efforts helped in reducing human/wildlife conflict especially along the Mathews Range in Namunyak and other livestock convergence areas.

- Kalama, Namunyak, Ngare Ndare and Sera erected community notice boards to display important information, and enable community members to post other interesting or relevant information too.





### (iii) Addressing challenges

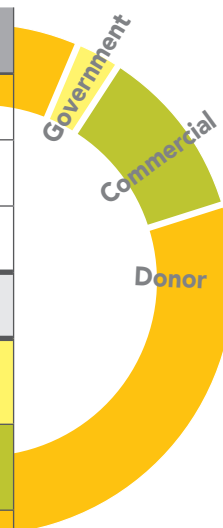
- Some conservancy managers were not cooperative during the audit process required by NRT, and NRT regional teams had to work closely with conservancy boards to ensure auditors could complete the reports. By the end of 2018, all conservancy accounts had been audited with the exception of Kalama. Conservancy members have therefore unanimously refused to dissolve the board (an election is overdue) until the report is produced, and have extended the board term to allow for completion. An AGM will be conducted once the final audit report is complete, and new elections will be held.
- Politicisation of board elections continues to be a challenge across the landscape, and is being addressed through increased pre-election meetings.
- There was often an unpredictable turnout for moran-focused engagements due to livestock movements taking priority. This drove some organisers to conduct awareness meetings at communal water points, making it easy for morans to attend/ listen. Some key meetings organised in the dry season had to be postponed until the rains.



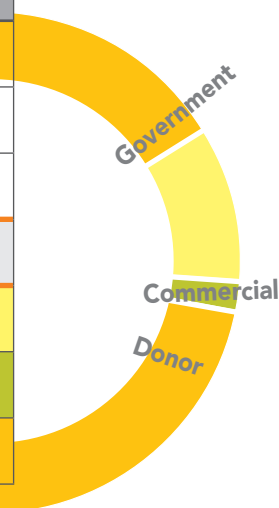


## Conservancy Operational Budgets and Capital Expenditure (capex) Sources

Operations	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total government for conservancy operations	5,666,194	-	3,442,000	5,434,000	9,000,000
Total commercial for conservancy operations	23,388,799	23,536,699	25,729,639	28,676,945	37,799,673
Total conservancy operations from donors (NRT)	166,910,524	166,328,550	224,640,923	241,627,369	299,760,320
<b>Total operating budgets for conservancies</b>	<b>195,965,517</b>	<b>189,865,249</b>	<b>253,812,562</b>	<b>275,738,314</b>	<b>346,559,993</b>
Proportion total conservancy operations from government	3%	0%	1%	2%	3%
Proportion total conservancy operations from commercial	12%	12%	10%	10%	11%
Proportion total conservancy operations from donors	85%	88%	89%	88%	86%



Capex	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total government for conservancy capex	13,000,000	20,000,000	27,558,000	34,980,000	15,000,000
Total commercial for conservancy capex	533,507	1,459,462	3,920,480	937,420	2,261,530
Total conservancy capex from donors (NRT)		123,131,365	65,784,924	166,406,491	131,339,475
<b>Total capex budgets for conservancies</b>	<b>13,533,507</b>	<b>144,590,827</b>	<b>97,263,404</b>	<b>202,323,911</b>	<b>148,601,005</b>
Proportion total conservancy capex from government	96%	14%	28%	17%	10%
Proportion total conservancy capexs from commercial	4%	1%	4%	0%	2%
Proportion total conservancy capex from donors	0%	85%	68%	82%	88%



## SUPPORTIVE GOVERNMENT POLICIES, LAWS AND FINANCE

**"AS WE MOVE FORWARD TO BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE WORK TOGETHER AND LEAN ON EACH OTHER'S EXPERTISE AND SKILLS TO DELIVER WHAT THE COMMUNITIES NEED. ONCE WE SECURE THE FUTURE OF THE CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITIES, THEN WE KNOW WE ARE ON THE RIGHT PATH TO SECURING PEACE, MAINTAINING OUR WILDLIFE NUMBERS AND UPLIFTING THE LIVES OF THE COMMUNITIES — ALL OF WHICH IS IN LINE WITH THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND ASPIRATIONS FOR ITS PEOPLE."**

— H.E Mohamud Mohamed Ali, Governor for Marsabit County, on a visit to Melako Community Conservancy.

Since devolution of the centralised Kenyan government in 2013, NRT has been working to build partnerships and trust with the relevant county governments. Although government backing varies from county to county, overall it is starting to complement the efforts of local communities to govern their land and natural resources.

Many county governments are starting to see that investing in conservancies helps them to fulfil their mandate of providing local public services, and meeting local development priorities. A total of Ksh. 24 million (US\$ 240,000) of county government support was provided to NRT conservancies in 2018, compared to Ksh. 40 million (US\$ 400,000) in 2017. This indicates a 67% increase in operational funding, but a 57% reduction in capital expenditure support.

The transition in government personnel due to the 2017/2018 elections led to a decline in general development activities at the county level, however continuity of leadership within Samburu County maintained momentum and support for conservancies in 2018.

Government policy, legal and financial security is needed to sustain the proven impacts of community conservation across northern Kenya.

In 2018:

### Several County Governments implemented supportive policies and allocated financing to conservancies

- The County Governments of Baringo, Isiolo, Marsabit and Samburu have passed several pieces of supportive legislation after consultations with, and lobbying by, community conservancies. These include:
  - The Marsabit County Rangelands Policy
  - The Isiolo Livestock Policy
  - The Samburu Conservancies Bill
- These pieces of legislation provide a framework for County Governments to support and finance community conservancies in specific areas.

### Valuable relationships were maintained

- NRT continues to provide assistance to County Governments wishing to establish their own community conservancies. Samburu is leading the way - with four County-supported conservation areas (Malaso, Baragoi, Nyiru and Ndoto).

**Ksh. 24 million**  
in County  
Government  
support to  
conservancies in  
2018

- Marsabit County closed its conservancies due to change of leadership, but there are plans to reopen them in the near future. Wajir County Government has expressed interest in establishing community conservancies and have secured funding for one, and plan to continue to consult NRT during this process. Isiolo County Government is also planning to establish several community conservancies in 2019.
- Samburu County Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NRT for the operational funding of Nkoteiya Conservancy. Baringo County Government has requested the development of a general MOU for the support of Ruko and Kaptuya conservancies. MOUs outline the commitments and roles of both parties in a legally binding format.
- Four conservancies at the coast (Awer, Hanshak Nyongoro, Kiunga and Pate) submitted documents to the County Wildlife Conservation and Compensation Committee to register as Community Wildlife Associations (CWAs). The current Wildlife Act recognises community conservancies as land that is legally owned by the community, and CWAs as areas where communities have no legal ownership

of the land in which they live, but have 'traditional rights of use'. Registering as CWAs will enable support from government, and provide the stable legal framework for conservancy operations and programmes.

- All seven NRT-Coast conservancies participated in development of County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). CIDPs are a roadmap developed by County Governments for prioritising, planning and budgeting county-specific development areas for the next five years. They steer programming and financial support from central government.

### **The NRT member conservancies were represented on the national stage**

- NRT was a founding member of the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA), which is a representative body for private and community conservancies across Kenya. Chairpersons from NRT member conservancies attended the annual KWCA Chairpersons Forum in Nairobi in 2018, where they discussed key issues affecting conservancies nationally.



Duncan Ndoto



Phil Carter



### 3.

## BUILDING PEACE & SECURITY



Sophie Harrison

Conservancies continue to be a vehicle for building and maintaining peace between diverse ethnic groups. Boards, managers and peace ambassadors are working with partners to use dialogue and other non-violent conflict resolution strategies to predict, prevent and react more constructively to tension.

Alongside these efforts, conservancy rangers work under the Kenya Police to support peace initiatives, carry out anti-poaching operations, assist in stock-theft incidents, and grow intelligence networks to enable more effective security operations for wildlife and people.



## SPOTLIGHT

**He used to run from the law, now he runs peace programmes (and his own business)**



Jeff Waweru

*"A few years ago, I could not show my face around my home area because of the crimes I'd committed. Today, I am a peace ambassador and business man, helping other young men caught up in crime transition into making an honest living."*

— LEKOPIR LKSUMBAN,  
Peace Ambassador, Melako Community Conservancy.

For over 12 years, Lekopir made a living from banditry and cattle rustling. Caught up in relentless conflict cycles and desperate to put food on the table and pay medical bills, he saw no other way to earn money, and no way out.

"It was not a good life, and I was tired of always feeling like a target was on my back," he says. "I would always get messages from my friend saying the Conservancy Warden was looking for me and I hid because I thought he wanted to hand me over to the police." But Melako Community Conservancy Warden, Robert Dokhole, did not want to arrest Lekopir. He wanted to help him turn his life around. For two years Robert tried to convince Lekopir to meet with him, until eventually Lekopir agreed.

"I was very shocked when Robert sat me down in front of the elders and local authorities and told me that they wanted to give me a chance to redeem myself," Lekopir says. "They asked me to work with them to help rehabilitate my fellow morans engaged in cattle rustling and banditry, and that if I did so, they would allow me to re-enter society."

Today, Lekopir is a proud peace ambassador and business owner - instrumental to peace and rehabilitation efforts in his home area of Laisamis. He has helped foil numerous cattle rustling attempts and helped several morans get out of conflict and into enterprise.

"I am able to get through to these young men because I have been exactly where they are," Lekopir says. "Most of them are looking for a way out, just like I was, but have nobody to help."

Above all he feels he immense gratitude to his community for a second chance at life. "I will never forget what my community did for me, and I am just grateful to be making up for the years I lost."

# 700

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Women participated in peace-building training

# 70

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Peace ambassadors have been recruited from 15 conservancies

# 768

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Conservancy rangers are employed across the landscape, plus 70 rapid response rangers in the '9-teams'

## EFFECTIVE PEACE-BUILDING

The nature and scale of ethnic conflicts in the north is ever-changing — weather patterns, political rhetoric, crumbling traditional leadership structures and the availability of jobs can all affect conflict outbreak. Conservancies are addressing this through:

### Organising and facilitating peace meetings

- The NRT peace team held 49 emergency meetings in all identified hot spot areas to avert perceived or planned attacks. (Hot spot areas shift depending on rainfall patterns, livestock movements, water availability. For this period hot spot areas included Nasuulu, Nakuprat-Gotu, Il Ngwesi, Lekurruki, Nanapisho, Shurr, Jaldesa and Naibunga conservancies).

### Training conservancy decision-makers

- 700 women from 25 women's groups participated in peace-building training
- The boards of Nasuulu, Leparua, Il Ngwesi, Lekurruki, Nakuprat Gotu, Oldonyiro and Naibunga conservancies received training on peace-building and conflict management.

### Organising sporting and other events aimed at promoting integration

- Several 'sports-for-peace' events took place throughout 2018, creating an environment for peace-related fringe events; which included dialogue sessions, communal eating and the identification of peace leaders.
- One peace marathon was held in Isiolo, featuring 80 runners from the county conservancies. The best 10 runners were supported to participate in the prestigious 2018 Safaricom Lewa Marathon. The team was representative of the ethnic diversity across member conservancies, and all runners shared accommodation the night before. This helped the team break down existing barriers and form friendships.
- Ltungai Conservancy also organised athletics and ball games where more than 300 Samburu and Pokot youth formed mixed teams to compete.
- Melako held a football tournament which brought together young men from the Somali, Samburu, Boran and Rendille communities
- Four 'bonding events' were conducted in 2018 in known hot spot areas. This aimed to mitigate any potential conflict.



One was held in partnership with the Kenyan Peace Corps and involved the Laikipia Maasai and Samburu communities, and three events were held in Melako, Ltungai and Nakuprat-Gotu conservancies.

- Annual moran assembly meetings in Nasuulu, Oldonyiro, and Westgate conservancies have helped young men involved in conflict or those with retaliation agendas to discuss their grievances, get to know each other and form friendships.
- NRT was represented at a women's peace march in October - involving hundreds of women from the neighboring conservancies of Kalama, Westgate, Nakuprat-Gotu, Biliqo-Bulesa and Melako. Government officials, including the Samburu County Commissioner, attended and the march attracted wide media coverage.
- The NRT communications team has partnered with several local radio stations to air Q&As with NRT staff and conservancy leadership on particular topics. This has not only helped raise support for promoting peace, but also the wider work and impact of the conservancies.

**18 young men from different regions have signed up to be peace volunteers**

### Recruitment of peace ambassadors

The NRT peace team have recruited young warriors - often the men involved in front-line conflict - as peace ambassadors to help identify, mediate and map conflicts within the conservancies. They receive training from NRT on peace-building strategies, and are also charged with promoting peaceful reconciliation amongst their peers.

- 70 peace ambassadors have been recruited from 15 conservancies. They represent seven ethnic communities (Pokot, Ndorobo, Samburu, Rendile, Turkana, Borana and Somali).
- Seven planned raids were stopped using the intelligence, networks and support of the peace ambassadors.
- 18 morans from NRT North East, NRT West and NRT Centre (a team of six from each) have volunteered to support peace efforts on the ground, and have been instrumental in preventing retaliatory attacks and engaging other young men in the peace process.



## EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY POLICING

Each conservancy employs a team of rangers, and there are now 768 across the landscape. NRT also employs five mobile ranger teams, known as the '9' teams, who operate on a regional level under the Kenya Police, and focus primarily on poaching and stock theft.

All ranger teams represent the diverse communities they serve, and this is one of their greatest strengths. Working closely with the authorities, conservancy rangers are leading an unprecedented, landscape-level community policing initiative, which is improving security for both wildlife and people through:

### Tackling stock theft, road banditry and tourist attacks

- There was a drop in cattle rustling cases in 2018, down to 66 cases from 90 in 2017. Concerted efforts by conservancy rangers, the 9 teams, government authorities and conservancy leadership led to 123 cattle, 547 sheep and goats, and 39 camels being returned to their owners.

**74% drop in the number of lives lost in security incidents in 2018**

- However, the number of overall livestock stolen increased. Stock theft incidences spiked in April and December after the rains. This was primarily attributed to morans 'restocking' after the severe drought in 2017. Camels and cattle were concentrated around Nakuprat Gotu throughout the year due to good grazing, and this is where most of the theft occurred.
- Overall, the number of road banditry cases in NRT conservancy areas reduced from 22 in 2017 to 15 in 2018. However, there was a significant spike in cases in the third quarter of 2018, specifically along the Archers – Sere Olipi – Marsabit road.
- One attempted theft targeting tourists in Kalama Conservancy was intercepted through swift action by the 9.1 team and Kalama rangers.
- Six tourists were attacked in Samburu National Reserve (SNR); one person was injured and possessions were stolen. A joint operation between SNR rangers, the Kenya Wildlife Service, the 9.1 team and the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy K-9 unit led to the successful arrest of two suspects in possession of weapons and the stolen items.

**120 rangers took part in human rights training**

## Partnerships with Kenya Police and Government of Kenya

- With finite resources and a vast landscape to cover, no one security or policing body is able to work effectively alone. A close working relationship between conservancy rangers, 9 teams, Kenya Police and other authorities is leading to faster and more effective responses to incidents.
- 120 rangers were trained by the Kenya Police on human rights and community policing at the Kenya Police College. A comprehensive Human Rights Awareness training course is planned for all rangers in early 2019.

### More effective operations enabled by improved equipment and training

- To enhance digital communications across the landscape, 28 conservancies received power upgrades from Give Power, which not only complements security efforts but delivers significant social benefits to remote communities.
- All 732 conservancy rangers completed Standard Operating Procedure training which had a positive impact on performance and morale.

- 479 rangers' uniforms were procured and supplied during the year.
- All five of the '9 teams' completed tactical refresher training, a first aid course and a leadership command course, delivered by 51 Degrees. They also received training from Kenya Police instructors on community policing and human rights at the Police Academy in Kiganjo.
- 15 mobile gun safes were procured for as many conservancies to comply with Government weapon custody rules.
- 419 rangers now have National Police Reservist status, which allows them to carry government-issue weapons.
- The Sera Conservancy radio room is being upgraded to act as a regional security hub.
- Rangers in Ndera and Kiunga conservancies received patrol boats (two and one respectively) to more effectively carry out their operations.

**97% drop in the number of elephants poached for ivory between 2012 and 2018**

### Breakdown of security incidents in the NRT landscape, 2012-2018

Security Incidents		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. cattle rustling incidents		42	48	71	94	53	90	66
No. livestock stolen	Camels	0	1197	5739	5	219	68	255
	Cattle				440	524	1272	594
	Shoats				3730	1353	1455	2447
No. livestock recovered	Camels	89	524	3199	42	245	34	39
	Cattle				402	138	296	123
	Shoats				408	360	1019	547
No. road banditry incidents		15	23	24	40	18	22	15
No. elephants poached		108	49	28	20	35	8	3
No. people killed in security incidents		10	6	17	43	44	43	11
No. recovered ivory		5	5	11	21	9	21	12
No. recovered weapons		13	9	11	7	19	6	6





## Ranger numbers in NRT member conservancies

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>NRT OVERALL</b>							
Rangers	313	392	590	652	776	748	768
Trained*	100	67	95	238	452	414	459
NPR**	17	58	193	203	241	308	349
<b>NRT Centre</b>							
Rangers	167	198	351	388	437	393	406
Trained	64	42	28	147	249	205	237
NPR	2	16	139	141	152	183	202
<b>NRT Coast</b>							
Rangers	84	96	97	96	101	99	105
Trained	19	24	30	56	73	68	73
NPR	6	9	9	11	15	28	45

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>NRT North East</b>							
Rangers	23	59	69	69	68	67	70
Trained	11	0	9	24	43	31	38
NPR	9	31	33	39	50	55	59
<b>NRT -West</b>							
Rangers	39	39	73	99	170	189	187
Trained	6	1	28	11	87	110	111
NPR	0	2	12	12	24	42	43
<b>The 9 Teams</b>							
Rangers					37	69	70
Trained					34	68	65
NPR					32	68	57

\*Indicates number of rangers who have received formal security training (such as standard operating procedures).

\*\*National Police Reservists; authorised to carry government-issue weapons

# 10Women

At the end of 2018, we launched our #10Women series; ten stories from ten inspirational women in the community conservancies, working to build peace, conserve wildlife and reduce inequality.

Here are four stories from the series, the full booklet can be found and downloaded on our website.



Sophie Harrison

**"These days, we rarely ask the men for anything. They say: these women are now supporting themselves!"**

— JOSEPHINE ALIYARO, Star Bearer, Salamis Women's Group, Melako Conservancy

Josephine has been beading with her friends for 10 years. "Our financial problems brought us together in 2008," she recalls, "at that time, we had to ask our husbands for an amount as small as Ksh. 5 to buy pencils for our children. We decided to each contribute an amount of money to the group, which we would then lend each other when there was an urgent need - this became our bank."

This entrepreneurial spirit has served the group well. They were one of the first women's groups to partner with the NRT Trading BeadWORKS business, which has enabled them to sell beaded jewellery and accessories to international markets. In 2017, Melako Conservancy emerged top in the BeadWORKS revenue chart, thanks in no small part to Josephine and her team.

At a practical level, their income has enabled the women to pay school fees and hospital bills, put food on the table, and reduce reliance on livestock. But it has also had a far greater impact on their entire community. Salamis donates 40% of their annual revenue to Melako Conservancy's operational budget, in recognition of the institutional support offered to their business by the Conservancy. This has hugely increased their engagement in conservancy affairs, and the women now contribute actively in conservancy meetings and have a say in conservancy decisions.

"When money gets into the conservancy, we know it has gotten into the community and we are happy to see the work of our hands benefiting our community," says Josephine.





**"Our society is now changing and starting to see the value of women's leadership. At first they would ask - how can a woman lead us? By my second term, I was elected unopposed because my work spoke for itself."**

— PAULINE LONGOJINE,  
Peace ambassador and former Sera  
Conservancy Board member

Pauline was elected to the Sera Community Conservancy board in 2011, where she served for the maximum two terms. She ran an unopposed Chair of the Board in her second term, becoming one of the first women in an NRT member conservancy to take that role.

It was under her leadership that Sera became the first community-run black rhino sanctuary in east Africa, setting new standards and best practices for endangered species conservation in Kenya.

"The introduction of rhino in Sera is something I will always be proud of," she says.

"Our children are employed by the rhino sanctuary, the whole community will continue to grow from tourism revenue."

Pauline is now a peace ambassador, and has played an instrumental role in launching NRT's multi-ethnic women's peace forum - which equips women with skills for building peace and detecting and preventing conflict. "In the beginning, women were afraid to speak to their sons and husbands," says Pauline, "but we challenged them to think of the future they wanted for their community. Now they come back and tell us that their sons are listening to them and thinking twice before going out to raid."

Driving her work now is a firm belief that women can and should play a leading role in mitigating ethnic conflict, and this starts by creating safe spaces for dialogue and starting conversations. "There are certain things that the morans (young men) will open up and tell me, that they would not tell the men - when they are with me, they know that they are with a mother, and will not be judged."



## 10Women



Jeff Waweru

**"I hated seeing what the fighting did to our community - we could not do any business, there were many orphans and widows and our children did not even have teachers in their schools. I joined the board because I desperately wanted a better future for my community"**

— HABIBA TADICHA, Board Chair, Biliqo Bulesa Community Conservancy

Habiba grew up in the area now known as Biliqo Bulesa. Conflict has plagued her community, and their neighbours, for years - and its drivers are complex and deep rooted.

But while sporadic conflict still occurs, things have come a long way since the establishment of the community conservancy in 2007. "When I saw our young men fighting I knew that in addition to bringing them together for peace meetings we needed to offer them other ways to support themselves and their families- I believe that when you have something to lose, you are more likely to see the value of peace,"

Habiba says. Her board has since sought support to start a micro-loan programme that lends both men and women money to start small businesses such as livestock selling and shop-keeping. In addition, the community now benefits from annual education bursaries, a brand-new teacher's quarters and support for their livestock market - all through the conservancy.

Another cause close to Habiba's heart is women's participation in community affairs, and she has made it her mission to ensure that women not only attend but speak up in community meetings. "Women and children suffer the most due to conflict, so why should we not speak?" she asks. "I'm glad they're now listening. Recently, we heard that there was a peace meeting bringing together women from different ethnic groups in northern Kenya and before I could even start to rally the women, they came to me saying that we had to attend. We are now more peaceful than before and we have come up with effective ways to conserve and use our land, our lives are improving and we're headed in a good direction," she says.

Ivy Wairimu



**"I became a conservancy manager at the age of 25. It was a huge job for a young girl, but I was drawn to the challenge. Today, I see the Il Chamus morans inviting Pokot morans to their age-group graduation ceremonies. In my team, Il Chamus rangers and Pokot rangers work and live together! A few years ago, all this was unthinkable."**

— REBECCA KOCHULEM,  
NRT West Community Development Officer and  
former Ruko Conservancy manager

Rebecca Kochulem was the first manager of Ruko Community Conservancy, and has now handed over the wheel to another female manager at Ruko, as she becomes the NRT West Community Development Officer.

In 2007, the Il Chamus and Pokot communities were recovering from another period of intense conflict. Ruko was established to try and bring together these two groups and provide a platform for peace dialogue, with Rebecca at the helm.

"For the first two years, every single day was a working day" Rebecca recalls. "It was very important for us to include everyone in our decision-making: elders, women, young people and local authorities."

11 years later, Ruko is making strides, starting with the re-introduction of eight endangered Rothschild giraffe to the conservancy in 2012. "The Rothschild giraffe is the pride of Baringo, and has provided a valuable tourism opportunity for us - we now welcome at least 500 tourists a year to Ruko" says Rebecca.

The conservancy has also given out micro-loans to 130 women and young men to start businesses, in addition to providing over 300 education bursaries and improving access to healthcare. Most importantly, there is greater trust and co-operation between the Il Chamus and Pokot - resulting in the return of stolen cattle, and peaceful resolutions to long standing rifts.

"Today, I see the Il Chamus morans (young men) inviting Pokot morans to their age-group graduation ceremonies," Rebecca shares. "In my team, Il Chamus rangers and Pokot rangers work and live together! A few years ago, all this was unthinkable."

4.

## CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH: JOBS & ENTERPRISE



Jeff Waweru

Investments in livelihoods is one of the most tangible impacts of community conservation for conservancy members.

Conservancies provide a platform for communities to identify and implement their own development projects, offer a vehicle for savings and credit, provide more jobs and opportunities for increased and diversified household incomes.





## SPOTLIGHT

### Beatrice Lempaira

*"Helping women entrepreneurs across community conservancies has been personally empowering for me. As a woman from a pastoralist community, now more than ever, I believe in our ability to succeed."*

— BEATRICE LEMPAIRA,  
BeadWORKS Production Manager.

For the past four years, Beatrice has worked with approximately 1,020 women in 9 community conservancies, partnering with them to turn their traditional skills into a sustainable income for them and their families through NRT Trading's BeadWORKS business.

Before this, she worked as a manager for Naibunga Community Conservancy, near her home area. When the chance to work for BeadWORKs came up, Beatrice knew she had to take it. For her, this was a bigger platform to directly impact women - an area she had grown passionate about.

"I love the north, and I love our culture" she says, "but I began to ask myself how it could be more beneficial for our women."

For Beatrice, BeadWORKs goes beyond just the production and sale of beaded items. Her goal has always been to help women acquire business skills they can use in other aspects of their lives. "We want them to know what it means to handle orders and customers on a larger scale, conduct quality control and everything that pertains to a successful business."

Seeing the women evolve into proactive entrepreneurs over time has been the most rewarding aspect of the job for her. "In the beginning, we had to follow up with them up constantly" she says. "Now, they create their own production networks and schedules- they may not be formally educated, but their aptitude for organisation is astounding." BeadWORKs has also been a catalyst for social change.



Rufu Roba

Over and above having extra money for daily needs, the women feel they have a higher social standing in society and are empowered to have a say in what goes in their households and conservancies. "I have seen women buy land through saving their BeadWORKS income," Beatrice says. "These days, I even have men coming up to me and asking how their wives can join BeadWORKS!"

## Ksh. 94 million

(US\$ 940,000) in income for 1,175 sellers through LivestockWORKS

## 71,000

People benefiting from Conservancy Livelihood Fund projects

## 1,840

Savings and Credit Cooperative members accrued savings of Ksh. 3.8 million (US\$ 38,000) in 2018

## 31%

Increase in tourism revenue to conservancies — the best year on record

### INVESTING IN LIVELIHOODS; EQUITABLY AND RESPONSIVELY

Investing in livelihoods directly builds social and human capital, reinforces peace initiatives, develops resilience and economic opportunities, and ensures positive dividends from conservation, strengthening community bonds and validating the concept of the conservancy.

#### Conservancy Livelihood Fund

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO IDENTIFY, PLAN AND IMPLEMENT THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

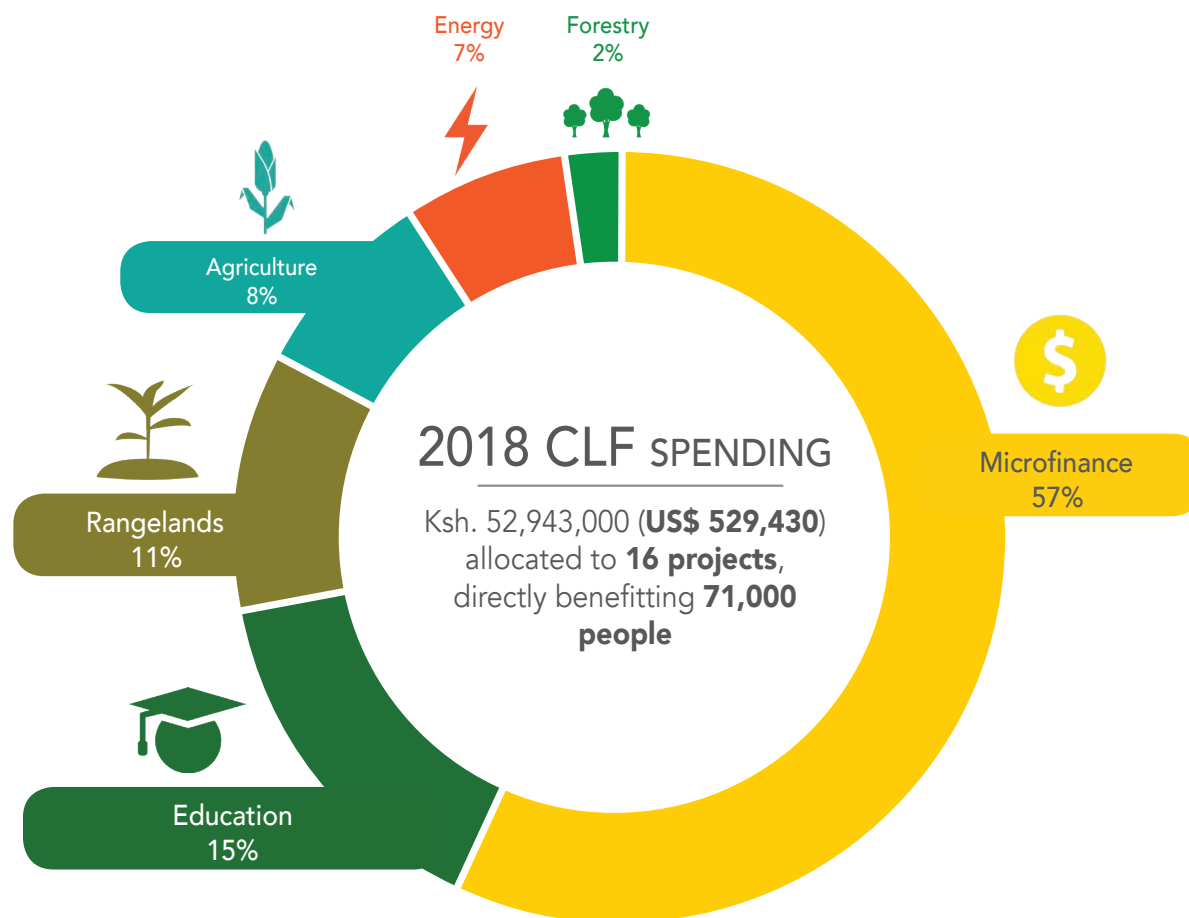
The Conservancy Livelihoods Fund (CLF) was established in 2015 to enable conservation activities to have more direct, tangible livelihoods benefits to conservancy members.

Conservancies must apply to NRT for CLF funding, with proposals that reflect community priorities and have been approved by respective boards. Priority is given to projects that link livelihood impacts to wildlife conservation and security, build long-term climate resilience, peace, conservation or business enterprises, build capacity and empowerment of women and youth, and that leverage funding from the County or National Government and other development partners for multi-year projects.

The CLF differs from a lot of other NGO funding in two main ways. The first is that it is only open to NRT member conservancies. Secondly, and most importantly, how it is spent it is entirely the community's choice.

To date, the CLF has provided more than Ksh. 220 million (US\$ 2.2 million) for 83 projects across 30 conservancies. Many projects have been used to leverage match-funding or technical support from county governments and other NGOs.

- In 2018, Ksh. 52,943,000 (US\$ 529,430) was allocated by the CLF to 16 projects in as many conservancies.
- 71,000 people will directly benefit from these projects.
- Top three sectors funded by CLF were microfinance (57%), education (15%) and rangelands (11%).
- This was a shift from the 2017 pattern where infrastructure projects for water, tourism and education accounted for 82% (Ksh. 79 million (US\$ 790,000)) of CLF funding.
- Funds for microfinance projects are empowering women and youth to develop businesses through revolving fund mechanisms.



- Education funding (down 2% on 2017) was primarily allocated to school infrastructure rather than bursaries.
- Rangeland issues attracted 11% of funding to create innovative, eco-friendly solutions to address the spread of *Opuntia* in Naibunga, an invasive species.
- Agriculture (8%), energy (7%) and forestry (2%) projects made up the rest of the funding sectors

### Microfinance

- Ksh. 30 million (US\$ 300,000) was approved for microfinance projects through the CLF in 2018.
- NRT Trading received Ksh. 18 million (US\$ 180,000) of this to disburse as loans through the NR SACCO (page 48). Ksh. 12.3 million (US\$ 123,000) of this was issued to 540 conservancy members for starting and expanding businesses. The rest of the funding will be disbursed after candidates have completed the required financial and business training.
- Awer Conservancy was awarded KES 2,540,000 (US\$ 25,400) to purchase motorbikes for 25 beneficiaries (through a revolving fund system) to start a taxi business.



- Pate Conservancy was awarded KES 2,658,600 (US\$ 26,586) to purchase 14 boat engines for fishermen (through a revolving fund system) to enable them to practice more sustainable fishing in deeper water – earning more for their catch while protecting inshore fisheries.

## Education

- CLF:
  - Pellow and Masol conservancies in West Pokot received Ksh. 3 million (US\$ 30,000) for bursaries that supported 800 students.
  - Dormitories were built in Sere-Olipi Secondary School (Sera Conservancy) and Tuale Primary School (Oldonyiro Conservancy).

## The NRT Education Programme

The education programme aims to help students in community conservancy schools achieve better grades and graduate from secondary or tertiary education. It also aims to improve pupil and teacher retention rates in conservancies and link conservation to community livelihoods.

The programme does this through providing teachers' accommodation, classrooms, dormitories, school and teaching supplies, and student/parent/teacher mentoring.

The programme is working with 11 schools (ten primary schools and one secondary school) in nine conservancies benefiting 3,048 students. The education project is funded by Tusk Trust, Rhino Ark, Medicor Foundation, ICEP (Institut zur Kooperation bei Entwicklungs-Projekten) and DANIDA.

- 481 students and 60 teachers from 12 schools in NRT member conservancies were supported on field trips to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in 2018, funded by Tusk Trust, ICEP and Lewa. With a dedicated school safari bus and conservation education centre, Lewa provides a unique opportunity for students to learn about wildlife and habitat conservation, and its relevance to their communities and their future.
- NRT partnered with the Teachers Service Commission to provide training sessions for 22 teachers and 11 head teachers in conservancy schools. As well as discussing ways to talk about conservation with young people, the training covered approaches to working with parents to increase enrollment, retention and graduation rates as well as improving school performance.
- Lpus, Shurr and Lagdima Primary Schools in Marsabit received focused support from the Tusk Trust and NRT,

in an effort to link education to the protection of Mt. Marsabit Forest (part of the wildlife-rich Marsabit National Park) and increase awareness and support for the surrounding community conservancies. Learning materials, uniforms and a feeding programme have all helped to increase enrollment and retention of pupils; across the three schools, 65 new students joined in 2018 and there was a 90% transition from Early Childhood Education to Primary compared to 70% in 2017.



Tatiana Karanja



Tatiana Karanja

## Rangelands

- Naibunga Conservancy received Ksh. 6 million (US\$ 60,000) from the CLF to continue their work in controlling the spread of the invasive *Opuntia stricta* cactus, which thrives on degraded land and poses a danger to wildlife and livestock. This is a flagship CLF project owned and championed by the community, who manage greenhouses to farm the cochineal insect (which feeds exclusively on *Opuntia stricta*) and spread the mature insects over affected rangeland. This innovative, eco-friendly method is having a significant impact on reducing the spread of opuntia, and has received wide community backing.



Tatiana Karanja

## Agriculture, Energy and Forestry

- Agriculture – Ndera Conservancy won Ksh. 4 million (US\$40,000) in CLF funding to procure irrigation water pumps for farmers. This helped leverage GBP 20,000 (US\$ 25,880) from the Tusk Trust – half of which bought additional water pumps while the other half was spent on electric fencing for farms to reduce human/ wildlife conflict.
- Energy - Ngare Ndare Forest Trust won Ksh 3.8 million (US\$ 38,000) to support their energy saving stove project, which seeks to supply homes with fuel-efficient cooking 'jikos' through a revolving fund system to help reduce firewood collection in the forest<sup>1</sup>.
- Forestry – Ksh. 1 million (US\$ 10,000) was also awarded to Ngare Ndare Forest Trust to implement their 1-for-1 seedling project and tree nursery programme.



Mariella Furrer

## Water

- CLF<sup>2</sup>:
  - Four rainwater harvesting and underground storage tanks, each with a capacity of 100m<sup>3</sup>, were constructed in Pate and Kiunga conservancies (two each).
  - Six shallow wells were excavated in Lower Tana Delta Conservancy.

1. Note that funding for energy and forestry projects in Ngare Ndare Forest Trust (the only conservancy that applied for CLF funding in these areas) has not been disbursed due to governance issues. However, the Conservancy has launched the projects with their own funding and will recoup costs from CLF funding when it is released

2. These projects were approved and funded in 2017, but completed in 2018



Water management strategies: In partnership with Rural Focus, Lekurruki, Meibae, Oldonyiro and Melako conservancies have continued to develop integrated water resource management strategies.

This included mapping out existing water supply infrastructure (and its current status) and understanding water demands (from humans, livestock and wildlife). Managers and rangeland coordinators from the four conservancies joined representatives from their area's Water Users Associations (WRUA) for water resource management training. This focused on:

- Introduction to water resources (the hydrological cycle, ground water, surface water)
- Selecting water sources and extraction methods for ground and surface water (types of water supply)
- Management models and service delivery options
- Components of rural water supply, intake structures, transmission and distribution lines, storage, distribution points
- Water, sanitation and hygiene and links to nutrition and health
- Institutional arrangements for rural water supplies.

This partnership with Rural Focus has also enabled the conservancies to continue lobbying County Government for support in the implementation of the conservancy integrated water management plans.

In partnership with Excellent Development five sand dams were constructed: two in Lekurruki (benefiting 5,100 people), two in Oldonyiro (benefiting 6,500 people) and one in Meibae (benefiting 1,200 people).

The sand dams in Lekurruki have also enabled the Conservancy to reduce the community contribution cost of trucking water to the tourist lodge they host (Tassia).

NRT is represented at the Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG) - which brings together humanitarian and development partners to build resilience in vulnerable pastoralist communities. PREG has supported conservancies (Oldonyiro) to link with water resources development partners.



Sophie Harrison





Tatiana Karanja

Nurse Tabitha Karendi examines a patient at the Laresoro Clinic, in Kalama Community Conservancy. In any one month, Tabitha sees around 600 patients. Patients who, according to Tabitha, would likely not have sought any medical attention two years ago, before the clinic was built. The nearest facility is over 10 kilometres away.

## Health

Back in 2015 the Kalama community held several meetings to discuss an ambitious plan. They wanted to apply to the NRT Conservancy Livelihood Fund (CLF) to build, staff and manage a fully operational medical centre, which has never before been done in an NRT member conservancy.

While a CLF grant would cover the construction, it would not ensure consistent medical supplies or cover staff salaries. So the Kalama Board used the initial funding as leverage, and approached the Ministry of Health who agreed to supply a nurse. With this agreement, they went to the Samburu County Government, who pledged to fund nurse's accommodation close to the site of the proposed clinic.

With funding and partnerships secure, the Kalama community donated a suitable piece of land for the clinic and helped to dig foundations, gather rubble and collect sand for the construction to save labour costs.

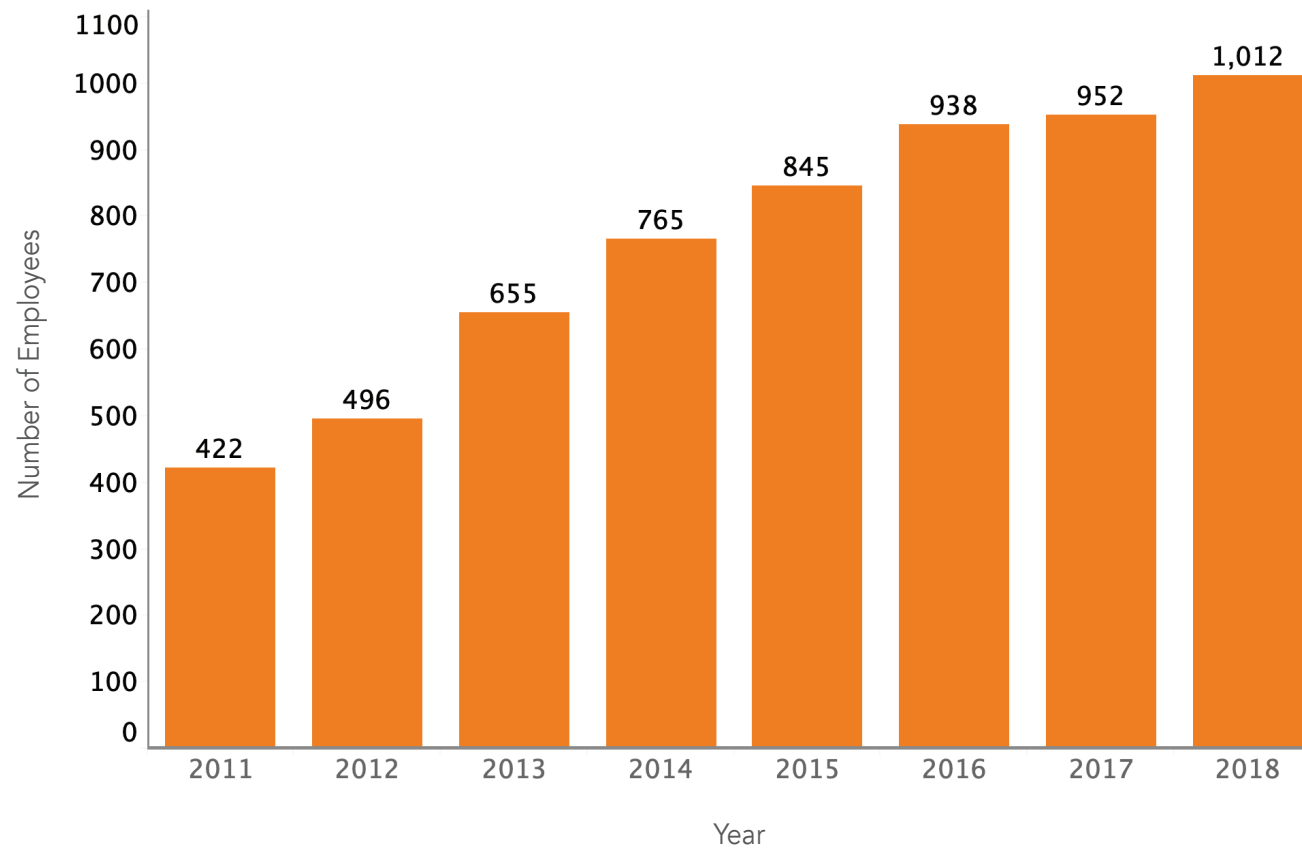
The clinic now serves a catchment of around 5,000 people. In 2018, 300 women accessed family planning and reproductive health advice through the clinic, an opportunity that - for many of them - has never been available. Another nurse works alongside Tabitha, employed by Kalama Conservancy through funding from Tusk. Community health volunteers help to share medical information in villages, translate for Tabitha, who doesn't speak the local language, and conduct outreach events. And where there are gaps in medical supplies from the Ministry of Health, Samburu County Government have agreed to provide funding, complementing the conservancy's own drug contribution of Ksh. 600,000 (US\$ 6,000) in 2018.

"The community say 'this is OUR clinic' and they are rightly very proud of it," Tabitha says.

## Employment

The conservancies are one of the most significant sources of employment within the landscape. Currently, 1,012 permanent staff in the form of conservancy managers, accountants and rangers are working with conservancies.

### Conservancy employees - permanent







## ENTERPRISES AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

NRT Trading (NRTT) is a social enterprise owned by NRT. NRTT's vision is to build sustainable businesses and resilient commercial activity across northern Kenya, improving the economic status of households and communities and providing commercial revenue to conservancies.

NRTT focuses on:

- 1) Identifying, incubating, piloting and operating sustainable businesses that create jobs, increase incomes and generate commercial revenue for conservancies.
- 2) Building skills and changing attitudes so that people and communities achieve economic resilience and empowerment through jobs, entrepreneurship and enterprise development.
- 3) Connecting people and communities with economic opportunity and business partners.
- 4) Contributing directly to conservancy economy to support healthy communities and preserve Kenya's wildlife.

To accomplish its objectives, NRT Trading engages in three distinct lines of work:

- **NRTT businesses:** Developing and operating stand-alone, conservation-linked businesses (e.g. LivestockWORKS and BeadWORKS).
- **Conservancy businesses:** Helping to develop conservancy-based businesses (such as tourism) by building commercial capacity within the conservancies, attracting investors and brokering agreements with commercial operators.
- **Group and individual enterprises:** Diversifying and increasing household income through skill development, job opportunities, and access to finance and mentoring through the Nabulu Economic Empowerment Programme and the Northern Rangelands SACCO.



## **Nabulu and the Northern Rangelands Savings And Credit Cooperative (SACCO) - creating an ecosystem for individual and group enterprises.**

Nabulu is a skills development and entrepreneurship programme for morans and women, spearheaded by NRTT. The objectives of the programme are to promote financial inclusion, entrepreneurship and livelihood diversification, and encourage a culture of savings and alternative investments.

Nabulu is a graduation programme, and strives to identify and develop talent and business skills, linking entrepreneurs to markets, funding and service providers. In 2018, 724 community members were trained on entrepreneurship and financial literacy (in Oldonyiro, Biliqo-bulesa, Ltungai, Ndera, Pate, Awer, Kiunga, Songa, and Jaldesa conservancies).

The Northern Rangelands Savings and Credit Cooperative (NR SACCO) is a vehicle for delivering savings and credit solutions to communities within NRT conservancies. It is an independent, community-owned and membership-driven organisation, which receives critical oversight, technical support and training from NRTT. The SACCO works closely with conservancies to administer savings and micro-credit loans.



Duncan Ndotono

- There are now 1,840 SACCO members - 1,000 new members joined in 2018.
- Ksh. 2.2 million (US\$ 22,000) was invested in the SACCO in 2018.
- Members accrued savings of Ksh. 3.8 million (US\$ 38,000) to support their families and businesses.
- Ksh. 2.1 million (US\$ 21,000) was invested in business loans for 66 young warriors through the Nabulu Moran Empowerment Fund.
- Awareness meetings on entrepreneurship were undertaken in 18 conservancies, reaching 607 of the SACCO members (conservancies included Ndera, Lower Tana, Nasuulu, Nakuprat, Biliqo-Bulesa, Melako, Oldonyiro, Leparua, West Gate, Namunyak, Meibae, Sera, Kalama, Naibunga, Ltungai, Ishaqbini, Pate and Awer)
- 10 Community Enterprise Agents were identified for training - these will be volunteers charged with delivering training solutions, following up on loan repayment, recruiting new members to the SACCO, and generating new business ideas.

**1,840 SACCO members**

**Ksh. 3.8 million saved by SACCO members in 2018**

**Ksh. 2.1 million invested in business loans for 66 young warriors**



Jeff Waweru



Jeff Waweru





## SPOTLIGHT



Jeff Waweru

### Mbau Lekulamahau

Mbau Lekulamahau is a boda boda (motor bike) operator and businessman born and raised in Laisamis, Marsabit County. Mbau is one of the 498 morans from community conservancies currently in NRTT's Nabuulu Empowerment SACCO (Savings and Credit Cooperative).

"My life is much better these days" says Mbau. "Before joining the SACCO, I would make money from the sale of my livestock, but I could never account for where it went. Through Nabuulu, I learnt about saving. Now when I sell my cattle or make good income from my other business, I save it [in the cooperative]. We can save as often as we like and even save amounts as little as Ksh. 100, which I've found is good, because little by little it adds up."

Over the past year, Mbau has managed to save enough to qualify for a loan to purchase an additional motorbike for his taxi business, and open a small shop in Laisamis. Diversifying his sources of income has reduced his reliance on livestock and the rangelands, and even employ one of his fellow morans as a boda boda operator.

"I am proud to be an employer and to have many sources of income," he says. "These days, as young men, we're realising that you have to put your money in different places, so that if one fails, you always have something to rely on."

Mbau has since paid off his loan, and looks forward to accessing more capital in future to expand his businesses. He has also become an ambassador for the SACCO. "Since my fellow morans have seen my success with the new boda boda, they keep asking me how they can join and I am more than happy to show them how."





Mariella Furrer

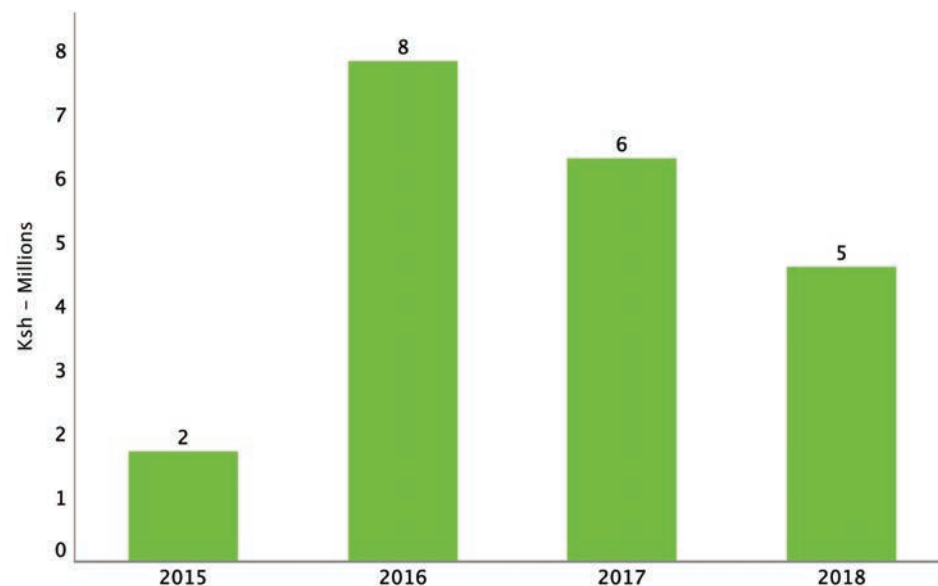
### **BeadWORKS, a NRTT business**

BeadWORKS partners with established women's groups in conservancies to help them turn their traditional craft skills into a viable, sustainable business.

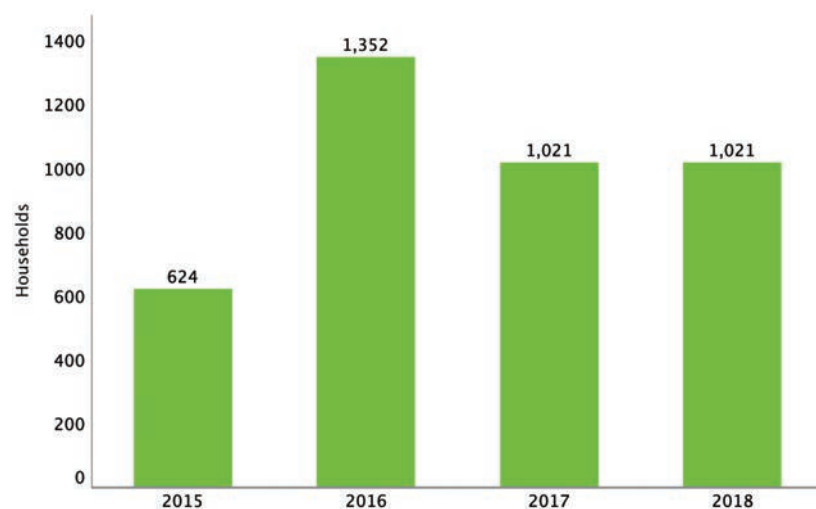
Income from BeadWORKS, combined with the financial services and technology training provided by Nabulu, is transforming the lives of over 1,000 women who are fast becoming role models in their communities. Star Beaders - charged with quality control and ensuring deadlines are met - are now leading savings groups and connecting women to credit cooperatives. In a landscape where women struggle to access education and move beyond traditional household roles, the women of BeadWORKS are challenging norms, inspiring others and becoming entrepreneurs in their own right.

- 1,021 women from nine conservancies are now involved in the BeadWORKS business.
- In 2018 they earned more than Ksh. 4.7 million (US\$ 47,000) in direct income.
- 62,150 items of beaded jewellery, trinkets and accessories were sold to customers in the USA, UK and Australia through BeadWORKS in 2018.
- BeadWORKS women paid Ksh. 1.3 million (US\$ 13,000) to their respective conservancies as a conservation contribution.

## Bead work purchased



## Number of women participating



- There is a large demand to include more women from more conservancies in the business, and the NRT Trading team is focused on marketing efforts to increase demand for their handicrafts. However, measures must be put in place to ensure order deadlines are met. Good rains in April 2018 caused women to concentrate more on livestock activities than beading. With plenty of milk, the pressure to earn income from BeadWORKS drastically reduced, affecting deadlines for custom orders. This led to a 27% year-on-year decrease in income for the women.
- BeadWORKS was represented in the 'NY Now' trade show in New York, USA, in February and August 2018 - during which time over 4,085 items were ordered, valued at US\$ 18,660. Interest from larger retailers and corporate buyers is growing, and the business anticipates several substantial orders in 2019.



Mariella Furrer





### LivestockWORKS, a NRTT business

- 2,335 head of cattle were bought from 1,175 sellers in 14 conservancies in 2018
- Sellers earned Ksh. 94 million (US\$ 940,000) in income
- Conservancies earned Ksh. 6.2 million (US\$ 62,000) in revenue from livestock sales

The northern rangelands are under increasing pressure to support growing livestock numbers, and conservancies are trying to find ways to manage natural resources for the benefit of both cattle and wildlife. LivestockWORKS aims to create that link, by providing a market for pastoralists from high-performing conservancies.

NRTT holds markets in conservancies with good governance and rangeland management, buying cattle directly from pastoralists. Sellers contribute Ksh. 1,000 (US\$ 10) from their sale to their conservancies as an administration fee (in 2018 this amounted to Ksh 2.2 million (US\$ 22,000). NRTT also contributes Ksh. 2,000 (US\$ 20) per purchase to the conservancy as a conservation contribution. A total of Ksh 6.2 million was paid to conservancies in conservation fees in 2018.

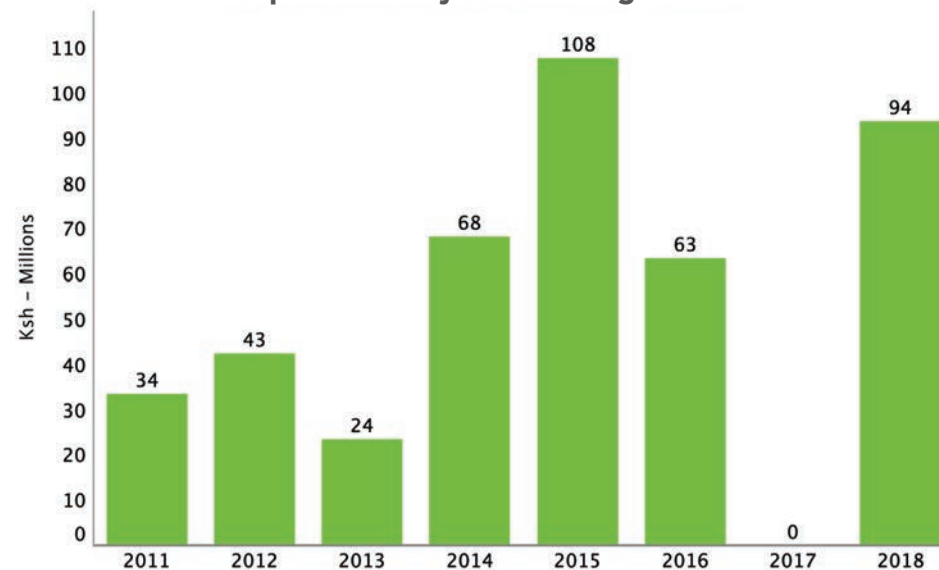
After purchase, each animal is microchipped then fattened on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and other private ranches in Laikipia. They are then slaughtered on OI Pejeta Conservancy and sold to markets in Nairobi.

**Conservancies earned  
Ksh. 6.2 million  
in revenue from  
livestock sales**

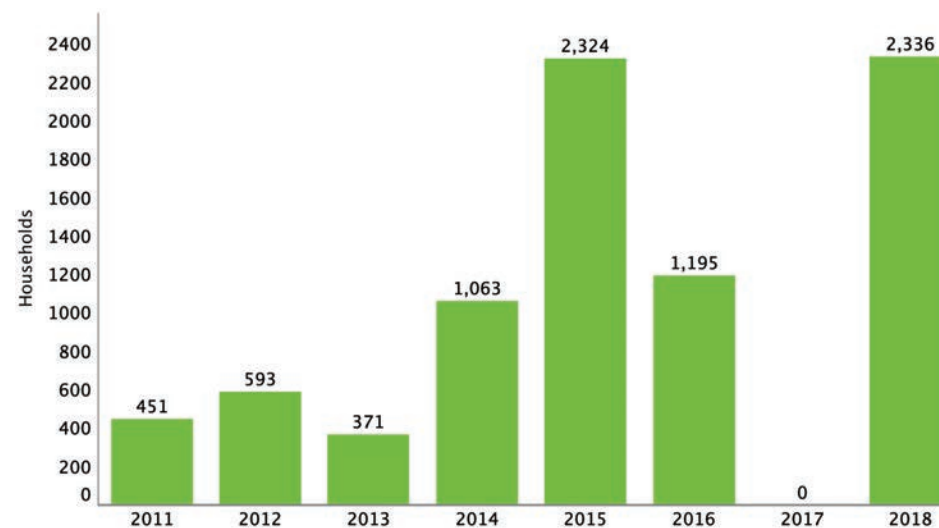
- Drought halted all LivestockWORKS cattle purchases in 2017, so comparisons can be drawn to 2016, when 2,037 head of cattle were bought for Ksh 63.4 million (US\$ 634,000) from 1,195 sellers across ten conservancies.
- Three new conservancies, Kaptuya, Kirimon and Melako, are now participating in LivestockWORKS.
- LivestockWORKS cattle purchases continue to be clouded by negative rhetoric from outside brokers, who tried to dissuade communities from selling to NRT Trading. The mobile weighing scale and transparent, weight-based pricing system is helping to tackle this, as sellers feel confident in the value being offered for their cattle. This led to a high uptake of in the LivestockWORKS program in the Marsabit conservancies which account for 46% of the purchases. Traditional markets still operate on sight-based prices, and County Governments are now under increasing pressure from constituents to provide cattle weighing scales at markets.



### Value of livestock purchased by NRT Trading



### Number of households participating



### PLANNING FOR, AND OVERCOMING, CHALLENGES IN THE LIVESTOCK VALUE CHAIN

The debilitating drought in 2017 meant that NRTT and community cattle lost considerable value due to poor nutrition. To increase drought resilience, NRTT have developed two initiatives:

#### Drought mitigation grass growing project:

NRTT have partnered with El Karama Ranch in Laikipia to grow Rhodes grass, which can be harvested and baled as buffer stock to help pastoralists in need. Grass will be sold at cost to NRTT (for their own cattle) and to communities, where NRTT will use the opportunity to share the principles of supplemental feeding with pastoralists. The long-term vision is to increase Rhodes grass sites all over the landscape, including community conservancies, to maximise drought resilience.

#### Intensive feeding pilots:

NRTT have piloted an intensive feeding trial on Lewa, where community-bought cattle were given access to open grazing alongside nutritionally balanced supplementary food. Periodic weighing was used to determine whether commercially-viable weights were possible using this method. Results showed that cattle can indeed be fattened to market weight during months of good grazing (May-July) with supplementary food - putting on an average of about 800 grams per day. It also showed that during times of drought, supplementation would be the most cost-effective form of cattle management in this landscape. If this can be applied in conservancies, it could mean that a greater part of the livestock value chain can be owned by community members, ultimately leading to higher income for pastoralists. More trials are planned for 2019.



## Tourism, business for conservancies

- Tourism revenue in NRT conservancies was the highest on record, with Ksh. 86 million (US\$ 860,000) paid to conservancies in conservation and bednight fees.
- This is an increase of 31% from 2017.
- Reteti Elephant Sanctuary contributed Ksh. 4.7 million (US\$ 47,000) in conservation fees, boosting income to Ngilai, Namunyak.
- The current Big North website ([thebignorth.org](http://thebignorth.org)) displays an interactive map of tourist facilities in NRT conservancies and from July had the ability to process direct bookings. Between July and September 2018, 104 campsite bed night were booked through the site, generating Ksh. 541,676 (US\$ 5,416) in revenue and VAT, and Ksh. 401,000 (US\$ 4,010) in conservancy fees.
- Development is ongoing for the new Big North portal, launch date to be confirmed.



## Tourism income for conservancies: 2012-2018

Conservancy	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Namunyak	14,463,833	17,802,000	16,961,339	16,427,099	21,665,718	22,911,700	38,247,520
Kalama	5,245,514	7,523,501	7,675,264	7,047,550	8,880,000	13,921,356	19,041,860
Ngare Ndare	3,281,709	3,200,000	4,600,000	6,797,497	6,800,000	8,987,982	4,428,500
West Gate	7,553,007	6,961,902	2,807,661	5,109,296	7,197,111	10,567,004	11,527,515
Lekurruki	3,554,585	5,178,495	3,444,980	2,553,600	2,034,174	0	3,200,000
Lower Tana Delta		1,457,500		1,433,302	0		592,295
Il Ngwesi	1,729,290	2,400,000	2,180,000	1,366,708	4,797,450	1,652,000	2,948,693
Nakuprat-Gotu		620,000	1,562,000	1,320,166	673,154	72,500	655,000
Sera	810,000	1,803,248	2,208,162	403,029	84,490	3,002,000	5,647,000
Ruko	1,356,406	50,000	1,039,750	200,000	198,100	211,000	
Melako			2,945,000	2,052,000			
Ltungai			2,968,200			0	
Ishaqbini		56,000	400,000			147,000	40,000
Biliqo-Bulesa	522,091	329,306	116,000			0	
Naibunga	57,000				68,000	0	0
Meibae		25,000			9,000	0	
Oldonyiro - Nanapisho					100,000	13,000	150,000
Songa						4,460,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,573,435</b>	<b>47,406,952</b>	<b>48,908,356</b>	<b>44,710,247</b>	<b>52,507,197</b>	<b>65,945,542</b>	<b>86,478,383</b>



- NRT Trading conducted a campsite assessment in some conservancies between August and September 2018. Physical assessments were carried out at four sites in NRT Center, and one in NRT North East, while four other conservancies sent their reports to NRT Trading. The findings concluded that basic facilities, such as water and toilets, as well as security, were needed in all sites before they could be marketed more widely, and more customer care training was needed for those rangers interacting with tourists. It is also clear that standard camping rules and regulations for all conservancies would be beneficial.

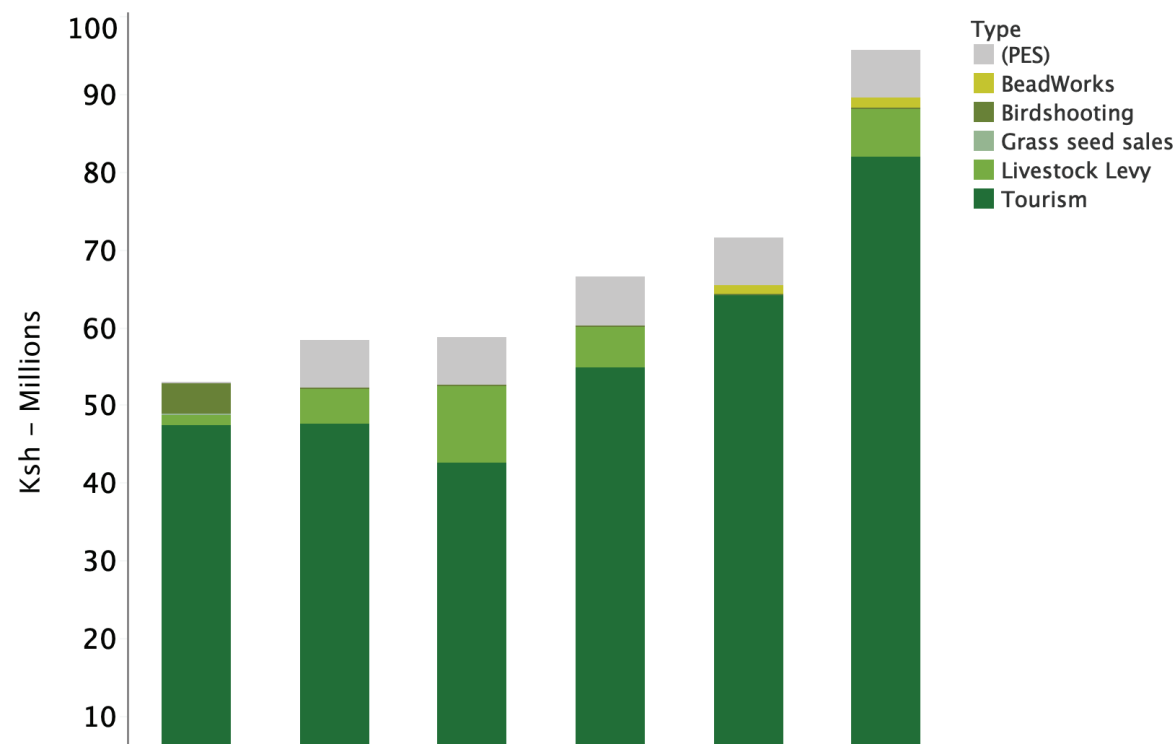
### Other NRTT Businesses

- MangoWORKS: Five shipments of mangoes were made from coastal conservancies to factories. However, the lack of reliable mango customers is hindering the progress of the MangoWORKS project; one customer remains indebted to NRT Trading and the other has gone into receivership. 68 tons of mangoes, valued at Ksh 400,000, were purchased from 117 households in 2018 (compared to 377 tons in 2017).
- The OceanWORKS pilot at the coast looked to address unsustainable, overfishing in near-shore areas.

OceanWORKS aimed to incentivise fishermen to venture into deeper water by providing on-board storage, outboard motors and connections to ready-markets for bigger fish. However, the fishermen hired for the pilot lost interest due to low catches, and there was no activity in 2018.

- NRT Trading identified opportunities for gum and resin businesses in Westgate Conservancy, which have the potential to benefit 200 people.

### Sources of commercial income for conservancies



## 5.

# STABILISING THE RANGELANDS, CONSERVING WILDLIFE



IUCN/SSC

Rangelands management remains the toughest challenge in the landscape. NRT continues to work toward building capability amongst rangeland coordinators, engaging the warrior class in rangelands management and governance, and supporting the rehabilitation of degraded areas.

On wildlife, anti-poaching operations, conservation awareness, wildlife monitoring and endangered species recovery programmes are all having an impact on stabilising key species populations. Marine conservation has started to make real progress along the north coast, with the establishment of protected areas, fish stock monitoring and mangrove restoration.

# 1,478

Acres cleared of damaging/degrading tree species in three conservancies

# 3

Elephants poached in the NRT Centre landscape in 2018 - the lowest number since records began

# 15%

Average annual growth rate of the hirola population in the Ishaqbini Hirola Sanctuary

# 14

Trained reef rangers now leading led coral reef monitoring surveys in seven sites around Pate Island Conservancy

## SUSTAINABLE RANGELANDS MANAGEMENT

NRT are supporting rangelands governance by:

- Enabling rangeland coordinators: Every rangeland coordinator is now fully equipped with a working motorbike, sufficient fuel, camping gear and a work laptop to carry out their duties effectively. However, a number of rangeland coordinators are still under performing, and a meeting with conservancy managers and rangelands coordinators themselves concluded stricter measures needed to be in place. It was agreed that neither rangeland coordinators or managers will receive their salary if reports are not submitted.
- Engaging community members: Morans are typically the group charged with grazing family livestock, and are therefore critical in the rangelands management process. A number of conservancy boards have now incorporated morans within their team to increase engagement from this demographic. NRT also organised a number of exposure tours for morans and women from conservancies in 2018; three trips to Olkirimatian Group Ranch in southern Kenya and four to Westgate Conservancy.

## Cartoons

The NRT rangelands team has developed a three-part cartoon series with the support of USAID Kenya, and the technical assistance of the U.S. Forest Service. Developed in English, Swahili and Samburu, the cartoons look at how the north Kenya landscape has changed in recent years, and examines (through the memories of a wise elephant) the causes and potential solutions. The cartoons are designed to trigger discussion amongst largely illiterate audiences, and have been shown to groups of pastoralists, elders and morans as the rangelands team go about their duties in the field. Each episode is about five minutes long.

The cartoons have received an unprecedented response from communities and other organisations in the region, who have praised and requested to share the videos. The episodes have indeed been shared widely on social media and community WhatsApp groups. The next series - focusing on the specifics of rangeland management (soils, plants, water, livestock, wildlife, people and the climate) is under development, and plans to translate the first series into more languages are underway.





## SPOTLIGHT

### Pioneering Pastoralists: A Westgate Feeding Trial

Growing livestock numbers, an unpredictable climate and the spread of invasive/ destructive plants is leading to degradation and erosion in many grassland areas, threatening livelihoods and wildlife. Many pastoralists struggle to reach or maintain decent market-value weight on their cattle, particularly during dry times. Yet where communities are successfully implementing and scaling their traditional grazing management strategies, planting grasses and clearing invasive trees, the potential of the grasslands to support commercial-grade beef cattle and abundant wildlife numbers is huge.

A group of pioneering morans in Westgate Conservancy partnered with NRT, The Nature Conservancy and Grevy's Zebra Trust to trial a supplementary feeding experiment with some of their bulls in 2018. This trial complements the successful grazing management and rangeland rehabilitation activities that have already been carried out by the Conservancy for the benefit of wildlife and cattle.

For these morans, supplementary feeding is a new concept - traditionally they rely solely on good grass. The trial aimed to reveal whether the value of the weight gain made by bulls on supplementary feed would justify the cost of the feed.

The trial took place from August to October 2018, and involved four groups of bulls that grazed together during the day:

- The first were de-wormed, and fed pellets
- The second were not de-wormed, and fed pellets
- The third were not fed pellets, but were de-wormed
- The fourth were not fed pellets or de-wormed



Jeff Waweru



Jeff Waweru

Results showed that in the first 7 weeks, the bulls that were de-wormed and fed pellets gained an average of 15kgs (one bull put on 46!). Bulls that were fed and not de-wormed put on 6kgs. Those animals that were not fed pellets, but were de-wormed, lost an average of 3.5kgs, while bulls that were not fed or de-wormed lost an average of 1.9kgs.

Interestingly, weight gain from the groups being fed started to plateau after the first seven weeks. This is likely due to their breed, which is programmed to put on fat rather than muscle (which weighs more). It may also indicate the poor genetic potential for these cattle to be used in intensive beef production. The results do show however, that the inexpensive practice of deworming has significant benefits.

The benefits of supplementary feeding for community cattle is likely to be limited just to maintaining body condition during dry times, as opposed to fattening for beef.

But these trials did reveal the high potential of the northern grasslands to support commercial beef production, and an opportunity for pastoralists to start shifting the way they think about keeping livestock - from owning high numbers of poor or medium grade cattle to keeping fewer animals with higher genetic potential for beef production and income generation.

There are plans to conduct a similar trial in Sera Conservancy, where NRT Trading would purchase those bulls that reached market weight at the end of it.





## Rehabilitating degraded land

- NRT supported a women's group from Leparua Conservancy to harvest 200 sacks of *Cenchrus ciliaris* grass seeds from Lewa Wildlife Conservancy after the April/May rains. These grass seeds were distributed amongst conservancies with ongoing rehabilitation efforts, to spread before the November rains. This replenishes the indigenous seed bank with a hardy grass which helps colonise degraded soils.
- Through generous donations, NRT was able to support the clearing of *Acacia reficiens* across 885 acres: 414 in Westgate Conservancy (216 around existing buffer zone boundary near Sasaab, and 198 acres in Naisunyai zone) and 471 in Kalama Conservancy. These two conservancies were chosen as they have shown previous success with rehabilitated areas. Increasing the size of these areas will relieve the "green magnet" effect (where rehabilitated areas become a focal point for encroachment and this exacerbates tension and pressure on the land).
- A significant grant has been allocated to NRT member conservancies by SIDA to undertake the clearing and re-seeding of over 7,000 hectares of land in 2018 /19 /20. The rains in November / December 2018 have delayed this activity to 2019 / 2020.



- 593 acres of land inside the Ishaqbini Hirola Sanctuary were cleared of invasive species.
- The buffer zone in Westgate Conservancy flourished under strong governance and good rainfall in April and May. Resting the land in the buffer zone allowed the 150 cattle in the feeding trial (page 60) to graze here over the August - November period – using bunched grazing and strategic nighttime enclosure sites to successfully heal the worst affected areas.
- Kalama's buffer zone was not as successful; initial good grass growth was taken advantage of by pastoralists who did not abide by grazing rules.

**We're working with partners to use technology to monitor rangelands.**

### Monitoring impact

- Vegetation monitoring using the Conservancy Management and Monitoring System (Veg-CoMMS) was devolved to conservancy level in 2018 to enhance ownership and enable more agile rangelands management activities. This is now led by rangeland coordinators who were trained in using and analysing the Veg-CoMMS database. Data collection happens twice a year in May and December.

- The US Department of Interior visited the NRT landscape in 2018 to undertake field validation of satellite imagery for the development of a live vegetation monitoring tool. This will be useful for NRT to monitor potential conflict spots and also for conservancy staff to identify livestock feeding areas. The working model is now active and phase two – if approved – will involve another field visit to further validate the data and train NRT and conservancy staff on using the tool.

- Similarly, the US Forest Service have developed a remote sensing tool to monitor trends in the distribution of *Opuntia* cactus - an invasive species that thrives on degraded land and often causes injury to livestock and wildlife. It is particularly prolific in Naibunga, where the Conservancy has invested in biological control methods. The remote sensing tool will enable Naibunga to monitor their impact with this project.
- The grasslands carbon program is in the final stage of validation. NRT have partnered with Native Energy (carbon credit brokers) to develop a Help Build program - where carbon credits are sold at a premium to support specific activities. This is on track to launch mid-2019.

- The Regional Centre for Mapping and Resource Development are working in partnership with NRT and member conservancies to develop a publicly accessible online tool which can be used to assess long term historical trends in rainfall, vegetation cover, bare ground, temperature, etc. This tool will be extremely useful for community engagements as it gives visual evidence to support discussions.



Sophie Harrison





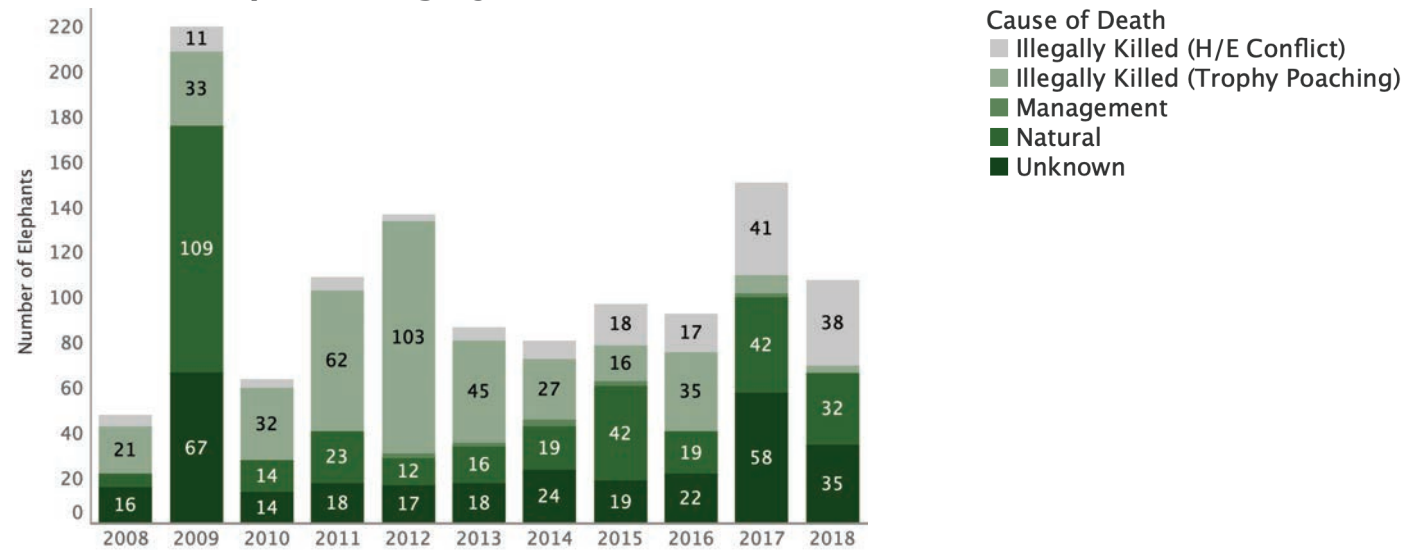
## FLAGSHIP SPECIES AND HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES

**NRT member conservancies are protecting wildlife in six main ways:**

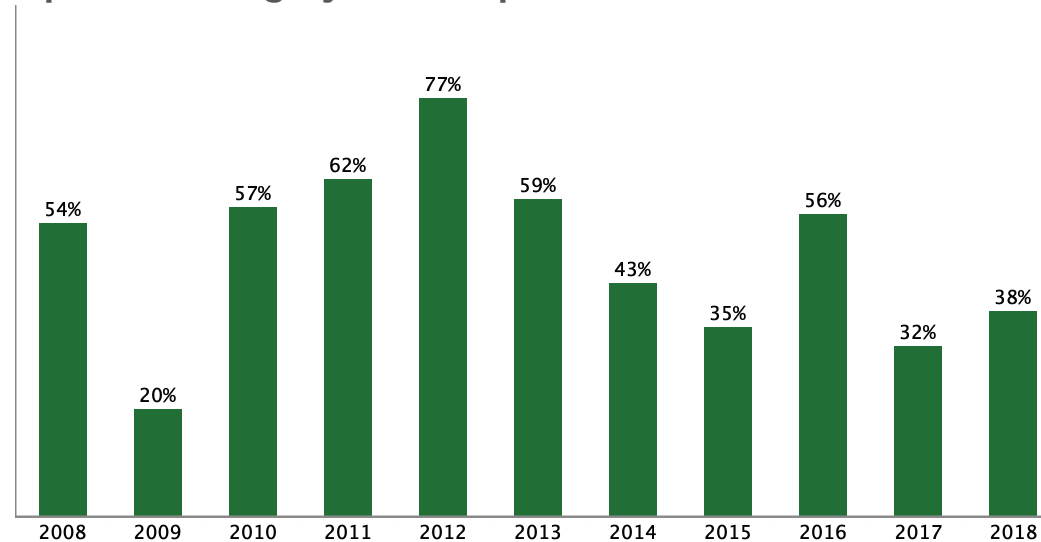
### **1) Anti-poaching operations**

- Three elephants were poached in the NRT Centre landscape in 2018, compared to eight in 2017. This is the lowest number since records began in NRT conservancies in 2010. This is a testament to the hard and effective work of conservancy rangers, rapid response teams and the authorities, who together are making northern Kenya a very hard place for poachers to operate within.
- However, the Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE) increased from 32% in 2017 to 38% in 2018 due to human-elephant conflict (see page 67).
- The deployment of the 9-3 mobile rapid response team around the NRT-Coast region played an important part in curbing bushmeat poaching around Ndera /Ishaqbini conservancies. The team responded to 18 incidences, arresting 24 suspects.

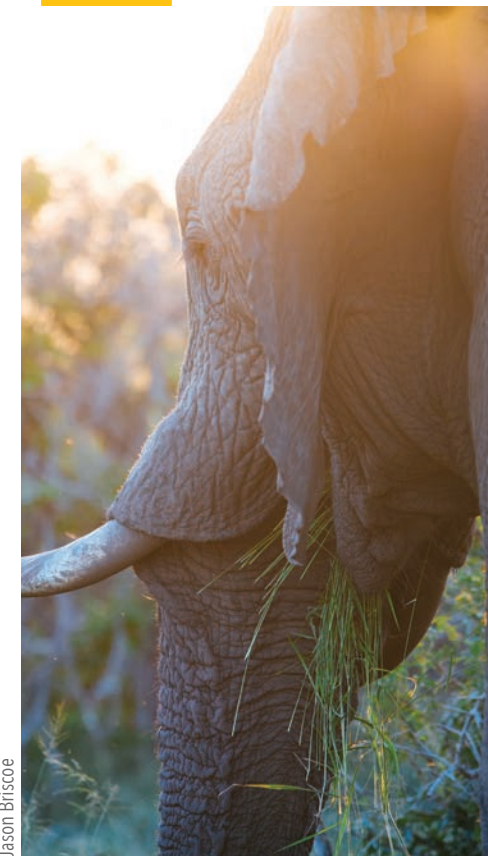
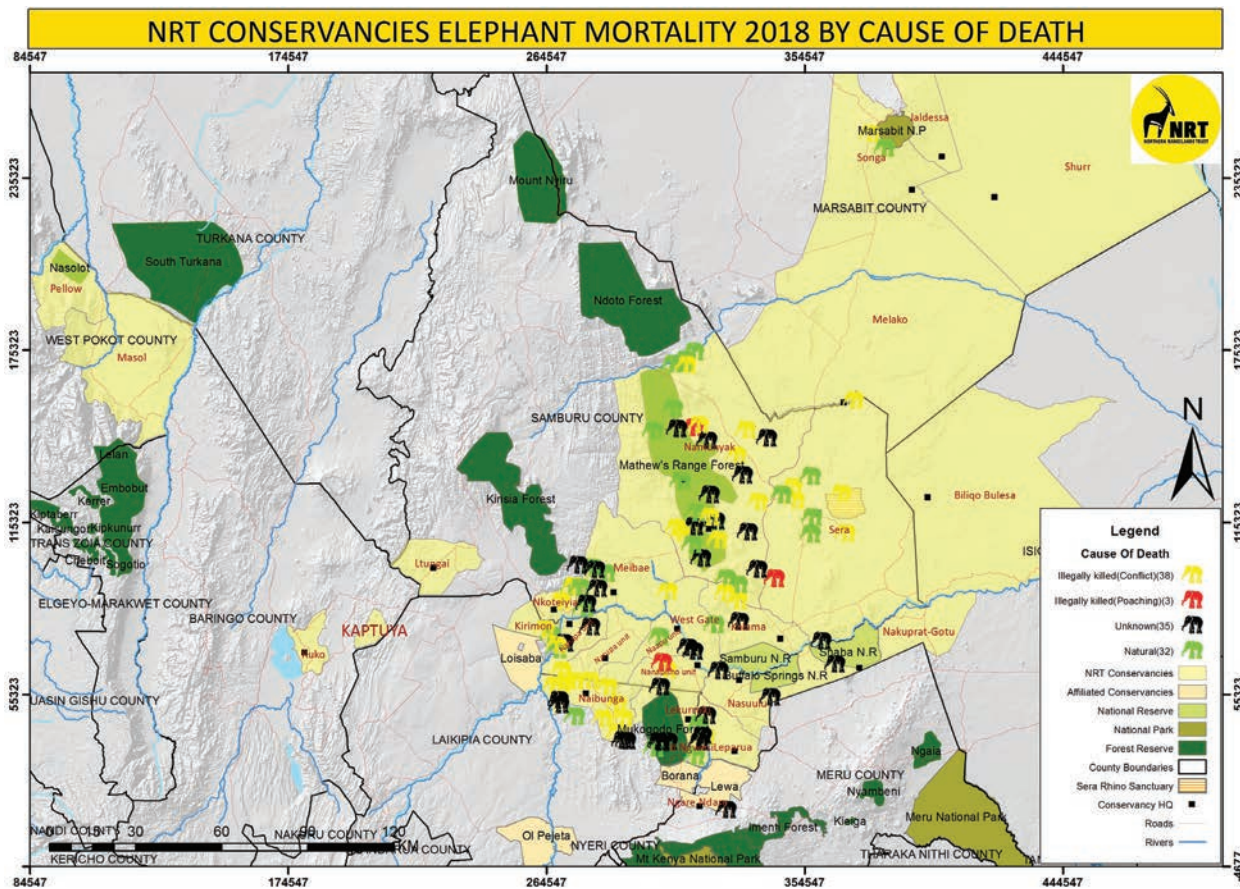
## Number of elephants illegally killed



## Proportion of illegally killed elephants (PIKE)







Jason Briscoe

## 2) Habitat management

- Rangeland recovery efforts (page 62)
- Eradicating the invasive *Opuntia* (page 43)

## 3) Increasing conservation awareness

- Conservancy staff, in particular rangers and drivers, who spend a lot of time interacting with community members play a key role in increasing people's awareness of the challenges and importance of wildlife and habitat conservation, and the consequences of inaction on livelihoods and peace.

## 4) Human-wildlife conflict mitigation

- Human/wildlife conflict killing continues to be the largest contributor to the PIKE figure for elephants, with 37 elephants killed in conflict in 2018 (down from 41 in 2017).
- A 67% reduction in human-elephant conflict was noted in Namunyak, perhaps due to increased awareness as a result of the livestock consolation program that was established in 2018. Supported by KWS, Namunyak Conservancy have launched a community engagement programme that educates and compensates families affected by elephant conflict (injuries/ deaths/ loss of livestock).
- However, there is a hotspot of human-elephant conflict around Naibunga and Oldonyiro conservancies, which provide a critical corridor for elephants moving between Laikipia, Isiolo and Samburu. With an increase in the elephant population, the impact of migrating elephants from Kirisia and Mukogodo into Laikipia is having a more noticeable impact on the increasing number of human settlements in the area. The high concentration of *Opuntia* cacti in Naibunga, a plant favoured by elephants, leads to increased human/elephant interactions.
- NRT are in discussion with the relevant county wardens and NRT County directors to seek a lasting solution.

There was a  
**reduction in conflict  
killing** in 2018 but this still  
continues to be the leading  
cause of elephant deaths



Jeff Waweru



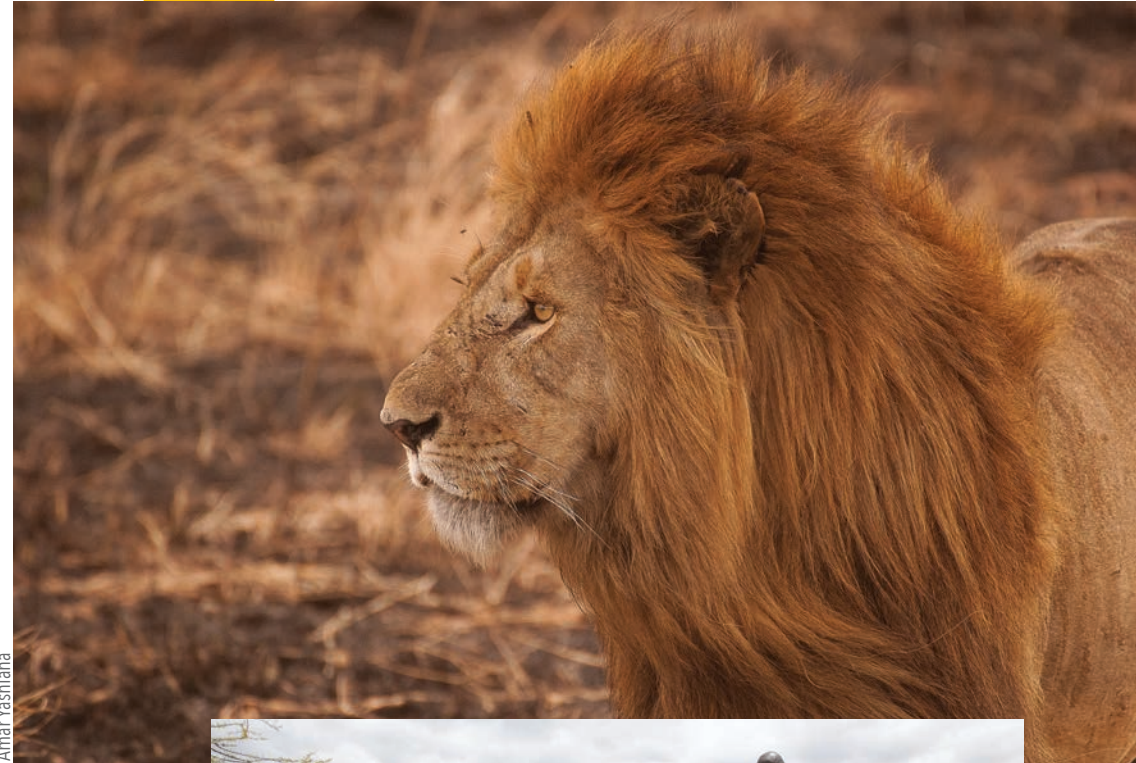
## 5) Wildlife population monitoring

- The Conservancy Management Monitoring System (CoMMS) is a simple, cost-effective way for conservancies to collect and monitor trends in wildlife behaviour, illegal activities, wildlife mortality and human wildlife conflict.
- NRT has developed two CoMMS systems, Wildlife and Marine, to help conservancies to shape and adapt their management approach, highlighting priorities, successes and sometimes failures. CoMMS is a ranger-based monitoring system, and conservancy rangers are able to upload data from their patrols to a centralised database. This is accessible to all conservancies as well as the NRT Monitoring & Evaluation team and the Kenya Wildlife Service.
- CoMMS elephant data is now also being used as part of the CITES Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme.

### Summary of wildlife trends

Results from Wildlife CoMMs indicate that the presence of most key wildlife species has been stable or increasing over the last five years. Buffalo, common zebra and Grevy's zebra are stable though in small herds, with decreased presences notably around Samburu and Buffalo springs National Reserve and the surrounding conservancies of Kalama and Westgate. There is a promising trend in sightings of reticulated giraffe and gerenuk. Lions, cheetahs and wild dogs have also stabilised — a significant increase in abundance has been noted along the Ewaso between Shaba National Reserve, Nakuprat Gotu and Biliqo Bulesa.

Amar Yashlaha



Mariella Furrer





## NRT Key Species population trends based on Index of Abundance from Wildlife CoMMS (2014 to 2017)

### BARINGO

Community Conservancy	Elephant	Eland	Oryx	Giraffe	Gerenuk	Lion	Cheetah	Wild Dog	Grevy's Zebra	Common Zebra	Buffalo
Ruko	Nil	Nil	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Nil	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Stable

### GARISSA

Community Conservancy	Elephant	Eland	Oryx	Giraffe	Gerenuk	Lion	Cheetah	Wild Dog	Grevy's Zebra	Common Zebra	Buffalo
Ishaqbini	Increase	Nil	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Nil	Increase	Increase	Increase

### ISILOLO

Community Conservancy	Elephant	Eland	Oryx	Giraffe	Gerenuk	Lion	Cheetah	Wild Dog	Grevy's Zebra	Common Zebra	Buffalo
Biliqo Bulesa	Increase	Nil	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Nil	Increase	Nil	Increase
Nakuprat Gotu	Increase	Nil	Increase	Increase	Stable	Increase	Stable	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Stable
Nasulu	Increase	Nil	Increase	Increase	Increase	Stable	Nil	Nil	Increase	Increase	Nil
Leparua	Increase	Stable	Stable	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Stable	Decrease	Nil
Ol Donyiro (Nanapisho) (2017 - 2018)	Database newly installed - No trends yet										
Ol Donyiro (Naapu)	Decrease	Nil	Nil	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Stable	Decrease	Nil	Increase
Ol Donyiro (Narupa) (2017 - 2018)	Increase	Increase	Nil	Nil	Increase	Nil	Increase	Stable	Increase	Nil	Nil
Ol Donyiro (Nanapa) (2017 - 2018)	Increase	Increase	Nil	Increase	Increase	Stable	Increase	Stable	Increase	Increase	Increase

## LAIKIPIA

Community Conservancy	Elephant	Eland	Oryx	Giraffe	Gerenuk	Lion	Cheetah	Wild Dog	Grevy's Zebra	Common Zebra	Buffalo
Il Ngwesi	Increase	Stable	Nil	Increase	Increase	Increase	Stable	Stable	Decrease	Decrease	Stable
Naibunga	Increase	Increase	Stable	Increase	Stable	Stable	Increase	Decrease	Stable	Increase	Decrease
Lekurruki	Decrease	Decrease	Nil	Stable	Decrease	Stable	Stable	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease
Kirimon	WCOMMs not yet in place										
Ilmamusi	Rangers Trained on WCoMMs in 2018 – No Trends yet										

## LAMU

Community Conservancy	Elephant	Eland	Oryx	Giraffe	Gerenuk	Lion	Cheetah	Wild Dog	Grevy's Zebra	Common Zebra	Buffalo
Hanshak Nyongoro	Nil	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Increase
Awer	Rangers Trained on WCoMMs in 2018 – No Trends yet										
Kiunga	On Marine CoMMs										
Pate											

## MARSABIT

Community Conservancy	Elephant	Eland	Oryx	Giraffe	Gerenuk	Lion	Cheetah	Wild Dog	Grevy's Zebra	Common Zebra	Buffalo
Melako	Stable	Increase	Stable	Decrease	Decrease	Stable	Stable	Nil	Stable	Nil	Stable
Jaldesa (2017- 18)	Increase	Increase	Nil	Increase	Stable	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Shurr (2017 - 18)	Decrease	Decrease	Nil	Increase	Increase	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Songa (2017 - 18)	Increase	Nil	Stable	Increase	Decrease	Stable	Increase	Nil	Increase	Nil	Nil



## MERU

Community Conservancy	Elephant	Eland	Oryx	Giraffe	Gerenuk	Lion	Cheetah	Wild Dog	Grevy's Zebra	Common Zebra	Buffalo
Ngare Ndare	Stable	Increase	Nil	Increase	Nil	Stable	Decrease	Decrease	Nil	Nil	Decrease

## SAMBURU

Community Conservancy	Elephant	Eland	Oryx	Giraffe	Gerenuk	Lion	Cheetah	Wild Dog	Grevy's Zebra	Common Zebra	Buffalo
Ltungai	Increase	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Increase	Nil	Nil	Increase	Stable	Stable
Nkoteiya (2017 -2018)	Increase	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Stable	Increase	Increase	Nil
Meibae	Decrease	Nil	Decrease	Nil	Decrease	Stable	Stable	Decrease	Decrease	Nil	Nil
Namunyak	Increase	Increase	Nil	Increase	Increase	Stable	Increase	Stable	Increase	Nil	Increase
Sera (2015 to 2018)	Decrease	Decrease	Nil	Decrease	Nil	Nil	Stable	Nil	Increase	Nil	Stable
Kalama	Stable	Nil	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Decrease	Nil	Stable
Westgate	Stable	Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Stable	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Increase

## TANA RIVER

Community Conservancy	Elephant	Eland	Oryx	Giraffe	Gerenuk	Lion	Cheetah	Wild Dog	Grevy's Zebra	Common Zebra	Buffalo
Ndera	Increase	Increase	Nil	Increase	Nil	Increase	Nil	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase
Lower Tana (2017 -2018)	Decrease	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Increase	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Increase

NB: No trends yet for West Pokot conservancies (Masol and Pellow), but rangers were trained on WCoMMs in 2018



Mariella Furrer



Andy Martin

## Endangered species recovery programmes

Four conservancies are managing endangered species sanctuaries with the support of NRT and partners. These conservancies are among just a handful of their kind in Africa, and are blazing a new trail for community-led endangered species conservation.

### Black rhino, Sera

- Three black rhino calves were born in the Sera Rhino Sanctuary in 2018 – two females born in January and August, and a male born in October. There were no deaths, bringing the population to 15 from 12 in 2017.
- The current sex ratio stands at six males to eight females.
- 29% of the population are calves below 3.5 years, 14% are sub adults and 53% are adults.
- Loijipu - the male rhino calf born in Sera but hand reared at Reteti - is in the process of re-integration with the other individuals in Sera.
- 24 elephants were moved out of the Sanctuary in June 2018, reducing the elephant density.
- The conservancy received good rains in the months of April/ May leading to good vegetation growth and cover. Three sand dams were completed and successfully harvested rainwater. This changed some of the preferred territories of some rhinos due to the surface water distribution.

**3 black rhino  
calves born in  
Sera in 2018**

## Hirola, Ishaqbini

- Population in the Ishaqbini Sanctuary increased by 17% in 2018, with 18 births and three deaths (two of which were adult males who died as a result of fighting). This brings the population to an estimated 117-129 individuals.
- There has been a 15% average annual growth rate in the Sanctuary since it was established in 2012.
- The removal of other wildlife from the sanctuary, through a two-way gate system, is helping to reduce food competition and avoid maximum carrying capacity.
- A survey of diseases that affect both livestock and wildlife in Ishaqbini was carried out through interviews with elders and herders. With support from St Louis Zoo and San Diego Zoo, 35,000 head of livestock (15,000 cattle, 10,000 sheep and 10,000 goats) in Ishaqbini were vaccinated against common diseases.



Ken Coe

## Rothschild's giraffe, Ruko

- Two of the nine giraffe subspecies are found in NRT member conservancies - the reticulated and the Rothschild's (also known as the nubian or Baringo giraffe). The reticulated giraffe is abundant and widespread within NRT conservancies, while the endangered Rothschild's giraffe is only found in Ruko Conservancy - where eight individuals were moved in 2012. It was hoped that under community guardianship, this small group would breed and repopulate surrounding areas.

- Tragically, only six giraffe remain in Ruko. In 2017, one female died as a result of falling off a cliff, and an adult male died from compaction of the intestine. The first calf to be born in Ruko fell victim to a python. Another calf was born in September 2018, but died shortly after birth due to unknown causes.

- At the moment the giraffes are isolated, after rising water levels created an island of their sanctuary. Ruko Conservancy, in partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service and supported by NRT

and Baringo County Government, are working on a recovery plan that will see a bigger sanctuary established on the mainland. This is becoming urgent, as there is insufficient food on the island to sustain a growing giraffe population (Ruko has been supplementing the giraffe's food to ensure that the animals are not nutritionally stressed).

- Extensive community consultations to agree on the area for the new sanctuary were held in 2018, and feasibility assessments were carried out by the Kenya Wildlife Service.



## Other Endangered Species

- Nakuprat Gotu Conservancy has been focused on monitoring and protecting its Beisa oryx population. With support from FFI, an aerial census conducted in September 2018 estimated approximately 709 Beisa oryx compared to 631 counted in the same area in June 2017. These figures are not precise population estimates, as the animals are free ranging, however, it gives an indication of the status of the population ranging in the eastern part of Shaba National Reserve and Nakuprat Gotu Conservancy. Nakuprat Gotu Conservancy have made concerted efforts to educate communities on the importance of this population.





## Reteti

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Reteti is the first community-run elephant sanctuary in Africa, and was established in August 2016. It is owned by Namunyak Community Conservancy, one of NRT's oldest and largest members. The sanctuary currently provides employment for 48 keepers, most of whom are drawn from the Ngilai community of Namunyak. Reteti first and foremost aims to reunite lost or abandoned elephant calves with their herds, responding to calls from rangers across the landscape. Failing that, the team will take the calf to the purpose-built sanctuary, where it will be hand-reared by dedicated keepers until it is strong enough to go back to the wild. Operating in and around NRT conservancy areas, the Reteti rescue team work closely with conservancy rangers, local communities and the Kenya Wildlife Service.

Reteti currently cares for 14 orphaned and abandoned elephants (seven males and seven females). The team responded to 11 call outs in 2018, mostly to calves that had accidentally fallen into water wells or become separated from their herds. Five calves were reunited with their families in the field, which is always the most prioritised and desirable outcome. Despite the best efforts of the team, four calves were found in too dire a state to respond to treatment, while some succumbed to illness soon after their rescue. One calf was taken to the Sanctuary and is doing well under the care of keepers.

Three of the older male elephants at the Sanctuary - aged between three and four years old - are currently being prepared for reintroduction to the wild, pending approval from the Kenya Wildlife Service. A task force including Reteti management, the Reteti board and other regional stakeholders and conservation organisations has been formed to steer the process and identify an appropriate release site.





## Visitors and revenue

Reteti received 995 visitors in 2018, bringing the Sanctuary more than US\$ 19,000 in revenue. Five groups from community schools also visited the elephants, an experience which helped raise awareness about elephant conservation.

## Infrastructure

- New stables funded by the MPESA Foundation have increased the sanctuary's carrying capacity.
- A field laboratory was built with funding from San Diego Zoo Global and is expected to be operational by early 2019. San Diego Zoo has trained two animal health assistants to conduct laboratory diagnosis, which has already helped the team make more rapid and informed treatment decisions for sick elephants.
- New staff quarters have been built and older ones refurbished through the support of the San Diego Zoo, Conservation International and Tusk Trust.
- Construction of Reteti House - a tourism facility - is ongoing.







"We have always co-existed with elephants, but in the past we viewed them as something to be wary of. They would collapse our wells, obstruct our paths and in some cases our young men would come into conflict with them while herding.

Since the sanctuary opened, I think things have changed - we visited once and saw the young ones of elephants, they seemed gentle, playful and in need of care just like cow calves or human babies. I now know that it is something valuable we are doing here - setting aside our land to take care of these orphaned calves. A number of our children are employed at the sanctuary and we are grateful for that direct benefit. But beyond that, I know that this is something that will support my grand-children for many years."

— Maria Longojine, Ngilai, Namunyak Community Member



## FOREST AND MARINE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

### FOREST

- Tana River Primates – Ndera Conservancy borders the Tana Primate National Reserve; home to the critically endangered Tana River Red Colobus and Tana River Mangabey. In 2018 NRT began a focused project on Tana River Primates which included mapping the riverine forests within Ndera, including parts of the National Reserve, and training conservancy rangers in primate census techniques. The density of Tana River Red Colobus and Tana River Mangabey remains relatively high in the remaining intact forest patches, and the aim is to conduct an annual census of primates in all forest patches beginning in 2019. Forest destruction for farmland and logging of certain tree species remains a threat in this area. As part of their Conservancy Management Plan, Ndera has placed a strong emphasis on forest protection through reviving traditional forest management practices and rules using both the Gaza (Pokomo elders) and conservancy for enforcement of these traditional rules.
- 35 mustard tree (*salvadora persica*) logs were confiscated in a joint operation between KWS and Hanshak-Nyogoro rangers as they increase efforts to curb illegal logging.

Yvonne de Jong & Tom Rutynski







## MARINE - NRT-COAST

### • Monitoring:

- Eight marine rangers from Pate and Kiunga conservancies received refresher training in Marine-CoMMS in March 2018, which covered database skills and fish catch data analyses.
- 14 rangers in Pate and Kiunga completed training on underwater coral reef monitoring. They led coral reef monitoring surveys in seven sites around Pate Conservancy (including two locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) - set aside by the community as no-take zones). These data will form the baseline to determine the impact of community-based fisheries management on recovery of fish and corals in these areas. Data showed that four sites consistently had high fish densities, dominated by sweetlips, snappers and parrotfish. These sites also had the highest cover of live corals, and while one is already designated as an LMMA, two of the others have been identified as having potential to become a LMMA. Macro-invertebrate densities, including sea-urchins (an indicator species), were low across all sites.

### • Learning:

- In April 2018, five Pate Conservancy members embarked on a learning exchange trip to Madagascar, supported by The Nature Conservancy. There they saw LMMAs and fisheries co-management flourishing under strong governance, the use of traditional customary laws in marine conservation, and strong participation from women. The group from Pate also met a women's group who ran a successful octopus fishing business, made possible through community-led fisheries management. Two sites in Pate Conservancy have been identified to trial seasonal octopus closures, and two women's groups have been established to organise octopus fisheries.



- Managing:

- Working with TNC and Fauna and Flora International (FFI), NRT is drawing on lessons learned from five years of work with coastal community conservancies to develop a marine strategy that will provide a road map for the implementation of NRT's Marine Programme over the next five years (2018-2022). The strategy will also be used to support development of fundraising proposals, and to provide a framework for engagement and collaboration with other partners.

- Protecting & rehabilitating:

- Conservancy rangers in Pate have strengthened partnerships with the Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, and the Fisheries Department and conduct frequent joint patrols to deter poaching, illegal logging, and illegal fishing within LMMAs.
- Communities in Pate and Kiunga conservancies, together with the Kenya Forest Service, have planted more than 10,000 mangrove seedlings across five acres of degraded mangrove forest
- A joint pilot project between NRT-Coast, Pate Conservancy and Safari Doctors aims to address the waste disposal problems on Pate Island - where currently a lot of trash ends up on the beaches and in the sea. 15 waste bins and three dump pits have been constructed in Faza village.

**10,000** mangrove seedlings have been planted by NRT-Coast conservancies





# ASANTENI SANA

The Northern Rangelands Trust would like to thank the following principal donors and partners, and many other partners, donors and investors (listed on the website), for their invaluable support.



**EMBASSY OF DENMARK**  
*Danida*



Baringo County  
Government



Garissa County  
Government



Isiolo County  
Government



FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL

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für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Laikipia County  
Government



Lamu County  
Government



Marsabit County  
Government



EUROPEAN UNION



**KENYA  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE**



Meru County  
Government



Samburu County  
Government



Tana County  
Government



West Pokot County  
Government



Logos under development: Kaptuya, Kirimon, Narupa, Nannapa, Naapu, Nanapisho, Nkoteiya



**TOGETHER  
WE ARE NRT**



