



State of
Conservancies
Report







State of Conservancies Report

2021



CONTENTS: INSIDE THIS REPORT

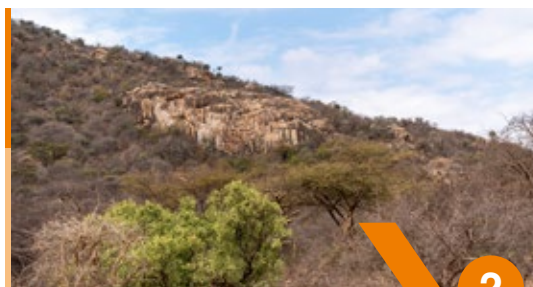


1

Chapter 1

Strengthening Conservancy Governance

- Leadership, Governance and Management Training 22
- Governance Index 27
- Using Media Communications to Increase Awareness and Local Influence 33
- Development of Conservancy Management Plans 39



2

Chapter 2

Building Peace and Security

- Building Peace 50
- NRT's Peacebuilding Powerhouse, Josephine Ekiru, Bags Prestigious U.S. Institute of Peace Award 51
- 2021 Peace Meetings and Training Sessions 53
- NRT's Integrated Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Approach 56



3

Chapter 3

Transforming Livelihoods and Businesses

- The NRT Conservancy Livelihoods Fund (CLF) 66
- Water, Education, Health & Employment 68
- Creating Employment Opportunities and Jobs 78
- NRT Trading 79
- NRT Trading Socio-economic Baseline Survey 80
- Northern Rangelands Savings and Credit Cooperative (NR Sacco) 91



Chapter 4

Conserving Wildlife and Natural Resources

• 16 Years of Conservation: The Story of Westgate Community Conservancy	96
• Remedies for Natural Resource Degradation	100
• The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project	110
• Wildlife	111
• Securing a Landscape for Elephants	122
• Human Wildlife Conflict	124



Chapter 5

Forest and Marine

• Ngare Ndare Forest Trust (Meru County)	128
• Mathews Forest in Namunyak Conservancy (Samburu County)	129
• Ilmamsi Community Forest Association, Mukugodo Forest (Laikipia County)	129
• Mangrove Restoration at NRT Coast	130
• Marine	134



Chapter 6

Finance And Sustainability

• Sustainability	144
• Conservation Trust Fund	145
• Tourism	145
• Carbon	146
• Government Funding	146

From the CEO's Desk



It is an honor and a privilege to again be inviting you all to read NRT's State of Conservancies Report for 2021.

2021 brought with it the highest highs and the lowest lows. It threw us more challenges than we bargained for, as well as more pleasant surprises than we could have imagined.

The pandemic continued to upend our lives, flexing its muscles and pushing the world into the second year of social distancing and economy-decimating lockdowns. Nonetheless, Professor Wangari Maathai's famous remarks rang true— there were opportunities even in the most difficult moments.

Last year began with a big win for conservancy-led wildlife conservation. The first example of this happened on January 19th when the loud cry of a distraught mama elephant stuck in thick mud rented the air, drawing the attention of the community members in Nannapa Conservancy in Isiolo.

The rest of the herd she was part of had long gone, and her baby had wandered around in misery before eventually following the departing herd, according to the foot tracks recovered by the rescue team.

Community members alerted the conservancy manager, Jackson Lekumoisa, who informed the rangers and reported the incident to the team at NRT's Joint Communications Centre (JOCC), who liaised with the Kenya Wildlife Service team for further assistance.

The exhausted elephant mom was released from the death trap with no injuries, thanks to a coordinated rescue effort and the unsparing support of our partners and donors who make these rescues possible.

If the community had not sent out the warning, the elephant would have died. This rescue mission exemplified what the conservation model is all about: NRT collaborating with the indigenous communities it serves to develop long-term solutions that benefit people, land, and wildlife.

NRT's conservation activities are needed now more than ever as the world races to avert the

climate crisis. This is why we are beyond pleased to report that more people have joined us in the quest to restore degraded rangelands across northern Kenya, and the NRT family is growing. Cherab, Kinna, Sericho and Garbatulla Conservancies are NRT's newest members. We welcomed them into the NRT community last year, and with their joining, our project area expanded by over 20,000 square kilometers. Now, NRT serves a total of 43 community conservancies spanning 63,000 square kilometers.

As 2021 proceeded, we continued to do everything we could to enable our member conservancies to surmount pandemic-induced problems and build their resilience against climate change and its devastating impact.

Drawing learnings from 2020, we discovered that some of the obstacles in our path in 2021 were stepping stones. We could still make progress if we shifted our gaze from the Covid-19 'forest' and developed a laser focus on navigating our way through the spaces between the trees. Therefore, it gives us great pleasure to share this report with you as we reflect on strides made in 2021, a year filled with innumerable lessons and wins.

2021 goes down in NRT history as the period with a significant number of notable firsts:

- NRT Trading's BeadWORKS Kenya convened its first-ever women beaders conference bringing together 200 women from NRT member conservancies.
- A giraffe calf was born in the Ruko Giraffe Sanctuary, becoming the first calf born since the 2020 translocation of Rothschild Giraffes from the disappearing Longicharo Island found in Lake Baringo. (Lake Baringo's water level has been steadily rising, which endangered the giraffes, necessitating their rescue).
- Josephine Ekiru, our Peace Coordinator extraordinaire, thrust Kenya into the spotlight, becoming the honoree of the 2021 U.S. Institute of Peace Women Building Peace Award. Josephine was selected as the winner,

out of a pool of 125 nominees hailing from more than 30 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America. Her beautiful story is captured in this report. Reading it, you will discover that she truly epitomizes the saying that adversity causes some to break, others to break records.

Looking ahead, as 2022 continues to unfold with its uncertainties and opportunities, a constant goal for us at NRT will be to continue transforming lives and protecting the natural resources that underwrite northern Kenya's economy.

I now take this opportunity to say an enormous thank you to the staff at NRT and our member conservancies for resolutely taking on the greatest of challenges and delivering superb performance in what was yet another trying year. Know that you are valued and deeply appreciated.

As aptly said by Amanda Gorman, in 2022, "let us choose to not return to what was normal, but to reach toward what is next." While we are only human and naturally inclined to resist embracing the disconcerting new normal, the global challenges of today mutate by the minute, requiring that we show up as a better, updated version of ourselves to overcome them.

To our donors and partners, on behalf of the entire NRT family, asanteni sana. Knowing we could count on you gave us the strength to keep moving in the face of discouraging moments in 2021. Your generous giving enabled us to continue meeting the needs of NRT member conservancies. Thank you for being part of our story.

Finally, to you and yours, from all of us at NRT, may 2022 be your best year yet!



Tom Lalampaa,
CEO, NRT

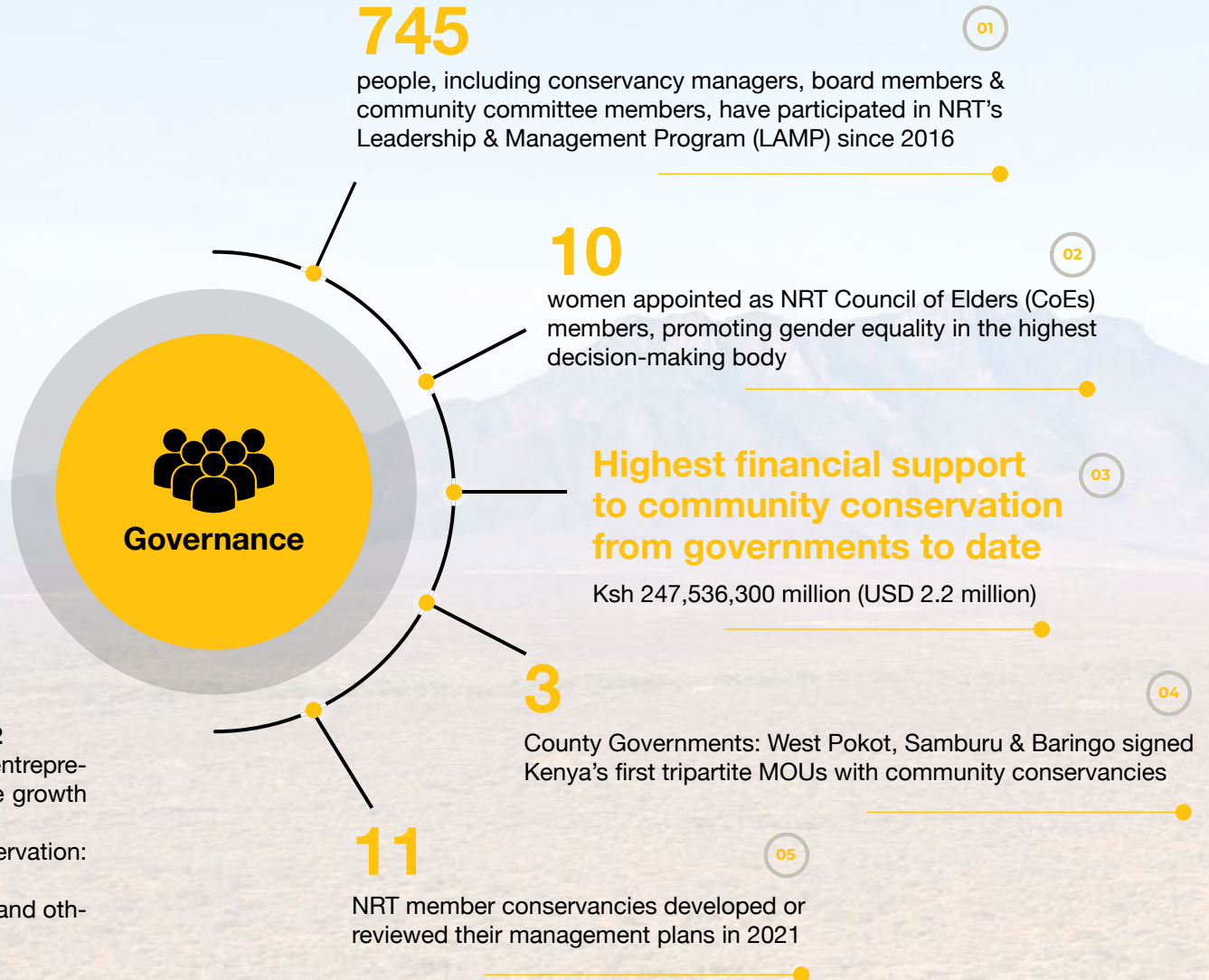


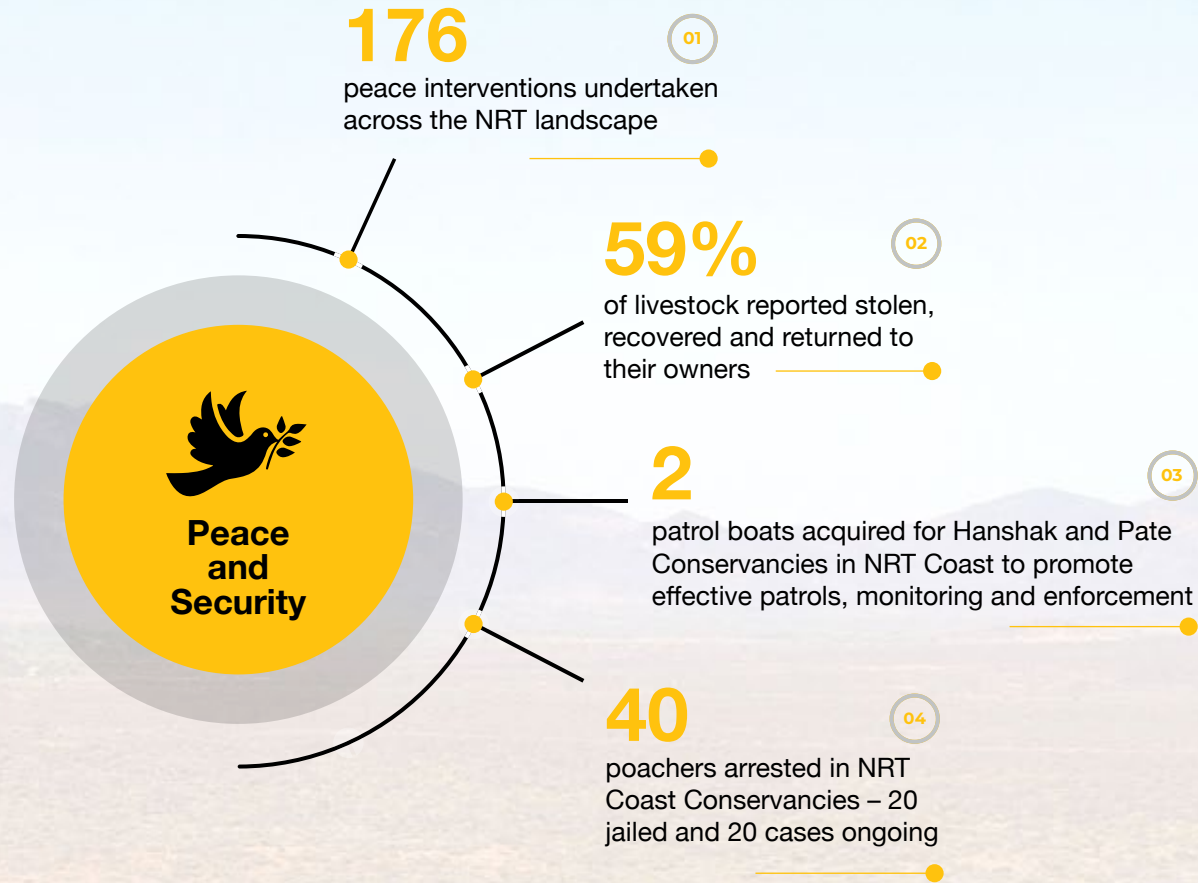
2021 in Numbers

Established in 2004, the Northern Rangelands Trust is a membership organization serving 43 community conservancies spread across 63,000 square kilometers of northern and coastal Kenya.

With the generous support of its donors, partners and the county and national governments, NRT continues to finance indigenous institutions and provide training enabling them to:

- Enhance governance structures: **Chapter 1**
- Lead efforts to promote peace and security: **Chapter 2**
- Identify, implement, and manage developmental and entrepreneurial projects that transform people's lives and drive growth of businesses: **Chapter 3**
- Lead the way in wildlife and natural resource conservation: **Chapter 4 & Chapter 5**
- Establish relationships with investors, the government and others for a sustainable future: **Chapter 6**





49

fishers from Kiunga Community Wildlife Association under Fish to Market Pilot Project trained on proper fish handling, processing, hygiene, and reduction of post-harvest losses

09

82%

of community members interviewed reported improvement in socio-economic status due to NRT Trading's enterprise programs

01

880

households in NRT Coast conservancies have access to portable clean fresh water through construction of 3 underground water tanks and 1 solar-powered water desalination plant

08

Ksh 30,085,774

(USD 273,507) generated by BeadWORKS from the sale of beaded products

02

56

farms (116 Hectares) in Ndera and 1 farm (6.2 Hectares) in Awer fenced with permanent electric fences to protect farms from wildlife invasion

07

150

trainees graduated from Ujuzi Manyattani, a mobile, village-based vocational training program for women and young morans

03

14

groups supported with 104 beehives for honey production in NRT Coast conservancies (Pate, Kiunga and Ndera)

06

2

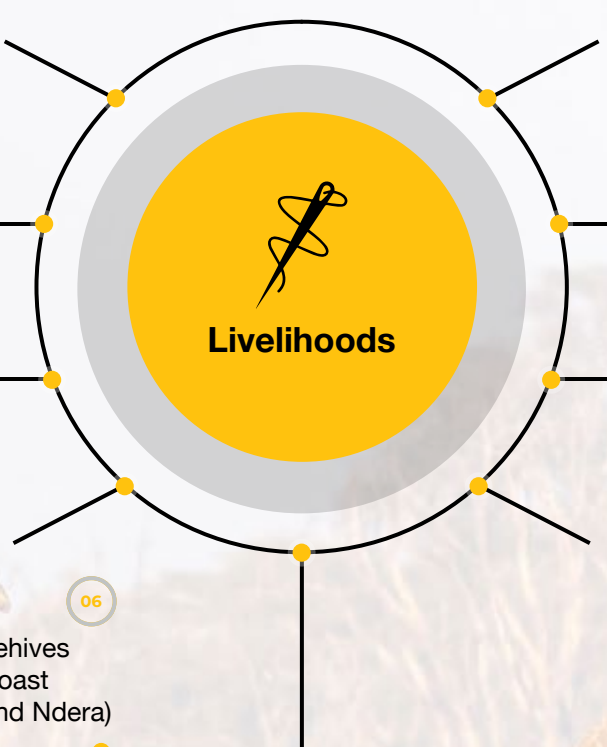
fishing boats provided to the conservancy women's fisher groups in NRT Coast have empowered **160 women** in the fishery industry and improved their household economy

04

Ksh 152,000,000

(USD 1,381,818) was invested in conservancy infrastructure, facilitating the construction (or improvements) of 14 headquarters, 4 scout outposts, 4 schools, 5 KWS camps, 2 sanctuaries, 1 hay store and 4 tourism facilities

05



200

sampling points monitored through Veg-CoMMs for changes in rangelands' health indicators

01

15,000

people including elders, women, youth and morans reached during meetings to increase awareness on rangeland management

02

394

participants trained on successful grazing and settlement planning

03

4,944

casuals engaged during breeding of cochineal bugs to aid in the biological control of the damaging *Opuntia stricta* cactus

04

14

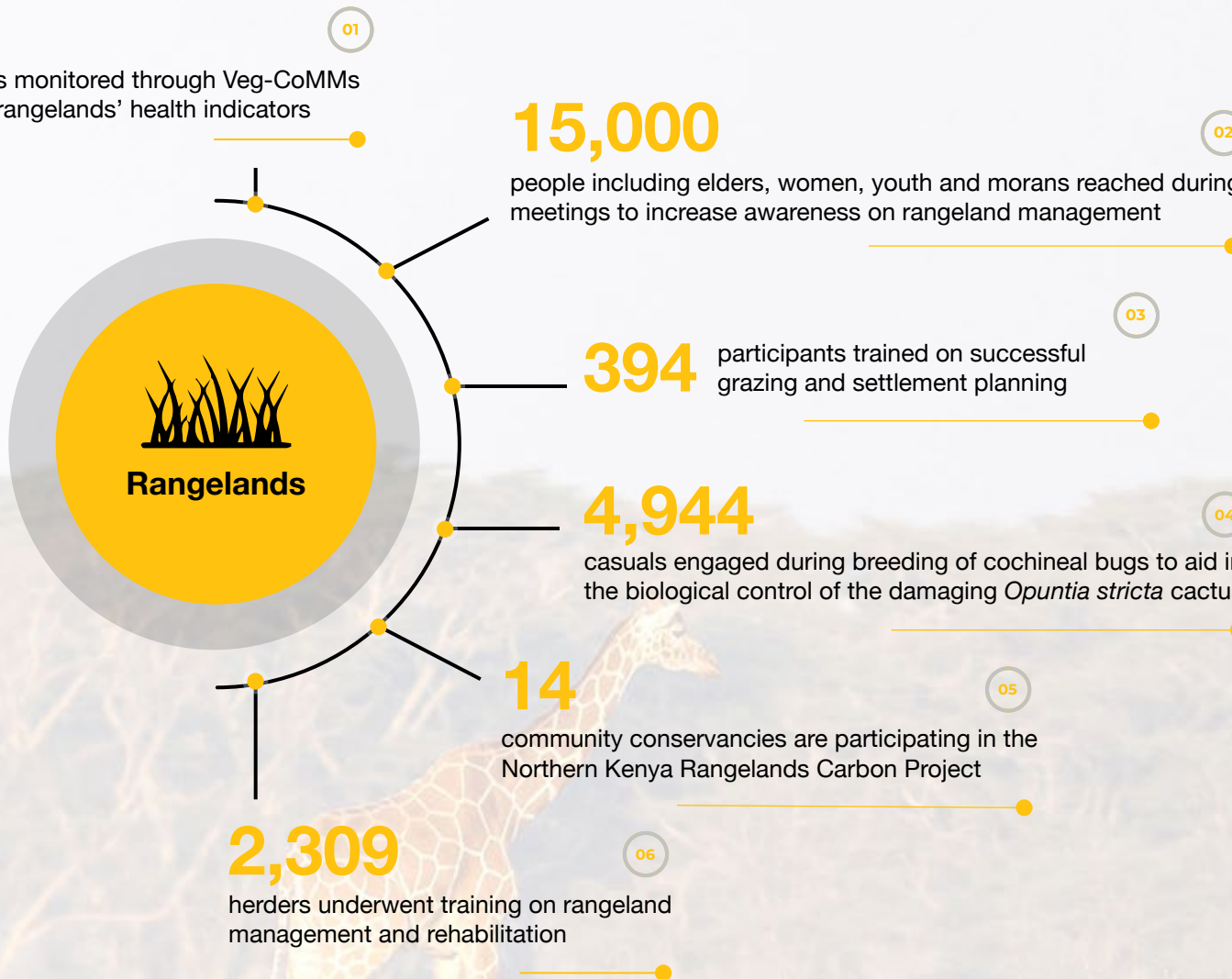
community conservancies are participating in the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project

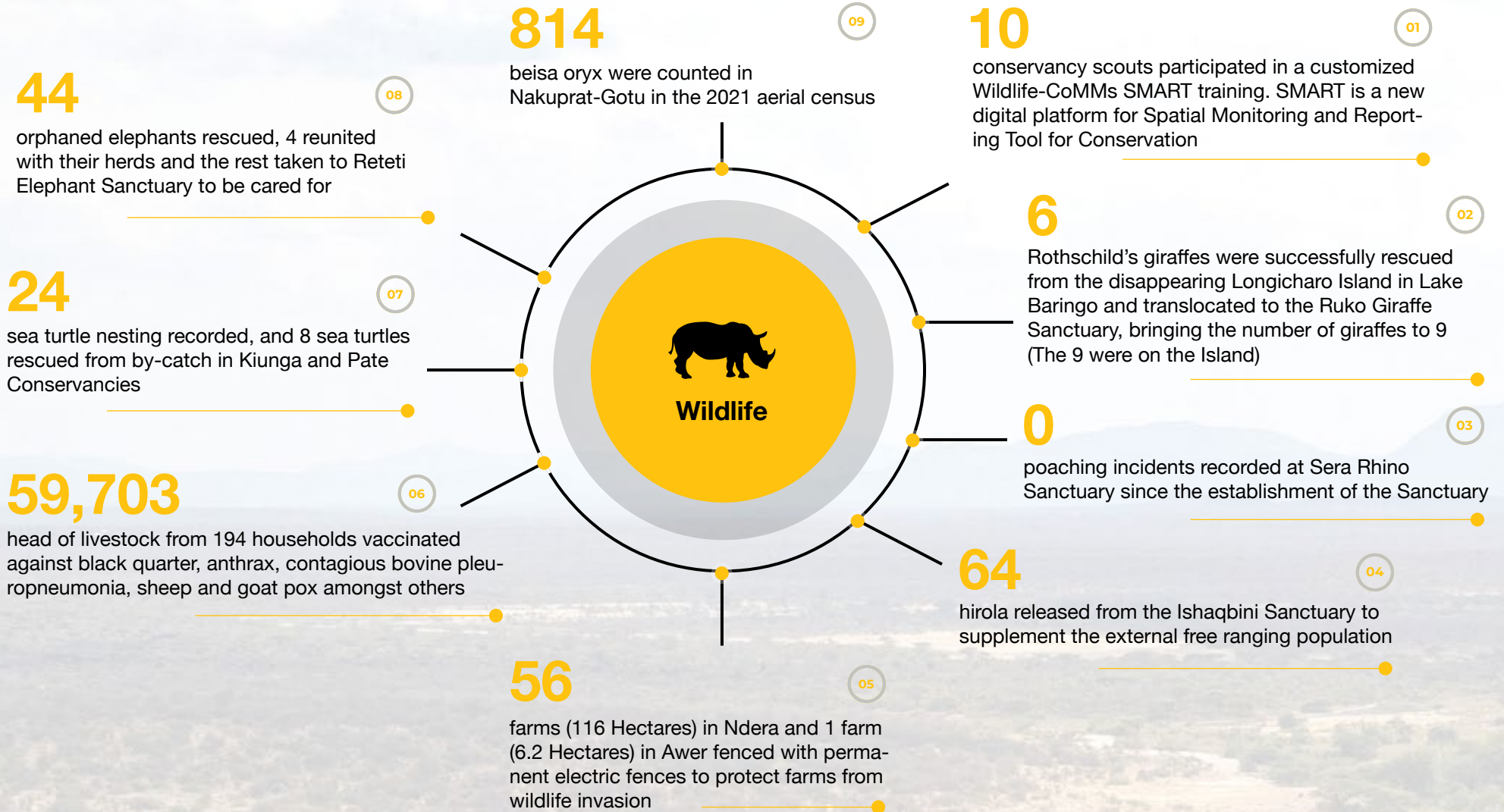
05

2,309

herders underwent training on rangeland management and rehabilitation

06





34.9

tons of plastic waste collected from the surrounding beaches in Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA) in clean-up efforts

01

2

Octopus closures (147 hectares) established and enforced in Kiunga Community Wildlife Association

02

0.5

hectares of degraded reef areas restored within Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) in Pate Marine Community Conservancy

03

45

community reef restoration experts established in Pate Conservancy and now independently monitoring and maintaining the artificial reef structures

04

82

community members and partners trained on sea turtle and marine mammals monitoring, protection, and species ID in Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA)

05

2

Mangrove Community Forest Associations (CFAs) established, and their Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMPs) developed

01

25,070

mangrove seedlings planted and nurseries holding 17,841 propagules established in Pate, Kiunga and Lower Tana Conservancies

02

5,000

indigenous trees planted in degraded forest areas and nurseries holding 7,000 seedlings in Ndera and Hanshak Conservancies

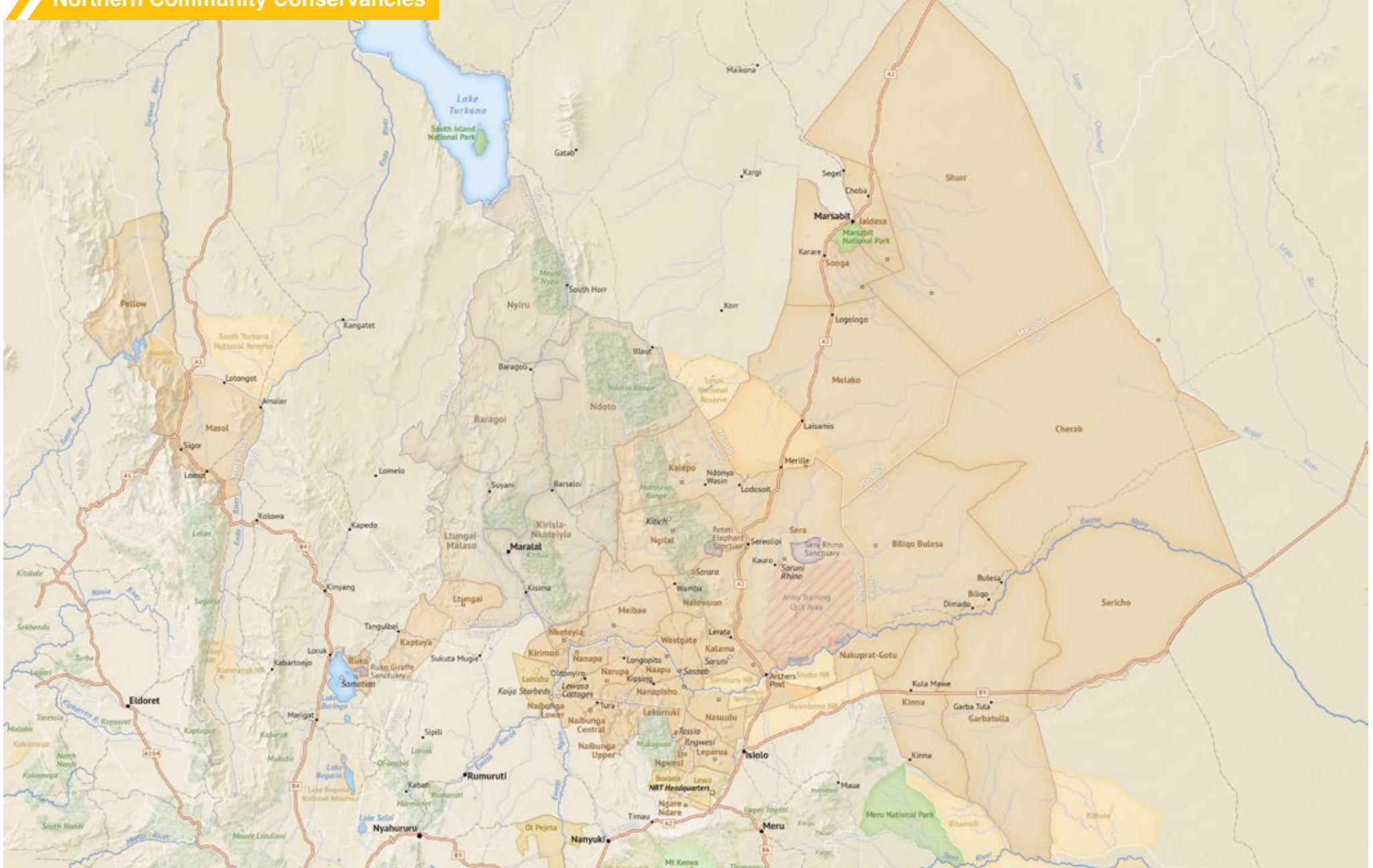
03

520

energy saving jikos and 38 biogas kits distributed to communities in Ndera and Lower Tana Conservancies to reduce overreliance on forests

04

Northern Community Conservancies





Northern Rangelands Trust

Member Community Conservancies 2021

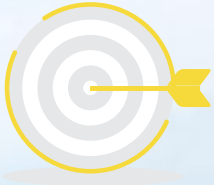
Coastal Community Conservancies



Legend

- NRT Member Community Conservancy
 - Wildlife Sanctuary
 - NRT Affiliated Conservancy
 - County Initiated Conservancy
 - National Park
 - National Reserve
 - Forest Reserve
 - Army Training Unit
 - County boundary
 - Major road
 - Minor road
 - Major town
 - Village or town
 - Saruni
 - Tourism facility
 - NRT Headquarters / Conservancy HQ
- 0 40 Kilometres 40 Miles
- North ↑

Mission



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



Challenges

An intense drought persisted throughout 2021, with nearly all conservancies with rangeland management programs experiencing severe forage shortages.

The prolonged drought in the conservancies had a drastic domino effect. There was a monumental movement of livestock across the region as pastoralists sought pasture for their livestock. Cases of stock theft, road banditry, and ethnic conflict surged, and violent confrontations between pastoralist groups ensued.

Pastoral households were hit hard by the economic downturn at the onset of the pandemic. Job losses and the closure of livestock markets across the country aggravated an already bleak situation when the country went into lockdown and curfews were imposed by the government, among other measures, to contain the spread of Covid-19. This adversely affected household income—partly explaining the proliferation in road banditry and stock theft.

We are working towards realizing lasting behavioral change in pastoralist communities to quicken the restoration of damaged rangelands. To improve the rangelands, we have taken the following measures:

- instituted conservancy-led rangeland governance
- grazing planning and management
- rangeland rehabilitation and management of invasive species
- settlement planning
- regular monitoring and evaluation of the condition and health of the rangelands as well as the impact of NRT and community conservancy activities.

Finance Overview

NRT Expenditure 2021

NRT Core Support Costs (10%)

- Centralized operational support to conservancies and conservancy programs: procurement, logistics, HR, management, accounting
- Funds management and compliance: evaluation, reporting, and control processes
- NRT organizational costs: governance, legal compliance and administration

Conservancy Operations (16%) Lower than 2020 due to the Government stimulus plan for the conservancy rangers' salaries)

- Salaries for conservancy staff
- Conservancy ranger salaries, rations and patrol costs
- Conservancy vehicle operation and maintenance
- HQ operational costs

Grants for Conservancy-led Socioeconomic Projects (8%)

- Women empowerment
- Enterprise development
- Water projects
- Educational bursaries
- Healthcare projects

Conservancy Programs (66%)

- Governance
- Peace and security
- Enterprise
- Wildlife conservation and natural resources management

Abbreviations

AGM: Annual General Meeting (held by conservancies every year as per their MOU with NRT)

CI: Conservation International

CECM: County Executive Committee Member (Kenyan County Government)

CLF: Conservancy Livelihoods Fund

CoMMS: Conservancy Management and Monitoring System (a simple system for monitoring trends in wildlife (Wildlife-CoMMS), attitudes (Social-CoMMS) and vegetation (Veg-CoMMS) in conservancies)

DANIDA: Danish International Development Agency

FFI: Fauna & Flora International

KFS: Kenya Forest Service

KMFRI: Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute

KWS: Kenya Wildlife Service

MCA: Member of County Assembly (Kenyan County Government)

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

MP: Member of Parliament (Kenyan Government)

NDMA: National Drought Management Authority

TNC: The Nature Conservancy

USAID: United States Agency for International Development

For this report:

Ksh 110 = US\$ 1

Together, we are the Northern Rangelands Trust







Strengthening Conservancy Governance

1



NRT's model of conservation is working and we have developed trust in it because the governance model is empowering and benefiting the community in terms of livelihoods and conservation.

Said Rova,
Chairman of NRT Council of Elders





Strengthening Conservancy Governance

Good governance is the fuel that drives resilience, community development and growth in conservancies.

Each NRT member conservancy is managed by a democratically elected board and staffed by locals, frequently bringing ethnic groups that have a history of conflict, to work harmoniously together.

Well-governed conservancies provide an institutional framework for conflict resolution, and generate community support by establishing effective security, grazing and livelihood programs.

Leadership, Governance and Management Training

Good governance in a conservancy creates sustainability, enhances equity of resource utilization and benefit-sharing and creates efficiencies in natural resource management and livelihood development. To help community conservancies improve their governance, we have invested in training in leadership, governance and management.

The Leadership and Management Program (LAMP)

NRT's Transformational **Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) for Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)** enlightens, equips and empowers IPLCs to exercise their human rights, to manage their land, to conserve natural resources and wildlife and secure their livelihoods in the face of an uncertain future. LAMP is offered to all conservancy board and committee members in NRT member conservancies.

To maximize its impact, the Program is designed to take place over a four-month period. It is divided into four modules, one running monthly and each lasting 2-3 days.

In 2021



260 board members from **9** conservancies underwent LAMP training.



14 NRT staff and conservancy managers underwent Training of Trainers (ToTs) training and are currently assisting in the delivery of LAMP in conservancies, facilitating the scale of LAMP all year.



107 community members (**80** men and **27** women) from Sera, Westgate and Kalama Conservancies completed LAMP training.



NRT undertook an impact evaluation exercise of the LAMP training for **62** Women from Il Ngwesi, Lekurukki, Kiunga and Pate Conservancies. According to the women's feedback, the LAMP training had a significant positive impact on them and had transformed their lives.



In the NRT Coast, **60** board members (**45** men and **15** women) from the Pate, Kiunga, and Awer Community Conservancies underwent LAMP training, equipping them to govern and manage their conservancies effectively. LAMP is one of the most impactful training programs NRT has delivered for conservancies since 2016.

The program has significantly transformed conservancy leaders as evidenced by several factors including their increased participation in community decision making, self-esteem, self-confidence, and problem-solving without requiring external support. **9** trainees from NRT Coast conservancies are currently undergoing the Training of Trainers (TOTs) Program.



In West Pokot, **42** board and grazing committee members and area chiefs (**35** men and **7** women) underwent module **4** LAMP training.

“

We are grateful for the LAMP training. We have gained a lot. We are now leaders. I was a heavy-handed leader—but that’s not what great leadership is. This training has enabled me to be a better leader.

Amina Bakari
Lamp Beneficiary, Pate
Marine Conservancy

**745**

indigenous leaders and changemakers in the community conservancies have participated in NRT’s bespoke Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) since 2016.



More on Training in Leadership and Governance in 2021

In 2021, we redoubled our efforts in providing specialized training in program management, governance, business development and peacekeeping—equipping conservancy boards, committees and community members in delivering effective leadership and providing the support these community institutions require on their path to self-sufficiency.

2021 Trainings

Training	Region	People Trained
Board Trainings	West Pokot	84
	Laikipia/Meru	58
	Samburu	168
	Marsabit	77
	Baringo	33
	NRT Coast	69
	Isiolo	49
Community Conservancy Awareness Creation, Natural Resources Management and Governance (including Rangelands Management and Wildlife)	Samburu	2,078
	Laikipia	2,700
	West Pokot	42 grazing committee members trained on rangelands management
	Isiolo	119 youth and women trained on governance and Natural Resources Management Water committee trained on governance and sustainability
	NRT Coast	131

Business Development and Saving	Marsabit	120
	West Pokot	140
	Isiolo	170
	NRT Coast	619 (22 men & 59 women)
Peace; Conflict Transformation and Resolution	Isiolo, Samburu, Marsabit & Laikipia Counties	125 Peace ambassadors trained on conflict resolution
Disaster Risk Reduction	Isiolo	31
	Samburu	-
Gender Mainstreaming	NRT member conservancies	40
Finance and HR Training	NRT Coast (39 pax from 7 Conservancies) Awer, Pate, Hanshak, Ishaqbini, Kiunga, Ndera, Lower Tana NRT West (4 Conservancies) Pellow, Masol, Ruko and Kaptuya NRT Mountain Region (7 Conservancies) Naibunga Upper, Naibunga Lower, Naibunga Central, Kirimon, Il Ngwesi, Lekurukki and Ngare Ndare	95 (Finance) 40 Managers (HR)
BeadWORKS Training	Kalama, Il Ngwesi, Westgate, Sera, Melako, Leparua, Lekkuriku and Naibunga Conservancies	1,250
Fodder Bank Production	Ltungai	187
Fisheries co-management and Governance Training	NRT Coast (Pate, Kiunga and Lower Tana Delta Conservancies)	224

Governance Training for Boards and Committees

Boards and committee members of Kaptuya, Ltungai, Pate, Kiunga, Awer, Westgate, Kalama, Sera, Il Ngwesi, Lekurruki and Marsabit Conservancies underwent training on their leadership and management roles and responsibilities.

46 board members (31 men and 15 women) from Pate and Ndera Conservancies underwent board training.

34 board members (30 men and 4 women) from Sera Conservancy attended a board training and participated in a bonding session.

60 community members (32 men and 28 women) from Nakuprat-Gotu and Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancies attended the Youth, Women Governance and Natural Resource Management Training.

14 water management committee members (13 men and 1 woman) from Kiunga, Pate and Hanshak Conservancies underwent training on governance and sustainability.

Refresher Training for Boards

23 Awer Conservancy board members (19 men and 4 women) underwent refresher training.

Finance Management Training

Conservancy members in Baringo, West Pokot, NRT Coast, and Laikipia underwent Finance Management Training. The training improved the conservancies' finance committees' understanding of effective financial management and their roles and responsibilities in financial management. An action plan was developed to address the issues raised in the 2020 audit reports. Additionally, the finance team checked in with the managers to ensure

all financial management systems (PayPlus, QuickBooks, Dropbox, etc.) were effective and that accounts records were correct and up to date.

Business Management Training

8 people (6 men and 2 women) from Ngilai and Nkoteiya Conservancies were trained on business models and entrepreneurship.

619 people (22 men and 597 women) from NRT Coast Conservancies underwent training on entrepreneurship skills, business models and financial literacy.

Exposure Training

18 people (12 men and 6 women) from Ltungai Conservancy attended an exposure training at the Maasai Mara. 33 board members and key stakeholders (25 men and 8 women) from Hanshak and Ndera Conservancies participated in a learning exchange visit to Ngare Ndare, Kalama and Reteti Conservancies in Northern Kenya.



Governance Index

To enhance the conservancies' governance capacity, NRT has continued to revise and improve our approach for measuring governance and management effectiveness, and using the conservancy governance index to inform tailored support to each community conservancy.

In 2021, the Governance Index included self-reporting by conservancy management and board members, as well as NRT's assessment of management effectiveness by NRT's Regional Coordinators. The survey assesses accountability, performance, legitimacy and voice, fairness and rights, and conservancy direction. The survey's results reveal trends in operational efficiency, strategic planning, inclusivity, and equity in decision-making and benefit-sharing.

The overall NRT Governance Index scores reported in 2021 reflect an average score in each category across all conservancies.

Conservancy direction, legitimacy, and voice emerged as the strongest aspects of conservancy governance in 2021.

Overall average governance score for member conservancies was 63% in 2021.



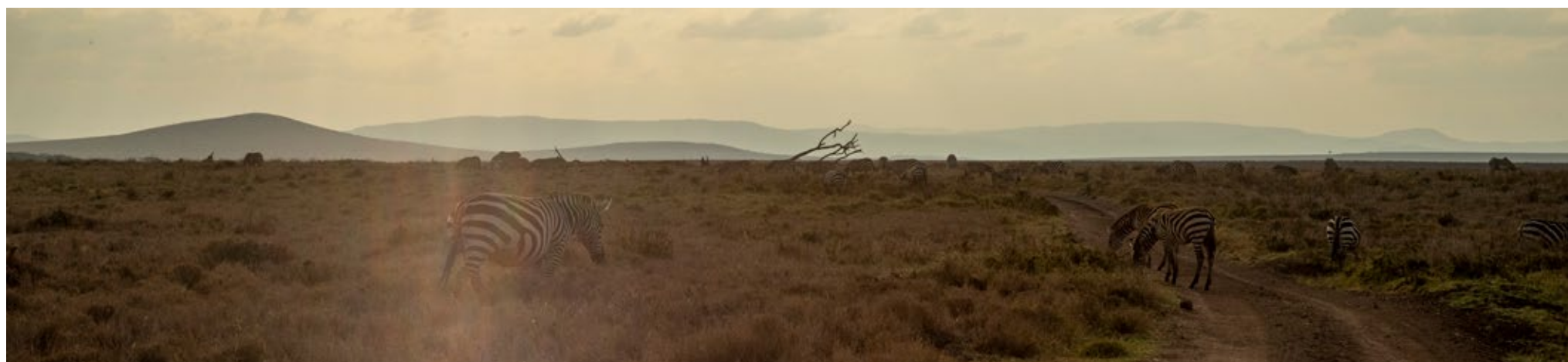
2021 Conservancy Elections

Each community conservancy member of NRT has a board of directors democratically elected by the community. The board oversees community-elected finance, grazing, and peace committees. The conservancy’s manager, accountant, head of rangers, and conservancy drivers report to the board.

NRT provides oversight, leadership and management training to its member conservancies to help them develop the capacity they need to implement effective governance systems that work in tandem with traditional structures.

County	Elections Held (Conservancy)	Women Elected	Total Members
NRT Coast	Ndera	4	12
	Pate Marine	4	12
	Lower Tana Delta	3	12
Marsabit	Songa	4	13

	Melako	5	17
	Shurr	3	13
	Jaldesa	4	13
West Pokot	-	-	-
Isiolo	Leparua	1	17
	Nasuulu	4	17
	Nakuprat-Gotu	2	16
Samburu	Ngilai	10	30
	Kalepo	6	24
	Westgate	5	15
	Kalama	5	15
	Sera	10	30
	Nalowuon	10	30
Laikipia & Meru	Lekurruki	4	11
Baringo	Ruko	4	12
	Kaptuya	4	13



Harnessing the Power of Inclusivity

Across the northern Kenya landscape, women and youth are frequently left out and left behind in the decision-making process regarding the management of natural resources, despite being the primary users of these resources. The patriarchal societies have cultural barriers which typically hinder women’s involvement in governance, ultimately undermining the ability of conservancies to realize their full potential as vehicles for social change, livelihoods development, and conservation.

To close the gender gap, NRT has prioritized gender mainstreaming internally and in member community conservancies. Over 1,000 women work in conservation and community development projects across the conservancies. While NRT has made significant strides in promoting gender equality, much more work is left to be done. NRT will continue to strategically identify gender gaps and promote culturally appropriate solutions to ensure that all conservancy members and leaders—regardless of gender—can fully participate in and benefit from NRT’s conservation efforts and livelihood activities.

Staff	No. of Women	Percentage of Total Staff who are Women
NRT	33 out of 270	12
Board	10 out of 43	23
Conservancy managers	3 out of 43	7
Rangers	82 out of 1,050	8
Rangelands coordinators	2 out of 23	9



In line with the newly adopted Gender Strategy, NRT in conjunction with partners, convened the following high-level gender mainstreaming forums in 2021, to support women in conservation:

40



indigenous women leaders from NRT's member conservancies in Northern and Coastal Kenya converged for a two-day Women's Leadership Summit co-hosted by NRT and Conservation International (CI).

The Summit's objective was to strengthen the women's leadership skills, foster a sense of shared empowerment, promote diversity in leadership, expand the women's networks, create female role models, and ultimately a pool of potential women leaders from which to recruit from the conservancies.

200



Star Beaders from eight community conservancies in Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu and Laikipia counties gathered to deliberate on their roles in community conservation, share experiences, challenges and exchange ideas as business mentors and leaders within their respective conservancies.

130



women from northern and coastal Kenya convened on the 8th of March in Laisamis, Marsabit County to commemorate International Women's Day and the milestones achieved through the community conservation model.



beaders from eight conservancies participated in an exposure trip to the Mara conservancies where they learned and exchanged ideas on conservation and entrepreneurship and networked with other women leaders.

35



women, peace champions from Samburu and Turkana communities in Samburu North, conducted a peace-building mission to promote peace in the volatile Suguta Valley-Baragoi region.



A **12-member** Gender Committee was formed to spearhead gender mainstreaming in NRT programs and conservancies.

10



women were appointed as members of the NRT Council of Elders (CoEs) to promote gender equality in the highest decision-making body.

NRT Coast conservancies established women fisher groups to spearhead various conservation and community development projects. The women fisher groups from Pate Conservancy secured **2 fishing boats**, the MV Pweza I and II to help them access fishing grounds safely. The boats made the fisheries industry easier for the women to navigate and boosted their household economies. When they went fishing, the women caught octopus and saved **5%** of the proceeds from each kilogram of octopus sold. Their present savings amount to **Ksh 314,900. (USD 2,862)**. The women purchased a one-acre plot of land at a subsidized price, using their savings, and are building a nursery school for their children on it.



Conservancies and Gender Equality

Breaking Through Glass Ceilings: Meet Joy Lenawalbene, Samburu East Sub-County’s First Senior Female Chief

Every child is accustomed to the question “what do you want to be when you grow up?”

As a little girl, for Joy Lenawalbene, an NRT peace ambassador, the response was always the same. “I’m going to be a hotelier!” she would say, but the universe had other plans for her. In 2021, Joy was officially appointed Samburu East Sub-County’s first senior female chief, marking a watershed moment in this deeply patriarchal society.

“Until I was elected to the board of the Westgate Community Conservancy to represent women, it never occurred to me that I might one day lead my community and help resolve its challenges,” she says.

But Joy has always had a penchant for solving her community’s problems. Until recently, Joy served as one of the 125 peace ambassadors working across the NRT landscape, promoting peaceful coexistence among communities in northern Kenya.

She balanced her duties as an NRT peace ambassador with her responsibilities as the Assistant Chief for Waso West Location, Waso Division in Samburu East, Samburu County, a position she retained until the 28th of January when she officially became Samburu East Sub-County’s first senior female chief.

Joy was among 25 women selected to participate in the Women Peace Ambassadors Program in January 2020, supported by Conservation International. The women are currently building a network that will aid in the prevention and resolution of conflict within their conservancies.

Joy has recruited four members (two men and two women) to assist in promoting nonviolent conflict resolution, settling domestic and grazing disputes, and cultivating peaceful relations with neighboring communities.



Until I was elected to the board of the Westgate Community Conservancy to represent women, it never occurred to me that I might one day lead my community and help resolve its challenges.

Joy Lenawalbene



Just like other peace ambassadors, the 42-year-old mother of three has been a part of livestock recoveries and retaliation-prevention dialogue, averting livestock raids, enhancing community policing, and supplementing the national government’s security agencies’ efforts in peacebuilding activities.

“I feel privileged to take on this new role. I am confident that I will discharge my duties effectively thanks to the wealth of experience I gained as a peace ambassador,” she adds, attributing the work she did as a peace champion.

Her remarkable journey was celebrated during the Annual General Assembly for peace ambassadors held in Nakuprat-Gotu Community Conservancy - where the work of these peace champions was evaluated by stakeholders.

The 125 peace ambassadors are crucial in resolving ethnic and natural-resource based conflict in six hotspot areas: Isiolo, Samburu, Marsabit, West Pokot, Baringo and Laikipia counties.

NRT’s Peace Program is also generously supported by the Embassy of Denmark in Kenya and Somalia through DANIDA, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Embassy of Sweden through the IMARA Program, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the European Union through the Ustahimilivu Programme and the Agence Française de Development (AFD).

Using Media Communications to Increase Awareness and Local Influence

In 2021, the NRT Communications Team collaborated with conservancies across different regions to harness the power of television, radio, print, and social media in promoting indigenous conservation and livelihood development efforts, and combatting disinformation.

TV and Print Media

KTN, one of the most popular television stations in the country, aired an exclusive feature on NRT on the 5th and 6th of June.

The 1-hour special, dubbed ‘The Story of NRT,’ attracted 1.8 million viewers from across the country. The TV feature was generously financed by USAID’s Department of Interior.

NRT was featured in 47 national and international print and broadcast news items in 2021, all of which were positive. Regrettably, 4 news items depicted NRT in an unfavorable light.



1.8 Million

viewers from across the country saw the 2-hour special dubbed ‘The Story of NRT’

Radio

Radio remains unrivalled in its position as the most widely used communication media in Kenya. Consequently:

- **8** radio stations (Radio Shahidi, Angaaf, Baliti, Serain, Star FM, Radio Jangwani, Sifa and Ibse Radio) got enlisted by NRT to raise awareness of NRT’s bespoke Rangelands Program. For 30 days, the stations showcased the successful rotational grazing activities in Biliqo, Oldonyiro, Shurr, Songa, Jaldesa, Melako, Ltungai, Meibae, Namunyak, and Il Ngwesi Conservancies.

- 3 local radio stations (Radio Jangwani, Angaaf & Serian) were contracted by NRT Trading to advertise hay so as to maximize hay sales.

Social Media and Video

Given the remote locations of the conservancies NRT serves, it is easy to presume that social media access is almost non-existent in these areas. The reality is quite the opposite. Many NRT member conservancies use WhatsApp and Facebook to communicate and share news and updates with constituents, stakeholders, and board members.

NRT has facilitated and boosted content development for these platforms by producing videos, event posts, and news articles.

To counteract misinformation about NRT, in the last quarter of 2021, the communications team launched a one-month campaign on social media featuring ‘True & False’ posters that shed light on NRT and its member conservancies. The campaign generated a ton of positive feedback.

Regional community conservancy Facebook pages and WhatsApp groups, run by conservancy managers, have been created as platforms for content-

sharing. These have helped conservancies take ownership of communicating with their members and increased the reach of disseminated information.

The NRT communications team went the extra mile and produced videos whose highlight was the work of community conservancies, as well as NRT’s and our partners’ impact across the NRT landscape. The videos will get posted on NRT’s socials.

Overall, social media engagement is at an all-time high, with the limelight being stolen by posts about livelihoods, wildlife, governance, and debunking myths.

The following is a breakdown of current followers across the major social media platforms:

-  @NorthernRangelandsTrust - **73,257 Followers**
-  @NRT_Kenya - **3,008 Followers**
-  Northern Rangelands Trust - **606 Subscribers**
-  nrt_kenya - **61,900 Followers**



Spotlight on The Wildlife Ranger Challenge 2021

As Covid-19 continues to make seismic shifts in the global economic balance, the men and women who work tirelessly to combat poaching and safeguard wildlife are among those whose financial resources are hardest hit.

To diversify funding streams and support the security department, NRT’s communication team joined forces with Tusk Trust and organized the 2021 Wildlife Ranger Challenge. The chief aim was to generate finances to support the men and women across Africa’s protected areas experiencing drastic pandemic-induced cuts in their resources, resulting in an upsurge in poaching.

The 9-1 Team from NRT took part in the Challenge, raising Ksh 3 million (USD 27,272) on GlobalGiving.

Celebrating Community-led Conservation

Spotlight on ‘The Story of NRT’ Film Series

Kenya’s community conservancies are one of the most progressive conservation models and demonstrate how people and wildlife can coexist and ultimately thrive together.

‘The Story of Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)’ is a series of short films funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and created in partnership with the Government of Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Service, and the Northern Rangelands Trust. The films showcase the work and impact of NRT and local community members in northern Kenya.

Getting community conservancy news into households and making conservancy stories part of dinner-table conversations is critical for educating people at various levels about how and why the conservancy approach works. During World Environment Day in June 2021, the films were broadcast on KTN News, garnering an audience of 1.8 million viewers across the nation.

‘The Story of NRT’ showcases the success of the community conservancy model and how it brings peace to communities and wildlife. In 2019, the series was filmed in several community conservancies in northern Kenya for USAID and NRT, with National Geographic filmmaker Peter McBride serving as director.

Before the film series premiere, a screening was held for community members in Kalama, Namunyak, Sere-Olipi, and Sera Conservancies whose stories feature in the films. The Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, Hon. Najib Balala, watched the films and remarked, “I saw the NRT film about the community conservancies. I realized that people had a vision not only for conservation and wildlife but also how communities can participate and benefit. It’s about valuing that this heritage is important not only to us—but to future generations of our country.”

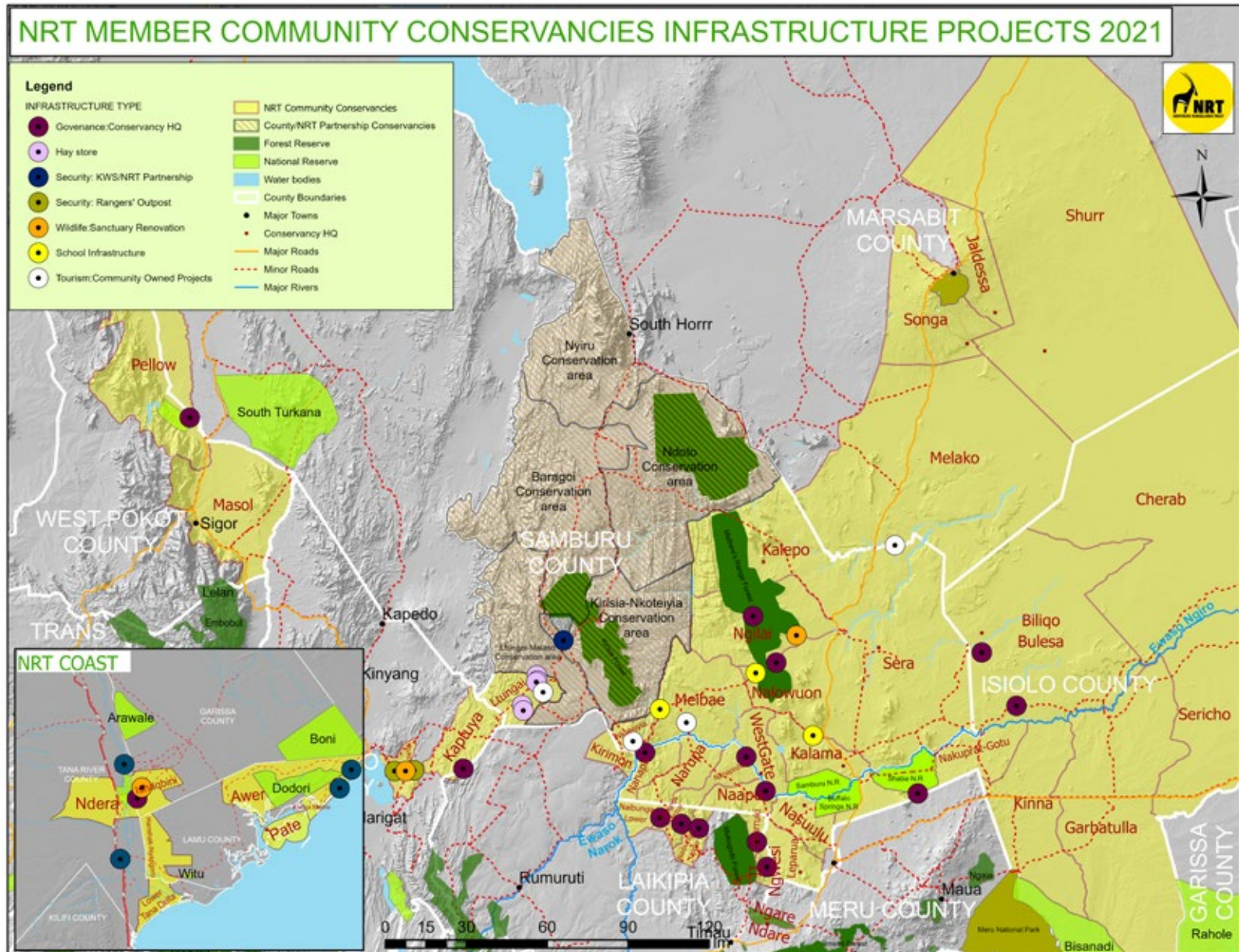
NRT’s CEO Tom Lalampaa noted, “it is widely acknowledged that for humans and wildlife to coexist and to continue to use our earth’s natural resources, we must protect 30% of the land, rivers and wetlands across the world within the next decade.”

At the Northern Rangelands Trust, we recognize that to do this successfully, we need to work hand in hand with the indigenous communities we serve to develop solutions that benefit the people, land and wildlife. This is what the community conservancy model is all about.

Presently, NRT serves 43 community conservancies, conserving 6.2 million hectares of land and benefitting 465,170 people. Thanks to the support of our donor partners, in particular USAID, NRT can assist communities living in these unique landscapes in the protection of their land, wildlife, livestock, and culture for themselves and the next generation.”



Investing in Conservancy Infrastructure



Infrastructure Projects Rolled Out in 2021 Across NRT Member Conservancies

County	Conservancy	Infrastructure
Samburu	Meibae	Tourism – construction of additional Banda and Kitchen
		School ablution – Construction of ablution facilities for boys and girls at Lodung’okwe Primary School
	Namunyak	Naluwon HQ – Construction of phase 2 of the new HQ at Naluwon HQ
	Ngilai Unit	Ngilai HQ Renovation – Renovation of the entire Ngilai HQ
	Reteti Sanctuary	Phase 4 – Construction of the managers house, KWS camp (6 units), kitchen, ablution, water connection and extension of elephant fence
	Kalama	School ablution - Construction of ablution facilities for boys and girls at Lerata Primary School
	Nkoteiya	Tourism - Construction of additional banda and power improvement
	Ltungai	Tourism – Construction of mess, ablution facilities and water connection
		Hay stores – Construction of 5 hay stores
	Biliqo - Ntorobo	HQ Renovation – General renovation of the HQ
	Biliqo - Babala	Outpost Renovation – General renovation of the Babala Outpost
	Biliqo - Kismitir	Outpost Renovation – General renovation of the Kismitir Outpost
	Nakuprat-Gotu	HQ Renovation – General renovation of the HQ
	Naapu	HQ Renovation – General renovation of the HQ
Nanapa	HQ Renovation – General Renovation of the HQ	
Nanapisho	HQ Renovation – General Renovation of the HQ	
Marsabit	Melako	Tourism – Construction of Phase 2 of Melako Lodge, additional banda, toilet block and water connection
West Pokot	Masol	HQ Office HQ – Construction of HQ office and toilet block
	Pellow	Pellow HQ – Construction of Conservancy HQ ongoing
Baringo	Ruko	Fence – Construction of 7 km Rothschild’s giraffe fence
		Outpost – Construction of 2 rangers’ outposts in the sanctuary
	Kaptuya	Kaptuya HQ - Construction of Kaptuya Outpost
Laikipia	Il Ngwesi	HQ - Construction of 4 additional units of rangers’ accommodation
	Lekkuruki	Renovation HQ – General renovation of Lekkuruki HQ
	Naibunga Lower	Renovation HQ – General renovation of Naibunga Lower HQ
	Naibunga Centre	Renovation HQ – General renovation of Naibunga Center Unit
	Naibunga Upper	Renovation HQ – General renovation of Naibunga Upper Unit
School – Construction of boys and girls’ toilets for Soit Oudo Primary School		
Garissa	Ishaqbini	Renovation HQ – General renovation of Ishaqbini HQ
		Fence Renovation – Replaced worn out triple twisted netting with tight lock wire
		HQ Extension – Construction of 6 additional rangers’ units, kitchen, toilet and shower blocks
Tana River	Ndera	Construction of 2 permanent electric fence lines in Ndera Conservancy to protect 56 farms from wildlife invasion for 56 farmers who are sharing a large piece of land (Estimated at 116 Hectares)

Lamu	Kiunga	Construction of a solar-powered ice plant in Kiunga HQ by Giver Power, an NRT Partner
	Awer	Construction of a permanent electric fence for a group of 5 farmers sharing approximately a 6.2-hectare piece of land, to protect their farms from wildlife invasion

KWS Projects

Tana River	Lower Tana	Renovation of Minjila KWS camp – facelifting of the camp, general renovation, new rangers housing, kitchen, and ablution facilities
Garissa	Ishaqbini	Renovation of Masalani KWS camp – facelifting of the camp, general renovation, new rangers housing, kitchen, and ablution facilities
Lamu	Kiunga	Renovation of Mongo Sharif KWS camp – facelifting of the camp, construction of new rangers shed, kitchen, and washrooms
	Kiunga	Renovation of Kiunga KWS camp – facelifting of the KWS camp, general renovation, new rangers housing, kitchen, and ablution facilities
Samburu	Maralal KWS camp	Renovation – Renovation of KWS training hall at Maralal Station



In 2021, NRT implemented the following projects across its member conservancies:



NRT graded **187.1** kilometers of roads and built (repaired in some instances) **4.2** kilometers of airstrips in conservancies - improving access to services, boosting commercial links and in some cases, enabling tourism access.



Ksh 152,000,000 million (USD 1,381,818) was invested in conservancy infrastructure, facilitating the construction (or improvements) of 14 headquarters, 4 scout outposts, 4 schools, 5 KWS camps, 2 sanctuaries, 1 hay store and 4 tourism facilities. The disbursement of funds to the conservancies also enabled the installation of radio communications, the construction of sanctuaries, and the provision of water for conservancy employees and wildlife.



Ksh 19,800,000 million (USD 180,000) was invested in the construction of livelihood-supporting infrastructure, including schools, health facilities, water, tourism infrastructure, and fencing (to prevent human-wildlife conflict).

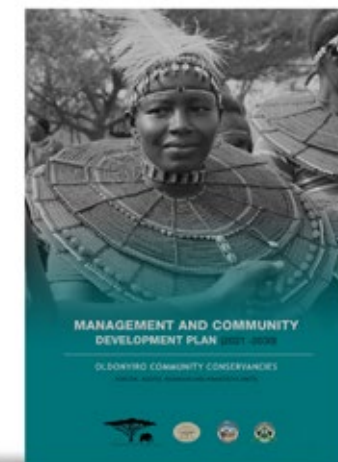
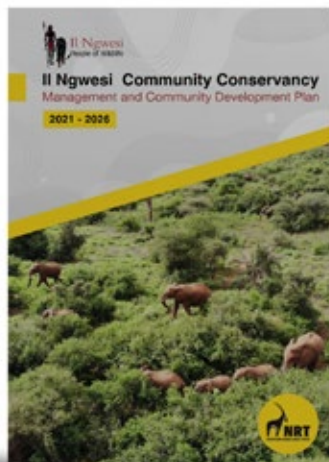
Development of Conservancy Management Plans

The Wildlife Conservation and Management Act of 2013 requires all conservancies to have a management plan that outlines the conservancy’s long-term goals for growth and conservation.

The plan is created in a participatory process involving all stakeholders and communities in the conservancies and serves as a tool to:

- direct the actions of conservancy management, ensuring that they are focused on priorities established by the wider community, conservancy staff, and Boards.
- ensure management continuity and hold managers and boards accountable; and
- assist with fundraising by flagging areas where additional resources are required.

11 NRT member conservancies developed or reviewed their management plans in 2021. All completed conservancy plans are available on the NRT website.



The Progress of the Conservancy Management Plan Development Process

No.	Region	County	Completed (Valid) CM&DP	Under Development CM&DP	Expired/ Under Review	Not Started
	NRT Centre	Samburu	Westgate, Kalama, Sera	Ltungai, Meibae	Kalama, Sera	Namunyak (Nalowuon Ngilai and Kalepo), Nkoteiya
	NRT Mountain	Laikipia	Naibunga, Lekurruki	Il Ngwesi	Naibunga	Kirimon
		Meru		Ngare Ndare		
	NRT West	Baringo		Ruko, Kaptuya		
		West Pokot	Masol	Pellow		
	NRT East	Marsabit	Songa, Melako, Shurr and Jaldesa			
		Isiolo	Biliqo Bulesa, Nakuprat-Gotu, Leparua, Oldonyiro (Naapu, Nanapisho Nannapa and Narupa)	Nasuulu		Cherab, Kinna, Garba Tulla, Sericho
	NRT Coast	Lamu	Pate, Kiunga		Hanshak-Nyongoro	Awer
		Tana River	Ndera and Lower Tana			
		Garissa	Ishaqbini			





Engaging County Governments, Assemblies and MPs

Community conservancies and NRT have been striving to create synergies between county government activities and indigenous communities' efforts to improve their livelihoods.

Many county governments have begun to fulfill their mandate of providing local public services, and addressing local development priorities, by investing in community conservancies.

Conservancies are beginning to synchronize their Conservancy Management and Development Plans with the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) in order to establish community-led funding priorities for the counties.



3

County Governments: West Pokot, Samburu and Baringo have signed tripartite MOUs with community conservancies and NRT. These are Kenya's first MOUs of this kind.

County Government Engagements 2021

<p>NRT East: Isiolo</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engaged in a land transition process with the County Government 2. Engaged the Isiolo Member of the County Assembly (MCA) and County executives concerning the Community Conservancy Bill, through the Ministry of Tourism 3. Engaged the County executives on both the Community Conservancy Bill and the Rangelands Bill 4. NRT and the Conservancy collaborated with the County Government on resolving governance and peace issues 5. Engaged County executives and MCAs on the rangelands policy, through the Ministry of Livestock 6. Engaged the County executives and the public on youth, women and persons living with disabilities fund, through the Ministry of Gender and Social Services 	<p>Baringo</p>	<p>NRT and the Conservancy engaged Baringo's County Government in developing a community engagement strategy for the establishment of a new conservancy between Saimosoi and Loyamorok Wards</p>
<p>Marsabit</p>	<p>Engaged with the County Government concerning governance and peace</p>	<p>NRT Centre: Samburu</p>	<p>The Samburu County Rangelands Policy is in the 1st Draft Stage</p> <p>Land registration done; Samburu County Conservancies Fund Act to support community conservancies</p> <p>NRT and the Samburu County Government forged a partnership in which NRT provides technical and governance support to 5 county-led conservancies in Samburu North</p> <p>Tripartite MOU between Samburu County Government, NRT and 9 community conservancies</p> <p>Samburu County Tourism Strategy</p>
<p>NRT West: West Pokot</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convened 5 Technical working group meetings; reviewed the work plans and supported the implementation of project activities 2. A County Executive Committee Members' (CECMs) annual meeting was held to review 2021 achievements, challenges and support the overall implementation of conservancy and project activities in West Pokot 3. Supported the development of the Nasolot National Reserve Management Plan Zero and Draft 1 document. The development team included representatives from the county's Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, Kenya Wildlife Service teams drawn from the County and representatives from the Regional and National Office of Research and Bio-diversity 4. Drummed up support for conservation efforts from all political leaders 	<p>NRT Mountain: Laikipia & Meru</p>	<p>The Laikipia County Conservancies Bill is set to support conservancies</p> <p>Engaged the respective Laikipia County Assembly Committee, concerning natural resources and tourism, to lobby for legislations in the two areas</p>
		<p>NRT Coast</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Successfully conducted an NRT Marine Strategy Review workshop in partnership with TNC and FFI. Feedback provided on the past and ongoing NRT and partners' marine work, through review and learning with partners and the communities, invited collaboration. A discussion took place about the priorities going forward. The unique 2-day workshop was filled with great discussion, input, and representation from a variety of partners 2. Held multiple engagements with the County Government of Lamu through the Department of Fisheries and Environment. The County Government is supportive of NRT's work and discussions are ongoing to sign an MoU 3. Collaborated with Department of Fisheries of Lamu County in implementing the Pate Island Fisheries Co-Management Plan <p>Great collaboration ongoing with KWS to ensure the effectiveness of Kiunga Marine National Reserve (KMNR)</p>

Lobbying for Supportive Legislation and Government Funding

NRT is a founding member of the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA), a body representing private and community conservancies across Kenya.

Collaborating with KWCA, NRT provides policy advisory support and lobbies for legislation beneficial to community conservancies and accelerates their development.

To further its efforts of positively influencing the lawmaking process, chairpersons from NRT member conservancies attend the annual KWCA Conservancy Leaders Forum to confer critical issues affecting community conservancies across the country.

Review of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013

The Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013 was signed into law on 24th December 2013 and commenced on 10th January 2014. The Wildlife Act was considered highly progressive, following its inclusive principles and structure that integrate communities and landowners in wildlife conservation, recognize wildlife conservation as land use, acknowledge the need for sustainable use and benefits from wildlife, and promote public participation in conservation.

These principles presented a significant shift in wildlife conservation in Kenya, from the centralized ‘boots on the ground’ approach experienced for almost 4 decades under the Wildlife (Conservation and Management) Act Cap 376 of 1976.

The implementation of the Wildlife Act of 2013 is heavily enshrined in 18 subsidiary laws, just 5 of which have been gazetted to date. This limits the realization of the noble intent and spirit of the Wildlife Act and presents challenges of human-wildlife conflict, limited incentives and benefits, wildlife loss (notably through bushmeat trade and poaching), increased wildlife habitats loss, and exclusion of key stakeholders (county governments and private sector).

The Wildlife Act 2013 was amended in 2018 and 2019. This not only resulted in significant changes to institutional framework, wildlife conservation financing, offences and penalties but also expanded the Act’s inconsistencies and gaps.

In 2020, a new Wildlife Policy (Sessional Paper No 1) was introduced. It further presented the opportunity to:

1. Capture the findings and recommendations of task force reports on human wildlife conflict compensation (2020), sustainable wildlife utilization (2019), wildlife migratory corridors and dispersal areas (2018), and wildlife security (2014)
2. Clarify interpretations and include relevant new ones
3. Address gaps and inconsistencies in current local, national and global contexts

The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife issued a public notice in January 2021 announcing the start of a review of the Wildlife Act 2013, in light of the new Wildlife Policy 2020. A call for public submissions was also made.

KWCA supported its conservancy membership to participate in the review of the Wildlife Act 2013, through **8** regional meetings and **1** virtual meeting in February and March 2021. NRT developed a submission of recommendations for amendments to the Wildlife Act 2013 as part of the Ministry review process.

Financial Support from County Governments in 2021

County	Conservancy	County Government - Operations (KWS Stimulus)	County Government - Capex	Notes
Baringo	Kaptuya	Ksh 810,000	-	
Baringo	Ruko	Ksh 4,374,000	Ksh 1,000,000	Ksh 1,000,000 ward fund to support the construction of staff houses
Garisa	Ishaqbini	Ksh 3,402,000	-	
Isiolo	Buliqo Bulesa	Ksh 4,698,000	-	
Isiolo	Leparua	Ksh 2,916,000	-	
Isiolo	Nakuprat-Gotu	Ksh 3,078,000	-	
Isiolo	Oldonyiro-Naapu	Ksh 1,296,000	-	
Isiolo	Oldonyiro-Nanapisho	Ksh 1,782,000	-	
Isiolo	Oldonyiro-Nannapa	Ksh 2,106,000	-	
Isiolo	Oldonyiro-Narupa	Ksh 1,782,000	-	
Isiolo	Nasuulu	Ksh 3,888,000	-	
Laikipia	Il Ngwesi	Ksh 2,754,000	Ksh 9,000,000	Il Ngwesi received Ksh 2 million from County Government for lodge repair. Il Ngwesi allocated Ksh 7 million from National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) for hay production
Laikipia	Kirimon	Ksh 2,430,000	-	
Laikipia	Lekurruki	Ksh 5,184,000	Ksh 2,200,000	Lekurruki was allocated Ksh 2.2 million for dispensary construction and equipping a health facility
Laikipia	Naibunga Lower	Ksh 3,996,000	Ksh 1,500,000	Naibunga Lower allocated Ksh 1.5 million for Olgaboli Lodge rehabilitation
Laikipia	Naibunga Central	Ksh 810,000	-	
Laikipia	Naibunga Upper	Ksh 3,402,000	-	
Lamu	Awer	Ksh 1,620,000	-	
Lamu	Hanshak Nyangoro	Ksh 1,458,000	-	
Lamu	Kiunga	Ksh 2,754,000	-	
Lamu	Pate	Ksh 1,782,000	-	

Marsabit	Jaldesa	Ksh 1,620,000	-	
Marsabit	Melako	Ksh 4,860,000	-	
Marsabit	Shurr	Ksh 1,458,000	-	
Marsabit	Songa	Ksh 2,430,000	-	
Meru	Ngare Ndare	Ksh 4,050,000	-	
Samburu	Kalama	Ksh 3,564,000	Ksh 6,000,000	Ksh 5 million is shared revenue from Samburu National Reserve (SNR). Kalama acts as a buffer area for SNR and helps mitigate grazing pressures in the reserve. Ward development: Samburu County Government disbursed Ksh 1,000,000 for electricity installation at the HQ
Samburu	Ltungai	Ksh 3,240,000	Ksh 8,644,400	Ksh 144,000 to support quarterly board meeting, Ksh 2 million to equip Malaso Cafeteria, Ksh 1.5 million for fence and toilet construction at Leparachau Camp, Ksh 2 million to supply Morpusi banda with water and Ksh 1.06 million to support the operation of 15 scouts supported by the County. Ksh 3 million to decide on the project to implement
Samburu	Meibae	Ksh 4,698,000	Ksh 4,359,000	Ksh 4,359,000 for land rehabilitation and rangers' support from Samburu County Government
Samburu	Namunyak-Kalepo	Ksh 3,240,000		
Samburu	Namunyak-Nalowuon	Ksh 8,424,000	Ksh 3,000,000	Construction of Lolkeresire Outpost
Samburu	Namunyak-Nalowuon Umbrella	Ksh 2,268,000		
Samburu	Namunyak-Ngilai & Reteti	Ksh 10,832,400	Ksh 3,000,000	Construction of Warden's House
Samburu	Nkoteiya	Ksh 3,402,000	Ksh 6,000,000	Ksh 2 million for construction of a new banda at Nkoteiya Ecolodge, and Ksh 3 million for restoration of Kirisia Forest Other: Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) - Ksh 645,000 for the upgrade of Nkoteiya Eco-Lodge power, and Ksh 1.1 million for up standards tents for the guides
Samburu	Sera	Ksh 11,826,000	-	
Samburu	Westgate	Ksh 3,240,000	Ksh 9,000,000	Ksh 5 million shared revenue from Samburu National Reserve, Ksh 2 million to construct kitchen, hall, and radio room, and Ksh 2 million for rangeland support
Tana River	Lower Tana	Ksh 1,620,000	-	

Tana River	Ndera	Ksh 1,782,000	-	
West Pokot	Masol	Ksh 3,888,000	-	
West Pokot	Pellow	Ksh 3,888,000	-	
Total		Ksh 136,652,400	Ksh 53,703,400	

Baragoi Conservation Area		Ksh 16,371,500	Ksh 8,440,000	Salaries: Ksh 10,116,000; committee support: Ksh 6,255,500; equipment repair and maintenance Ksh 8,440,000
Ndoto Conservation Area		Ksh 10,284,500	Ksh 4,280,000	Salaries: Ksh 5,430,000; committee support Ksh 4,854,500; equipment repair and maintenance Ksh 4,280,000
Nyiro Conservation Area		Ksh 13,527,500	Ksh 4,280,000	Salaries: Ksh 7,890,000; committee support Ksh 5,637,500; equipment repair and maintenance Ksh 4,280,000

Total for Conservancy outside NRT **Ksh 40,183,500** **Ksh 17,000,000**

Samburu County Conservancies **Ksh 57,183,500**

County Government Support Ksh 110,886,900

National Government through KWS Ksh 136,652,400

Cumulative Govt. Support **Ksh 247,539,300**

Overall County Government funding to NRT member Community Conservancies (2014 – 2021)

Year	Amount (Ksh)
2014	13,000,000
2015	20,000,000
2016	31,000,000
2017	40,414,000
2018	24,000,000
2019	40,000,000
2020	177,200,000
2021	247,536,300



Changing Attitudes and Perspectives: Social-COMMS

The Nature Conservancy and NRT designed Social-CoMMS, a tool that assesses the social impact of conservancy and NRT programs and tracks the socioeconomic status of conservancy communities.

The Social-CoMMS survey was carried out in 12 conservancies in 2021. These conservancies include Kalama, Westgate, Sera, Nalowuon, Ngilai, Kalepo, Meibae, Ltungai, Ngare Ndare, Kaptuya, Masol and Pelo. **4,809** households, comprising **2,453** men and **2,356** women were surveyed.

An analysis of the data collected and the information gathered yielded the following findings:

- **73%** of conservancy community members indicated that they feel safe as a result of the presence of the conservancy security teams.
- **27%** of these households were female-headed.
- Livestock keeping was the main livelihood activity.
- **19%** of the population are employed by conservancies with 6% in permanent positions and **13%** in casual employment.
- Human-wildlife conflict is high with **66%** of households affected.
- **90%** believe wildlife is important to their future.
- **70%** of the households reaped direct benefits from the conservancies.
- **21%** of the household received education bursaries from the conservancies in the last 7 years.

To date, NRT has reached out to **14,304** households since Social-CoMMS began in 2014.





2

Building Peace and Security

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Conflict prevention among warring groups is crucial for peaceful co-existence between communities. This will enable wildlife and communities to thrive.

Tisa Leparachau,
Peace Ambassador, Westgate
Community Conservancy



Building Peace

Northern Kenya has a history tainted by ethnic strife and insecurity, which has stifled development, perpetuated poverty, and disrupted lives for many years. Now, the stakes are higher. The situation is exacerbated by climate change, a burgeoning human population competing for diminishing natural resources, a capricious political environment, and easy access to illegal weapons. There has never been a more crucial time to support communities in the north in achieving peace.

Building lasting peace among warring ethnic groups necessitates reactive and proactive approaches to conflict resolution. NRT works with member conservancies and pertinent partners to avert, manage, mitigate and resolve conflicts within and outside community conservancies.

Inclusive consultation is the bedrock and foundation of effective peacebuilding. Listening to the community is a top priority, and new voices must be actively sought at each stage. Community perspectives and goals shape the agenda for each subsequent meeting and activity.

The use of community conservancies as a springboard for peacebuilding is fundamental to fostering ownership of issue resolution and flexibility in community engagement. The conservancy and the relationship conservancies have with NRT presents a neutral platform for bringing people together for discourse—providing an alternative to violence as a means of resolving disputes.

NRT’s dedicated peace team partners with the local and national government authorities, conservancy management, local elders, and women and youth representatives to facilitate peacebuilding sessions, empower peace champions and promote nonviolent conflict resolution.

Regrettably, in 2021, there was a rising crescendo of clashes in the region, primarily owing to disputes over pasture, sparked by insufficient rainfall and ethnic-related fights.

There are now 125 peace ambassadors across the landscape—31 being women. The majority are from conflict-prone areas and have proven indispensable in resolving intertribal conflicts and staving off livestock raids through early warning systems, intel gathering, intercepting retaliatory attacks, supporting the negotiation and recovery of stolen livestock, and spearheading community reconciliation.

What cannot be measured cannot be improved. Therefore, using EarthRanger, a data gathering and analysis tool, NRT has begun to collect data on the impact of its peace program and the role of the conservancies in securing peace and resolving conflicts.

As every tick of the clock brings us closer to the 2022 National Elections, the invaluable work of NRT’s peace team, coupled with the conservancies’ peacebuilding structures, will take center stage and will become increasingly vital in preventing conflict from becoming politicized.



125

Peace Ambassadors across the NRT Landscape



31

Peace Ambassadors are Women



EarthRanger

Collecting Data on Impact of Peace Program

NRT's Peacebuilding Powerhouse, **Josephine Ekiru**, Bags Prestigious **U.S. Institute of Peace Award**

At NRT, we have always known that Josephine Ekiru, NRT's Peace Coordinator, is an indispensable peace ambassador who keeps soaring to new heights in her peacebuilding efforts. Now the world knows it too.

On the 20th of October 2021, The U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP), a national, nonpartisan, independent institute, founded in 1984 by Congress to prevent violent conflict internationally, declared NRT's Josephine as the honoree of the institute's 2021 Women Building Peace Award!

This distinguished annual award honors women peacebuilders from fragile and conflict-affected countries who are leading efforts to prevent conflict and find peacebuilding solutions to make a difference in their communities, country or internationally.

Josephine's victory engraved her name in the history books and thrust Kenya into the limelight. She emerged as the winner, out of nine finalists, selected by a council of distinguished experts, from 125 nominations submitted from more than 30 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

For the past eleven years, Josephine, 35, from the Turkana community, has endeavored to cultivate peace among pastoralist communities in Northern Kenya, especially between the Borana and Turkana tribes, culminating in the 2021 USIP Award. She is driven by an incandescent desire to end cyclical violence, protect livelihoods and establish a conducive environment for societal growth.

"In the pastoralist communities I grew up in, a culture exists of raiding each other, killing each other. Within a short period, the land died, the love died, everything that's very valuable died. My work involves facilitating dialogues between warring

1984

When the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) was founded by Congress to prevent violent conflict internationally



communities. If it's the land we are fighting about, why not share it equally? Why inflict pain on one another then at the end of the day nobody uses that land, nobody uses the pasture, because we are killing each other." Josephine elaborates.

Josephine was presented with the 2021 USIP Women Building Peace Award for advocating for peace, training new leaders in peacekeeping, bringing communities together to protect wildlife and halt poaching, and being at the forefront of conservation and peacebuilding.

"I never knew one day my story would be told. I was doing all this because of the future generations, because I want my people to live peacefully, sharing good stories rather than causing each other pain. This award will make the men in my society recognize women and drive them to allow women to participate in decision-making. The award will motivate Northern Kenya women, I know, and it belongs to them," Josephine said, during her virtual acceptance speech, her face beaming and her eyes glistening with joy.

Josephine's amiable nature and nurturing demeanor endear her to anyone who interacts with her, and her lionhearted spirit is admirable. In her pursuit of lasting peace among Northern Kenya communities, she has encountered numerous life-threatening situations. On one occasion, on her knees on a dirt road, she pleaded with gun-toting poaching gang leaders to stop wildlife poaching. She has had death threats left at her doorstep and had her car riddled with bullets. Nancy Lindborg, honorary chair of the Women Building Peace Council, described her as a heroine whose work to build peace in northern Kenya is a model for everyone.

Peace advocacy in Northern Kenya is a herculean task entailing persuading communities who have historically been at war to bury the hatchet and collaborate. It takes an exceptional group of people to place themselves in harm's way and transcend the numerous obstacles encountered when preventing intertribal clashes in this highly volatile environment. NRT's peace ambassadors are the antidote for violent conflict in this region where resourc-

es are limited, and the pandemic has exacerbated the socioeconomic challenges pastoralist communities face.

Our success in building peace in Northern Kenya would not have been possible without NRT's indefatigable 125 peace ambassadors. It never ceases to amaze us that despite experiencing a slew of setbacks, these dedicated individuals remain committed to thawing relations between arch-enemies for the benefit of all.

USIP President Lise Grande remarked, "If you look around the world, most peace-builders are women. It's our responsibility to do more to support and celebrate these women."

Since 2014, Josephine has broadened her peacebuilding efforts through the Northern Rangelands Trust. She elucidates, "the conservancy model became a uniting factor".

Josephine's light is shining bright, locally and abroad, and we love to see it. The entire NRT community is immensely proud of her and appreciative of all the work she continues to do to ensure that peace does not remain a foreign concept in Northern Kenya. We sincerely hope that Josephine's USIP Women Building Peace Award is just the beginning of a long list of international accolades she receives. She deserves to win them all.



I never knew one day my story would be told. I was doing all this because of the future generations, because I want my people to live peacefully, sharing good stories rather than causing each other pain. This award will make the men in my society recognize women and drive them to allow women to participate in decision-making. The award will motivate Northern Kenya women, I know, and it belongs to them.

Josephine Ekiru

2021 Peace Meetings and Training Sessions



NRT’s Peace Program is based on an indigenous-led approach that enables community peace ambassadors, interfaith religious leaders, youth, and women to combine efforts with county and national government agencies in addressing ethnic and natural-resource-related disputes.

The following peace meetings and training sessions took place in 2021:

2021 Peace Meetings and Training Sessions

County	Awareness Meetings	Attendees	Training Sessions	Attendees
Marsabit	35	1,050	4	700
West Pokot	5	248	-	-
Laikipia	21	1,860	1	50
Samburu	30	1,535	2	165
Baringo	15	753	1	45
Isiolo	32	1,350	1	41
Garissa	2	97	-	-
Tana River	2	60	-	-
Total	142	6,953	9	1,001



Number of Peace Interventions across the NRT Landscape

Months	Number of Interventions	Sum of Attendance Male	Sum of Attendance Female
Jan	4	150	18
Feb	6	318	24
Mar	9	513	56
Apr	19	718	68
May	51	2,705	1,227
Jun	33	3,333	321
Jul	10	341	32
Aug	9	431	37
Sep	16	401	119
Oct	9	274	95
Nov	10	686	62
Grand Total	176	9,870	2,059

Additional Peacebuilding Activities Conducted in 2021

The People to People Reconciliation Program (P2P)

NRT recently launched the People to People Reconciliation Program (P2P), a three-year program instituted to de-escalate tensions in conflict-prone parts of Isiolo, Samburu, Baringo, and West Pokot Counties.

The P2P Reconciliation Program, funded by USAID, has three main goals:

1. Build peace at the grassroots level through community-led structures.
2. Address ethnic and natural resource management-based conflicts; and
3. Promote the development of a peaceful society that effectively manages its resources.

In light of these objectives, 20 P2P-supported peace ambassadors, were selected to advance peacebuilding efforts in Samburu, Marsabit and Isiolo Counties. 1,538 women and youth were trained in entrepreneurship and life skills under the P2P Program.



Samburu North Debut

NRT made its debut in Samburu North following the signing of an MoU with the County Government of Samburu, which requested NRT's assistance in administering 5 county-led conservancies.



Marsabit Peace Intervention

Due to the rising tensions in Marsabit County last year, NRT focused on peace-building through community-led grassroots structures to promote peaceful co-existence among communities.

In an attempt to reconcile warring communities, the USAID-funded People-to-People (P2P) Reconciliation Program engaged different entities, including faith-based groups, national government security agencies, the National Peace and Cohesion Commission (NCIC), elders, women, political leaders, and conservancy peace institutions.

A 55-member peace committee was formed to engage Marsabit's senior political leaders as well as to conduct reconciliation sessions with four ethnic communities that had suffered severely as a result of the conflict's long-running and unresolved nature.

At least 16 peace ambassadors were recruited to spearhead peaceful coexistence between communities. The ambassadors have been instrumental in the negotiation and return of stolen livestock.

The NRT peace team also established the Marsabit Women Peace Council comprising of women peace champions from NRT member conservancies in Marsabit, a move that was aimed at involving women in peacebuilding activities.

Conflict occurrences have decreased in various locations and times because of the one-year peace intervention. The number of displaced families has dropped in general, and road banditry has significantly declined.

While tension in Marsabit remains high, NRT will continue building on its efforts to achieve lasting peace in the region.





Peacebuilding

NewsBytes

- To promote harmonious relations, NRT’s peace team has hosted peace awareness forums with communities, political leaders, provincial government, and peacebuilding stakeholders.
- **35** women from Samburu North, newly appointed as peace champions, are leading peacebuilding initiatives in the turbulent Suguta Valley-Baragoi region.
- **30** women peace champions from Ilchamus, Tugen and Pokot communities trained under the EU RangER Program in Kaptuya and Ruko.
- The NRT peace team secured an agreement between Samburu and Pokot morans to share pasture in the AMAYA Triangle.
- To counteract insecurity, NRT recruited a new generation of morans to form the Samburu North Moran Council, consisting of the Samburu and Turkana ethnic groups who have perpetually been fighting in the region.
- **2,540** community members from the Oldonyiro and Naibunga Conservancies in Isiolo and Laikipia Counties attended an annual peace caravan that brought together political leaders, government officials, religious leaders, and business leaders to celebrate the Maasai and Samburu communities’ peaceful coexistence.

NRT’s Integrated Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Approach

To effectively resolve conflict, the community conservancies continue to synergize with county governments, the national government, the Kenya Peace Corps, and other stakeholders. This is evidenced by:

- Peace meetings with regional, county, and local stakeholders
- Peace meetings of Heads of Security
- Peace and security meetings with the local government
- Elders’ dialogue meetings
- Inter-tribal cultural festivals that promote peace and harmony
- Peace pacts or treaties between hostile communities
- Conservancy members having access to peace training
- Inter-faith engagements
- Sports-for-peace events
- The availability of peace-building and conflict resolution training
- The ‘Do No Harm’ theory assessment and training

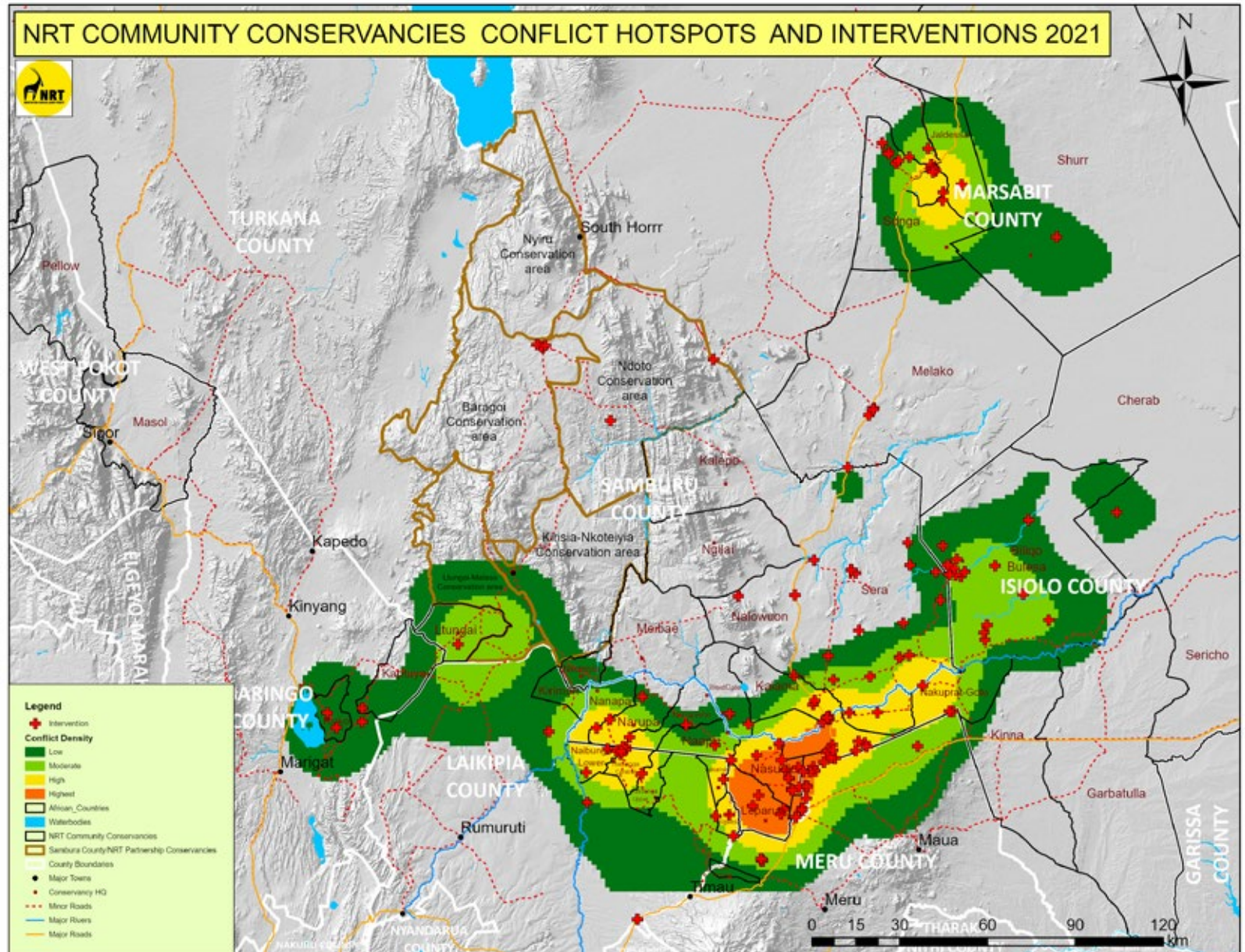
Additionally, area chiefs (national government administrators) and MCAs also serve on community conservancy boards, the peace ambassadors team, and grazing committees.



Security

All the conservancies closely collaborate with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), National Police Service, local government authorities, and NRT to foster a community-led approach to conflict reduction and complement government agencies.

Current Conflict Hotspots and Interventions



Investing in Community Policing, to Supplement Government Agencies

A holistic approach to improving security in northern Kenya is of paramount importance to conservancies. Therefore, conservancies are investing in community policing.

Conservancy Scouts

Each conservancy employs a team of community scouts who have undergone extensive training in standard operating procedures and human rights. The majority of conservancy scouts are unarmed. They conduct daily patrols to monitor wildlife, gather information, raise conservation awareness in their communities, and perform other conservancy-specific roles.

An Overview of Ranger Numbers in each NRT Conservancy

Region	Men	Women	Total	Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) Trained
Isiolo	145	9	154	119
Baringo	32	3	35	-
Marsabit	70	4	74	59
Laikipia & Meru	119	9	128	105
Coast	112	8	120	116
West Pokot	53	5	58	24
Samburu	309	37	346	211
Mobile teams	95	-	95	-
NRT JOCC Rangers	5	2	7	-
Reteti Keepers	43	5	48	-
Total	986	82	1,050	615



2021 Security

NewsBytes

- NRT's Peace and Security teams interfaced with top security officials from Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu, Laikipia, and Meru Counties, led by Eastern Regional Commissioner Isaiah Nakoru, to discuss partnership, improve coordination and peace interventions in the Eastern region. The Regional Commissioner lauded NRT and the conservancies for supplementing national government efforts on peacebuilding. He underscored the importance of partnership and engaging local community participation in peacebuilding.
- 59% of livestock reported stolen in 2021 was recovered and returned to their owners through a collaboration between community conservancies, NRT and the government.
- Sera Community Conservancy hired 22 additional rangers to help with black rhino surveillance.
- The European Union's (EU) RangER Program funded the hiring of 12 new rangers in Kaptuya and Ruko Community Conservancies.
- 3 female rangers were recruited in Ndera Community Conservancy to help in the implementation of W-CoMMs, as well as the monitoring of endangered Tana primates.

- > Cases of road banditry, livestock theft, and ethnic conflict have spiked. Pastoral households were hit hard by the pandemic-triggered downturn of the economy. The already dire situation was exacerbated by job losses and the closure of livestock markets across the country. This adversely affected household income—partly explaining the uptick in road banditry and stock theft. The latter can also be attributed to cultural aspects associated with the new generation of morans circumcised in 2020.
- > The increase in loss of life caused by ethnic conflict in 2020 is rooted in complex and long-standing tensions in Marsabit County and icy relations between the Samburu and Maasai communities in Naibunga Conservancy in Laikipia. In both locations, NRT is supporting the respective conservancies in implementing proactive peace programs.
- > Pre-2017 data exists for the above-mentioned incidents. However, it is not directly comparable with current data because reporting was less consistent, and NRT’s footprint and ability to capture data from other sources were rudimentary. Since 2017, data has been collected at the Joint Communications Centre (JOCC) using a centralized approach. The JOCC is hosted in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and serves as a regional hub for security and peace operations. At the JOCC, data from NRT member conservancies, the National Police Service, KWS, and other law enforcement actors, is integrated, facilitating timely information sharing and the coordination of security initiatives. Working with Dimension Data, Connected Conservation, Cisco, Synthetics, NTT, and Wildlife Protection Solutions, NRT is now harnessing the power of cutting-edge technology for the conservation of endangered and threatened species.
- > Insufficient rainfall in the conservancies caused the astronomical movement of livestock witnessed across the region. Consequently, stock theft and road banditry surged, and unfortunately, so did deadly clashes between pastoralist groups.
- > Conservancy scouts and our 9-team security units work in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, coordinated the recovery of thousands of stolen livestock which prevented retaliation attacks.
- > Road bandits preyed on livestock sellers and transporters on the Marsabit–Isiolo Road. As a result, the Merille Livestock Market, a vital source of revenue for Melaka and Kalepo residents, was negatively impacted.
- > The patrol sub-committees for the 3 fisheries Beach Management Units (BMUs) in Lower Tana and conservancy scouts were trained on Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) to increase the level of enforcement, compliance, and partners’ collaboration in fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance. 52 participants (50 men and 2 women) attended the training, which focused on establishing an effective community-based MCS. Their capability to enforce natural resource conservation and co-management laws, such as Kenya’s Fisheries, Forest, and Wildlife Acts and regulations, was increased. Additionally, an action plan for the implementation of joint patrols between the community conservancy, fisheries BMUs and relevant government agencies was developed.
- > To promote effective patrols, monitoring and enforcement, NRT Coast conservancies acquired the following:
 - 3 laptops, 5 digital cameras, 18 slates for reef rangers, 8 head torches, and 12 first aid kits to support the implementation of Marine-CoMMs
 - A Toyota Land Cruiser vehicle and rangers’ accommodation for Ishaqbini to enhance wildlife monitoring and protection
 - 2 patrol boats for Hanshak and Pate Conservancies
- > The conservancy scouts and quick security response teams (9-3 & 9-7) stayed on the front lines of the battle against bushmeat poaching, illegal fishing and logging in NRT Coast Conservancies. In 2021, bushmeat poaching cases increased.

NRT Coast Summary of Security Incidents

NRT Coast Summary of Security Incidents (2019 - 2021)											
Arrests and Prosecutions											
Year	Poaching	Logging	Illegal fishing Inside LMMAs	Total Arrests	Jailed	Released with Cash Bail	Fined (Illegal Fishers)	Ongoing Cases		Released with Warning	Failed Cases
2019	14	5	20	39	15	17	-	-		5	2
2020	16	17	77	110	14	8	41	11		36	-
2021	40	-	10	50	20	-	10	20		-	-
Others											
Year	Recoveries/ Confiscation			Rescues			Carcasses				
2019	Poaching tools: 8 motorbikes, 23 traps, 7 machetes, 2 alarm torches, 2 knives, 3 slashers, half a kilo of marijuana and 1 spear 374 pieces of timber, 2 power saws and 450 kilograms of charcoal 1 elephant tusk			1 baby elephant, stuck in mud, was rescued in Ndera and transported to Nairobi Animal Orphanage			12 sea turtles 2 dugongs in Pate 1 fur seal in Kiunga				
2020	241 logs confiscated, 2 power saw machines and 750 kilograms of charcoal 20 kilograms of elephant ivory			-			-				
2021	Recovered from poachers: 14 motorbikes, 1,022 kilograms of game meat, 5 machetes, 2 knives and 13 snare traps			1 baby elephant was rescued from a trap and transported to Sheldrick Wildlife Trust 1 green sea turtle 19 undersized lobsters			12 sea turtles 2 dugongs in Pate 1 fur seal in Kiunga				
NB: All arrests, recoveries/confiscations are handed over to the mandated security agencies (Wildlife – KWS; Forest – Kenya Forest Service; Fisheries – Kenya Fisheries Service and the County Fisheries Department)											

Quick Stats: Security Incident Reports in NRT Member Conservancies

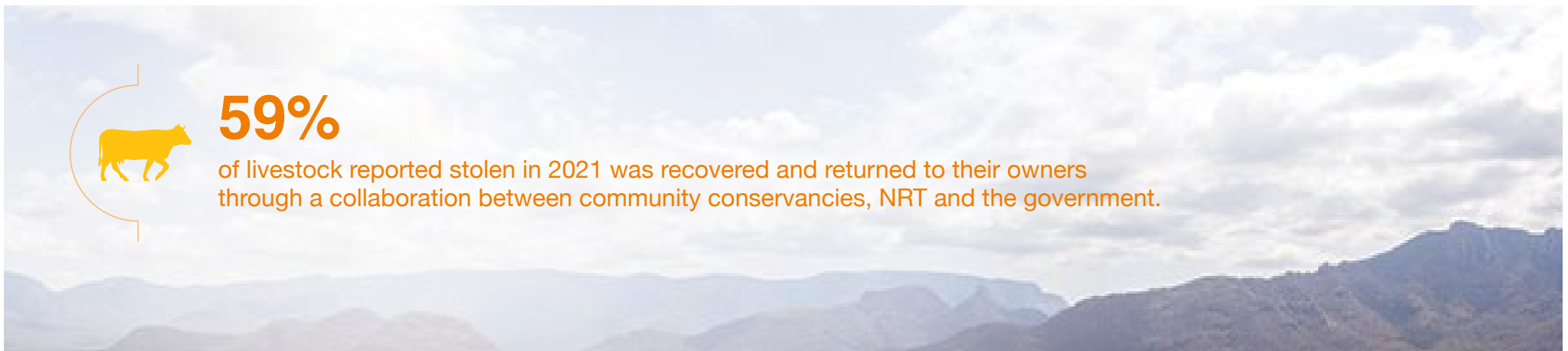
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Livestock Theft Incidents	90	66	168	130	206
% of Livestock Recovered	48%	34%	50%	77%	59%
Road Banditry Incidents	22	15	19	29	30
Tourist Attacks	3	1	1	1	0
People Killed in Ethnic Conflict	43	11	29	36	23
Pieces of Ivory Recovered	21	12	25	26	28
Illegal Firearms Recovered	6	8	10	7	13
No. of Bushmeat Poaching Incidents	-	-	-	17	47
No. of Illegal Fishing Incidents	-	-	-	61	16

Road Unit Update

NRT’s Road Unit is accountable for improving vehicle and aerial patrol access to facilitate rapid response to security incidents. Through increased patrol coverage, the Road Unit seeks to reduce the number of contingencies.



187.1 km of roads and
4.2 km of airfields were graded by the Road Unit in 2021



59%

of livestock reported stolen in 2021 was recovered and returned to their owners through a collaboration between community conservancies, NRT and the government.

Raise a Glass to the 2020 Wildlife Champions!

Not all heroes wear capes—some put their lives on the line, every day, without fail, to safeguard the planet’s most endangered species. The challenges they surmount on the job run the gamut from poaching, banditry, and frequent cattle raids to the sweltering heat of the unforgiving East African sun.

Working in the environment they do is not for the faint-hearted. Yet still, they faithfully show up to protect the world’s biodiversity, collaborating with community conservancies to secure the survival of threatened wildlife. These exceptionally committed women and men are NRT member conservancies’ rangers. And we cannot thank them enough for their service.

As a token of appreciation for the invaluable work that NRT rangers do, Northern Rangelands Trust’s Wildlife and Security departments with the backing of the European Union through the Community Policing Initiative (CPI), celebrated rangers for putting their heart and soul into driving community-led conflict resolution, wildlife protection and endangered species recovery across its 43 conservancies.

117 NRT rangers were honored for their exemplary work in the conservancies. They are part of a larger brave, and capable team that has gone above and beyond to support conservancies in wildlife conservation.

3 rangers from each conservancy were selected to receive an award recognizing their contributions to peace, security, wildlife preservation, and livestock theft recovery. Each awardee was issued with a certificate of appreciation and gifts.

The awards ceremony presented a platform for the rangers to socialize, celebrate each other’s wins and exchange ideas on how best to collaborate.

According to rangers’ wildlife monitoring reports, in NRT member conservancies, no elephants were poached in 2020, and the number of Grevy’s zebra, oryx, and reticulated giraffes increased across the landscape.



We appreciate the rangers for their work and efforts. They are instrumental in endangered species recovery and are the foot soldiers making a real impact on the ground.

Anthony Wandera

NRT’s Senior Research and Monitoring Officer



I am very happy with the tremendous efforts these rangers are putting in wildlife monitoring and protection across their respective conservancies!

Juliet King

NRT’s Technical Advisor







3

Transforming Livelihoods and Businesses

In 2021, Conservancy Livelihood Funds (CLF) provided essential capital for NRT conservancies to launch development projects based on communally-decided priorities, while the availability of donor funds ensured NRT could invest in economic empowerment and conservation projects, increasing the livelihood options of the conservancies' community members.



The NRT Conservancy Livelihoods Fund (CLF)

Empowering communities to identify, plan and implement their own development programs

The Conservancy Livelihoods Fund (CLF) was formed in 2015 to enable conservancy members to benefit from conservation operations directly and concretely.

Any NRT member conservancy is eligible to apply for CLF funds as long as their proposal is approved by the conservancy board and reflects community priorities.

Priority is given to projects that connect livelihood impact to wildlife conservation, build long-term resilience against climate change, promote peace and sustainable enterprise, empower women and youth, and leverage funding from Government and other partners (for multi-year projects).

Since its institution in 2015 to date, the CLF has disbursed more than Ksh 467,253,779 (USD 4,247,761) for 162 projects across all member conservancies, benefiting an estimated 75,702 people.



75,702

people benefitted to date (2015-2021) from more than **Ksh 467,253,779 million (USD 4,247,761)** CLF has provided for 162 projects across all member conservancies.



2021 CLF Analysis

CLF Data per Development Option (2021)

Project	Funds Disbursed (Ksh)	
Economic Empowerment	18,048,500	15%
Education	7,453,576	6%
Enterprise	5,150,000	4%
Environment	3,000,000	2%
Health	3,013,600	3%
Livestock	10,000,000	8%
Microfinance	45,313,000	38%
Tourism	3,000,000	2%
Vocational Training	11,000,000	9%
Water	8,439,200	7%
Wildlife	6,000,000	5%
Total	120,417,876	

CLF Funding Data (2015-2021)

Year	No. of CLF Projects	Amount (Ksh)	No. of Beneficiaries
2015	13	19,913,040	4,192
2016	28	51,729,841	9,443
2017	29	98,848,463	45,775
2018	15	27,245,000	3,956
2019	46	111,599,559	5,249
2020	8	20,000,000	710
2021	43	122,917,876	8,535
Total	162	467,253,779	75,702

Water, Education, Health & Employment

Integrated Water Resource Management

In 2019, NRT established a Water Program, achieving another milestone in nearly a decade of investment in member conservancies' water infrastructure development.

The Program's chief goal is to ensure that water investments are planned holistically, community concerns are addressed, social and environmental considerations are taken into account, and that conservancy-level governance and management capacity are built.

NRT's integrated approach, which includes water resource planning and management with conservancies serving as the entry point for water infrastructure development, has led to more focused investment in community priorities across the landscape. This has resulted in more secure livelihoods, reduced human-wildlife conflict, and environmental conservation. The success of numerous conservation projects—wildlife conservation, livestock, livelihood development (schools and health centers), tourism, peace (resource-based conflict reduction), and security (ranger outposts)—relies on the availability of adequate clean water.

Although the Water Program is still in its early stages, it has garnered tremendous support from existing and new partners.

In 2021, NRT achieved the following milestones in water resource management:

- Water resources mapping and strategy development plans were completed in 9 conservancies spread across 3 counties:
 - a. Samburu County: 6 completed in Westgate, Ltungai, Namunyak, Ngilai, Kalepo, and Nalowuon Conservancies
 - b. Isiolo County: 1 completed in Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy
 - c. Laikipia County: 2 completed in Il Ngwesi Conservancy and Lekurruki Conservancy (under review)

- A water use measurement and monitoring system (using smart meters and specialized tank sensors) were installed in Sera Conservancy to provide water use data and promote efficient water use. The conservancy's water technician has been trained on how to monitor all water points regularly.
- Routine water quality monitoring was undertaken in Sera and Biliqo Conservancies to detect changes in water quality and to ensure that people, livestock, and wildlife have safe access to water.
- In Sera and Biliqo Conservancies, 3 desalination units were installed to supply clean portable water to conservancy guards. The conservancy's rangers and staff have serviced and maintained these kits with assistance from NRT's water technician.
- The NRT water workshop is currently under development, with the design and costing already completed. The workshop will help with in-house maintenance of water supply infrastructure and equipment, particularly pumps, from NRT member community conservancies.
- People, livestock, wildlife, conservancy headquarters, and ranger outposts now have better access to water thanks to new or reconstructed water supply infrastructure in NRT member conservancies.
- A discussion on the Water Resources Users Association's Conservancy Concept has been initiated to explore potential areas of collaboration and/or interaction between the Association and conservancies in water resources management across the landscape.



Water Infrastructure in NRT Member Conservancies (2021)

Conservancy	Infrastructure	Estimated Beneficiaries
ISIOLO COUNTY		
Narupa Conservancy	Two sand dams (Tuale A & B) constructed to improve access to clean water for residents of Tuale Village	100 Households (h/h)
Nannapa Conservancy	Plans are underway to drill the Labarishereki borehole to provide water for domestic use, livestock and institutions in Nannapa Conservancy of Oldonyiro	100 h/h + Livestock and 2 No. Institutions
Biliqo Bulesa	To complete the Biliqo Water Supply system, one 100cm ³ masonry tank was repaired to provide water storage for the Biliqo Community	500 h/h
	Dima Adho Village – The new well was outfitted with a new solar-powered pump to serve the people and livestock in the conservancy	150 h/h + 1 No. Institution and Livestock
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New wells were constructed and installed with solar-powered pumps for rangers' use at Ntorobo HQ and Babala outposts New Desalination Equipment was installed at Ntorobo HQ to provide portable water to the conservancy rangers 	25 Rangers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water governance training and capacity building took place for water committees, board members, and local administration in Biliqo and Dima Adho to ensure the effective operation of the constructed water supply systems. Basic solar operations training for these systems was provided to the water system operator(s) at Ntorobo HQ, Babala outpost, Dima Adho, Biliqo, and Nakuprat, to build local expertise regarding basic Operations and Maintenance 	
Nakuprat-Gotu	At the Nakuprat-Gotu HQ and the Booji Dera outpost, new wells were dug and installed with solar-powered pumps, enabling rangers and community members to access and store water for domestic use and livestock, especially during the dry seasons	24 Rangers 800h/h + Livestock
	Plans are underway to drill the Ngaremara borehole to provide water for domestic use, in Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy	120h/h

SAMBURU COUNTY

Meibae Conservancy	The Mugur E Muny Sand Dam has been constructed to provide adequate, clean water for use by people, livestock and wildlife	200 h/h
Kalama Conservancy	The Ndadapo Sand Dam has been constructed to provide adequate, clean water for use by people, livestock, and wildlife	400 h/h
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of the Nasha Rock Catchment Area for the Kalama Resource Center has been completed and outfitted with one 150 cm³ masonry tank and weir Additionally, 4No. 150 cm³ masonry tanks have been constructed to provide sufficient storage for the facility 	Kalama Resource Center
Reteti Elephant Sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two new 150 cm³ Masonry tanks were constructed to improve water storage for domestic and wildlife use. The intake, supply pipeline and one 150 cm³ masonry tank were reconstructed to ensure sufficient and reliable water supply to the sanctuary 	60 Staff 35 Elephant Calves 150 h/h
Sera Conservancy	Two sand dams were cleaned and repaired to improve water storage, access to water and portability for wildlife in the sanctuary	Varied wildlife numbers within the Rhino Sanctuary
	A new pump was installed at Kapai to provide easy access to water by rangers and wildlife in Sera Sanctuary	30 Rangers
	A new well was excavated at Lontopi, in Sera Sanctuary, to increase water access for rangers and wildlife	
	Water supply was extended at Sera to improve water access for wildlife within the Sera Sanctuary	
Westgate	A new well was excavated and a solar power pump installed to supply water for the conservancy headquarters and 6No. tourism bandas in the conservancy	40 Rangers & 6 Bandas
Ngilai	The well at the headquarters was reconstructed and a solar pump installed to provide adequate water for the conservancy rangers	16 Rangers
Nkoteiya	A borehole hydrogeological survey was conducted to provide water for use by the people, livestock, rangers and the community eco-lodge	100h/h & Livestock

MARSABIT COUNTY

Songa	The Songa HQ borehole has been reconstructed to provide water for livestock and rangers	Approximately 800 Animals/day and 15 Rangers
Leyai	4.5 kilometers of pipeline have been relayed at Leyai to ensure reliable water supply, reduce HWC and promote conservation	150h/h

Shurr	The water reticulation system at Shurr Village has been renovated and expanded to improve water supply for domestic and livestock use	500h/h
Jaldesa	Rainwater harvesting and storage has improved for select members of the Jaldesa Conservancy (50No. 5,000l uPVC storage tanks)	50h/h
Melako	Thursi borehole rehabilitation for livestock in the dry season grazing areas	Approximately 10,000 Animals/day

LAIKIPIA COUNTY

Naibung'a Central	The Nkiloriti Sand Dam was constructed to provide water for use by the people, livestock, wildlife and conservancy rangers	120 h/h & 20 Rangers
Il Ngwesi	The Sang'a Nkukoo Sand Dam was constructed to provide water for use by the people, wildlife and livestock of Sang'a Village	Approximately 500 h/h in the dry season

NRT COAST

Ishaqbini (Garissa County)	A water pan (providing approximately 11,600 m ³ storage) was constructed to ensure sufficient water supply for wildlife in the Ishaqbini Hirola Sanctuary	Wildlife in the Sanctuary
	The solar pumping system was reinstalled and the engine repaired, to improve water supply at Ishaqbini	400h/h & Wildlife
Ndera (Tana River County)	The pump at Ndera HQ was repaired	
Awer (Lamu County)	A 285 l/hour solar-powered desalination plant has been acquired to provide portable water to 90 households in Kiangwe Village who have no alternative source of clean water	90 h/h
Pate, Kiunga and Hanshak-Nyogoro (Lamu County)	Improved access to portable clean fresh water to residents of Shanga-Rubu, Kiwayu and Didewaride through the construction of 3 underground water tanks with a capacity of 100m ³ each	790 h/h

RAINWATER HARVESTING

16 NRT Member Conservancies	At least 35 10,000l uPVC tanks and 125,000l uPVC tanks have been installed, facilitating the harvesting and storage of rainwater, and improving water availability across NRT member conservancies	
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Advancing Education Projects

In 2012, NRT launched the first phase of its Education Program, working with nine community conservancies to identify beneficiary schools and help the selected schools assess and prioritize their needs. With the financial backing of its partners, NRT is supporting schools in infrastructure development and providing school supplies, training for teachers, tuition bursaries, and conservation education.

To date, over 7,000 students have benefited from NRT's Education Program, and schools have recorded a significant improvement in teacher-to-student contact hours, student enrolment and attendance, and graduation into the next grade.



In 2021:



the education program supported **13** schools, benefitting approximately **3,300** students.



500 students received bursaries from their conservancies (Kaptuya and Naibunga Upper) through CLF in 2021.



3 schools in Songa, Shurr and Jaldesa Conservancies benefited from the NRT School Feeding Program.



7 mentorship programs involving **2,200** students were implemented across **7** conservancies.



23 female intern teachers were recruited on a three-year contract funded by NRT and Conservation International (CI) and deployed to selected schools within NRT member conservancies to assist girls in enrolling, attending school, and improving their academic performance. Schools with the fewest registered girls, low girls' attendance, high numbers of girl dropouts, and inadequate or no female teachers were targeted. This is a pilot program aimed at gauging whether the intervention increases the enrolment of girls in schools.

Education Pilot: Beneficiary Conservancies

Regions	Conservancies	Number of Female Intern Teachers Deployed
NRT Coast	Kiunga	1
	Ishaqbini	2
	Awer	2
NRT Central	Ngilai	2
	Kalepo	2
NRT East	Nakuprat-Gotu	1
	Biliqo Bulesa	1
	Melako	2
NRT West	Masol	2
	Kaptuya	2
	Pellow	2
NRT Mountain	Naibunga Upper	2
	Lekurruki	2

Regrettably, the pandemic and the drought resulted in a reduction in school enrolment. Therefore, NRT carried out capacity-building activities that included: parent engagement, students' mentorship, and teacher refresher training to ensure the teachers' continuous professional development.

To help students learn more effectively, NRT completed the construction of classrooms and ablution blocks in 4 primary and secondary schools in 4 conservancies: Nalowuon, Meibae, Naibunga Upper, and Kalama.

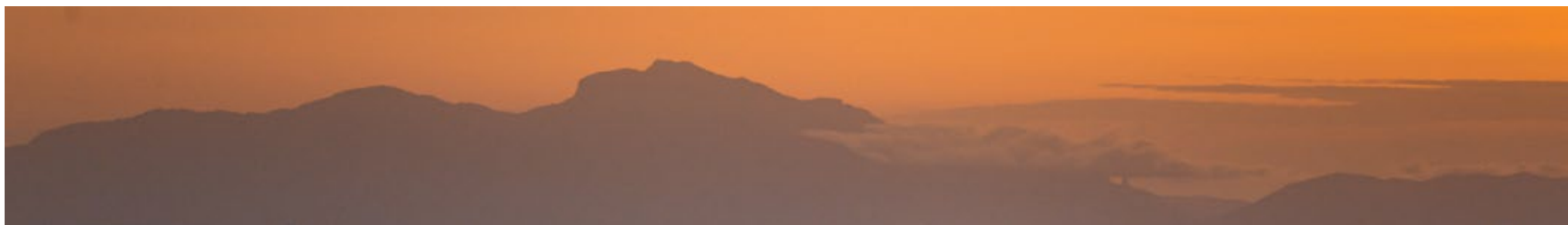
2021 Education Infrastructure Projects

County	Conservancy	School	Item Constructed
Nalowuon	Samburu	Wamba Mixed Secondary School	2 Classrooms
Meibae	Samburu	Lodung'okwe Primary School	2 Ablution Blocks
Naibunga Upper	Laikipia	Soit Oudo Primary School	2 Ablution Blocks
Kalama	Samburu	Lerata Primary School	2 Ablution Blocks



13 Schools

Schools supported over the past year by the Education Program in community conservancies, benefitting around 3,300 students.



Improving Healthcare

NRT is developing a health program to complement Government health services and address gaps in health care provision across the landscape. Currently, NRT is working closely with the University of Nairobi and the University of Plymouth (UK), to conduct the assessment of community health needs, and the subsequent priority actions.

In 2021:



Rapid health assessments were conducted in **28** conservancies in 2020/2021. Recommendations from these assessments will inform future development of conservancy-led community health strategies.



9 health outreaches were conducted in Songa, Jaldesa and Shurr Conservancies and approximately **5,400** people were attended to.



NRT invested Ksh 27,500,000 (USD 250,000) in Biliqo Bulesa Conservancy for the establishment of Biliqo Dispensary, whose construction is now complete. The facility provides a **3,000**-person catchment area with health services and much-needed maternal healthcare. **120** expectant women have delivered in the maternity unit since the facility's opening in 2020.



4,993 people visited the Biliqo Dispensary facility and were served in 2021.



In Biliqo Bulesa Conservancy's Biliqo Dispensary and Shurr Conservancy's Shurr Dispensary, NRT implemented and completed multiple health infrastructure projects. These are indicated in the next table.

2021 Health Infrastructure Projects

Conservancy	Facility	Infrastructure
Biliqo Bulesa	Biliqo Dispensary	Constructed health officers' staff quarters
Biliqo Bulesa	Biliqo Dispensary	Completed and equipped the dispensary's laboratory
Biliqo Bulesa	Biliqo Dispensary	Equipped the dispensary's maternity wing
Biliqo Bulesa	Biliqo Dispensary	Performed improvements of the facility's first phase
Shurr	Shurr Dispensary	Refurbished the dispensary's maternity wing

The plan in 2022 is to conduct more outreach programs in Marsabit Conservancy and construct male and female wards in the Biliqo Dispensary.



Saving Mothers: New Hope for Reducing Maternal Mortality in Biliqo Bulesa Conservancy in Isiolo County

Maternal mortality remains the biggest concern in the Biliqo Bulesa Community Conservancy and its environs, especially given the restricted access to a lifesaving facility for safe deliveries.

The rates of death of mothers and infants remain high in Isiolo County. According to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) statistics, 790 mothers die out of 100,000 deliveries in Isiolo. This high maternal mortality rate is caused by long distances between health facilities, inadequately stocked health facilities, a lack of skilled personnel, low level of education, and cultural factors such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriages.

Isiolo County is one of six regions in Kenya that account for more than half of all maternal death cases.

With the establishment of a new dispensary with a fully equipped maternity wing in Isiolo, notably in Merti Sub-county, there is new hope for averting the high cases of maternal and child deaths. The health facility is set for launch in the coming months.

Communities in Biliqo Bulesa Conservancy and its environs now have access to proper healthcare thanks to support from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and Hungary Helps through the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT). The good news is that expectant mothers can now undertake ante-natal care visits and stand a higher chance of delivering safely, lowering the risk of maternal deaths.

Prior to the construction of the dispensary, the nearest maternal and child health services, as well as reliable operating facilities were located in Isiolo Town, approximately 210 kilometers away - a six-hour bus ride.

The nearest sub-county medical facility, located in Merti, about 42 kilometers away, only offers laboratory and diagnostics services and lacks an operating room. During emergencies, there is no reliable public transportation in the area to take women to hospitals.

“Previously, pregnant mothers from Biliqo and its environs had to travel to Isiolo Town for maternal services, and we’ve had incidents where women lost their babies en route to or shortly after arriving at the hospital. Now that



we have this facility, we're grateful that it will assist in saving the lives of our new mothers and newborns," says former Biliqo Bulesa Conservancy Chairperson, Golicha Guyo Karayu.

Before NRT's assistance, Biliqo Dispensary was a semi-permanent structure that lacked access to laboratory services and reliable medical supplies. The maternity unit was a community-built structure that was unfit for use and in which patients were being attended to without any privacy.

The facility's and the community's access to safe and clean water was also a challenge. The Swedish government, through the IMARA program, supported the connection of water to the dispensary, with 20,000 liters of water pumped to the facility daily to provide a consistent supply of clean water.

The facility presently has a maternity block, a new clinic, a renovated building that houses staff and also serves as a store, an incinerator for proper waste disposal, and a fence, all of which are sponsored by Danida.

Hungary Helps generously sponsored the construction of staff housing, the laboratory, the storage facility, and the placenta pit, and provided supplies for

the maternity unit, while Isiolo's County Government contributed personnel and medical supplies.

"We anticipate an increase in hospital deliveries because recently, more patients from neighboring villages have been visiting the dispensary to access primary healthcare," says Madina Kalo, the Nurse in Charge at Biliqo Dispensary.

At least 120 safe deliveries have been carried out in the new maternity ward since it opened in March 2020, bringing the community one step closer to decreasing maternal deaths.

The maternity unit, which has a capacity of ten beds, also functions as a 'temporary shelter' for expectant mothers who come from remote places and need prenatal and postnatal care as they wait for their due date.

The Biliqo Bulesa Community Conservancy's Programs and operations are supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Taronga Zoo Sydney and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).



Creating Employment Opportunities and Jobs

In a region where formal employment is scarce, NRT and the community conservancies combined, are among the biggest employers, employing permanent staff and creating thousands of temporary jobs each year.

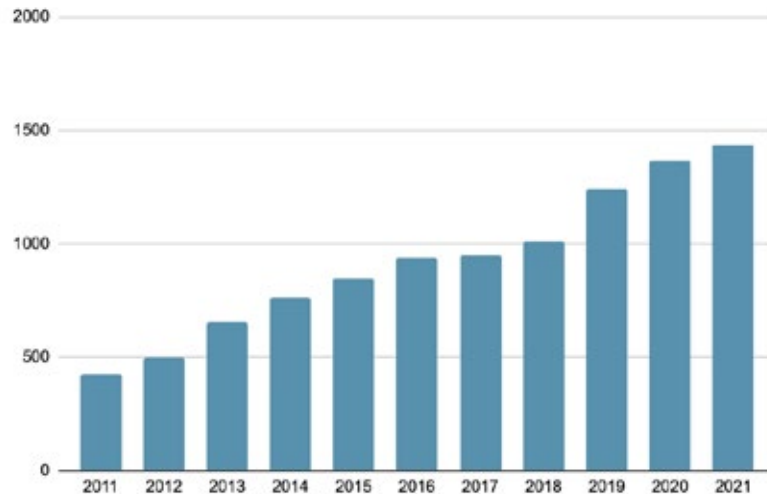


1,350 employees are employed permanently by NRT and community conservancies.

In 2021, at least **190** locals were employed permanently in the conservancies' tourist camps and hotels. The travel limitations induced by the Covid-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on the hospitality industry, resulting in the lay-off of numerous lodge personnel.

Conservancies created **901** temporary jobs in 2021 in a variety of projects ranging from water to infrastructure.

Permanent Conservancy Employees



NRT Trading

NRT Trading is a business accelerator for social and conservation impact enterprises. It was established by NRT to accelerate the development of sustainable and resilient businesses across member conservancies at all levels of the social spectrum: from household businesses run by women and youth to conservancy based businesses that leverage community assets to businesses operated by NRT Trading to improve value chain dynamics and connect people to distant markets.

NRT Trading’s 2020-2025 Strategic Plan outlines a three-pillar model:



Pillar 1
NRT Trading develops, pilots, and operates stand-alone, sustainable businesses in key value chains and economic sectors.



Pillar 2
NRT Trading enables conservancies to attract investors and operate businesses (such as tourism-based businesses).



Pillar 3
NRT Trading develops the capacity of men, women, and small groups to start and manage enterprises so they can diversify their household income and increase their economic resilience.

NRT Trading’s Strategic Plan sets ambitious social and financial impact goals and an action plan for each pillar. In 2021, 82% of community members interviewed reported an improved socio-economic status because of their involvement in NRT Trading’s enterprise programs.



82%

of community members interviewed said their socio-economic status improved because of their participation in NRT Trading’s enterprise programs.



NRT Trading Socio-economic Baseline Survey

NRT Trading conducted a socioeconomic baseline survey in 2021 to assess the socioeconomic status of NRT Trading community conservancy members and the impact of NRT Trading's programs on community livelihoods.

This survey engaged 2,851 respondents from 25 Community Conservancies across 4 counties from Northern Kenya (Isiolo, Laikipia, Samburu and Marsabit) and 2 counties from the Coast region (Tana River and Lamu).

Respondents were chosen based on their engagement with NRT Trading's core programs and included:

- Sellers in the Livestock-to-Market (LTM) business
- BeadWORKS beaders
- Northern Rangelands Sacco members and loan beneficiaries
- Financial and entrepreneurship training beneficiaries
- Ujuzi Manyattani vocational training graduates
- Fodder Bank beneficiaries

The following are some of the survey's significant findings:

- Only 1% of the respondents have a university education
- 59% live in temporary, traditional houses because they are herders, while others live in these structures because family income is too limited to construct a permanent house
- 4% of households have access to employment
- 66% of the respondents depend on livestock to cushion them from financial shocks
- 1% of respondents are involved in trade in gums, resins, dyes, and essential oils
- 96% of respondents said that they had never undergone any formal livestock training



Pillar 1: NRT Trading Businesses



Under Pillar 1, NRT Trading operates two enterprises:

1. BeadWORKS
2. Livestock to Market (LTM)

BeadWORKS

BeadWORKS is a handicraft business that harnesses the rich beading tradition of northern Kenya to improve livelihoods and empower women.

BeadWORKS currently empowers 1,190 women in nine conservancies, including 108 Star Beaders—who organize beading groups, train their members, manage raw material distribution, and are responsible for design input, prototyping, quality control, and ensuring on-time order production.



In 2021

- › the number of Star Beaders increased by **18**, from 90 to 108. Star Beaders were rewarded at the end of each year, based on the volume of production they oversee. In 2021 these financial rewards amounted to Ksh 602,207 (USD 5,474).
- › **101,518** BeadWORKS items were produced by BeadWORKS.
- › BeadWORKS earned **Ksh 12 million** (USD 109,090) as labor payment for the creation of beaded products in 2021—up 28.27% compared to 2020's Ksh 9.3 million (USD 84,545).
- › BeadWORKS generated **Ksh 30,085,774 million** (USD 273,507) from the sale of beaded products.
- › BeadWORKS contributes **5%** of revenue to conservation efforts in host conservancies (Westgate, Naibunga, Melako, Il Ngwesi, Leparua, Kalama, Sera and Lekurruki Conservancies). This amounted to Ksh 1.5 million in 2021 (USD 13,636). These conservation fees will be distributed based on production volume.
- › the BeadWORKS Kenya B2C e-commerce website was launched, generating about **Ksh 770,000** (7,000 USD) in sales.
- › BeadWORKS presented new products to NRT's Coastal conservancies' members to encourage them to join the program, so their income streams are diversified.
- › Star Beaders Conference: the BeadWORKS Program organized a two-day conference for Star Beaders in 2021. This event converged **200** established women leaders from across the 43

NRT community conservancies to empower the women, promote diversity in leadership and identify and support future leaders. The women in attendance also learned about the NRT and NRT Trading conservation model and the connections to their respective conservancies. They also discussed societal issues affecting women and girls at the community and household levels. The health of women and girls, reproductive health, girl-boy child education, early marriage, and gender-based violence were among the topics highlighted.

- **Maasai Mara Exposure Trip:** funded by USAID, the BeadWORKS Program had 24 women from 8 conservancies travel to the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA), located in the Mara, for an exposure tour. During the tour, the women learned from, benchmarked, and swapped ideas with women from the Mara about beading and sustainable businesses.



Earnings per Conservancy from BeadWORKS Products (2021)

Conservancy	Total BeadWORKS Items Produced	Total Earnings (Ksh)	Conservation Fees (Ksh)	Star Beaders Rewards (Ksh)
Melako	18,761	1,749,920	277,207	87,496
Sera	16,619	1,910,415	245,557	95,520
Kalama	10,098	1,278,180	149,205	63,909
Westgate	7,165	653,870	105,868	32,693
Lekurruki	3,168	447,850	46,810	22,392
Il Ngwesi	34,318	4,790,980	507,073	239,549
Leparua	2,715	263,974	40,116	13,198
Naibunga	8,674	948,950	128,164	47,447
Total	101,518	12,044,139	1,500,000	602,206



Did You Know?

The NRT Trading Local Works Project

The NRT Trading Local Works Project, (Local Works) is a three-year project implemented to economically empower northern Kenya communities so they can drive their own sustainable development.

Funded by USAID and with NRT Trading serving as the implementing partner, Local Works is scheduled to run from 2021 to 2024 in Lamu, Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Laikipia, Baringo, and West Pokot.

Northern Kenya has the lowest employment rates. The increasing vulnerability of poor and marginalized households can be addressed through a combination of livestock rearing and other income-generating businesses, employment, or crop production to make households more resilient by giving them more options.

During the Project, NRT Trading will work with the most vulnerable women and youth, and NRT member conservancies to identify business priorities, and will seek private sector and governmental partners who can assist and invest in developmental solutions.

Pastoralism is the principal source of livelihood for northern Kenya communities, but the livestock production value chain is underoptimized due to different contributing factors. These include climate change, rangelands degradation, and low level of training and adoption of technology, resulting in disorganized production.

Local Works will be a catalyst for market-based development by strengthening the livestock value chain and local institutions, providing appropriate financial, entrepreneurship and vocational training courses, and creating market-supply linkages.

Northern Kenya also has immense tourism potential that can provide youth and women, who have peacefully co-existed with wildlife for centuries, an alternative income source. Through Local Works, NRT Trading will market northern Kenya as an exciting destination, and train communities in tourism operations and management.

NRT Trading will also consult, strategize, and engage with the local private sector on implementation. The County Governments of Lamu, Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Laikipia, Baringo, and West Pokot, and the National Industrial Training Authority are the other key partners in the Local Works Project.



The Livestock to Market (LTM) Program

The northern Kenya rangelands are under increasing pressure to support rising livestock numbers, and conservancies are at the forefront of efforts to better manage natural resources for the benefit of cattle and wildlife.

The NRT Trading Livestock to Market (LTM) business strives to increase pastoralists' and conservancies' income through livestock sales. LTM purchases cattle from conservancies directly and pays pastoralists directly using a transparent weight-based pricing system.

Despite the economic upheaval brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, LTM operated cattle markets in conservancies in 2021 while upholding health and safety standards.



In 2021

- › In the Songa, Shurr, Biliqo Bulesa, Namunyak, and Leparua Conservancies, **5** LTM markets were held, and **447** cattle were sold. Due to adequate rainfall in 2020, the livestock weighed more and fetched higher prices, increasing the pastoralists' income.
- › As the planned reduction in the trading operations continued, sellers earned Ksh 9.3 million (USD 84,545). Out of the 158 sellers, 30 were women.
- › The sellers contributed a cumulative **Ksh 302,000** (USD 2,745) in conservation fees to their respective conservancies as contributions for conservancy projects. These contributions, together with those from NRT Trading's, amounted to Ksh 604,000 (USD 5,490), obtained from LTM, in 2021.
- › **30** women from Kalama, Naibunga, Westgate, Il Ngwesi, and Sera Conservancies underwent training on poultry farming. The goal is to boost their income by enabling them to take advantage of the growing poultry demand in the region. This will incorporate women in the livestock sector under the new Local Works Project.

Total Amounts Paid to Households from the Livestock to Market Business (in Millions of Ksh) from 2012-2021

Year	Total Amounts Paid to Households from the Livestock to Market Business (Ksh Millions)
2012	40.3
2013	23.9
2014	69.0
2015	107.9
2016	61.4
2017	-
2018	96.2
2019	63.3
2020	76.9
2021	12.9

Pastoralism is the primary source of income for indigenous communities in northern Kenya, and the majority of the population depends on livestock for their livelihood. Therefore, with the support of USAID’s Local Works Program, NRT Trading is adopting a fresh approach to beef production in northern Kenya.

NRT Trading began a training program in 2021 to educate herders in Isiolo, Laikipia, Samburu, and Marsabit Counties on a variety of topics, including modern livestock keeping methods, feeding, breeding, disease surveillance, rangelands management, and access to markets. The program aims at shielding pastoralists from the effects of drought and climate change.

300 herders so far, from Kalama, Westgate, Sera, Biliqo, Songa, Melako, Shurr, Jaldesa, Ltungai, and Naibunga Lower Conservancies have enrolled for the new program.



Unveiling the ‘Ufugaji Bora Mashinani’ Livestock Extension Program

NRT Trading has unveiled a farmer field-school approach to enhance the practical training of pastoralists on animal selection, animal husbandry, animal feeding, and marketing of livestock. NRT Trading has collaborated with county technical subject matter specialists to ensure ownership and sustainability.

Baseline Survey

NRT Trading teamed up with Dr. Francis Chabari, a highly reputed livestock consultant, to conduct a comprehensive survey of knowledge, skills and practice gaps so as to improve herd productivity.

The productivity gaps assessment was done in ten conservancies: Naibunga and Il Ngwesi in Laikipia County, Biliqo and Nakuprat-Gotu in Isiolo County, Ltungai and Kalama in Samburu County, and Melako, Songa, Jaldesa, and Shurr in Marsabit County.

The significant gaps identified included:

- the capacity to diagnose and treat livestock diseases; curative drugs usage in terms of correct drugs, dosage, and method of application; or drug administration (including the use of dewormers)
- the capacity to identify fake drugs in circulation
- the disastrous effects of underdosing, particularly with antibiotics
- the dangers of consuming meat, blood and milk from treated livestock within the withdrawal period
- the safe use of pesticides and other formulations for ectoparasite control, and also sprays for crop pest control

On August 30th 2021, NRT Trading organized a one-day workshop in Isiolo to share the baseline survey findings, obtain recommendations from the community members and identify areas of collaboration with partners.

The workshop drew 60 participants (55 men and 5 women) from the national and county governments, conservancy management, the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), and other non-governmental organizations working in the landscape.

Curriculum Development

Based on the findings of the Baseline Survey, NRT Trading was commissioned to create a specialized curriculum for the pastoralist livestock-keeper, the key stakeholder in the livestock production value chain in the pastoralist areas of northern Kenya.

The curriculum is designed to assist pastoralists in their day-to-day management activities, enabling them to not only produce better cattle for higher returns but also manage and utilize the grazing environment sustainably. NRT Trading appreciates the guidance provided by the NITA team in aligning the curriculum with Kenya’s new Competence Based Curriculum learning model, which aims to recognize competencies among individuals who have not had the opportunity to attend formal schooling.



NRT Trading also acknowledges the contributions of teams from the counties of Isiolo, Marsabit, Laikipia, and Samburu (specifically, Dr. Joseph Muriira, Dr. Peter Mwai, Dr. Boreya Lekenit, Dr. Wario Sake, Francis Nganga, and Emily Kioko) who played a significant role in the creation of the content of this manual.

NRT Trading deployed the ‘Ufugaji Bora Mashinani’ curriculum from Q4 of 2021. 300 livestock-keepers from 10 conservancies were recruited for the modular field-school program. In addition to increased livestock productivity, the following outcomes are expected:

- organized herder structures, improved access to information on livestock health, and coordinated animal husbandry activities
- improved livestock supply competitiveness
- enhanced access to markets and market information

NRT Trading also organized trainings to equip women from NRT member conservancies with the skills and knowledge required to engage in the poultry farming business.

The training was conducted in two three-day sessions, held in two locations in Kalama Conservancy from the 4th to the 6th of October 2021, and in Naibunga Conservancy from the 11th to the 13th of October 2021. Women of all age groups residing in Il Ngwesi, Kalama and Naibunga Conservancies were the target trainees. The trainees chosen as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) will be expected to train other women in the conservancies on best poultry rearing practices and marketing techniques.

The training covered a wide range of topics including poultry production systems, poultry housing, breed selection, incubation, chick brooding, chick management, feeds and feeding, feed formulations, indigenous chicken health and disease control and management, marketing, and record-keeping. At the end of the training, the participants (ToTs) are expected to be able to set up well-established poultry farms and train fellow women from

their respective groups on poultry farming and the long-term generation of income from poultry and poultry products in the long run.

Hands-on practical sessions, mini-lectures, focus group discussions, brainstorming sessions, plenary sessions, case studies, ice breakers, songs, and demonstrations were among the information delivery methods employed during the training sessions. On the last day of the training, the trainees were assisted in developing action plans based on their learnings.



The Livestock Director Patrick Ekodere, with technical officers from the National Government Vet Department, and technical officers from Laikipia, Samburu, Marsabit and Isiolo Counties, who assisted in the development of the Livestock Extension Program curriculum.

Pillar 2: Conservancy Businesses



Tourism

Creating financial sustainability and conservation incentives through tourism

Following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which disrupted global travel and upended normal business operations these last two years, tourism in conservancies is on the upswing.

For NRT member conservancies, tourism revenue totaled Ksh 84 million (USD 763,636), a 34% rise from Ksh 62 million (USD 563,636) the previous year, and the four community bandas generated a revenue of Ksh 2.7 million (USD 24,545).

Tourism revenue helps fund essential operations (such as ranger remuneration and vehicle maintenance) and community-wide projects (such as education and health).



In 2021

- Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and security concerns, tourism experienced a modest recovery, albeit overall tourism revenue was still 37% lower than the high of 2019.
- The NRT landscape's tourism revenue is heavily centered in 7 conservancies which include Namunyak-Nalowuon, Sera, Kalama, Il Ngwesi, Ngare Ndare, Namunyak-Ngilai, and Westgate.
 - Melako has the best overall income improvement for conservancies with self-catering facilities or campgrounds. Stakeholders are increasingly embracing community-based tourism properties.
 - For conservancies with bandas, NRT has restored and improved these self-catering facilities considerably, and there are 5 operating now in the northern landscape.
 - Despite the ongoing pandemic-related challenges and insecurity scares, the bandas have seen repeat business and have remained prepared to attend to guests when people can travel. Each banda operation has a chef or room steward and a food and beverage waiter, ensuring guests are properly catered for.

Tourism Trainings

NRT Trading currently provides 2 types of tourism-related trainings to NRT member conservancies to facilitate competitive service delivery and a skilled management team to run community-owned bandas sustainably. The 2 trainings follow a curriculum designed by NRT Trading and approved by USAID's Local Works Program.

1. Tourism Enterprise and Governance Training

This is provided to conservancy board members to equip them with banda management skills. Currently, NRT Trading markets, takes bookings, receives

incomes, and manages expenditures on the boards' behalf. Consultatively, NRT Trading has constituted a core team drawn from the boards that will be trained further on how to accomplish these tasks. To that end, in 2021, Nkoteiya Conservancy board members underwent 2 training sessions on tourism development and enterprise.

2. Lodge/Banda Staff Training

This training focuses on the acquisition of catering and accommodation skills.

In 2021, 6 staff from Olgaboli and Koiya underwent training on various topics including preparing a range of recipes, customer service, housekeeping and general camp standard operating procedures.

The plan is to widen this scope to include unemployed youth from the community who can be recruited whenever business improves or the bandas need a staff member replaced.

In addition to the banda staff training, 5 tour operators were taken on a familiarization trip to each of the 5 community-owned bandas in 2021.

Income Generated by the Conservancy Bandas in 2021

Bandas	Income				
	Jan-Mar	April-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Total
Olgaboli	174,000	49,000	140,000	260,200	623,200
Koiya	116,000	180,000	154,000	216,000	666,000
Melako	258,000	191,000	248,000	428,000	1,125,000
Nkoteiya	-	132,100	6,000	124,000	256,100

Staff Employed in Conservancy Tourism Facilities: 2021

CONSERVANCIES TOURISM FACILITIES				
Conservancy	Eco-Lodge	No. Employees	Status	Ownership
Il Ngwesi	Il Ngwesi Lodge	4	Operational	Community-owned and run
Naibunga	Koiya Star Bed	3	Operational	Community-owned and run
	Ole Gaboli Bandas	3	Operational	Community-owned and run
Nkoteiya	Nkoteiya Eco-Lodge	3	Operational	Community-owned and run
Westgate	Sasaab	36	Operational	Private Investor
Kalama	Saruni Samburu	44	Operational	Private Investor
Nalouwon	Sarara Camp	37	Operational	Community-owned; Private Operator
	Tree houses	28	Operational	Community-owned; Private Operator
Sera	Saruni Rhino	10	Operational	Community-owned; Private Operator
Ngilai	Kitich Camp	12	Operational	Community-owned; Private Operator
	Reteti House	-	Just completed	Community-owned; Private Operator
Kalepo	Kalepo Tented Camp	8	Just completed	Private Investor
Lekurruki	Tassia	16	Operational	Community-owned and run
Melako	Melako Bandas	3	Operational	Community-owned and run
Ngare Ndare	-	13		
Total		220		

Tourism Income to NRT Member Conservancies (2013-2021)

Conservancy	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Namunyak	14,463,833	17,802,000	16,961,339	16,427,099	21,665,718	22,911,700	38,247,520	-	-	
Namunyak-Ngilai	1,446,383	1,780,200	1,696,134	1,642,710	2,166,572	2,291,170	3,824,752	3,839,719	1,412,600	3,407,000
Namunyak-Nalowuon	14,980,716	14,646,899	14,730,965	14,784,389	19,499,146	20,620,530	34,422,778	36,200,000	20,148,260	20,619,901
Kalama	5,245,514	7,523,501	7,675,264	7,047,550	8,880,000	13,921,356	19,041,860	24,711,375	7,335,135	17,555,918
Ngare Ndare	3,281,709	3,200,000	4,600,000	6,797,497	6,800,000	8,987,982	9,800,000	15,220,000	10,357,887	12,789,788
Westgate	7,553,007	6,961,902	2,807,661	5,109,296	7,197,111	10,567,004	11,527,515	16,000,000	6,509,814	7,116,046
Lekurruki	3,554,585	5,178,495	3,444,980	2,553,600	2,034,174	-	3,200,000	2,505,500	900,000	-
Lower Tana Delta		1,457,500		1,433,302	-		592,295	-	350,000	-
Kiunga									100,000	-
Il Ngwesi	15,203,937	13,086,610	15,042,840	11,958,480	10,522,050	12,773,837	20,531,715	22,857,736	9,365,082	14,946,610
Nakuprat-Gotu		620,000	1,562,000	1,320,166	673,154	72,500	655,000	30,000	56,000	29,000
Sera	810,000	1,803,248	2,208,162	403,029	84,490	3,002,000	5,647,000	6,649,000	2,977,400	4,288,000
Ruko	1,356,406	50,000	1,039,750	200,000	198,100	211,000		103,400	384,415	-
Melako			2,945,000	2,052,000				-	1,469,000	1,125,000
Nkoteiya										256,100
Ltungai			2,968,200			-		-	-	-
Ishaqbini		56,000	400,000			147,000	40,000	-	-	67,000
Billiqo-Bulesa	522,091	329,306	116,000			-	-	-	250,000	190,000
Naibunga Upper	57,000				68,000	-	-	20,000	89,600	-
Naibunga Lower									542,000	1,289,200
Meibae		25,000			9,000	-		-	-	
Oldonyiro-Nanapisho			116,000		100,000	13,000	150,000	-	-	-
Oldonyiro-Nanapa								4,900,000	-	-
Kaptuya								-	-	-
Songa						4,460,000	-	-	-	-
Total	54,011,348	56,718,661	61,352,956	55,302,019	58,231,797	77,067,379	109,432,915	133,036,730	62,247,193	83,679,563



Pillar 3: Household Businesses (Biashara Mashinani)

Biashara Mashinani

Transforming lives is at the heart of the community conservancy model. Biashara Mashinani inculcates skills in individuals and groups in conservancies, enabling them to start and manage enterprises. The program aims at bringing women and youth into the economic mainstream by supporting the development of diversified income sources and an asset base that is not solely reliant on livestock.

Biashara Mashinani is a structured, graduation-based program that combines training, business development, mentorship, and the provision of financial literacy tools such as savings, loans, mobile banking, and a savings and credit cooperative organization.

Vocational Training (Ujuzi Manyattani)

Ujuzi Manyattani is a mobile, village-based vocational training program that partners with polytechnic institutions as part of a drive to diversify livelihoods and encourage entrepreneurship amongst women and young morans in conservancies. It aims to eliminate unemployment, poverty, and conflict over natural resources while fostering entrepreneurship among illiterate morans prone to experiencing conflict cycles.

The Program is tailored to the needs and lifestyles of the pastoralists based on their proposals. NRT Trading's Community Economic Empowerment team solely provides advice and develops the program. Courses offered as part of the program include motorcycle mechanics, masonry, tailoring and dressmaking, mobile phone repair, welding, catering, hairdressing and salon management. So far, 209 trainees have successfully graduated with expertise in one of these skills and are self-employed or employed.

In 2021:

- **514** youth and women underwent training in Songa, Nakuprat-Gotu, Nasuulu, Ltungai, Jaldesa, Shurr and Meibae Conservancies.
- **313** trainees enrolled for vocational training; 158 were women, while 155 were men.
- **150** trainees graduated at an event presided by the Principal Secretary (PS) State Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Dr. Margaret Mwakima.
- **7** new training centers were established, one each in: Ngaremara, Daaba, Kiwanjani, Nasulu, Songa, Shurr, and Jaldesa Conservancies.

NRT is working with the Ministry of Education to ensure the Ujuzi Manyattani Program is incorporated into the National Vocational Training Policy. Plans are also underway to scale the Program to train at least 300 trainees in 2022.

Additionally, NRT Trading is finalizing a memorandum of agreement with the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) to facilitate mobile testing and the certification of Ujuzi Manyattani trainees.

Financial Inclusion: Creating an Ecosystem for Individual and Group Enterprise

Northern Rangelands Savings and Credit Cooperative (NR Sacco)

The Northern Rangelands Savings and Credit Cooperative (NR Sacco), founded in 2016, is a vehicle for delivering savings and credit solutions to communities within NRT member conservancies. It was established to help women and youth in conservancies build sustainable businesses as alternative livelihood options.

NR Sacco is an independent, community-owned, and membership-driven organization, which receives oversight, critical technical support, and training from NRT Trading. The Sacco works closely with conservancies to administer savings and micro-credit loans. Through its provision of entrepreneurship, financial literacy and life skills, and business development services, community members get to be self-employed.

Business ventures financed through the Sacco include posho mill operations, livestock purchase, transportation, BeadWORKS, food and beverage sale, poultry farming, agro vet services, cosmetic products sale, and motorcycle and phone repair.



Since I joined the Northern Rangelands Sacco, my life has changed. I took my first loan of Ksh 25,000 and used it to expand and restock my shop business. With my savings and a good loan repayment plan, I took another loan of Ksh 50,000 and started buying and selling goats, a venture that has earned me lots of profits. With the two businesses operating successfully, I decided to expand my small hotel in Gotu Town to accommodate more customers and added some meals to my menu. The earnings from my three ventures have helped me educate my children, cater for our needs and save even more.

Hadija Hussein

NR Sacco beneficiary from Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy



Women have been trained on financial management, which helps us run BeadWORKS and other businesses. Thanks to the funds we receive from the Northern Rangelands Sacco, several women have started businesses, and others are expanding.

Ngilian Lokorukoru

Westgate Conservancy, also owns a motorcycle and livestock business

In 2021:

- NRT Trading received **Ksh 36.6 million** (USD 332,727) for onward lending by NR Sacco to the members.
- NR Sacco made a contribution of **Ksh 27 million** (USD 245,454) to fund community enterprises.
- NR Sacco membership stood at **5,040** active members.
- **1,375** new members joined the Sacco.
- **3,420** people underwent financial literacy training on entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and life skills prior to acquiring loans.
- NR Sacco disbursed loans worth **Ksh 63.6 million** (USD 578,181) to finance 1,656 women and youth-run enterprises.
- **Ksh 12.2 million** (USD 110,909) was accrued by members in savings and shares.
- **36** trained Community Enterprise Agents (CEAs) were placed to promote access to financial services and entrepreneurship education in villages.
- Borrowers repaid **Ksh 24.5 million** (USD 222,727) in loan repayment.
- The Sacco was active in **39** of the 43 NRT member conservancies. NRT Trading conducted a mapping exercise in 10 NRT member conservancies to identify business opportunities and marketable skills.
- A capacity assessment of **400** entrepreneurs was undertaken, and the findings were used to develop a business training program that addresses the identified skill gaps.



Fodder Banks

NRT Trading is assisting pastoralists in building hay reserves for their livestock, an endeavor that bolsters drought resilience, increases household income, and boosts peace initiatives. The existence of fodder banks increases livestock milk yield, raises household income, enhances child nutrition, and increases food security.

In 2021:

- **125** (women, men and youth) from Ltungai and Biliqo Bulesa Community Conservancies underwent training on business development and fodder bank production.
- **1,443** square bales valued at Ksh 505,050 (USD 4,591) were harvested. Drought in the region has led to a decline in production.
- **87,561** bales of hay were rebailed from reserves in Lewa, Ol Pajeta and Elkarama Conservancies in Laikipia.
- **33,650** bales were issued to pastoralists in NRT member community conservancies to help them weather the drought.

To date, 6 fodder stores have been established at strategic locations in the conservancy so farmers are able to store surplus bales and sell or use them later.

Ltungai Conservancy Fodder Banks Project

Summary	Gender of Membership	2019	2020	2021
Total Acreage		50.5	166	28.5
Total Bales Harvested		2,152	20,760	1,443
Approximate Price per Bale: Ksh 300		645,600	6,228,000	505,050
Gender	Youth	8	12	4
	Women	8	9	3
	Men	12	16	6
	Total	28	37	13







4

Conserving Wildlife and Natural Resources

“

Our land was in a very poor state. We started rehabilitating the most affected sites and today, our land is healthier and is a good refuge area for wildlife and livestock.

Chris Lekupe,
Conservancy Manager,
Westgate Conservancy



16 Years of Conservation: The Story of Westgate Community Conservancy

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

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

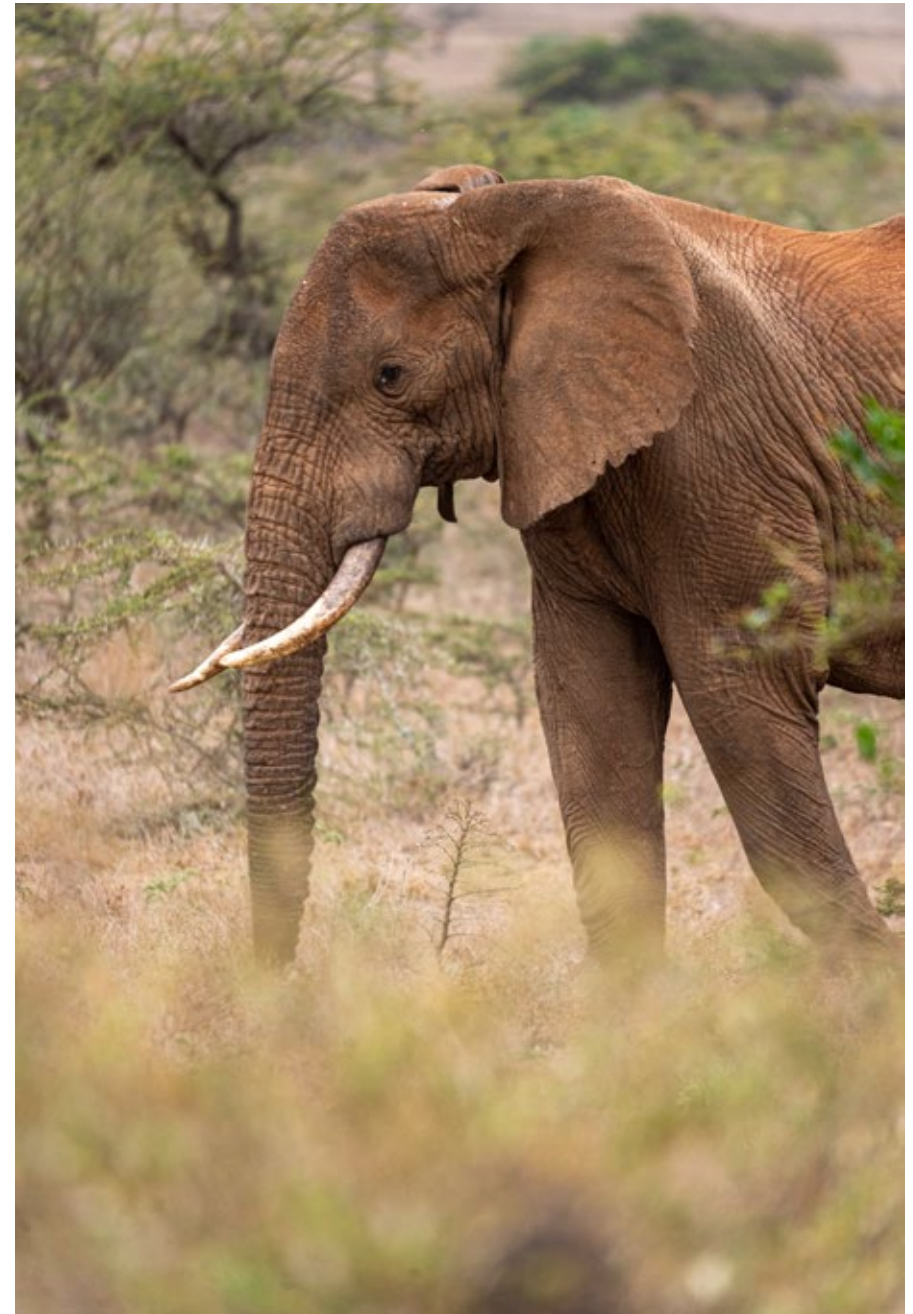
Historically, Westgate had a huge wildlife population. However, over the past few decades' wildlife numbers have declined due to rangeland degradation, expansion of settlements and poaching. This notwithstanding, the area has remained a stronghold for the critically endangered Grevy's zebra.

Disturbed by the silent extinction and migration of wildlife from the area and the looming threat to livelihoods as rangeland conditions deteriorated, the community in Westgate united and committed to restoring the health of their land to ensure wildlife, livestock, and people who depend on the rangelands have a bright future.

Thanks to this concept and the support of The Grevy's Zebra Trust and NRT, the community developed a land-use plan for their 35,000 hectares of land, which includes community settlement areas, a core conservation area, a buffer zone, and grazing blocks where they practice planned grazing and rangeland rehabilitation.

The land is managed by the local community members who have set aside their settlement zone for the construction of schools, hospitals, water supplies, and the implementation of other community infrastructure projects.

On the 1,200-acre buffer zone, the community practices holistic planned grazing and rehabilitates degraded areas through clearing invasive species, reseeding perennial



grasses, harvesting grass seeds, supplementary feeding, and bunching their cattle. They also fatten their steers to fetch good market prices, and during drought, they preserve the grass for lactating cattle. Across the rest of the conservancy, each settlement creates wet and dry season grazing blocks where on a rotational basis, livestock graze at different times of the year.

“The state of our land was terrible. We started rehabilitating the most affected sites and today, our land is healthier and is a good refuge area for wildlife and livestock,” says Chris Lekupe, the conservancy manager.

Today, wildlife sightings have increased, tourism is thriving, proactive community-led grazing management is practiced, there’s improved land governance, and strong conservancy ownership by the community, resulting in increased communal benefits.

Westgate Conservancy is the epitome of what can happen if community-led conservation efforts revolve around well-managed community lands spearheaded by communities who own the land.

Encroachment into the 4,192 hectares conservation area rarely happens as the community is fully dedicated to managing the grazing and conservation areas. However, during droughts, herders are allowed to graze their livestock within the core area.

Rangelands

Rangelands and pastoralist livelihoods around the world are getting imperiled by shifting settlement and grazing patterns, changing climate conditions, and a growing human population. The proliferation of invasive species such as *Acacia reficiens* has also taken a toll on rangelands, posing an existential threat to both wildlife and people.

The nature of nomadism is changing too, in an area where livelihoods are intrinsically linked to livestock and the land, with more sedentary pastoralism leading to overgrazing.

In NRT’s approach to rangeland management, traditional institutions are integrated with modern methods, technologies, and governance concepts.

2021 was a drought year, with nearly all conservancies with rangeland management programs experiencing severe forage shortages, resulting in a limited availability of pasture for livestock and wildlife.

We are working towards realizing lasting behavioral change in pastoralist communities in order to accelerate the recovery of the rangelands. The measures we have taken to improve the rangelands include:

- introducing conservancy-led rangeland governance
- grazing planning and management
- rangeland rehabilitation and management of invasive species
- settlement planning
- monitoring and evaluation of the condition and health of the rangelands and the impact of NRT and community conservancy activities



2021

Was a drought year, with nearly all conservancies with rangeland management programs experiencing severe forage shortages

Rangelands Program **Assessment**

Independent consultants conducted a review of the NRT Rangelands Program in 2021, interviewing state and non-state actors about rangelands program operations.

The people interviewed had direct or indirect involvement with the NRT Rangelands Program, which allowed for cross-checking of perspectives.

The consultants examined NRT's partners' and employees' perspectives of the Rangelands Program, its themes, activities, gaps, outcomes, lessons learned, and future direction. Below are their findings and actionable recommendations:

- Majority of those interviewed perceived the Rangelands Program as the most significant of the conservation initiatives and recommended the Program's integration with other NRT projects to boost their outcomes.
- There was a distinct link between healthy rangelands and livestock and biodiversity and wildlife health.
- The interconnections between the Rangelands Program and the Peace Program were highlighted by participants. The Peace Program enables

conservancies to concentrate efforts on achieving healthy rangelands while also reducing conflict.

- NRT invests more in community engagement in NRT member conservancies, supports multilevel governance, conducts more research, monitoring, and evaluation, and invests in a rangelands carbon credit program, so the conservancies' efforts to improve rangeland health can be rewarded through earnings from the purchase of credits.
- NRT was requested to identify and support the traditional practices that close governance gaps and promote accountability, enforceability, and inclusion.
- The Rangelands Program runs multi-partner communication and education campaigns about rangelands and pastoralism within counties, nationally and internationally. Efforts like these, it was suggested, may improve the rangelands' management in general.



Fractional Vegetation Cover Assessment in NRT Conservancies

In collaboration with Exeter University, we developed a tool that makes calculating fractional vegetation cover (FVC), an important rangeland health measure, much easier. The tool integrates remotely sensed data into a system used to monitor the degradation of rangelands. Local personnel were trained on the tool’s functionality.

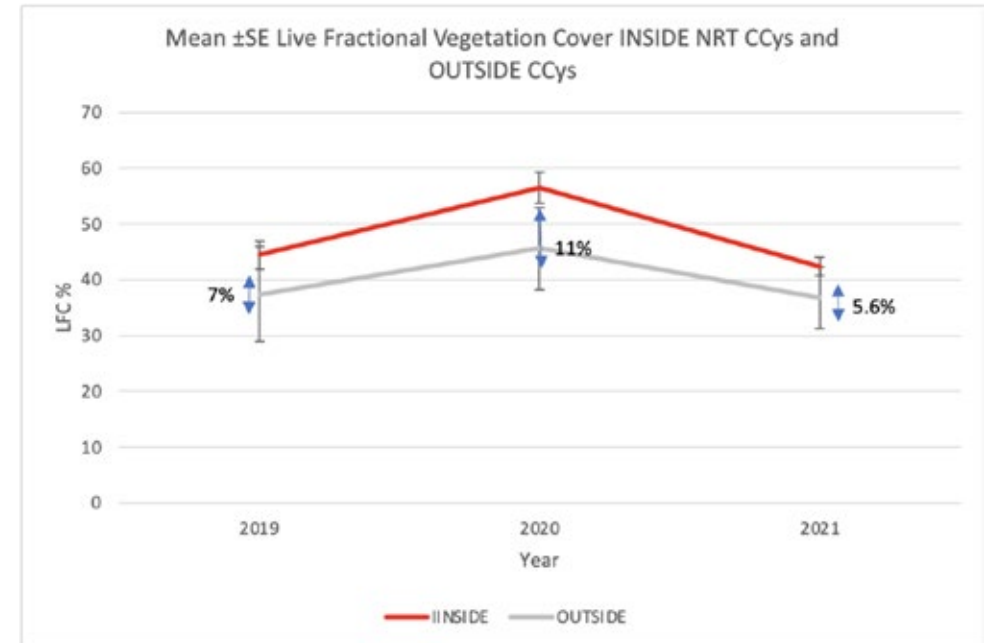
The calculations were originally devised by the US Department of the Interior (US DOI). They were then uploaded to the Google Earth Engine app to automatically generate data that could be used in high-level NRT monitoring and evaluation reporting.

The results, which proved consistent across multiple mappings, show clearly and accurately the total percentage of the mapped areas that are vegetated. Using a mathematic approach, the vegetation values of evergreen trees, which are likely to inflate satellite readings are detected and masked, leaving just the readings that are reflective of the pasture situation on the ground.

The DOI’s FVC tool can be used at a local level to assess long term-changes in conservancies, grazing blocks, and even rehabilitation sites. It also can be used to map the fractional green vegetation cover inside and outside conservancy areas. The percentage difference between them indicates how effective conservancy grazing management was in preventing degradation.

We observed that the conservancies supported a higher fractional vegetation cover between 2019 and 2021 (7% and 5.6% respectively), regardless of weather conditions, compared to areas outside conservancies. The percentage difference was small in drought years like 2019 and 2021, but in a good rainfall year like 2020, the difference almost doubled, with FVC inside conservancies being 11% higher than outside conservancies. These data provide robust evidence that conservancies are building resilience, achieving better rangeland health outcomes through their grazing management systems, and have reduced degradation rates compared with communal areas outside conservancies.

Fractional Vegetation Cover Inside and Outside NRT Member Conservancies



Remedies for Natural Resource Degradation

Cartoons

The NRT Rangelands team has created a very popular three-part cartoon series in English, Swahili, and Maa. The cartoons depict how the terrain of northern Kenya has changed in recent years, the causes of the change and possible solutions. This cartoon series is displayed on laptops to herders, elders, women, and children during rangelands meetings with the goal of sparking discussion among primarily illiterate audiences. The cartoons have been adapted for use and distribution on messaging applications and social media, allowing them to reach thousands more people.

In 2021

10

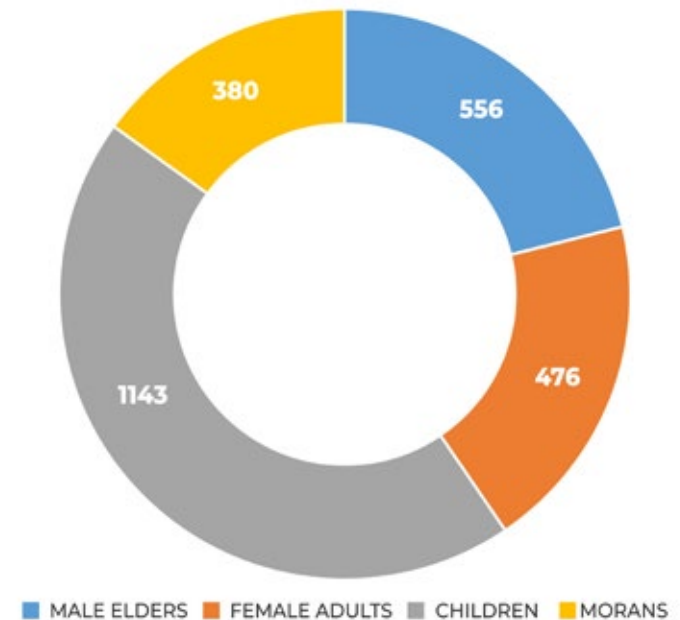
Formal showings took place in conservancies

2,555

People were in attendance, 476 of them being women

Through this village-level undertaking, information on planned grazing management and its benefits was conveyed to communities in an educational and entertaining manner. This made it easier to implement grazing plans.

Number of Individuals Reached through the Awareness Creation Method



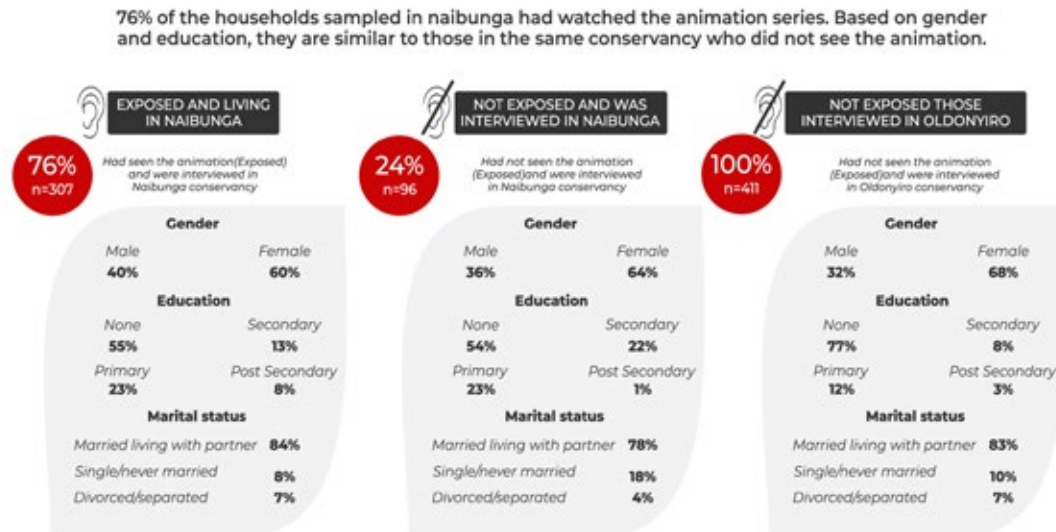
76%

of the households sampled in Naibunga Conservancy had a household member who watched the cartoon series.

Independent consultants compared the views of pastoralists in Naibunga Conservancy, who were exposed to rangeland cartoon videos, with control sites in Oldonyiro Conservancy, who were not exposed, to determine the extent to which rangeland cartoon animations have changed the behavior and practices of pastoralists.

The consultants' findings and recommendations are listed below:

A Demographic Comparison between Naibunga and Oldonyiro Conservancies



- Pastoralists exposed to the rangeland cartoons are more likely to make changes to protect the environment and support planned grazing management.
- Participants found cartoon movies beneficial, seeing them as a reinforcement rather than a new source of information, and motivation to continue planned grazing management.
- There was no indication of a change in settlement planning, but a large number of Naibunga Conservancy community members strongly agree that settlement planning is critical to improving rangeland health.
- Showings of cartoon animation help to reduce herd sizes. Pastoralists from Naibunga Conservancy who had seen the cartoon animations were more likely to reduce their herd sizes.
- Community meetings organized by community leaders were highly rated as a source of valuable information. Cartoon showings need to be integrated into these existing community channels deemed the most informative.
- In Naibunga Conservancy, 38% of the population believe it is the responsibility of external parties, not the community, to lead in community development. The cartoon videos help change the perception that conservation is primarily the responsibility of NRT, not community members.
- The independent consultants found that the cartoons were effective in achieving their goal of impacting the pastoralists' decisions on the ground regarding planned grazing and livestock management.

A Sample of Naibunga Conservancy Community Members' Survey Responses

A Sample of Naibunga Conservancy Community Members' Survey Responses

Did the cartoons contribute towards efforts geared to restoring productive land?

YES!

Those exposed to the cartoons were more likely to make changes to protect the environment

Scenes that evoked nostalgia of a greener better environment were spontaneously recalled

Practices

In the past 12 months have you made any changes to protect the environment?



NAIBUNGA

70%

Exposed
n=307



OLDONYIRO

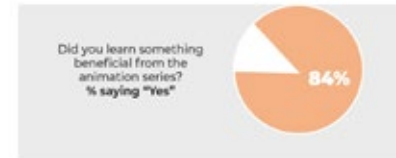
50%

Not exposed
n=307

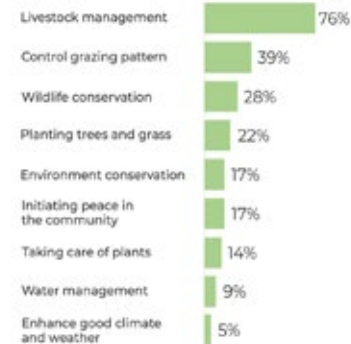
Which change did you do?

- Stop cutting down trees
- Controlling soil erosion
- Planting of trees
- Cutting unwanted plants
- Planting of grass(9%)

Did the viewers find the videos beneficial?



THINGS YOU FOUND MOST BENEFICIAL IN THE ANIMATION SERIES (n=258)



YES! But not necessarily perceived as giving new information but rather reinforcement

"No, well we started earlier but the cartoon screen motivated us even much more to continue doing conservation grazing."

Issues with a clear precise individual call to action were rated as beneficial

What is the precise call to action we are asking of the community in terms of wildlife?

76% of the households sampled in Naibunga had a household member who watched the videos



84%

of the viewers found the cartoon videos beneficial.



The cartoon series motivated us even much more to continue doing conservation grazing.

Male Viewer

Grazing Plan Implementation

24 meetings to create awareness on rangeland management were held in 2021, reaching at least 3,300 people, including elders, women, youth, and morans. Women made up 40% of the participants.

284 members of Narupa, Nannapa, Naapu, Nannapisho, Naibunga Lower, Naibunga Central, Naibunga Upper, Il Ngwesi, Lekurruki, and Nkoteiya Conservancies' Grazing Committees, participated in exposure tours of sites with well-established grazing plans and rangeland rehabilitation programs, found within and outside the NRT landscape.

These excursions are part of module one of a training program for grazing committee members. They serve as a benchmark for innovative community-based rangeland rehabilitation activities. Women made up at least 34% of the participants in the exposure tour.

To scale the grazing committee training across the conservancies, 22 rangelands coordinators from 33 NRT member conservancies underwent training as trainers of this module.

394 participants were trained using the grazing committee training modules, including conservancy grazing committee members, conservancy leadership, and herder representatives at all conservancy levels, to promote successful grazing and settlement planning. 58 of the trainees were women.

Engagements based on planned grazing management were used to enforce grazing plan and rangeland rehabilitation recommendations.

Grazing Committee Members Trained

Conservancy	Men	Women
Nanapa	45	8
Narupa	40	12
Naapu	17	13
Nanapisho	21	9
Lekurruki	28	5
Naibunga Upper	30	3
Naibunga Central	25	8
Naibunga Lower	28	5
Nakuprat-Gotu	20	13
Ishaqbini	35	-
Il Ngwesi	64	7
Pellow	20	5
Masol	24	3



Controlling Invasive Cactus

For several years, the Naibunga Community Conservancies (Naibunga Upper, Naibunga Centre, and Naibunga Lower) have invested in biological control of the harmful, alien invasive *Opuntia stricta* cactus.

The cactus prevents grass growth, causes injury to livestock and wildlife—who attempt to eat the fruit beneath its spines, and in some cases increases human-wildlife conflict when its fruit attracts elephants to settlement areas.

The Naibunga conservancies have adopted a cost-effective and environmentally-friendly method to control the growth of the cactus. They use cochineal, an insect that feeds solely on *Opuntia stricta* cactus. Cochineal lives only on the *Opuntia* plants, feeding on plant moisture and nutrients.

Cochineal bugs continued to breed and spread in healthy *Opuntia* plants in all three Naibunga conservancies in 2021, thanks to a conservancy-led effort.



Opuntia Species Project

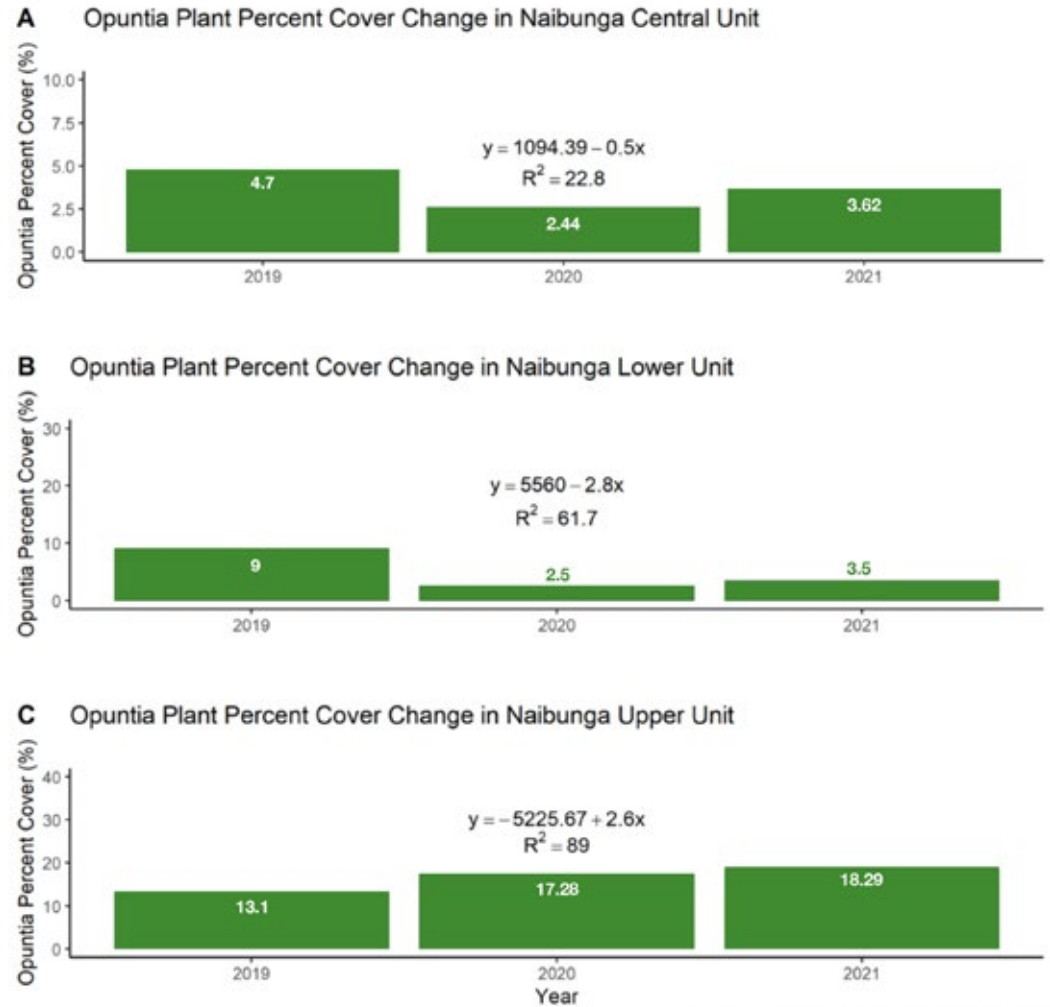
NewsBytes

- › 964 men, 2,246 women, and 1,734 male and female youth were among the 4,944 casualties who were engaged in 2021 during the breeding and spreading of cochineal bugs. Depending on the readiness for cochineal spreading, up to 120 casualties are engaged monthly.
- › In this biological control method, the *Opuntia* plant population and that of cochineal bugs fluctuate and become balanced by natural processes that stymie the growth of the plant population, limiting the spread of the *Opuntia stricta* cactus, that would otherwise be rapid without the existence of cochineal bugs.
- › While the biological process is gradual at first, it has a significant impact on eradicating *Opuntia* plants throughout large swaths of land, as marked by variations in the percentage of *Opuntia* plant cover. The cochineal insects, however, need time to inhibit plant spread.
- › *Opuntia* plant concentration is highest in Naibunga Upper Conservancy and lowest in Naibunga Lower and Central Conservancies. The increase of the *Opuntia* plant cover in Naibunga Upper Conservancy is likely due to a relatively lower cochineal insect population, demonstrating the effectiveness of the insect. On the other hand, the

Naibunga Lower Conservancy has experienced a decrease in the Opuntia plant cover, with an annual drop of about 2.8 percent registered.

- The conservancies have established 18 greenhouses, each with a caretaker, to breed the cochineal insects, which are released once a month across the landscape to infect plants. To assess the effectiveness of this biocontrol method, we have collaborated with the US Forest Service to track on an annual basis how the health and density of the Opuntia plants change over time as a result of cochineal infestation.
- In each of the three Naibunga Conservancy units, the spread of *Opuntia stricta* cactus was controlled by cochineal insects in various ways, some of which were captured in an annual monitoring system. Opuntia plants infected with cochineal had fewer flowers, fewer green and red fruits. Cochineal infestation rates were up to 75% in Opuntia plants across all 3 conservancy units.

Opuntia Plant Cover Change in the Naibunga Conservancies



Data source: Opuntia Transect Data (2019-2021)

Rangeland Rehabilitation

In 2021:

Over **2,309** herders underwent training on rangeland management and rehabilitation, which covered the eradication of invasive woody species (such as *Acacia reficiens*), grass seed collection and reseeding, and the care of rehabilitated sites.

1,809 hectares of the prolific and invasive *Acacia reficiens* shrub were cleared by community members in three conservancies (Meibae, Narupa and Westgate) to rehabilitate degraded rangelands for the benefit of people and wildlife.

More than **1,425** casual laborers were hired to assist in rangeland rehabilitation. 559 of them were women and more than 600 were youth. This provided much-needed household income.

The Prosopis Project in Ruko

In 2021, conservancy rangers patrolled and removed Prosopis seedlings developing along the lakeshore where floodwater had receded in an area covering about 400 hectares. The goal was to avoid Prosopis trees propagation and regulate Prosopis invasion.

This early detection and swift response approach are significantly more cost-effective and environmentally desirable than measures done after the plants have established themselves, such as the removal of mature trees.

Planned grazing management, implemented by grazing committees and conservancy leadership, prevented Prosopis seeds from spreading

further. Prosopis spread, in this case, was regulated by improved grazing management. Livestock from Prosopis-infested areas were initially passed through specific grazing blocks where they stayed for more than a day so that the seeds were dropped in the block, facilitating targeted surveillance of Prosopis seedlings in the area.

Tracking Rangeland Conditions

NRT adapted the Monitoring Rangeland Health Guide from the US Department of Agriculture to create Veg-CoMMs, a vegetation monitoring system suitable for community conservancies to use.

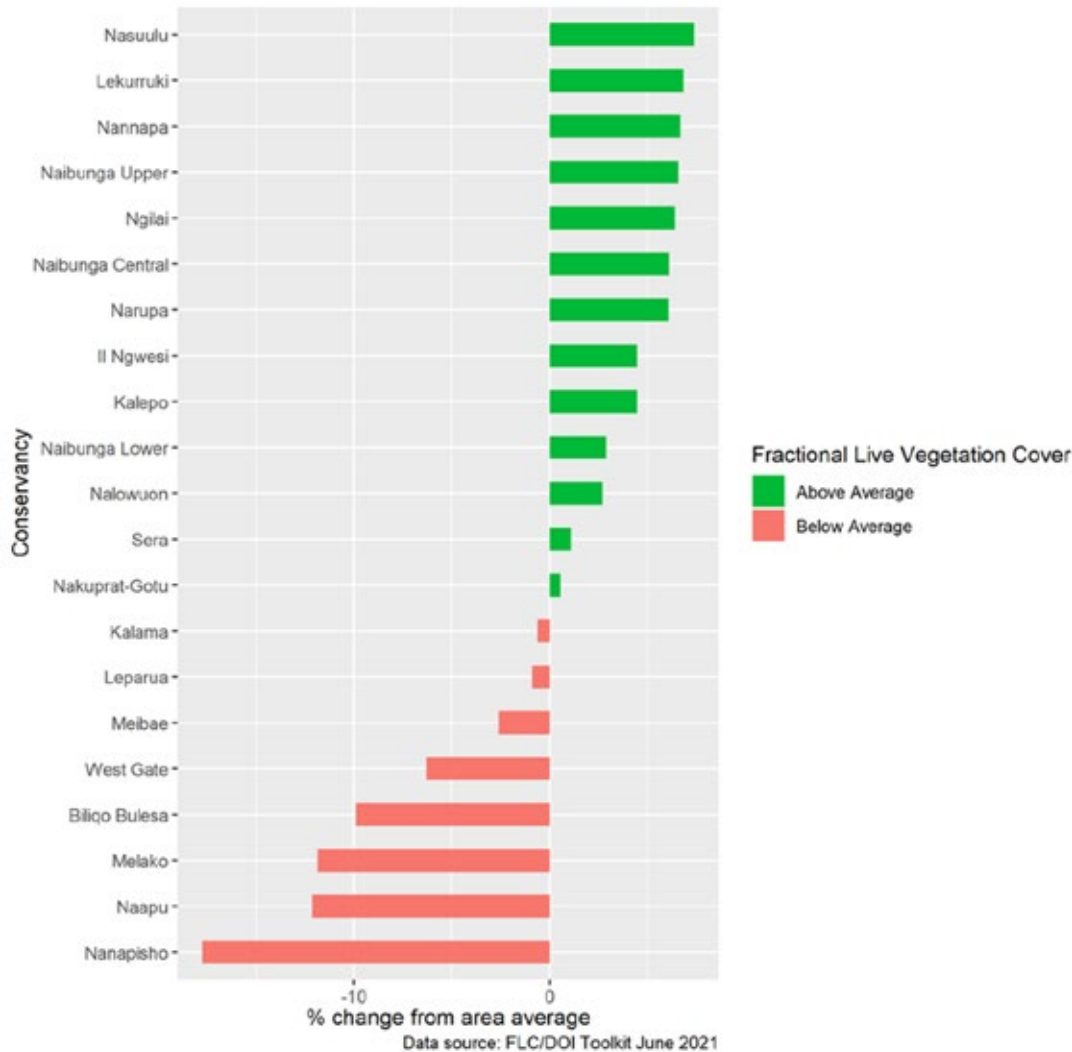
Due to the drought that hit the conservancies in 2021, pasture conditions varied across the NRT landscape, with some being worse off than others. Proper grazing plans alleviated the stressful situation and helped community members better cope with the stress and uncertainties of the future.

At the start of the dry season in June, the conservancies with significantly better pasture conditions were optimistic. During the dry season, almost all of them, however, saw an influx of animals from outside the community conservancy.

Despite the limited forage, the livestock of the Melako and Biliqo Bulesa Conservancies grazed within the conservancies thanks to their solid grazing planning. They, however, had a difficult time regulating the influx of livestock from outside the community conservancies.



Fractional Vegetation Cover in a Sample of the Conservancies



Grazing plans were implemented in all conservancies with a rangelands program, addressing the grazing requirements of cattle, camels, goats, and sheep and facilitating the management of livestock movements according to the grazing plans made.

Livestock stayed within conservancies and the losses due to drought-related effects were minimal. Biliqo Bulesa, Leparua, Melako, Kalepo, Ngilai, Nanapa, Narupa, Sera, Naibunga Central, Nakuprat-Gotu, Nasuulu, and Naapu Conservancies retained livestock within, despite rising pressure to leave the conservancy.

Conservancies with good grazing plans experienced a lesser degree of drought-related stress, proving the effectiveness of planned grazing management.

Pasture availability attracted additional herders to the respective areas, and cattle encroachment both inside and outside the conservancy zones became a concern. The conservancies managed this issue by developing inter-conservancy grazing plans.

Il Ngwesi, Naibunga Upper, Naibunga Central, Naibunga Lower, and Lekurruki Conservancies have grazing agreements with private ranches for cattle grazing.



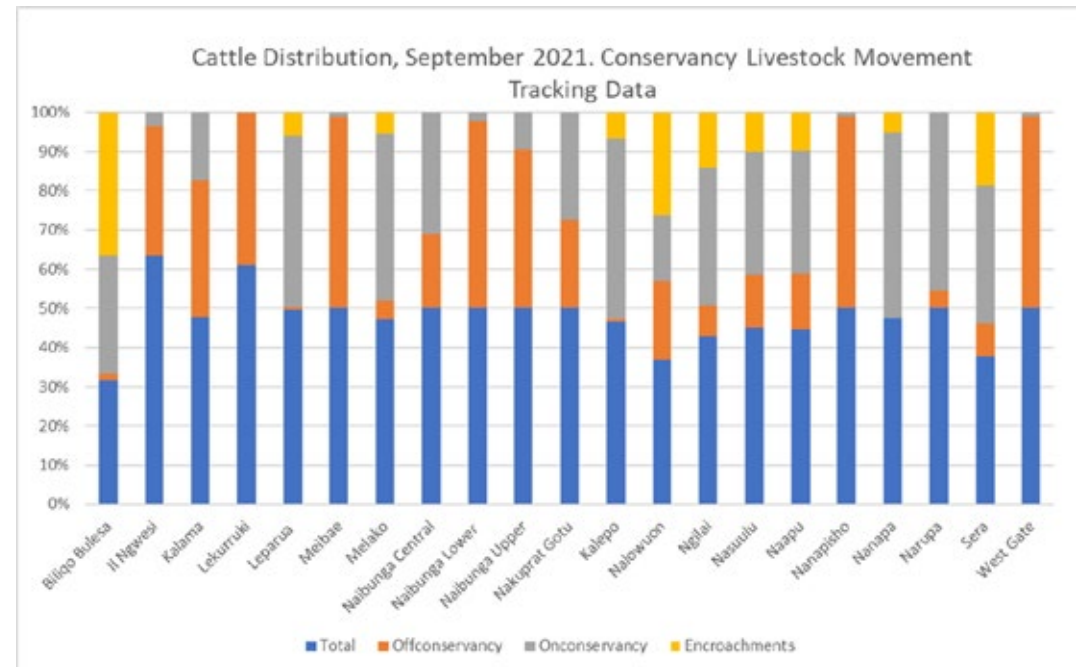
Did you know?

What is a Management Zone?

A management zone is an area set aside by pastoralists for dry season grazing or wet season grazing to accelerate the natural regeneration of pasture. By extension, the term includes settlement areas and rangeland areas where invasive species are removed, and bare ground is placed under rest from grazing for two rainy seasons to allow natural or assisted regeneration of pasture.



Conservancy Livestock Movement Data for a Cross-section of Conservancies



Through Veg-CoMMs, 200 sampling points are monitored bi-annually for changes in rangelands' health indicators. Since 2012 rangeland health indicators that are both positive (perennial grass, plant base) and negative (bare ground, gaps between plants) have been tracked. Plant communities, elevation, and soil types were considered when sampling points were selected in each management zone. Data collected at the management zones allowed data aggregation at the conservancy level.

An analysis of 10 years of data was performed to acquire a general direction of the long-term trends in the conservancies where Veg-CoMMs has been in operation for years.

Important trends were evident in the data, such as a decline in perennial grass cover in almost all conservancies, signifying that changes in grazing management regimes are necessary for the afflicted regions to reverse the degradation.

Veg-CoMMs findings were recorded using color codes to facilitate communication during conservancy feedback sessions. The color codes highlighted rangeland health indicators that were improving or declining.



Long-term Rangeland Health Indicator Trends per Conservancy Management Zones (Veg-CoMMs Data 2012-2020)

Conservancy	% Bare Ground Cover			% Gaps Between Plants			% Perennial Grass Cover			% Plant Base Cover		
	Core	Buffer	Settlement	Core	Buffer	Settlement	Core	Buffer	Settlement	Core	Buffer	Settlement
Lekurruki	↓	↑	↑	↔	↔	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↔
Il ngwesi	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↔
Biliqo Bulesa		↓	↓		↓	↓		↑	↓		↓	↑
Mpus Kutuk	↓	↓	↑	↔	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↔	↑	↑
Melako	↓		↓	↑		↓	↓		↓	↓		↓
Meibae	↑	↓	↔	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↔
Naibunga	↓	↑	↓	↔	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Namunyak	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓
Sera	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑
Kalama	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↓
Westgate	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓

For directional change and color codes, green = improvement in rangeland health; Red = decline in rangeland health and Yellow = stable. Trends are interpreted based on the slope coefficients of linear regression model. Slope values less than or equal to -0.2 were interpreted as decreasing ↓, those above -0.2 and less than or equal to 0.2 as stable ↔ and above 0.2 increasing ↑. Nasuulu, Nakuprat-Gotu, Leparua, Shurr, Jaldesa, Songa Conservancies have started monitoring the health of rangelands. Biliqo Bulesa does not have a Core Area, Melako does not have a Buffer zone; Meibae does not have a Core or Buffer Zone.

The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project

The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project is the world’s first large-scale grasslands soil carbon project. It is one of few large, landscape-level carbon removal ventures currently in the market. It is anticipated to remove and store 50 million tons of carbon dioxide over 30 years—the equivalent of the annual emissions from over 10,000,000 cars.

The sale of this sequestered carbon from community rangelands in conservancies of northern Kenya will create additional and much-needed income for the communities and enhance conservation efforts. It will also improve the habitat of four endemic endangered species—the eastern black rhino, Grevy’s zebra, reticulated giraffe, and beisa oryx, in addition to mitigating the impact of climate change.

The project is the first of its kind in the world—it is the first to use the new VM0032 methodology, making it a ‘beta test’ of that methodology; the first to use modeled removals rather than measured ones, and the first project focused entirely on soil removals. It is also the first validated project to work with pastoralist communities that communally use land resources. Between 2013 and 2016, through land protection and rotational grazing practices, the project generated more than 3.2 million verified emissions reduction credits, proving its position as one of the few large-scale carbon removal projects available today.

NRT administers the project, and 14 of the 43 community conservancies that comprise NRT are involved in the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project.

NRT supports the activities on the ground and the reporting required for ongoing verification and credits to continue to be issued. The participating conservancies have authorized NRT to sell carbon credits generated by project activities on their behalf.

The project has been in development since 2009 and officially began on December 10th, 2012. Throughout the Project’s implementation, NRT has maintained a high degree of stakeholder engagement in the project area.

During the Project’s development phase, several official, awareness workshops and public events were held. In addition, after receiving community approval, the conservancies signed Letters of Intent and Consent and Waiver forms.

Recognizing that conservancy leadership and management teams change over time and that the Project’s development phase has spanned a considerable number of years, NRT recently embarked on and invested in an intensive re-socialization process. During this undertaking, leadership and management teams hosted special AGMs at the village level in each participating conservancy. The goal was to ensure awareness and understanding of the Project and ask communities to endorse Project participation.

In 2021, the process was finalized, with all participating conservancies signing an implementation agreement signifying their continued commitment to the Project.

Companies that invest in the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project can meet their carbon neutral and climate positive targets while fulfilling shareholder and customer demands for meaningful and quantifiable results and impact in ways that are transparent and accountable. This is also an opportunity to partner with a long-term project that allows targeted investments that prioritize the needs of communities, including water, infrastructure, and education.



1.9 million hectares

Area that The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project spans (4.7 million acres). It is an initiative that will improve grazing for pastoralists and generate additional revenue for 14 community conservancies, increasing the financial viability of conservation and making community conservancies more resilient.

Wildlife

Flagship Species and Habitat Conservation Programs

A Day in The Life: Meet the Vet Saving Injured Wildlife in NRT member Conservancies

No day is the same for veterinarian Dr. Stephen Chege. Working across the northern Kenya landscape. ‘Chege’ as he is known, has had an extraordinary patient list: from elephants with gunshot wounds and lions with infections, and once a black rhino who needed life-saving eye surgery. Thanks to support from San Diego Zoo Global, Chege’s area of operation now focuses predominantly on NRT member community conservancies, enabling him to respond to emergency wildlife incidents, support translocation of endangered species, and carry out pro-active wildlife disease surveillance and conservation work in communities, including domestic animal vaccination campaigns.

This is a far cry from his previous job in Abu Dhabi, where he worked as a zoo’s senior veterinarian attending to the medical needs of captive wildlife and helping to uphold welfare standards.

“I chose to come back home because of my passion for Kenyan wildlife,” says Chege. “I have an urge to create an impact for future generations through my work.”

Working closely with the communities to identify and treat wildlife in trouble is a source of great satisfaction to Chege. He admits that he has had his fair share of heartbreak, however. Chege has been a veterinarian for twenty years, but he still grieves when he sees wildlife die right in his hands. “Inevitably there are animals whose condition is beyond my help, and that is really hard. Every day is a learning curve,” he says. Like all vets, Chege often needs to make big decisions about a course of action for an animal in need—decisions that don’t always have sure outcomes. His work comes with a great deal of pressure and Chege has learnt to trust his instincts.



Taking care of wildlife is something close to my heart. I am happy that my little contribution is alleviating wildlife suffering.

Dr. Stephen Chege,
NRT Veterinarian



Recently, he was part of a mission to rescue an abandoned elephant calf who had lost a third of his trunk to a hyena attack. Back at the community-owned Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, with whom Chege works often, he had to make a tough call—with so much of his trunk missing (and an elephant’s trunk being its most important tool for feeding, drinking, and exploring) was it humane to keep this little calf alive? There was much debate amongst the rescue party, but they made a decisive call to give ‘Long’uro’ as the calf is now called, a fighting chance. With Chege’s support the team at Reteti have provided Long’uro with dedicated round-the-clock care—meeting his medical, emotional and nutritional needs. His wounds have healed well, he’s taken to the milk bottle, and now enjoys playing with the nursery herd at Reteti.

“It is amazing how Long’uro’s wounds have healed,” says Chege. “We don’t know what his future holds, but we take each day as it comes, hoping for the best.”



As well as responding to incidents, Chege also works with communities to take proactive conservation measures, such as rabies and livestock disease vaccinations, that benefit both community livelihoods and wildlife.

In Ishaqbini Hirola Community Conservancy for example, Chege organized a campaign to vaccinate over 60,000 head of community cattle, sheep and goats. This was aimed at preventing diseases that threatened pastoral livelihoods, as well as protecting the critically endangered hirola antelope in the area who are susceptible to the same diseases.

“The positivity that came from the community during this exercise was tremendous and this is a massive win for hirola,” says Chege.

Today, with the massive investment of his energy, skills and emotions, Chege is proud to be part of a grassroots conservation movement that puts indigenous communities at the forefront of endangered species conservation.



Ecological Monitoring

In 2021

105

conservancy rangers underwent refresher training on Wildlife-CoMMs systems.

1

SMART Technology training session was held at Il Ngwesi and an introductory session held at Naibunga Central. 4 conservancies (Nkoteiya, Ngare Ndare, Naibunga Central) will be amongst the pilot conservancies where digital data collection will be implemented in a transition from paper based monitoring.

10

conservancy scouts participated in a customized Wildlife-CoMMs SMART training. SMART is a new digital platform for Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool for Conservation.

28

refresher courses and bi-annual feedback sessions on Wildlife-CoMMs were conducted.

34

annual feedback sessions on Wildlife-CoMMs coupled with refresher training were carried out in the 34 conservancies implementing Wildlife-CoMMs.

12

refresher database training sessions were conducted in four groups for 29 conservancies (29 database operators) to ensure data is well captured and conservancies are able to produce their regular monthly reports. The training also aimed at building capacity for trouble shooting.

Wildlife Census

The wildlife department conducted aerial surveys of wildlife in Ishaqbini, Sera, Nakuprat-Gotu and Namunyak Conservancies.

- **415** reticulated giraffes were counted in the Namunyak Sarara and Kalepo Valleys of Namunyak Conservancy.
- The KWS National Census 2021 recorded a decline in elephants from 8,021 in 2017 (last census) to **7,475** in 2021.
- **814** beisa oryx were counted in Nakuprat-Gotu in the 2021 aerial census.

Key Species Reporting

Before the enactment of the Wildlife Act 2013, game-bird shooting was an important income-generating activity in several NRT member conservancies. Annual counts of game birds were done to monitor the populations of birds and develop off-take quotas in line with sustainable utilization principles.

Since 2014, game bird shooting has been banned. However, NRT has continued to support key conservancies in monitoring their game bird populations, providing important long-term data on sandgrouse populations when shooting was occurring as well as since the ban.

In 2021, a sandgrouse count was conducted in Biliqo Bulesa, Sera, Melako, and Kalepo Conservancies. The table next indicates the results of the count.



Sandgrouse Count

Conservancy	2020 Population	2021 Population
Biliqo Bulesa	36,211	29,284
Sera	59,933	136,490
Melako	91,698	103,175
Kalepo	110	160

Primate Count

At the Ndera Conservancy, a monthly primate survey was carried out by conservancy rangers in different forest patches each month. The survey was done in 5 forest patches in 2021: Kinyadu, Buboya, Mattanama, Nkanu, and Mkomani.

The primate estimates in these forest patches are 297 Tana River crested mangabey, from 11 groups (an average of 27 individuals per group) and 728 Tana River red colobus from 56 groups (an average of 13 individuals per group).

According to the KWS National Census Report, Tana River mangabey numbers were estimated to be 1,650 while the population of Tana River red colobus was estimated as 1,219.

These two critically endangered species are endemic to the riverine forests along the lower Tana River, and are found nowhere else in the world.



Safeguarding Endangered Species

The Reteti Elephant Sanctuary

Kenya’s first and only community-run elephant sanctuary continues to do great work and gain international recognition and support. Reteti was established in August 2016 in Namunyak Community Conservancy (now Ngilai, Kalepo and Nalowuon Conservancies), which is home to some of the region’s highest numbers of elephants.

The sanctuary has experienced challenges with governance and management which resulted in a Government-led task force investigation. The recommendations of the task force are being taken forward by an interim management committee consisting of conservancy leadership and key partners.

Reteti employs 66 people and by the end of 2021 housed 39 orphaned or abandoned elephants rescued from community conservancies and neighboring areas.

The sanctuary made 44 rescues in 2021, with four getting reunited with their herds.

Four calves were released into the Sera Rhino Sanctuary in 2020 to begin their journey back to the wild, bringing the total number of Reteti calves released to 10—all in Sera. Unfortunately, 2 calves were killed by a lion which had made its way through the fence into the rhino sanctuary. The lion was captured and translocated by the Kenya Wildlife Service.

The severe drought in 2021 meant that the orphans in Sera had to be supplement fed to maintain their body condition. The rewilding of orphans in Sera is being closely documented by our partners Save the Elephants and San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance to inform future rewilding efforts.



Ishaqbini Hirola Sanctuary

The hirola is the world's most endangered antelope, with an estimated global population of around 500 individuals. It is native to the arid woodlands and savannahs of the Kenya/Somalia border but is now found only in isolated pockets of Kenya. Since 2012, the community of Ishaqbini in Garissa County has been spearheading the recovery and protection of the endangered hirola. The Ishaqbini Hirola Sanctuary is the first community initiative of its kind in Kenya.



In 2021

- The Conservancy and NRT documented the Ishaqbini Hirola Recovery plan detailing the status of the sanctuary and lessons learned for the long-term conservation of the hirola antelope.
- 116 individuals of wildlife species including 64 hirola, 10 buffaloes, 11 Lesser Kudu, and 31 reticulated giraffes, were released from the sanctuary to supplement the free-ranging population outside the sanctuary and to reduce over-population of wildlife in the sanctuary.
- Ishaqbini conservancy recorded 4 hirola births inside the sanctuary. Unfortunately, 13 deaths were also recorded due to the extreme drought the region faced. Supplement feeding was initiated to minimize the impact of the drought.
- By the start of 2021, the hirola population in the sanctuary had increased in the last nine years by over 190%, to an estimated 140 animals. This represented 25% of the known global population of the species.
- Upgrading of the Ishaqbini Sanctuary was completed with 2 release paddocks added of 70 hectares and 180 hectares inside the sanctuary, each with a water hole and a 12.1 km fence line, allowing for the soft or passive release of hirola and other wildlife out of the sanctuary.
- 3 of the 5 collared hirola which were released from the sanctuary were killed by predators. Predation continues to be a constraint to hirola population growth outside the sanctuary. The remaining 2 have largely remained within the conservancy and are monitored by conservancy rangers weekly.
- To reduce tick load, routine spraying of livestock inside the sanctuary was conducted 13 times between the months of July and September 2021. A total of 256,000 livestock have received vaccinations since 2016. The annual vaccination campaigns are essential not only for protecting the sanctuary hirola from disease but also for promoting the health of livestock and safeguarding the livelihoods of the Ishaqbini communities.
- There were no disease outbreaks at the sanctuary.
- Ishaqbini Hirola Conservancy celebrated World Hirola Day by educating pupils from four neighboring schools on conservation.



Rothschild Giraffes

Ruko Conservancy Update

In April 2021, an ambitious rescue effort between Ruko Community Conservancy, the Kenya Wildlife Service, NRT, and NRT’s partners to move endangered Rothschild giraffes from the disappearing Longicharo Island, on the eastern shores of Lake Baringo, to a new purpose-built sanctuary on the mainland was completed. The approval to move the giraffes by barge was granted by the Kenya Wildlife Service after Lake Baringo’s levels started to rise by an estimated six inches daily.

All the nine giraffes have been successfully moved in an operation that began in 2020 and gained international media attention.

The giraffes were first moved to Ruko Conservancy in 2011, in a bid to reintroduce the Rothschild’s giraffe, formerly known as the Baringo giraffe, back to its endemic range.

Today, fewer than 3,000 Rothschild’s giraffes remain in Africa, with about 800 of them found in Kenya. The vision is to introduce additional giraffes to the sanctuary from other areas in Kenya, with the ultimate goal of repopulating the wider region once again.

In 2021:

6

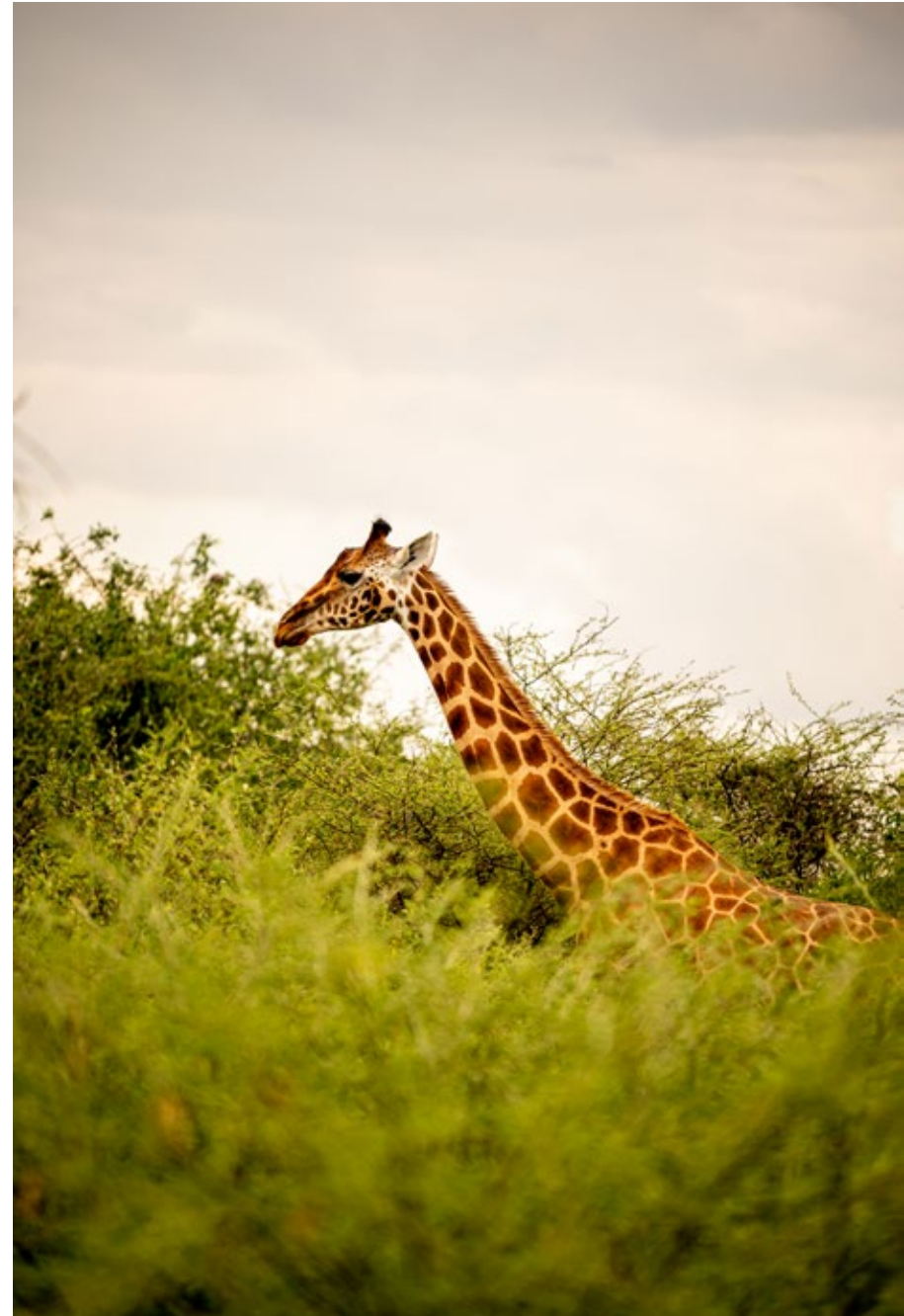
additional giraffes were successfully translocated to the mainland.

10

Rothschild’s giraffes are at Ruko Conservancy (1 male and 9 females).

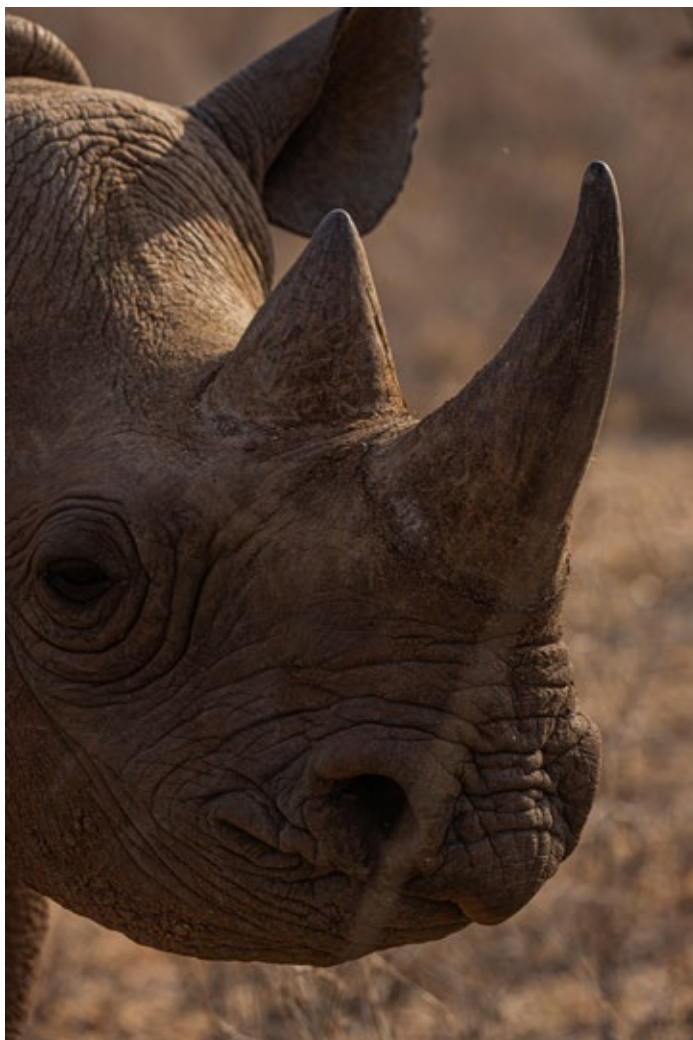
2

calves were born at the new sanctuary soon after translocation. Unfortunately, one was predated upon by a leopard.



Sera Rhino Sanctuary

The Sera Rhino Sanctuary, East Africa’s first and only community-run black rhino sanctuary, operates as a best-practice example of community-led, cross-sector endangered species protection and conservation. The following are the Sanctuary’s highlights:



In 2021

- 3 black rhino calves were born at the Sanctuary. Unfortunately, one was predated on by a leopard, days after birth, while one other died of natural causes. This brings the total number of calves born in the Sanctuary to 8 and the total population to 19.
- There have been no poaching incidents at the Sanctuary since its inception. A dedicated canine ranger unit now has a permanent base in Sera.
- The Sanctuary directly employs 110 people (rangers, rhino monitors, radio operators, and drivers) and provided significant tourism revenue to the Sera community before the pandemic through the rhino tracking activities and accommodation offered at Saruni Rhino.
- A 4.1 km water pipeline was extended to serve the Sanctuary.
- The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) conducted a detailed re-evaluation of the ecological status to inform more translocations of diverse species.

Additional Updates:

- **Disease surveillance, diagnostics and response:** 60,000 head of livestock and 5,000 dogs and cats were vaccinated in 2021 against rabies and canine distemper in Samburu and Laikipia Counties.
- An investigation conducted in Westgate Conservancy confirmed the deaths of impala, sheep and goats.
- **The Nasolot National Reserve Management Plan:** Draft zero of the Nasolot Management Plan was developed by the KWS, County Government of West Pokot, and NRT. The next step is the GIS mapping of the Nasolot National Reserve (NNR) and the elephant corridors in and out of NNR, and the convening of consultative meetings to obtain the views of community members.
- **Conservancy Zoning and Land Use Planning:** Consultative discussions, awareness creation, by-laws development, and mapping were done in Nkoteiya, Meibae, Kalama, Westgate, Nasuulu, Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancies.
- **Wildlife Zoning:** This was undertaken in OI Donyiro's 4 units and Westgate Conservancies. The main features identified during zoning included: settlement areas, grazing areas, wildlife corridors, watering points for livestock and wildlife, breeding areas, and areas under rehabilitation following the management of invasive species (*Acacia reficiens*).
- **Conservation Education:** Conservation education took place in 4 conservancies: Nakuprat-Gotu, Ishaqbini, Ruko, and Sera.



Securing a Landscape for Elephants

The incidences of ivory poaching in NRT member conservancies are at an all-time low. However, the number of elephant deaths attributed to human-wildlife conflict remains a concern.

The PIKE (Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants) for 2021 in NRT member conservancies (Laikipia, Meru, Isiolo, Samburu, and Marsabit Counties) was 25%, a notable decrease from 36% in 2020 and 30% in 2019.

238 elephant deaths were recorded in 2021. The majority of these deaths occurred in locations where elephant populations were high. 37% of the elephants died from natural causes and 39% from unknown ones. Natural causes were linked to the 2021 drought, which seemed worse than the 2009 drought.

Regrettably, Namunyak–Kalepo and Nalowuon and Naibunga–Lower Conservancies recorded a high elephant mortality rate in 2021 due to human-wildlife conflict. Community engagement efforts in these areas in the future need to focus on working out how the sharing of natural resources, particularly water, can occur.

It is worth noting that ivory poaching has remained low, with only one incident recorded at Ntop in the Mathews Ranges in Namunyak–Ngilai Conservancy. Anti-poaching activities continue to be bolstered and maintained in and beyond this Conservancy in joint operations with the Kenya Wildlife Service.

25%

The PIKE (Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants) for 2021 in NRT member conservancies (Laikipia, Meru, Isiolo, Samburu and Marsabit Counties), a notable decrease from 36% in 2020 and 30% in 2019.



Human Wildlife Conflict

Naibunga Conservancies' Fencing:

Since 2017, 16 people have been killed or injured by elephants in the Naibunga Conservancies in Laikipia. This area has the highest level of human-elephant conflict of all NRT member conservancies. To address this issue, NRT has collaborated with and engaged the communities in a long-term conflict mitigation plan through establishing elephant-proof fences around key settlement zones. An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was carried out and approved in 2021, and fencing will begin in 2022.

Ndera Conservancy Fencing:

From 2019 to 2021, a permanent and portable solar-powered electric fence with 1 to 4 strands was tested in some farms in Ndera to deter crop-raiding wildlife, especially hippopotamus, buffaloes, and elephants. If the farmers maintained the fence, it proved an efficient way to keep wild animals at bay. This is a cost-effective fencing solution for smallholder farmers and can be used as a temporary, seasonal measure just before the harvest season to ensure farmers experience minimal loss from wildlife crop raiding.

In 2021

- 2 more permanent fences were installed, bringing the total number of farms fenced since 2019 to 84. The project has directly benefited 504 community conservancy members so far, with an average household dependence of six people.
- 2 fence lines were installed to support a group of farmers sharing a large piece of land and individually owned farms.
- A permanent electric fence was installed in a 6.2-hectare farm shared by 5 farmers in Awer Mangai Village to protect the farms from wildlife invasion.

The fencing program has improved food security and reduced human-wildlife conflict.









5

Forest and Marine

As world leaders rally to achieve the goal of a 1.5°C global heating reduction, NRT in 2021 explored carbon opportunities across the NRT landscape and pursued blue carbon's potential as a revenue source for marine conservancies. On the other hand, forests came under pressure from human activities as 2021 was a drought year.



Forests

Although NRT does not have a specialized forest program, some of its member conservancies feature forest landscapes that are vital water catchment areas with high biodiversity. Due to inadequate rainfall in 2021, all forests within and next to central region NRT member conservancies were under great pressure from human activities.

In the coast region, a strong community-driven approach to recovering mangroves and safeguarding riverine forests is yielding positive results.

Ngare Ndare Forest Trust (Meru County)

Ngare Ndare Forest Trust is an NRT member conservancy that borders the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Meru County.

In 2021, the Board of the Community Forest Association underwent training on governance and community livelihoods.

As a result of livestock grazing within the forest and the subsequent destruction of the Canopy Walk, a popular tourist attraction in Ngare Ndare Forest, a governmental task force was commissioned to help defuse the inter-community conflict and improve relations between the community members and the Ngare Ndare Forest Trust (NNFT). The task force held 7 meetings.

NNFT, additionally, reviewed the water sub-catchment management plan and expanded its biogas project to a further 30 homes to reduce reliance on forests as a fuel source and increase forest protection. Due to rain scarcity, no tree planting occurred in 2021.



Mathews Forest in Namunyak Conservancy (Samburu County)

Officials from the Namunyak Community Forest Association (Namunyak CFA) and Kenya Forest Service officers conducted 6 days of community sensitization meetings in settlements adjacent to the forest to educate community members on ways to use the Mathews Forest during the dry season.

Registration of Namunyak CFA user groups took place in 6 settlement areas, and the Annual General Meeting was held.

The Namunyak CFA officials and Namunyak management team also visited the Kirisia Forest Community Forest Association to deliberate better forest management and find solutions for existing challenges.

2 community tree nurseries were established with seeds acquired from the Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI). This endeavor was unfortunately unsuccessful due to the absence of rain.

Namunyak Conservancy and NRT instituted a 3-year partnership with Legado, a foundation that focuses on building ‘thriving futures’ through a ‘community legacy’ approach. NRT and Namunyak have consolidated efforts with Legado to create a legacy-based collective vision and management plan for the Namunyak Conservancy and the Mathews Forest. The key objective of the partnership is to better integrate the Mathews Ranges Forest into the overall strategic plan of the Conservancy to ensure the conservation of this critical area. 30 members of the core team underwent a 3-day training in 2021. Additionally, 80 community members underwent a 3-day training on ways to conserve the Mathews Forest and ensure it keeps thriving. The Namunyak-Legado partnership will continue for three years.



2

community tree nurseries were established with seeds acquired from the Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI)

Ilmamsi Community Forest Association, Mukugodo Forest (Laikipia County)

The Mukogodo Forest neighbors Il Ngwesi and Lekurruki Conservancies.

While the Ilmamsi Community Forest Association (Ilmamsi CFA) is not yet formally a member of NRT, NRT funneled funding into the Ilmamsi CFA with resources from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to finance the Ilmamsi CFA’s committee meetings, recruit a manager and security coordinator and establish a tree nursery (in partnership with the Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI).

The Laikipia Forum also assisted the Ilmamsi CFA in purchasing and installing digital radios and training community forest rangers.

Nkarro Community Forest Association, Kirisia Forest (Samburu County)

The Nkarro Community Forest Association (Nkarro CFA) is not formally a member of NRT. However, the Kirisia Forest is adjacent to several NRT member conservancies.

The Nkarro CFA received funding to host meetings in seven sub-locations to raise awareness about forest protection and conservation, wildlife protection, and the development of forest user groups. 8 meeting sessions in total were convened.

Mangrove Restoration at NRT Coast

Pate, Kiunga, and Lower Tana Delta Community Conservancies replanted mangroves in degraded areas, accelerating the restoration of mangroves in the coastal region. Additionally, Pate, Ndau-Awer and Lamu Community Forest Associations (CFAs) were successfully registered and aligned with conservancies governance structures at the local level.

The Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP), the Harvest Plan, and the Zonation Plan are currently under development.

In 2021:



25,070 mangroves seedlings were planted and nurseries holding 17,841 propagules were established. Since 2018, 75,018 mangroves have been planted in the Pate, Kiunga, and Lower Tana Conservancies, with nurseries holding 29,166 mangrove seedlings.



10 of the existing 50 mangrove restoration experts can now monitor planted sites independently, without the need for external scientific expertise.



Community mangrove restoration experts regularly monitor and 'gap' the planted sites and have recorded a growth rate ranging from 30.7% to 98.2%. Transferred nursery seedlings have a higher survival rate when compared to directly planted mangrove propagules and wildings. The slow growth or lack thereof of the latter is attributed to high salinity and overgrowth of nurseries due to covid-19 disruption (which led to root-ball disturbance during transplanting and boat dragging on replanted sites).



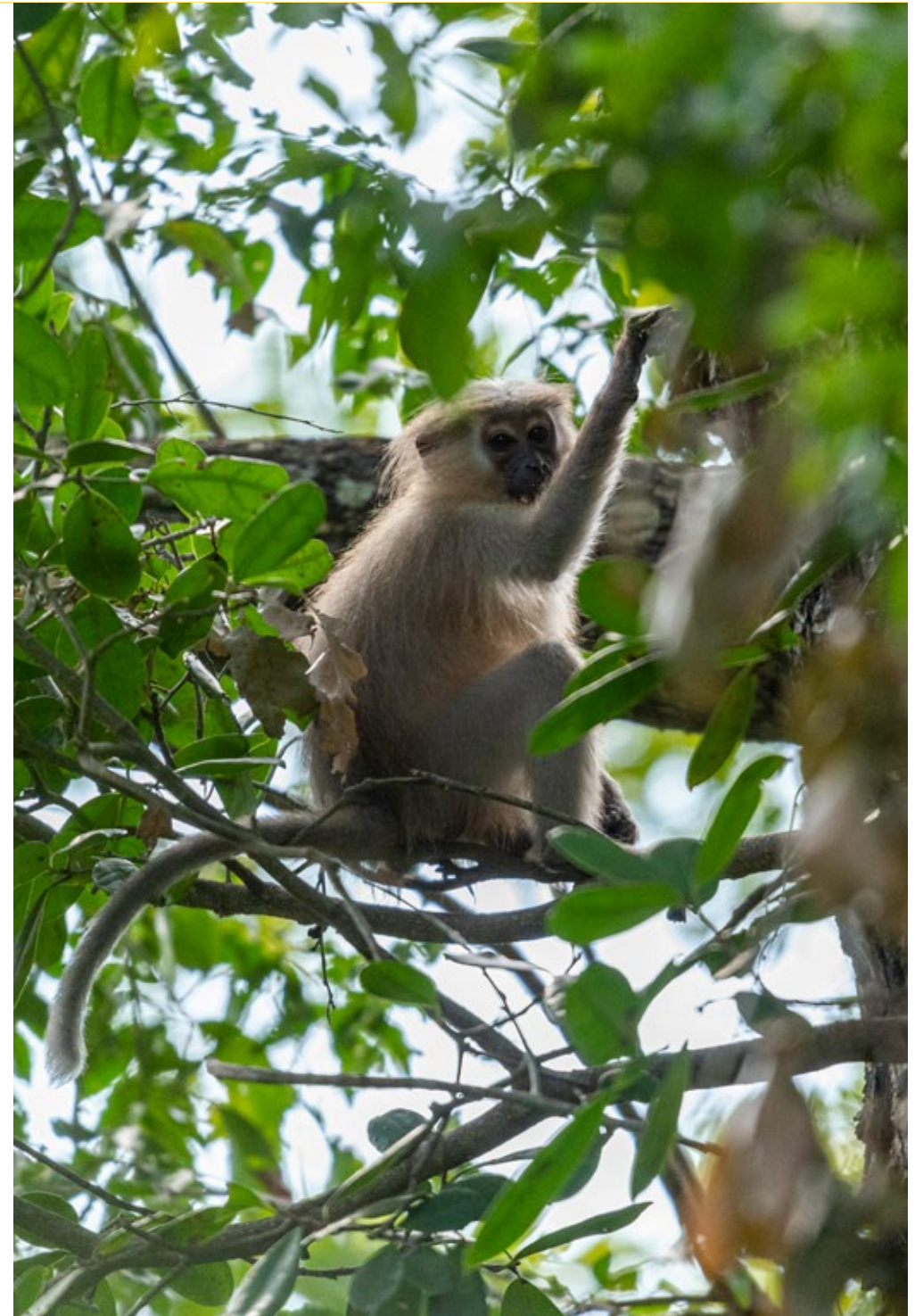


Ndera and Lower Tana Community Conservancies (Tana River County)

Last year, local communities in the Ndera and Lower Tana Delta Community Conservancies improved their management and protection of indigenous riverine forests.

In 2021:

- Over **200** women and **150** men in Ndera Conservancy were actively involved in the reforestation program. In two degraded riverine forests (Lalafitu and Kinyadu), they planted 5,000 indigenous tree seedlings. The nurseries had **7,000** seedlings as of December 2021. The conservancy rangers and local communities monitor and replace the seedlings regularly.
- Lalafitu and Kinyadu forests are found along the Tana River and are home to the critically endangered Tana River Red Colobus and Tana Mangabey monkeys.
- **520** energy-saving jikos were distributed to women in Ndera and Lower Tana Conservancies who are involved in reforestation programs. This is an effort to reduce the destruction of forests for charcoal and fuel.
- To add value to the conservation of forests, **8** agricultural groups in Ndera Conservancy were provided with **80** beehives for honey production. The project has directly benefitted **480** local community members (working with an average household size of six people).



Blue Carbon

NRT Coast, in collaboration with NRT, TNC, UNEP, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) and FFI, successfully launched in 2021 and introduced a collaborative Blue Carbon Project in Lamu-Tana Seascape.

A blue carbon credit project generates income from protecting mangroves, for communities, Community Forest Associations (CFAs) and conservancies.

During the launch, the current blue carbon activities and partnership were highlighted, and a roadmap for Lamu Tana Seascape's Blue Carbon Offset and Resilient Credit Project was developed.

The roadmap will help prioritize blue carbon project areas, activities, policy requirements and any gaps identified to help inform the next steps and prepare for the Blue Carbon Project's scoping and feasibility.

Biogas

Kenya's forests are under immense pressure from fuelwood demand and agricultural expansion. These activities endanger forest ecosystems and release carbon into the atmosphere, leading to climate change.

According to the Ministry of Energy, 90% of rural Kenyan households rely on firewood fuel for cooking, putting immense pressure on forested areas. NRT and partners launched a project in 2020 to assist conservancy community members in switching to a renewable and abundant fuel source, easing the strain on shrinking forest habitats caused by firewood harvesting.

NRT has installed 253 biogas digesters across 9 community conservancies in northern and coastal regions.

In 2021:



38 biogas digesters were installed in households in 5 villages of the Lower Tana Delta Conservancy, a pilot project in NRT Coast that was financed by the Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund).

The biogas digesters were donated to the conservancies so they could establish a revolving fund based on household repayment plans. Over a 2-year period, each household pays approximately Ksh 30,000-40,000 (USD 272-363) to their respective conservancy, which goes into the revolving fund, enabling the purchase of more biogas units to benefit other conservancy members.

NRT is spearheading the use of clean energy in its member conservancies that rely heavily on firewood, have enough manure—ideal raw materials for the biogas digester—have access to water and have permanent settlements.



Before I started using biogas, we would collect firewood far away from our home, and it was time-consuming. When I returned to cook, our house would become filled with smoke, and with time it caused health problems to my family, but today I use biogas, which is clean, saves me time and is healthy.

Katelina Lekanta,

Biogas Project beneficiary, Kalama Community Conservancy

Marine

NRT Coast’s robust Marine Program has continued to empower the fisher community in Pate and Kiunga Conservancies. The Program aims to protect habitats, reduce fishing pressure on near-shore areas and provide a community-driven approach for reef restoration and additional livelihood options.

DID YOU KNOW?

Demystifying Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs)



What is a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA)?

Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) are regions in coastal Kenya that are organized in a way that marine resources are owned and managed by the local coastal communities who work in partnership with NRT, donor, and other partner organizations, and in collaboration with relevant government agencies.

The local communities have set aside part of the LMMA as a no-take zone and have imposed gear, species, and seasonal restrictions to ensure and maintain a healthy habitat for fish. This eases the pressures from overfishing and increases the total fish catch.



Pate Marine Conservancy (Lamu County)

In 2021, the efficacy of the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) improved. Two of the LMMAs are no-take zones, conserving crucial breeding reefs and another two are seasonal fishery closures that safeguard octopuses.

Pate Conservancy opened the octopus closures twice in 2021 (in February and August) for octopus fishing. The (majorly women) fishers caught 2,110 kilograms of octopus during the 7 days the closures were open, generating Ksh 400,906 (USD 3,644) in revenue.

For every kilo of octopus caught, Ksh 30 (USD 0.27) was deposited into the women’s fisher group account. Octopus catch and size have increased,

resulting in a better market price (30% higher than local price). The fishers have reported improved habitat conditions and an increase in the population of other fish species during the closures.

In 2021, members of the Fisheries Beach Management Unit, local fishers, and conservancy rangers continued to work together to monitor illegal fishing in LMMAs.

10 fishermen with 4 prohibited fishing vessels were apprehended and fined as per the local bylaws for unlawfully fishing inside LMMAs (no-take zones). The fines were deposited into a community account.

Summary of the Results of the Opening of the Closures

Openings	Date	No. of Days Opened	Biggest Octopus (Kgs)	Total Catch (Kgs)	Market Price per Kg (Ksh)	Price Sold per Kg (Ksh)	Income to Fishers (Ksh)	Contribution to Women’s Fisher Groups (Ksh)
1st	Apr. 2019	4	2.8	186	150	230	42,780	5,580
2nd	Sept. 2019	4	3.8	868	170	250	217,000	26,040
3rd	Mar. 2020	2	3.3	425.3	80	230	97,819	13,500
4th	Aug. 2020	7	3.5	588.55	100	170	100,053	-
5th	Feb. 2021	4	5.0	1507	150	178	268,246	45,210
6th	Aug. 2021	3	5.1	603	130	220	132,660	18,090
Total							858,558	90,330

Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (Lamu County)

The Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA) implemented its first 2 seasonal closures targeting octopus farming. The Association created by-laws that defined benefit-sharing, enforcement mechanisms, and closure do's and don'ts to ensure the closures' effectiveness.

KICOWA, in collaboration with the local Fisheries Beach Management Units (BMUs) and the KWS, is currently enforcing the closures.

In 2021, the Kiunga and Pate Conservancies completed coral reef monitoring surveys in conservation zones that included LMMAs.

Sea Turtle and Marine Mammals

The Kiunga and Pate Conservancies identified 25 sea turtle nests and rescued 8 sea turtles entangled in fishing nets.

The fisheries Beach Management Units (BMUs) and conservancies have now started restricting the use of large mesh-size gillnets (locally known as 'malasha') in turtle feeding areas to reduce unintended fishing (by-catch) of sea turtles and marine mammals.

The turtle nests are monitored and protected by Kiunga rangers and youth conservation champions to ensure successful hatching. 2 carcasses of a rare sea mammal—the dugong, 1 fur seal, and 12 sea turtles were discovered in 2021.

The Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA), in collaboration with the KWS, conducted a refresher training on sea turtle monitoring, protection, and species identification. The session drew 82 attendees from the Kiunga Turtle Conservation Group (KTCG), KWS, KICOWA, FFI, WWF, NRT, and TNC. During the training, a two-year action plan for the community-based Sea Turtle Conservation Program was devised, and 7 sites with 33 nesting beaches were identified.

Ocean Plastics (The Bahari Moja Project)

In 2021, the Kiunga plastic collection and recycling project, locally known as the 'Bahari Moja Project', saw community members, conservancy rangers, and staff collect approximately 34.9 tons of plastic debris from the nearby beaches as part of clean-up activities.

The Kiunga community has reported increased sea turtle nesting because of the clean beaches.

In 2021, the Bahari Moja Plastic Recycling Center built a workshop area out of recycled plastic 'eco-bricks' produced by women in the community.

A total of 1,265 eco-bricks were used, translating to approximately 886 kilograms of ocean plastic waste.



Curbing the Use of Destructive Beach Seine Nets

NRT Coast is currently implementing an Illegal Beach Seine Nets Gear Exchange Program (GEP Program) in Kiunga Conservancy, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The GEP Program will ensure that all beach seine nets in the Kiunga Marine National Reserve (KMNR) have been voluntarily exited by 2023.

In the course of the Program's implementation, interview surveys and awareness sessions were conducted, and stakeholder consultation meetings were convened.

A consensus was reached on exiting beach seine fishery, and 11 of the 13 existing beach seines owners operating within Kiunga Marine National Reserve (KMNR) expressed their willingness to do so. The 11 beach seine owners have submitted formal applications for the GEP Program to KICOWA. An action plan detailing the Program's road map was drafted and implementation guidelines developed.

The next phase of the GEP Program mainly entails scaling up awareness of the GEP Program, providing training on the impact of different fishing gears, incorporating new aspects of the GEP Program into the Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA) constitution and by-laws of fisheries' Beach

Management Units (BMUs), procurement and handover of the alternative legal and sustainable fishing gears (guided by the approved criteria), GEP Program monitoring, evaluation and learning, sustained enforcement of fisheries regulations and by-laws, the implementation of alternative livelihood activities associated with the GEP Program (including an education scholarship program), expanding to Pate Conservancy and connecting the GEP Program to the ongoing KICOWA Fish Market Pilot Program.

Artificial Coral Reef Restoration

Pate Conservancy began the Artificial Coral Reef Restoration Project to restore at least 0.5 hectares of reef within Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), enhance fisheries, and improve the management of LMMAs.

45 coral reef restoration experts underwent training from the community, and degraded reef areas were identified and mapped.

In 2021, the community reef restoration experts constructed the artificial structures and deployed them in 3 sites within LMMAs. The deployed artificial structures included 16 units of artificial blocks, 16 units of cylindrical structures for lobsters, 12 nursery tables, and 3 nurseries. To ensure the corals' longevity, a monitoring plan was developed that will be implemented by reef rangers.



Alternative Livelihoods

NRT Coast is working to increase financial literacy and stability among the fisher communities in the Kiunga, Pate, and Lower Tana Delta Conservancies to provide an additional source of income. A Ksh 14.8 million (USD 134,545) revolving fund in the form of a Women Micro-Finance Program will be used to achieve this.

The Program has provided local fisher communities with alternative livelihood options and 483 women from the 3 conservancies are currently actively engaged in various small businesses.

The beneficiaries' entrepreneurship skills and saving culture have improved, and their savings as of December 2021 totaled Ksh 5,055,060 (USD 45,955). The Program is currently in its third implementation phase and has proven a catalyst for conservation and community development.



In 2021:

- In the Kiunga and Pate Conservancies, a fish-to-market pilot project was implemented to establish links for sustainable fisheries, value addition, marketing, and marine conservation as critical pillars of community development.
- From June to December 2021, the total fish catch sent to the market was 7 tons.
- In Kiwayu Village, a challenge regarding cold storage and preservation was solved. Fishers in the pilot were issued with 8 cool boxes, 2 large ice boxes (each with a one-ton capacity), and a solar-powered freezer.
- Giver Power, an NRT Coast partner, has set up a solar-powered ice plant in Kiunga Village that produces 600 kilograms of ice flakes every day.
- 49 fishers (46 men and 3 women) underwent training on proper fish handling, processing, hygiene, and reduction of post-harvest losses.

Data Shows Elephants' Habitats Are Expanding

In 2019, we fitted Koya, a female elephant with a GPS monitoring collar, and tracked her movements and her family's while she embarked on a remarkable journey from Samburu to Marsabit in Northern Kenya, as revealed by her collar data during that period.

Recent data shows that efforts by indigenous communities to safeguard elephant ranges and eliminate threats such as ivory poaching are bearing fruit. According to collared elephants' data, elephants have expanded their range and are utilising the Lorian Swamp in the East. Herds are moving further down the Lower Ewaso River, and movement between Marsabit and Meru National Parks is becoming more regular, as depicted in the maps below, which feature data from Merti, a collared elephant.

In the past, poaching resulted in fewer elephants in the Lower Ewaso River. Now, available data shows a robust population is spending more time within the ecosystem, and formerly occupied elephant habitats are opening up. Community conservancies on the frontiers of Isiolo, Samburu, and Marsabit are providing this vital space thanks to increased awareness, improved peace, security and community, government, and private efforts. These con-

servancies are increasingly being used as elephant habitats, allowing for the development and expansion of elephant ranges.

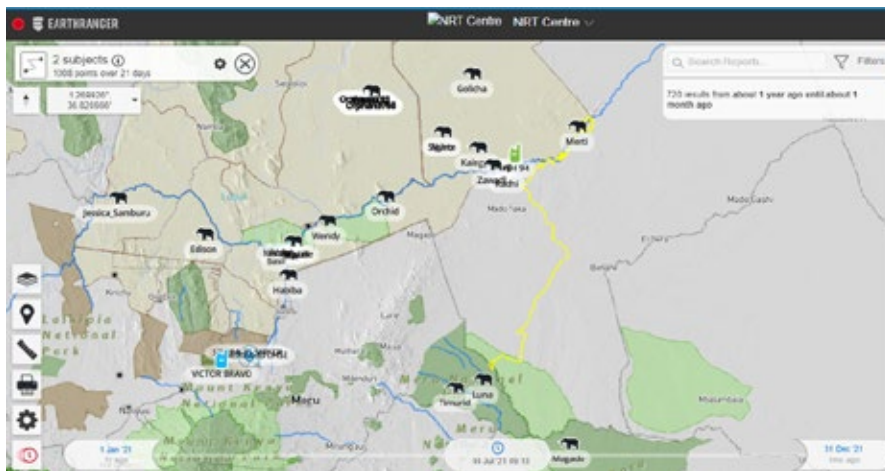
While ivory poaching is declining, human–elephant conflict is surging due to competition for scarce resources, particularly water and forage during the dry season.

“With the development of the new conservancies in Isiolo, elephant range expansion will take center stage in the coming 10-15 years,” says Kieran Avery, NRT’s Director of Resource Management.

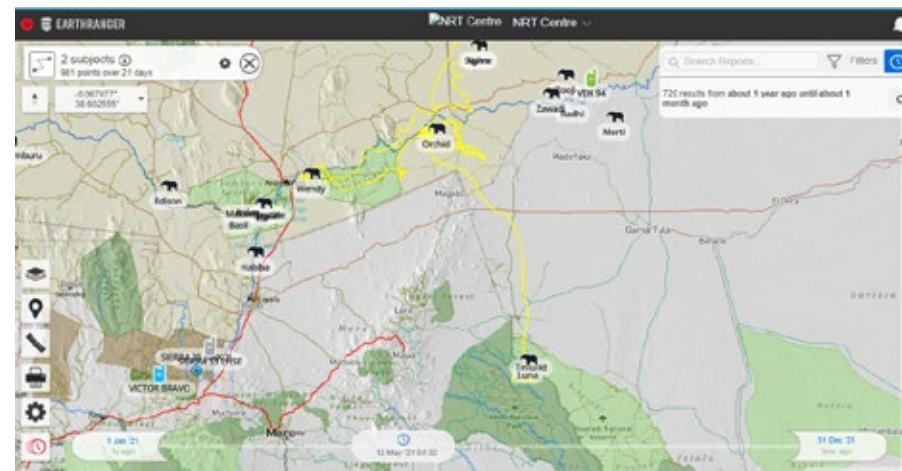
Over the last 15 years, NRT member community conservancies have endeavored to enhance their governance, build peace in the region, and practice sustainable natural resource management.

Since 2012, a collaborative effort by NRT, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Save the Elephants, and other partners, to improve wildlife and human security, has led to a 96% reduction in elephants killed for ivory across the NRT landscape.

Elephant Movements between NRT landscape and Meru National Park in 2021



Elephant named Merti's tracks



Elephant named Luna's tracks

Drought-related Wildlife Mortality High in 2021

A severe drought persisted in 2021, resulting in wildlife mortality and economic loss for communities in Northern Kenya.

Dating back to late 2020, and for nearly 18 months, some regions experienced little to no rain and became depleted of vegetation. The landscape was unable to recover, leaving no safety net for wildlife, people, or livestock. The lack of water adversely impacted community members and wildlife, particularly giraffes, the critically endangered hirola antelope in the Ishaqbini Hirola Sanctuary, and other grazing species.

Water scarcity undermined wildlife conservation and exacerbated human-wildlife conflict as wildlife and communities became increasingly desperate for water, a shared resource. This human-wildlife conflict culminated in 50 elephant deaths across the NRT landscape, orphaning elephants.

2021 reported a high percentage of deaths due to natural (37%) and unknown (39%) causes. Conflict-related deaths remain prevalent, particularly in Namunyak (Kalepo, Nalowuon) and Naibunga-Lower Conservancies.

“Elephants congregate where there is water,” Anthony Wandera, NRT’s Wildlife Lead explains. “Inevitably, this is where human settlements are, causing human-wildlife conflict.”

Incidents of ivory poaching in the Mathews Ranges in Namunyak-Ngilai Community Conservancy remained low. Outside of NRT member conservancies, trophy poaching occurred at Ntop Lobokat in South Turkana National Reserve and Marsabit.

Despite a low PIKE (Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants) of 25%, elephant mortality in 2021 was higher than in 2009, another drought year.

Sera Rhino Sanctuary, like Hirola Sanctuary, experienced the lowest amounts of rainfall, and consequently, its forage supply was exhausted. NRT inter-

vened and provided hay and lucerne for the grazing species. Buffaloes, impalas, zebras, eland, and giraffes were among the wildlife affected, and NRT’s intervention saved most of them from starvation.

As the region grappled with the drought, 64 hirola antelope were released, halving the Sanctuary’s population of about 140 and increasing the Sanctuary’s resident species’ chances of survival.

Due to the dry conditions, NRT and its partners halted wildlife translocations. NRT further stepped up its efforts to safeguard wildlife by vaccinating livestock against diseases that could have potentially spread to the hirola, which were weakened already.

“Had we not intervened, we would have lost a lot of wildlife,” Wandera adds.



Elephants congregate where there is water and this is where settlements are, causing conflict.

Anthony Wandera,
Wildlife Lead, NRT







6

Finance And Sustainability

Kenya's recognition as the World's Leading Safari Destination 2021 by the World Travel Awards marked Kenya's 7th win. This we hope will boost conservancy earnings from tourism. The pandemic, however, revealed that even the most established conservancies with massive tourism earnings are susceptible when tourism decreases, necessitating a sustainability plan.



Sustainability

Before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the NRT Sustainability Plan anticipated conservancies ‘graduating’ from NRT as they became financially independent. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated that even the most established conservancies with massive tourism earnings are susceptible when tourism decreases. The onset of the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project is likely to play a significant role in conservancies’ financial viability from 2022, as it will be an important revenue stream for the conservancies involved. In collaboration with TNC, NRT is exploring the potential for Blue Carbon as a source of revenue for marine conservancies, and in 2022 NRT will explore the potential for other carbon opportunities across the NRT landscape.

As conservancy funds grow and leadership changes, new and substantial governance issues have surfaced. Rather than seeing conservancies graduate from NRT and paving way for new members, we now view conservancy resilience as a long-term relationship in which NRT’s input and support to a conservancy varies based on each member’s unique needs, capacity, and challenges.

While our member conservancies’ ultimate goal is excellent financial health, experience has shown that the growth of conservancy resilience is not linear, and NRT’s mentorship role is critical in the long run. NRT is now working on specific work streams focused on increasing conservation resilience on their path towards independence. NRT has been conducting a series of Conservancy Capacity Assessments to help it and its member conservancies to monitor and evaluate each conservancy’s resilience progress methodically and objectively.

The Conservancy Resilience Assessment Framework, which is presently under development, will evaluate progress in good governance, management effectiveness, and financial viability, as well as offer specific data to support focused action plans aimed at enhancing conservancy capacity. This framework will be based on NRT’s customized governance and management effectiveness tool, the ‘Governance Index,’ as well as previous conservancy capacity assessments undertaken in conjunction with Fauna and Flora International (FFI).



NRT’s approach to sustainability is still evolving. After achieving proof of concept at a large scale, NRT’s next step is to ensure that this can be translated into long-term success, which can be represented by:

- ensuring the long-term viability of the NRT model in existing conservancies.
- making conscious efforts to have conservancies operate independently of NRT.

The NRT sustainability plan has been redesigned so it can be more effective on three levels:

- conservancy level
- NRT central level
- national and county government level

As we strive to equip conservancies with the expertise they need to govern themselves, reliance on the NRT HQ’s resources will decrease. At NRT Central, we are pursuing the following goals as part of our sustainability strategy:

- optimize operations—as envisioned in a five-year plan and a 30-year vision
- be able to continue funding NRT programs and associated assistance –this will alter NRT’s strategic funding plan. Changes to the strategic funding plan are poised to transform the organization from a donor-dependent state to one with a self-sustaining income base.

This necessitates NRT broadening its revenue streams. In this regard, the following are the long-term goals:

- NRT’s diversification of its revenue stream so that donor funds account for only 25% of total revenue.
- Capitalization of the Conservation Trust Fund to around USD 50 million, allowing it to generate yearly income equivalent to another 25% of NRT’s budget even when invested conservatively.

- Commercial revenue from NRT Trading operations such as carbon, tourist, solar, and other commercial revenue streams to yield an additional 25%.
- National and county governments to provide a minimum of 25% support (facilitated by NRT’s creation of a national and county government -level sustainability strategy). Some donor, commercial, and all county government support will go straight to conservancies, directly reducing the amount of funds NRT needs to spend on conservancy operation costs.

5 NRT Coast conservancies independently secured and implemented a 1-year grant of USD 369,000 from Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) in 2021 that supported water resource and climate change programs under the Green Growth and Employment Program.

In 2021 on the path to achieving its strategic sustainability goals, NRT achieved the following milestones:

Conservation Trust Fund

Through collaborating with its partners and The Nature Conservancy, NRT has secured the first donation for the Conservation Trust Fund (USD 3 million).

Tourism

While COVID-19 brought international tourism to its knees and halted the resultant revenue, Kenyan tourists have become increasingly interested in visiting conservancies. Four conservancies have benefited from NRT’s assistance in establishing and upgrading four community-owned and managed self-catering camps. The number of visitors is steadily rising and visitor reviews and feedback have been overwhelmingly positive.

This is a valuable form of tourism revenue for conservancies, with advantages such as community employment, skill development opportunities, and enhanced public awareness of what conservancies in Kenya have to offer.

Carbon

The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project was verified and the first issue of credits was made in December 2020. In 2021, all 14 participating conservancies were briefed at the management and leadership level and all communities involved were further briefed through Special AGMs held at the zonal level to ensure the widest possible understanding and awareness of the Project.

All 14 participating conservancies sought endorsement from their communities for the Project and agreed to the proposed revenue-sharing arrangement for the next three years. While Project activities on the ground continued as part of this 30-year project, in the second half of 2021 the first issue of credits (from 2013-2016) was sold. The revenue from the sales will be disbursed in 2022 in a process designed by participating conservancy representatives who are part of the Carbon Project Oversight Committee. The revenue will be re-invested in the 14 participating conservancies, helping to directly support conservancy operations costs as well as fund community-identified needs. The verification of the second issue of credits (2017-2020) is underway and credits from this period are likely to be available to buyers in Q2 of 2022.

Government Funding

In 2021 NRT recorded the highest figure for government financing received through county governments for conservancies.

Additionally, following the initial pandemic-triggered crisis, the national government provided an economic stimulus and funding to cover ranger remuneration for six months.

LOOKING AHEAD

We are proud to celebrate the accomplishments NRT and the member community conservancies made over the last year. While 2021 was not without its disappointments, we are determined not to let them eclipse our optimism as we make another journey around the sun.

Putting 2021 in our rearview mirrors, we embrace 2022, with its infinite possibilities, and face the year with renewed resolve. We are excited to continue providing the backing NRT member conservancies need to make strides in combating the debilitating effects of climate change and achieve lasting self-sustenance, as this is the pinnacle of what we do.

Asante sana to everyone who supported NRT in the past year, visited our constituent conservancies, and so much more. We appreciate you being part of the wider NRT community and deeply hope that your 2022 will be filled with joy and success.

Onward and upward!

Photographs

Paul Wambugu

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26,79,114,120,125,142

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28, 29, 35, 47, 53, 106, 107

Jeff DeKock

38, 117, 124

Jeff Waweru

104, 22, 27

Juan Pablo Moreiras

122, 52

Roshni Lodhia

80

Ami Vitale

82

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Back

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111

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Asanteni Sana

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