



BI-ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY - JUNE 2023

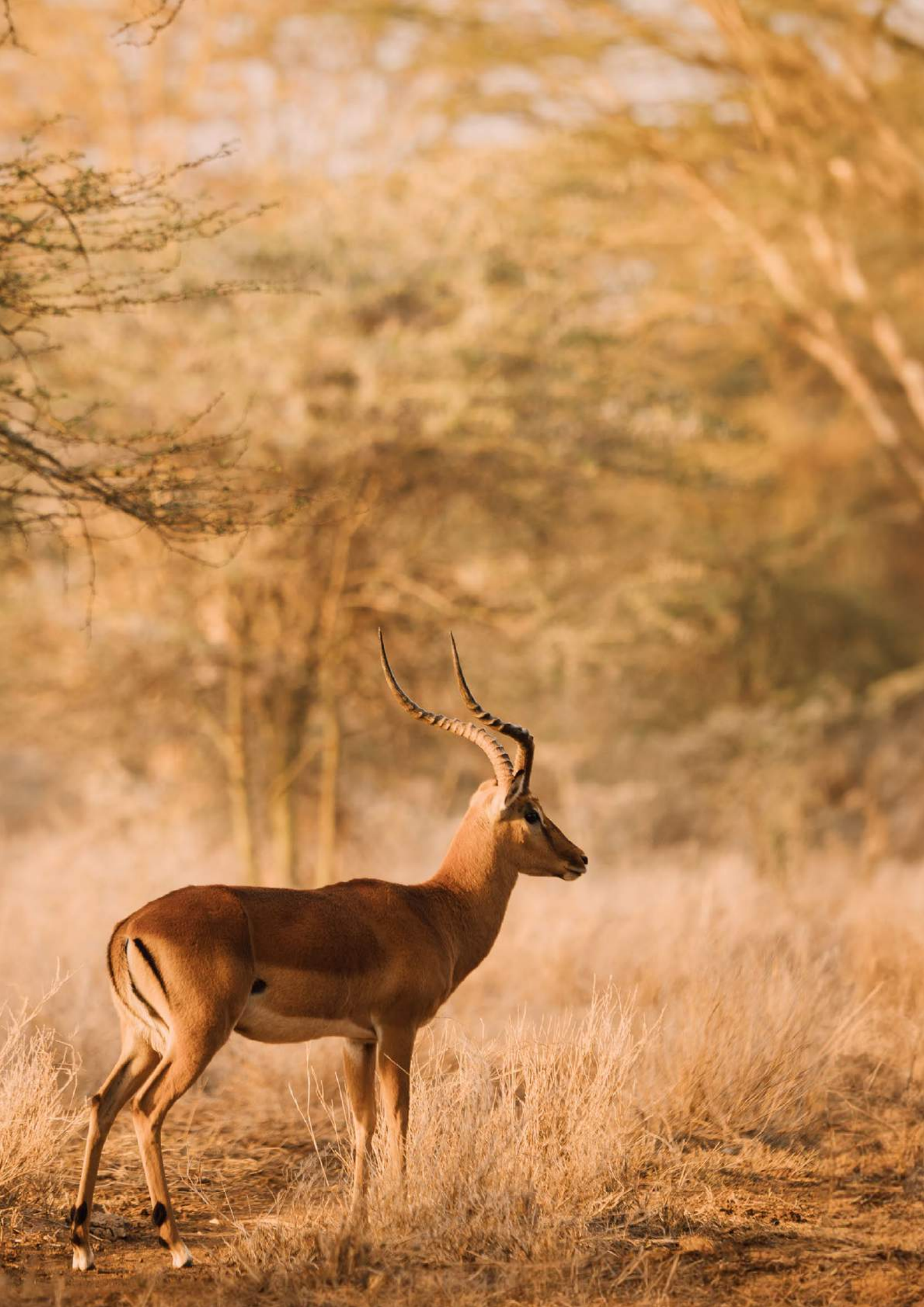


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OVERVIEW

The Northern Rangelands Trust

Our Mission

The Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) is a membership organisation owned and led by the 43 diverse community conservancies it serves in northern and coastal Kenya and Uganda. Since its inception, NRT has made significant strides in developing resilient community conservancies that transform lives, promote peace, and conserve natural resources. Three pillars underpin NRT's approach to conservancy resilience:



Good Governance

Community-driven decision-making that results in strong community ownership, equitable benefit distribution, and transparent and accountable conservancy boards and administration.



Effective Management

The proficient administration of conservancies and the successful implementation of programs.



Financial Viability

The availability of sufficient and reliable funding for current and future conservation operations.

Sustainability

NRT is focussed on sustainability across all aspects of its work. 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. In order to realize its sustainability strategy, NRT has taken the following steps:

- Conservancies in NRT Coast and Marsabit have been at the forefront of developing fundraising proposals and raising funds to support their operations and community projects. This is a significant step towards conservancies becoming financially independent and NRT achieving its long-term sustainability goals.
- NRT is currently developing its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan to set the course for the next five years. The document examines our accomplishments, gaps, and areas for growth, and aligns with our Vision 2050, which is a road map of how we intend to achieve our quest of building resilient community conservancies that transform lives, build peace, and conserve natural resources.
- To increase its effectiveness, NRT has adopted a new organisational structure based on the results of an organisational review conducted last year. Additionally, NRT has completely decentralized its governance and set up regional offices to better serve our member community conservancies. These offices are already executing local initiatives and serving as a first point of contact for conservancies and county governments.



- To ensure that all stages of development of conservation projects deliver enhanced outcomes and a positive impact on communities and nature, NRT continues to roll out human rights and Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) trainings, while upholding human rights, managing risks, and adhering to all social safe guard policies, procedures, and measures.
- Women and youth are becoming increasingly involved in community conservancy activities, a positive step towards closing the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) gap and encouraging inclusive and sustainable natural resource use and management.
 - NRT is investing in agriculture to increase food production and market linkages in five community conservancies where farming is predominant. Agricultural extension officers have therefore been recruited to support farming activities and offer guidance to farmers, working in collaboration with county governments.



From the CEO's Desk



There are moments in NRT's history that have been completely captivating, leaving an indelible impression on our hearts and minds. One of these unforgettable memories was made earlier this year when a request came through from H.E. James Lowasa, the Isiolo County Deputy Governor.

His team in the health department had received a distress call from a family in Sericho Ward. An expectant woman had a medical emergency, and the County's ambulance could not access the lady's home due to severe flooding in the area. Was NRT in a position to help?

Our team sprung into action to save the woman's life and that of her unborn baby, promptly airlifting her to Isiolo County Teaching and Referral Hospital (ICTRH), where she received the critical care she needed.

This incident was a timely reminder of what the NRT community conservancy model is about—working hand in hand with our partners to make a real difference in indigenous communities through conservation.

The last six months have presented numerous opportunities to bring this vision to life as many of the communities in our member conservancies experienced a challenging start to the year.

The historic drought that dominated most of 2022 persisted at the start of 2023, and was just one of a confluence of factors placing pastoralist communities under enormous financial strain as they sought to recover from the pandemic and its domino effects. Disruption in global supply chains and rising inflation significantly led to an increase in the prices of basic commodities, exacerbating an already dire situation and further reducing the purchasing power of indigenous communities across the NRT landscape.

To lessen the financial burden on pastoralist families, the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCF) disbursed bursaries worth Ksh 51.7 million (USD 382,962) to 7,225 needy students from all 14 NRT member community conservancies participating in the Project, improving access to education and school attendance rates.

While the biting drought persisted, we implemented various interventions in our member community conservancies to increase their resilience. At a time when rainfall was scarce, our teams traversed the NRT landscape, installing water supply systems and restoring boreholes, so that people, livestock and wildlife could have access to safe clean water. NRT program teams also distributed assorted food rations and provided fuel and transport subsidies, and feed for livestock.

Parts of the NRT landscape experienced an uptick in conflict due to insufficient rainfall and increasing demand for dwindling natural resources. Our peace team proactively intervened in potentially violent situations, averting clashes, and fostering peaceful coexistence.

The publication of an inaccurate report vilifying the NKRCPC by our detractors, was among the numerous challenges we faced in the first half of the year that put our grit to the test.

Inspired by the resilience of the indigenous communities we serve, we continued to unfailingly show up for nature and people, making even greater advancements in conservation and community development.

Working with Connected Conservation Foundation, we harnessed the power of emerging technologies and deployed Africa's largest landscape-wide Internet of Things (IoT) conservation network in 22 NRT member community conservancies.

The first of its kind in Kenya, this ambitious undertaking is leveraging cloud-based sensors and networks to collect, monitor, and analyse environmental data in real time, enhancing the protection of endangered species and the conservation of natural resources.

Our livelihood development efforts were bolstered by the World Fair Trade Organisation's certification of NRT Trading's BeadWORKS as a fair-trade enterprise. Later in June, the Kenya eCommerce Awards added another feather to BeadWORKS' cap by announcing the Program as the winner of the prestigious Best International/Export E-commerce Website Award!

At the Coast, our member community conservancies continued to reach for the sun and spear-headed their fundraising. Their applaudable efforts to be self-sustaining were rewarded as they secured Ksh 155.3 million (USD 1,150,370) from the Water Sector Trust Fund for water development and improvement of sanitation.

In the first half of 2023, we completed our organizational review, which increased our effectiveness, enabling us to respond more nimbly to macroenvironmental changes and build a strong base for continued work and growth.

The last six months also saw us receive many applications to join NRT, from different indigenous communities. While we acknowledge the needs of these communities, resource constraints hinder us from accepting all these requests. During this second half of the year, we aim to increase our capacity so we may be able to accommodate new members.

To future-proof the organization, we are developing NRT's Vision for 2050 and a Strategic Plan to guide NRT, the member community conservancies we serve, and the programs we run for the next three decades.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their commitment and dedication. We work in some of the country's remotest parts, but you have never let that stop you from serving our member community conservancies.

Additionally, I would like to express my profound gratitude to our partners and donors for their support through all the ups and downs of the first half of 2023. Your cooperation and collaboration enable us to continue doing the work we do. *Asante sana!*

To our esteemed Board members and Council of Elders, your guidance, support, and direction remain the cornerstone of our growth and the reason for our success in northern and coastal Kenya and Uganda. A heartfelt thank you goes to each one of you.

Lastly, to you all who continue to follow our work and walk the community conservation journey with us, thank you.

As you read through this report, I sincerely hope you see yourself in these pages. More importantly, I hope they inspire you.



Tom Lalampaa,
Chief Executive Officer,
Northern Rangelands Trust

Abbreviations

BMU: Beach Management Unit

CI: Conservation International

CFA: Community Forest Association

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

EU: The European Union

GESI: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

HWC: Human-wildlife conflict

Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA): Kiunga Community Conservancy

KFS: Kenya Forest Service

KWS: Kenya Wildlife Service

NKRCP: The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project

NRT: The Northern Rangelands Trust

NRT Coast: Kiunga, Ishaqbini Hirola, Lower Tana Delta, Ndera, Hanshak, Awer and Pate Marine Community Conservancies

NRT East: Biliqo Bulesa, Nasuulu, Songa, Leparua, Nakuprat-Gotu, Sericho, Cherab, Kinna, Garba Tulla, Jaldesa, Shurr, Melako, Nannapa, Nanapisho, Naapu and Narupa Community Conservancies

NRT Centre: Nkoteiya, Meibae, Westgate, Sera, Kalama, Ngilai, Ltungai and Kalepo Community Conservancies

NRT West: Pellow, Ruko, Kaptuya and Masol Community Conservancies

NRT Mountain: Il Ngwesi, Naibunga Central, Naibunga Upper, Naibunga Lower, Lekurruki, Kirimon, and Ngare Ndare Community Conservancies.

NRT Uganda: Morung'ole Community Conservancy

RangER Program: The Kenya Rangelands Ecosystem Services Productivity Program

TNC: The Nature Conservancy

USAID: United States Agency for International Development

WSTF: Water Sector Trust Fund

For this report:

Ksh 135 = US\$ 1

TOGETHER WE ARE



www.nrt-kenya.org



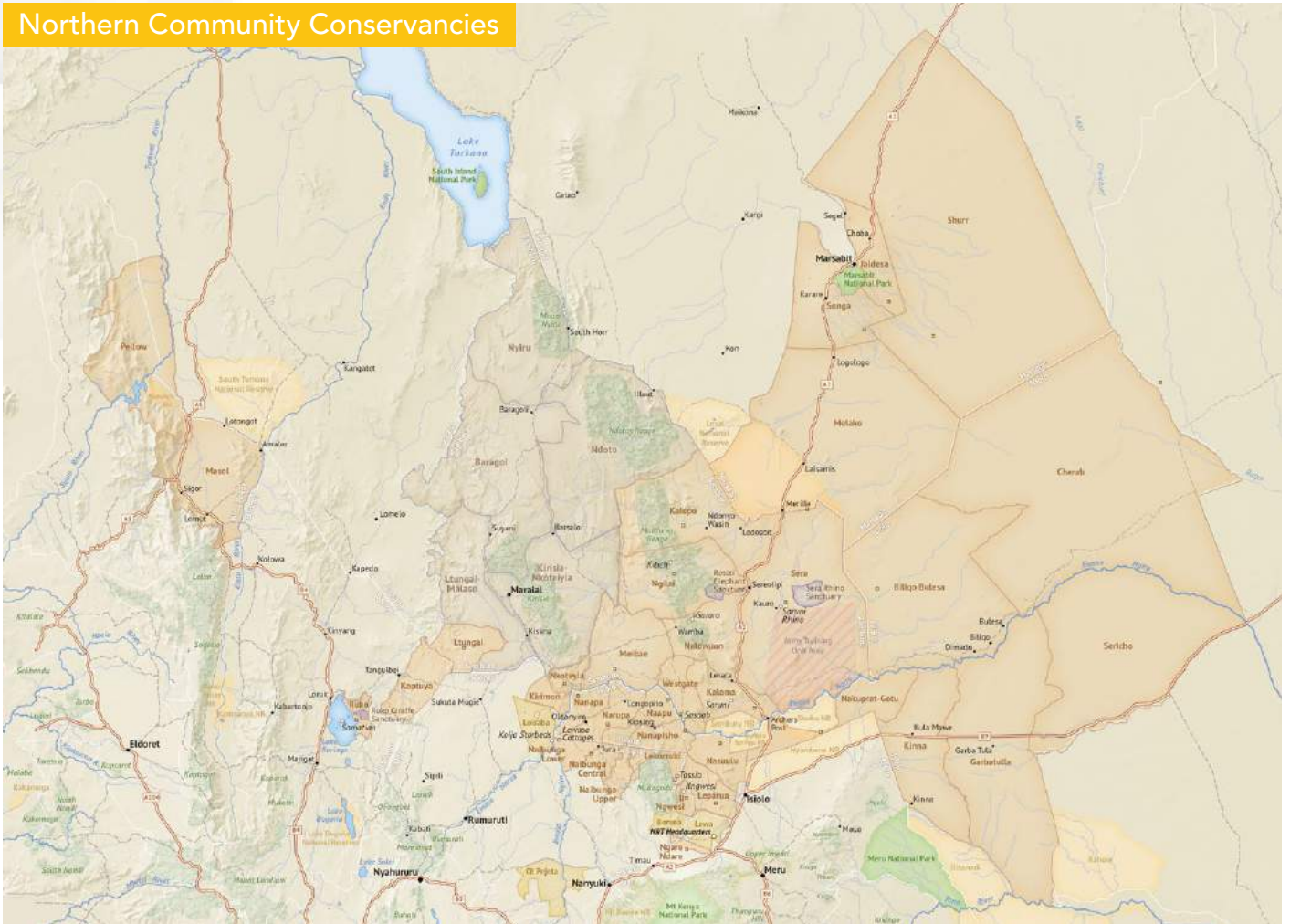
IL NGWESI
COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY





MEMBER CONSERVANCIES 2023

Northern Community Conservancies



Coastal Community Conservancies



Legend

- NRT Member 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
- Tourism facility
- NRT Headquarters / Conservancy HQ



NRT'S STRATEGIC PLAN & OBJECTIVES

TRANSFORM LIVES, SECURE PEACE AND CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES

Success for NRT is achieved when the communities it supports experience a positive shift in their lives because of increased peace and the conservation of their natural resources.



Goal 1: Transform Lives

Communities within conservancies are benefitting from conservation. NRT continues to invest in community development priorities to improve their lives and create the conditions necessary for job creation and business growth.



Goal 2: Secure Peace

NRT's Peace Program is a non-political platform that brings people in conservancies together, resulting in a safer environment for them, their families, and their livestock. While there have been insecurity incidences in both the coast and the north over the last six months, the presence of conservancies has made individuals living in the unsafe areas feel safer in these uncertain times.

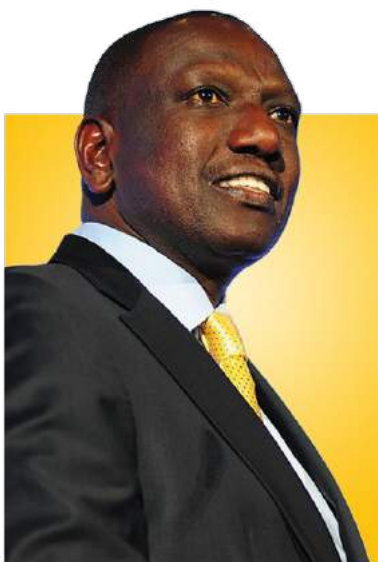


Goal 3: Conserve Natural Resources

NRT now supports 43 community conservancies spanning over 6,409,532 hectares in Kenya and Uganda and supporting a population of 630,896 people. NRT continues to provide outstanding protection for endangered species including elephants and rhinos, with only one case of ivory poaching being reported in its member community conservancies in the first six months of 2023.

While there are very few cases of ivory poaching, elephants continue to die as a result of human-wildlife conflict. To address this, NRT has taken a proactive approach and where practicable, is implementing customized interventions. Bushmeat poaching remains a significant threat to wildlife in parts of the NRT landscape, especially in some areas in the NRT Coast region.

NRT's wildlife protection teams and community conservancy scouts are laser-focused on reducing poaching cases to zero.



H.E. Dr. William Ruto,
President of the Republic of Kenya



I am very happy with what NRT is doing in reseeded some of our environmental degraded areas. I want to promise you the collaboration, the working together, and the partnership of the Government of Kenya in working on matters environment. I have agreed with the County Governments of Isiolo, Laikipia, and Samburu that we are going to do everything possible to ensure that we conserve the environment, and make sure that wildlife, human beings, and biodiversity live together in harmony.

Speaking when he visited NRT's booth at the 2023 Rhino Charge competition held in Nkoteiya Community Conservancy by the Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

January - June 2023

Governance



18

NRT LAMP trainings conducted in

15

community conservancies



Ksh 89.7 million (USD 664,444)

given by the Samburu County Government to support

12 community conservancies

16

community conservancies conducted financial audits

Peace



7,186

community members engaged in peacebuilding initiatives



80

women named peace champions in NRT Center and East Regions

Livelihoods



Ksh 77.9 million (USD 577,037)

disbursed by the CLF to 18 community conservancies benefitting 10,511 individuals

Enterprise



Ksh 63.2 million (USD 468,148)

generated as tourism revenue for 9 NRT member community conservancies



2

new Ujuzi Manyattani sites launched in Shurr and Kiunga Community Conservancies

Wildlife Protection



▶ **35**

community conservancies underwent radio upgrades, enhancing digital communication



▶ **4**

sea turtles rescued in Kiunga Community Conservancy



▶ **2**

black rhino calves born in Sera Rhino Sanctuary



▶ **1**

Rothschild's giraffe male calf born in Ruko Giraffe Sanctuary, increasing the total population in the Sanctuary to 14

Rangelands



▶ **16,203**

herders reached with information on rangelands management



▶ **348**

herders and grazing committee members trained on planned grazing management and implementation

Forests & Mangroves



▶ **8,040**

tree seedlings planted in two designated sites in Ngare Ndare Forest



▶ **50,790**

mangrove seedlings planted and 18,593 propagules established in nurseries, bringing the total number of mangroves planted since 2018 to 146,284

Carbon



▶ **Ksh 51.7 million (USD 382,962)**

in bursaries was distributed to the 14 community conservancies participating in the NKRCF, benefitting **7,225** students

FOCUS ON NRT'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators and Targets for NRT's Strategic Objectives and High-Level Outcomes



Output 1: Well-governed Community Conservancies

Governance

NRT continues to support its member community conservancies through its recently developed regional structure, which has facilitated the decentralization of its programs and services by operationalizing the satellite offices of NRT Centre, NRT East, NRT West, NRT Mountain, and NRT Coast.

For community conservancies to be strong, autonomous, sustainable, well-managed, local institutions that truly involve the community in decision-making, good governance is a necessary prerequisite.

Therefore, we continue to provide conservancy leaders and members with access to tools and training, such as NRT's bespoke Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) training, which not only increases their capacity for governance but also boosts efforts to protect wildlife and fosters peace and sustainable natural resource management practices.

The LAMP training has been proven to be the most effective training program in the NRT landscape. It comprises four modules covered over four months. Between January and June, NRT conducted 18 LAMP trainings, with 136 men and 167 women from 15 conservancies.





Additional Governance NewsBytes

- Regional and biannual Council of Elders' meetings were held in the respective regions to discuss new developments, difficulties encountered, and plans for the year.
- **16** conservancies in NRT East conducted financial audits to evaluate how efficiently and effectively financial resources were used.
- The NRT Centre team attended a knowledge exhibition organized by USAID's Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG) initiative in Maralal, Samburu County. The exhibition converged representatives from the USAID Kenya Mission and PREG partners working in the region. At the exhibition, the PREG partners showcased their projects and collaborated to support indigenous communities in increasing their resilience.
- All NRT community conservancies held quarterly board, sub-committee, and awareness meetings to discuss conservancy plans, progress, management issues, challenges encountered, and other decisions regarding conservancy governance. Additionally, all community conservancies participating in the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCP) held annual general meetings to deliberate on need priorities and share project updates.
- NRT supported the Cooperation on Peace and Development (CoPaD) bloc counties of Laikipia, Samburu, Baringo, and Isiolo in reviewing their five-year strategy. CoPaD is an implementing partner of the EU-funded Kenya RangER Program, which seeks to adopt an integrated landscape approach in the four counties. NRT serves as the lead implementing partner of the RangER Program and provides technical support.
- **30** people from Ishaqbini Community Conservancy (15 newly appointed board members and 15 local partners) were trained on good governance, finance management, and leadership.
- NRT Coast secured **Ksh 44,706,330 (USD 331,158)** in new grants in the first half of the year.
- Pate Marine Community Conservancy and its women's fisher groups secured Ksh 20,520,000 (USD 152,000) in funding, from the Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development (KEMFSED) Project for conservation and livelihood projects, while Kiunga Community Conservancy received Ksh 2,295,000 (USD 17,000) for the Bahari Moja Ocean Plastic Recycling Project.
- NRT Coast, KWS and Community Wildlife Associations (CWAs) agreed to formalize a partnership that will see the co-management of conservation work within the Kiunga Marine National Reserve and Dodori National Reserve.



To achieve good governance, NRT member community conservancies have consistently engaged local leaders and community members, ensuring we have unified decision-making and support from all stakeholders.

Adan Denge,
Chairperson, Garbatulla Community Conservancy

Gender and Social Inclusion

NRT continues to strategically identify Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) gaps and promote culturally appropriate solutions to ensure that all community conservancy members and leaders—regardless of gender—can fully participate in and benefit from NRT’s conservation efforts and livelihood improvement activities.



NewsBytes

- NRT is reviewing its GESI Strategy, which will provide a road map for gender equality and social inclusion mainstreaming across the NRT landscape.
- A GESI analysis was undertaken in NRT Coast in partnership with TNC in Pate Marine, Kiunga, Awer, and Lower Tana Delta Community Conservancies. Results of the analysis will shed light on GESI-related needs, interests, and concerns—guiding NRT Coast’s conservation activities—and offer recommendations that will facilitate the establishment of an evidence-based gender-responsive action plan.
- Four of the five NRT regions established women caucuses, with NRT East and Centre undergoing an introductory GESI training.
- **60** women from the five NRT regions participated in a two-day Women Leadership Summit held in Ruko Community Conservancy in March. The Summit, which was the third to be held since its inception, is funded by Conservation International (CI) and recognises that the participation and influence of all: women, men, and underrepresented groups in decision-making, is essential for effective and sustainable conservation and the community’s general well-being.
- **35** women from Leparua, Ltungai, and Melako Community Conservancies underwent LAMP training with support from CI and NRT.
- **8** NRT women in conservation caucus members attended a national women’s forum and GESI training hosted by the Kenya Wildlife Conservation Association (KWCA), where they shared their experiences in leadership and gained insights from other conservancies.
- **150** women leaders and entrepreneurs from nine NRT member community conservancies involved in NRT Trading’s BeadWORKS Program attended the 2nd Star Beaders Conference, where they exchanged ideas, shared their experiences, best practices, and challenges, and explored opportunities to develop sustainable businesses that advance climate action and gender equality.

The Conference was supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through the Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi—under the IMARA Program—and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.



Unlocking the Full Potential of Girls and Women: Supercharging Gender Equality in Conservation

In honor of International Women’s Day and in an effort to narrow the gender inequality gap, NRT hosted the 2023 Women Leadership Summit—the third of its kind, bringing together more than 300 women and amplifying their voices in conservation.

Due to cultural practices, a patriarchal setup, the climate crisis, and a lack of proper gender representation, among other factors, women’s inclusion has long been an overlooked aspect of development in northern and coastal Kenya.



Thanks to the community conservancy model, women now have more chances than ever to assume leadership positions and have a say in decisions affecting rangeland management, conservancy governance, natural resource management and community development.

NRT established a GESI structure in each of its five regions: Coast, Mountain, Centre, West, and East, creating operational structures known as caucuses, to effectively promote women’s views and representations in programs.

“Our main goal is to empower and mentor young girls and emerging women leaders in conservation, and promote education, diversity in leadership, and gender equality in community conservation,” explains Beatrice Lempaira, NRT’s Gender and Social Inclusion Director.

During the 2023 Women Leadership Summit, women from all 43 NRT member community conservancies recounted their leadership struggles and victories, providing a vivid picture of the need to remove the barriers that women confront through capacity building, economic empowerment, and mentoring.

The Summit sought to promote gender diversity in leadership, identify and support aspiring female leaders, boost women’s participation in

conservation and community development, and broaden their knowledge of gender equity in community conservation.

To wrap up the event, the women joined the rest of the world in commemorating International Women’s Day on the 8th of March, celebrating their conservation achievements.

In line with this year’s theme, “DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality,” the ways in which women at NRT and NRT member community conservancies have embraced technology to protect wildlife, build peace, secure financial information, protect their privacy (for better decision-making and planning), and amplify their voices were highlighted. Across the NRT landscape, with the support of NRT and our partners, women are driving community development, breaking down social barriers, and creating safe spaces for themselves and young girls to thrive.

The Summit was supported by CI, the EU, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, TNC, USAID, DANIDA, and the Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi, through the Integrated Management of Natural Resources for Resilience in Arid and Semi-Arid Counties (IMARA) Program.



Infrastructure

NRT member community conservancies occasionally require NRT's assistance in developing infrastructure for effective conservancy management and operations. The needed infrastructure includes offices, lodges, ablution blocks, classrooms, and tourism camps. In the first half of 2023, Ksh 446 million (USD 3,303,703) was invested in infrastructure, facilitating the construction (or improvement) of conservancy headquarters, outposts, schools, tourism facilities, wildlife sanctuaries, KWS camps, and hay stores.

Infrastructure Projects Rolled Out in 2023 in NRT Member Community Conservancies

County	Conservancy	Infrastructure Project	Status
Lamu	Kiunga	Construction of the 2 nd Phase of the Mongo Sharif KWS Camp involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of the access jet • Renovation and improvement of staff accommodation • Djabia construction (underground water tanks) 	Complete
	Pate	Renovation of the office block at the headquarters	Complete
	Pate	Construction of outpost on Ndaui Island to facilitate easy monitoring by conservancy scouts; to include 2 rooms, kitchen, and ablution facilities	Complete
	Pate	Pate Outpost renovation and improvement	Complete
Garissa	Ishaqbini	Sanctuary fence repair and maintenance	Complete
Isiolo	Garbatulla	Construction of an outpost with 6 conservancy scout accommodation areas, a kitchen with a mess, a store, cooking area and ablution facilities	Advanced stage
		Provision of water supply to the camp	
		Solar power installation	
		Guttering	
	Kinna	Construction of the Conservancy headquarters (HQ) is ongoing. It will comprise 1 office block with a meeting area, 2 offices, a radio room and strong-room, container storage, and a conservancy scout section with 2 rooms, a kitchen, and ablution facilities	Advanced stage
		HQ electricity installation	
		HQ water system installation	
Biliqo	Construction of a hay shed at Bulesa Insiny Farmlands	Complete	
	Erection and handover of a 1-kilometer fence		
	Erection of a 1-kilometer solar-powered short fence spanning 10 acres to protect farms in Biliqo Farmlands from wildlife	Complete	
	Construction of a classroom at Awarsitu Primary School	Complete	
	Construction of an administration block at Godha Primary School	Complete	
Renovation of the entire Babala Outpost	Complete		
Construction of ablution facilities in the GSU Camp in Kom area	Complete		



	Nanappa	Construction of a fence at Leberishereki Primary School	Complete
	Nasuulu	2 nd phase construction of a swimming pool for tourism purposes	Advanced stage
Baringo	Ruko	Purchasing of materials and tools and maintenance of a 7-kilometer sanctuary fence Clearing of the fence line	Complete
	Kaptuya	At Kaptuya Outpost, construction of Kaptuya headquarters with 4 rooms, a kitchen, and ablution facilities Installation of solar power at the HQ	Ongoing
Laikipia	Naibunga	Erection of a 40-kilometer fence to prevent human-wildlife conflict Fence handover to the community	Complete
	Lekkuruki	At Tassia Lodge, construction of staff accommodation area with 6 rooms, a kitchen, and ablution facilities	Advanced stage
Samburu	Westgate	Construction of a new outpost at Westgate Community Conservancy	Complete
	Kalama	Construction of conferencing facilities	Ongoing
	Meibae	Construction of 3 outposts at Lengei, Lpus and Lussein, each with a kitchen, ablution facilities, solar power, beds and guttering.	90% complete
	Sera	Construction of a fourth banda (self-catering accommodation facility) at Lchoro Lodge Construction of a road unit packing and drone container at the Sera Rhino Sanctuary	Banda construction is 95% complete Advanced stage



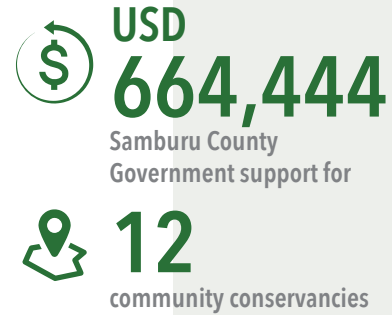


Output 2: Supportive Government Policies, Laws, and Finance

Government Support

Government policy, a legal framework, and financial security are required for community conservation to continue to have an impact across the NRT landscape.

NRT, community conservancies, and partners have made concerted efforts to lobby for National and County Governmental support of the community conservancy model, the implementation of supportive policies and legislation, and the allocation of funds for community development priorities. Resultantly, in the first half of the year, the Samburu County Government gave Ksh 89.7 million (USD 664,444) in funding support to 12 community conservancies in its region.



Government Policies

In the first half of the year, significant progress was made in the development of supportive government policies.

The Samburu County Government, Food and Agriculture Organisation, and NRT jointly launched the Samburu Tourism Strategic Plan for 2022-2032. The ten-year Plan, whose development was supported by the two organisations, seeks to address the County's tourism challenges through investments in tourism products and projects, key strategic priorities—such as tourism infrastructure development—and a tourism policy that fosters a legal environment conducive for sustainable tourism growth.

In NRT West, Coast, Centre, and East Regions, NRT member community conservancies participated in the creation of County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). Their involvement in the process helped align conservancy plans with county development priorities, facilitating county support.





Output 3: Effective Peacebuilding

Community Wildlife Protection

2023 has seen an uptick in conflict in the NRT East, NRT West, and NRT Centre, primarily among pastoralists, due to insufficient rainfall.

The challenges notwithstanding, the overwhelming feedback from community conservancy members is that despite the rise in security incidents, the environment is much safer and calmer, thanks to conservancies' cooperation and by extension, NRT's support.

Effective Peacebuilding

For socio-economic development and conservation to be successful, peaceful coexistence among the many ethnic groups in northern Kenya is essential.

NRT's Peace Program promotes a culture of peace and non-violent conflict resolution among indigenous communities across the NRT landscape, using community conservancies as the entry point, and in support of government peacebuilding efforts.

The NRT Peace team channels its efforts toward conflict prevention and community transformation and strives to address the root causes of conflict while cultivating lasting peace.



Over the last six months:

- NRT's Peace team has successfully averted conflict by monitoring and/or intervening in potentially violent situations, launching initiatives that address the causes of conflict, supporting community-led conflict prevention efforts, and identifying early warning signs of conflict.
- Peacebuilding initiatives engaged **250** national government officers (NGAOs) and reached **7,186** community members.
- **913** women participated in peacebuilding activities.
- **80** women were named peace champions in NRT Centre and East Regions. Women are significant actors in identifying and preventing violent clashes, as they provide intelligence about impending conflict.
- The Peace team conducted **72** peace interventions across West Pokot, Baringo, Laikipia, Isiolo, Samburu, and Marsabit Counties.

NRT's Peace team will continue to engage indigenous communities across the NRT landscape, the National and County Governments, and various peace actors to ensure non-violent conflict resolution and foster peaceful coexistence.





Output 4: Community Wildlife Protection

NRT, community conservancies, and the Government work together to tackle wildlife poaching, safeguard threatened wildlife, and prevent conflict caused by raids and retaliatory attacks. This bolsters peacebuilding efforts and creates an environment that is conducive for tourism, livelihood development, and business investments.



In the first half of 2023:

- **35** community conservancies underwent radio upgrades, which enhanced digital communications across the NRT landscape and increased safety in the area.
- **7** NRT anti-poaching teams and conservancy scouts conducted round-the-clock patrols.
- The operations of the Canine Unit and technology installation in community conservancies have bolstered security operations, reducing poaching and road banditry.
- Community conservancies, especially those in NRT Coast, continue to report bushmeat trade involving common species such as dik-dik and impala. Enhanced efforts and the presence of two anti-poaching teams in the coastal region have enabled NRT, the KWS, and the National Police Service (NPS) to detect more instances of bushmeat poaching.
- **16.3** kilometers of road in Naibunga and Ngare Ndare Community Conservancies were graded by the Conservancy Infrastructure Development Unit, to facilitate tourism and enhance community transport. Ngare Ndare's 300-meter-long Ethi Airstrip was also graded.
- **87** kilometers of road in Pellow and Masol Community Conservancies were constructed, Under the EU-funded Ustahimilivu Program, to improve community access and conservancy scout patrols.
- **70** conservancy scouts from Sera Community Conservancy's anti-poaching teams underwent a refresher course training, gaining skills that enhance the Conservancy's wildlife protection activities.
- **10** anti-poaching conservancy scouts underwent medics training, acquiring life-saving skills. Additionally, four scouts attended a Snake Awareness training, gaining knowledge on the different species of venomous snakes commonly found in the landscape and first aid for snake bites.
- **37** conservancy scouts from NRT Coast community conservancies, wildlife response unit team members, and a KWS team underwent training on handling wildlife crime, court cases and exhibits, statement recording, and case follow-up, to ensure the success of court cases.
- **23** conservancy scouts (**3** female, **20** male) and **4** BMU patrol sub-committee members from Pate and Kiunga Community Conservancies underwent training on fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS), and standard operating procedures, including adherence to human rights frameworks.



Summary of Safety Incidents in NRT Member Community Conservancies

Month	Road Banditry	Recovered Trophies	Stock Theft Incidences	Stolen Livestock	Recovered	Bushmeat Incidences	Weapons Recovered	Charcoal Kilns Destroyed	Planned Raids	Illegal Fishing	Robbery	HWC Incidences	Snares Recovered
Jan - June	8	23	89	7,719	4,491	17	4	14	16	11	4	64	12





Tech for Good: NRT and Connected Conservation Foundation Develop Africa's Largest IoT Conservation Network to Protect Wildlife

Connected Conservation Foundation and NRT are working together to create Africa's largest landscape-wide Internet of Things (IoT) conservation network.

The first of its kind in Kenya, this massive undertaking will contribute critical digital infrastructure to help Kenyan partners measure and achieve the global biodiversity targets set out at COP 15, to conserve and manage at least 30% of the world's natural habitats by 2030.

The project aims to enhance the protection of endangered species and the conservation of natural resources by leveraging cloud-based sensors and networks to collect, monitor, and analyze environmental data in real time.

"The data combined with analytics and conservation tools are geared toward effectively protecting and managing wildlife, building peace, and improving the livelihoods of the people of northern Kenya," says Samuel Lekimaroro, NRT's Wildlife Protection Manager.

The IoT network and high-bandwidth communication backbone currently covers about 7.4 million acres of wilderness in Kenya, and includes 22 NRT member community conservancies, with plans to bring more on board to include more of the region, says Sophie Maxwell, Executive Director of the Connected Conservation Foundation.

More than 190 new sensors have been deployed to all parks, with more scheduled in the next few weeks, bringing the total to 250. The various sensors, which include rhino, lion, cheetah, and leopard trackers, livestock trackers, and conservancy scout and vehicle trackers, provide critical data that is then visualized in EarthRanger (a real-time data application), for analysis and insights so that NRT can take any necessary conservation actions.

Data from the sensors enables conservancy scouts to monitor and respond to wildlife threats to prevent poaching, share information on sick or vulnerable animals, boost conservation management strategies and redeploy safety measures between community conservancies.

The sensors have very low power consumption, and once placed on wildlife, they can last for nearly ten years, sometimes more.

"Previously, NRT and our member conservancies used an analog system, and we were unable to observe what was happening in the landscape in terms of wildlife trends, asset monitoring, and security patrol coordination," Lekimaroro says. "We were only communicating via radio between the conservancies and the Joint Operations and Communications Center (JOCC)."

NRT is now able to successfully support the government and communities in peace efforts from an informed point of knowledge and data assessed by EarthRanger, according to Lekimaroro.

"All field patrol teams can be monitored and coordinated by the team in headquarters, which is the central location, from the JOCC," he says. "Through technology, intra- and inter-conservancy communications have improved, allowing for more efficient surveillance, wildlife protection, and monitoring of operations."

This story is excerpted from an article originally published by Fast Company.





Output 5: Equitable and Responsive Livelihood Investments in Community Conservancies

Livelihoods and Enterprise

For developing communities, improved livelihoods, better healthcare, water supply, education, and infrastructure are all key incentives for safeguarding natural resources. The value of livelihood investment is inextricably linked to ecosystem health and the success of conservation efforts.

The Conservancy Livelihood Fund (CLF)

Established in 2015, the Conservancy Livelihood Fund (CLF) has empowered communities to identify, plan and implement their own development programs that address their livelihood needs.

The Fund prioritizes community projects that link livelihood development to wildlife conservation and protection, build long-term resilience against climate change, foster peace, conserve natural resources, promote business enterprise growth, and empower women and youth.



In the first half of the year:

- The CLF approved the disbursement of **Ksh 77.9 million (USD 577,037)** to **18** community conservancies from **5** NRT regions, benefiting **10,511** individuals.
- **Ksh 1.2 million (USD 8,888)** was disbursed to fund Sera Community Conservancy's education bursaries.

The CLF programs that have received support include those in the areas of vocational training, water, microfinance, tourism, education, and economic empowerment. 2023 CLF funding is supported by Agence Française de Développement, USAID, and Fauna & Flora.



Investments in Livelihoods in NRT Coast



Over the last six months:

- **Ksh 2,060,000 (USD 15,259)** was paid to fishers involved in the Fish-to Market Pilot Project in Kiunga and Pate Community Conservancies for the sale of 10.3 tonnes of fish.
- **88** boats from **7** beach management units (BMUs) in Kiunga and Pate Community Conservancies joined the Fish-to-Market Pilot Project.

Water Resource Management

NRT's Water Program is developing robustly to address diverse water challenges across the NRT landscape. It continues to build on a newly structured approach to water development to ensure water investments are planned holistically, address community priorities with technical, financial, social, and environmental considerations, and build conservancy-level governance and management capacity.

Over the last six months, NRT and its member community conservancies have been working collaboratively on various water infrastructure projects to improve water access for people, livestock and wildlife, and livelihoods across the entire NRT landscape. The projects that were implemented in the first half of 2023 are indicated in the table below.





Water Infrastructure Projects in NRT Member Community Conservancies

Conservancy	Infrastructure	Estimated Beneficiaries
Isiolo County		
Narupa	Rehabilitation of 2 sand dams is ongoing at Tuale to improve clean water access.	100 households
Nannapa	Desilted the Nantudu water pan, resolving the perennial problem of elephants getting stuck in the mud and providing water for wildlife, livestock, and domestic use. Conducted a hydrological survey for Labarishereki/Namelok's proposed borehole.	100 households + livestock + wildlife Labarishereki, 500 households
Biliqo Bulesa	Rehabilitated water supply systems at Biliqo Marara, Dima Adho, Biliqo and Bulesa communities, improving residents' water access.	500 households
Kinna	Rehabilitated and solarized a borehole at Kinna to accommodate livestock influx during droughts.	2,000 households
Naapu	Conducted a hydrological survey for Lagaaman's proposed borehole.	Lagaaman 600 households
Naku-prat-Gotu	The equipping and development of a borehole at Attan Village is ongoing to provide villagers with water for domestic use and agriculture, promoting livelihood diversification. Reinstalled a rehabilitated well pump at Nakuprat-Gotu's headquarters, enhancing access to safe, clean water.	500 households 24 conservancy scouts 800 households + livestock
Nasuulu	Installed a water supply system at Nasuulu's <i>bandas</i> , enhancing water access at the <i>bandas</i> and the conservancy scouts' quarters.	
Samburu County		
Kalama	Continuous monitoring and enhancement of the rainwater harvesting system to ensure Kalama Resource Center (KRC) has an adequate and uninterrupted supply of clean water.	Water classified based on KRC's capacity: Bed/accommodation: 150 pax, Conferencing: 60 pax, Tourist camp: 64 pax, Staff quarters, 35 pax, Greening areas
Meibae	Rehabilitated the Conservancy's headquarters' water supply system, improving its water supply and the cheetah camp's.	38 conservancy scouts
Sera	Serviced and rehabilitated the supply systems in the Rhino Sanctuary, ensuring a continuous water supply.	130 conservancy scouts + wildlife
Ngilai	Serviced and rehabilitated a pump at Ngilai's headquarters, improving water supply.	16 conservancy scouts
Marsabit County		
Melako	Constructed 2 additional masonry tanks at Irrir, providing access to clean water for domestic use, and facilitating water storage.	Approximately 200 households
Laikipia County		
Il Ngwesi	Rehabilitated the sand dam at Sang'a, improving the community's, livestock's, and wildlife's access to clean and safe water.	Approximately 500 households in the dry season + wildlife + livestock

Lamu County		
Awer	Commissioned a 285-litres-per-hour desalination plant, providing clean water to the residents of Kiangwe Village who have no alternative source.	Approximately 200 households
Pate Marine	Secured a Ksh 31 million (USD 229,629) grant from WSTF for providing access to safe water and sanitation through desalination in Mtangawanda Village, djabia (underground water tank) construction, and improvement of the water supply in Ndau Village and at the Ocean Plastic Recycling Center.	3,765 Households
Kiunga	Secured a Ksh 28 million (USD 207,407) WSTF grant for desalination in Kiwayu Village, djabia construction in Ishakani Village and at the Ocean Plastic Recycling Center, and toilet construction in select villages in the Conservancy.	Kiwayu Village: 547 households, Ishakani Village: 165 households, Recycling Center: 1,815 households, Toilets: 186 households
Tana River County		
Ndera	Rehabilitated Ndera's headquarters' water supply system, improving conservancy scouts' access to clean water. Secured a Ksh 35.5 million (USD 262,962) WSTF grant for water development at Baomo and at the new water pan in Weljan, which will improve water supply and access for domestic use and by livestock and wildlife.	13 conservancy scouts Baomo: 800 households Water pan in Weljan (Bahati Village): 3,000 households
Garissa County		
Ishaqbini	Rehabilitated a 150CM masonry tank in the Sanctuary and implemented a pilot grass irrigation project.	Wildlife in the Sanctuary
Baringo County		
	Implemented the two water projects listed below under the EU-funded RangER Program, to improve the livelihoods of community members and landscapes in the County. 1. The construction of a water pan at Simotwo in Saimo Soi Ward and Lemuyek in Loyamorok Ward is ongoing. The water pans will improve access to water for domestic, livestock, and wildlife use, and promote peaceful coexistence in the community. 2. The rehabilitation of the irrigation system at Embossos is nearly complete, which will open up parts of Arabal for agriculture, increase food security and serve as a unifying factor for the Pokot, Tugen, and Il Chamus communities in Mukutani Ward.	Lemuyek: 280 households Simotwo: 310 households 230 households
West Pokot County		
Pellow	A Ksh 22 million (USD 162,962) water project was launched* to improve the Conservancy's upper catchment's access to clean water for domestic and kitchen gardening use. * CEFA, an EU-funded Ustahimilivu Program consortium partner is implementing this project.	Household count is ongoing



Improving Livelihoods in Nasuulu Community Conservancy through Water Supply

The Ewaso Nyiro River, located on the northern border of Nasuulu Community Conservancy, has been a lifeline, providing water to communities, livestock, and now a community livelihood project: the Nasuulu tourism banda.

Years of drought and rainfall variation caused by climate change and an increase in harmful human activities such as deforestation, extensive irrigation, overgrazing in catchment areas, and sand harvesting along the riverbanks have damaged the Ewaso Nyiro River. Due to this, the River frequently dries up in seasons when it usually would be flowing. During these times as well as droughts, the communities, livestock and wildlife in Nasuulu rely on shallow wells to supply water.

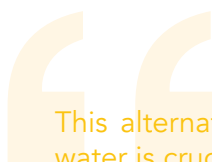
Further compounding the problem, a well built in 2015 that served as Nasuulu's primary water source was condemned two years ago after its water was declared unsafe for human consumption. NRT's Senior Water Engineer Odupoi Kuraru explains, "The rocks on the riverbanks and riverbeds were highly mineralized, and every attempt to drill a shallow well along the shores was unsuccessful because the water was saline."

The Conservancy's only alternative at the time was to truck water daily from the Isiolo River, some 21 kilometers away, at a monthly cost of Ksh 175,000 (USD 1,296). This became unsustainable.

"The only way we could solve this problem was to construct a shallow well right in the middle of the river, where we could avoid rocks, and then use a two-stage pumping technique to supply clean and safe water," Odupoi adds. In this technique, a 200-meter-long pipeline, installed with support from DANIDA and NRT's Water Program, draws water straight from the Ewaso Nyiro River and temporarily stores it in a 30 cubic meter concrete tank for 12 hours, where silt and other waste are filtered out.

Using solar power, the clean water is then pumped to the Conservancy's headquarters, covering a 1.5-kilometer distance, and supplying water to the headquarters, outpost, and now the newly constructed banda, which was built to generate tourism revenue for funding community priorities such as the provision of healthcare services and bursaries.

The construction of the banda, whose opening was scheduled for mid-June, was funded by the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project's carbon community fund (CCF). The Conservancy, established in 2010, intends to expand this project and provide water to the neighbouring settlement areas and livestock and wildlife troughs.



This alternative source of clean water is crucial for the operation of our tourism banda.

Without clean and reliable water, we could not run the tourism facility.

Ms Sadia Mohammed,
Chairperson, Nasuulu
Community Conservancy



The Education Program

The Education Program seeks to enhance student performance in schools within NRT member community conservancies, increase the number of students graduating from secondary to tertiary education, raise student and teacher retention rates, and link conservation to livelihood improvement.

The Program strives to achieve this by providing teachers' accommodation, classrooms, dormitories, school and teaching supplies, and mentorship for learners, their parents, and teachers.



Over the last six months:

- Seven schools in Melako, Naibunga, Biliqo Bulesa, Meibae, Nakuprat-Gotu, Kalama, and Ngilai received desks and revision books, as part of ICEP's Plan.
- Headteachers and conservation club members in **24** primary schools in Nkoteiya Community Conservancy and the three Naibunga conservancy units underwent training on the creation and management of conservation clubs.
- Schools' conservation club members were taken on conservation education tours to Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Samburu National Reserve (SNR), and the Save the Elephants (STE) Research Centre.
- The top-performing schools were issued tree seedlings, watering cans, and funding for poultry initiatives.
- Parents, teachers and students of three schools underwent training in Naibunga Upper, Nakuprat-Gotu, and Biliqo Bulesa Community Conservancies. The students underwent mentorship and conservation education training, the teachers were trained on the new curriculum while parents received training on their roles in education.
- **20** students from Kiunga's fishing community benefitted from a **Ksh 7.5 million (USD 55,555)** scholarship program under the Kiunga Gear Exchange Program.

2023 Education Bursary Disbursement (Funding Source: NKRCF and CLF)

Community Conservancy	Amount (Ksh)	No. of Beneficiaries
Biliqo Bulesa	3,200,000	713
Naapu	2,700,000	412
Nannapa	2,500,000	460
Nanapisho	2,100,000	253
Narupa	3,000,000	713
Nasuulu	5,420,000	1,058
Lekurukki	2,500,000	124
Naibunga Lower	1,000,000	258
Naibunga Upper	2,600,000	545
Melako	10,000,000	2,000
Sera	12,000,000	689
Total	51,750,500	7,225



Making Education Accessible to All: The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project Disburses Ksh 51.7 Million Worth of Bursaries

In the semi-arid landscape of northern and eastern Kenya, community members' access to formal education is hampered by a combination of geographic, socioeconomic, and political factors.

A socioeconomic baseline survey NRT Trading conducted in 2021 in 25 community conservancies in six counties, including Isiolo, Laikipia, Samburu, and Marsabit, revealed, among other factors, that only 1% of the respondents had a university education.

Therefore, to improve access to learning, the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NK-RCP) disbursed Ksh 51,750,500 (USD 383,337) in bursaries to 7,225 needy students across the 14 NRT member community conservancies participating in the Project.

The bursaries, distributed in the first half of 2023, have improved student school attendance. They have also provided a respite for struggling pastoralist families, relieving the enormous financial strain they have been under while rebuilding their lives following the historic 2022 drought that decimated their livestock herds, depriving them of their main source of livelihood.

Mohamed Issa Musa, a resident of Nasuulu Community Conservancy, expressed his gratitude for the bursaries, saying, "I am overjoyed that my

children have not been sent home from school since they were fortunate enough to be granted bursaries through the Carbon Project. This financial support has provided them with a life-changing opportunity to continue their education without hindrance. It has opened doors to a brighter future for them. I am very grateful."

As the student school attendance rate has been increasing, so has the need for enhanced educational facilities. In response, a portion of the Carbon Community Fund was designated for infrastructure projects, including the construction of classrooms and Early Childhood Education (ECDE) centers, and the renovation of existing classes to accommodate more students.

Speaking during the launch of the bursaries in Isiolo County, Dr. James Lowasa, the Isiolo County Deputy Governor, said, "It's crucial to prioritize education as it ultimately benefits the entire community."

NRT's community conservancy model has always been about empowering indigenous communities and accelerating their development through conservation. With every bursary the NKRCF awards, it continues to advance NRT's mission of transforming lives.



Access to Health Care

In northern and coastal Kenya, there is limited access to health care. Government services and amenities are still sparse in these vast regions, and in some areas, residents walk considerably long distances to receive health services.

Thanks to our partners' support, several community conservancies in NRT Centre and NRT East regions continue to benefit from increased access to health care facilities.



During the last six months:

- Laresoro Dispensary in Kalama Community Conservancy performed **16** safe deliveries and organized **12** monthly backpack clinics in six zones, where the facility's medical staff and community health workers (CHWs) visited villages and attended to 260 people, offering emergency care, prenatal care to expectant mothers, and child immunisation.
- Lekurruki Community Conservancy upgraded Lekurruki Dispensary and installed power using Carbon Community Fund support. The Laikipia County Government equipped the facility, which is set for operationalisation in the coming months.





Output 6: Successful Enterprise and Financial Services for Households, Community Groups, Conservancies, and NRT Trading

NRT Trading is a social enterprise whose vision is to foster and establish resilient sustainable businesses across northern and coastal Kenya, improving the economic status of households and communities and generating commercial revenue for conservancies.

NRT Trading focuses on:



Identifying, incubating, piloting, and operating sustainable businesses that create jobs, increase income, and generate commercial revenue for community conservancies.



Building skills and changing attitudes so that people and communities are empowered, and their resilience is increased through employment, entrepreneurship, and enterprise development.



Connecting individuals and indigenous communities with economic opportunities and business partners.

NRT Trading's work is based on a three-pillar model as follows:

Pillar 1: NRT Trading businesses (BeadWORKS and Ufugaji Bora Mashinani)

These are stand-alone, sustainable businesses in key value chains and economic sectors developed, piloted, and run by NRT Trading.

Pillar 2: Conservancy-based businesses (Tourism)

NRT Trading enables community conservancies to attract investors and operate conservancy-owned businesses.

Pillar 3: Household-based businesses (Vocational Training and Financial Inclusion:

Biashara Mashinani, Northern Rangelands Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (NR Sacco), Ujuzi Manyattani).

NRT Trading empowers men, women, and small groups to start and manage enterprises in order to diversify household income and increase economic resilience.

Pillar 1: NRT Trading Businesses

BeadWORKS

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



In the first half of 2023:

- More than **1,190** women earned **Ksh 5.4 million (USD 40,000)** for producing **41,462** beaded items.
- Women groups contributed **Ksh 4.5 million (USD 33,333)** from BeadWORKS income to their respective conservancies for community conservation.
- Beaded items sold in domestic and international markets generated **Ksh 16.5 million (USD 122,222)** in sales.
- BeadWORKS organised the Star Beaders Conference, bringing together **120** women leaders and entrepreneurs from Isiolo, Samburu, Laikipia, and Marsabit Counties to discuss the opportunities and challenges of establishing resilient, sustainable businesses that advance climate action and gender equality.
- In yet another grand win for the beaders at BeadWORKS and the Program, BeadWORKS took home the prestigious Best International/Export E-commerce Website Award in the 2023 Kenya eCommerce Awards!

This recognition not only marks a significant milestone for the brand but also presents exciting opportunities for expansion on both the local and international fronts, increasing the benefits to indigenous communities.





Please take a moment to browse through BeadWORKS' website for the newest products. Each item on the site is impeccably crafted with love from northern Kenya. With every purchase you make, you support BeadWORKS' incredibly talented beaders and their families, and bolster wildlife protection efforts and community-led conservation.

To view the BeadWORKS catalogue, please click here:
<https://www.beadworkskenya.com/collections/all-products>



Ufugaji Bora Mashinani

NRT Trading's Livestock Department is implementing Ufugaji Bora Mashinani, a practical training program for 300 pastoralists from 10 NRT member community conservancies, that is funded by US-AID's Local Works Program. Ufugaji Bora Mashinani uses the farmer field school (FFS) approach to increase herders' livestock production capacity.

To effectively train pastoralist herders in NRT member community conservancies in northern Kenya about animal selection, animal husbandry, animal nutrition, and livestock marketing, an Ufugaji Bora Mashinani training manual was developed.

Over the last six months, 276 herders from Songa, Naibunga Lower, Biliqo Bulesa, Ltungai, Sera, Kalama, Westgate, Melako, Jaldesa, and Shurr Community Conservancies underwent an Ufugaji Bora Mashinani training, gaining skills in livestock disease identification, management and control and improving breed management.

To facilitate the improvement of the training and its curriculum, the Ufugaji Bora Mashinani team conducted an evaluation of the training, and gained insights on its impact on livestock productivity, by engaging 241 herders from 10 community conservancies the Program operates.

The responses of the herders, who were actively involved in Ufugaji Bora Mashinani activities, revealed the following, among other factors:

- The herders' capacity to retain the knowledge gained in previous trainings was average.
- Herders have formed government-approved caucuses and are now advocating for better livestock farming practices in the landscape.
- Majority of the herders had connections to input suppliers, especially for veterinary products and extension services.



276

herders from Songa, Naibunga Lower, Biliqo Bulesa, Ltungai, Sera, Kalama, Westgate, Melako, Jaldesa, and Shurr Community Conservancies underwent an Ufugaji Bora Mashinani training

Pillar 2: Conservancy-based business

Tourism

Tourism provides a powerful way for indigenous communities to experience tangible benefits from wildlife and habitat conservation. Tourism operations across the NRT landscape help build new economies in what is largely a remote, rural area, creating opportunities for employment and fringe business, and generating revenue for conservancies for community development programs, wildlife protection, and peace initiatives.



In the first half of the year:

- **Ksh 63,212,262 (USD 468,238)** was generated as tourism revenue for nine NRT member community conservancies.
- Interactive features were added to the Big North website (www.thebignorth.travel) and from January 2023, visitors to the site could make bookings to stay in any of the tourism facilities hosted by NRT member community conservancies, directly from the website.
- Construction of Nasuulu Community Conservancy's bandas, new tourism facilities, is complete. Their construction was financed by the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project through the Carbon Community Fund (CCF). Hon. Peninah Malonza, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage, visited the bandas in May to determine the best use of Carbon Project funds and ways investing in the bandas would benefit the community.
- Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy organised Laikipia Maasai Culture Day celebrations to preserve and promote the Laikipia Maasai culture and facilitate the establishment of tourism-based income-generating opportunities. The spectacular ceremony brought together the three group ranches that form the Conservancy—Munichoi, Morupusi, and Ilpolei, who showcased their unique traditions and customs. The Conservancy plans to tap into the lucrative tourism industry by setting up a proposed Maasai culture camp.





Pillar 3: Household-based Businesses

Biashara Mashinani

Biashara Mashinani is a structured graduation-based program that encompasses training, business development, and mentorship, the provision of financial literacy tools (such as savings and loan facilities and mobile banking), and access to a Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisation (SACCO). The Program inculcates business management skills in individuals and groups in community conservancies, enabling them to start and manage enterprises, catalysing entrepreneurship.

The Biashara Mashinani team conducted an impact evaluation to determine the efficacy of training in the first module of the Program that was provided between January and June 2023 to 150 entrepreneurs in 10 community conservancies. The key findings of the impact evaluation, which include the following, will guide the creation of future trainings.

- **91%** of participants were able to sustain their businesses despite the prolonged drought that ravaged the landscape.
- **55%** of the women are actively saving in financial institutions.
- **75%** of the women can access credit facilities through various financial institutions and table banking.
- The women's businesses enable them to cover their everyday expenses.
- The amount of capital accessed ranged from **Ksh 6,500 (USD 48)** to **Ksh 300,000 (USD 2,222)**.

In the coast region, the Biashara Mashinani Program made significant progress in the first half of 2023, training 80 women entrepreneurs from Pate and Ishaqbini Community Conservancies on entrepreneurship skills, business models, and financial literacy.



The Northern Rangelands Sacco

Since its inception, the Northern Rangelands Sacco (NR Sacco), an independent, community-owned, and membership-driven entity that receives crucial oversight, technical support, and training from NRT Trading, has been an effective vehicle for providing savings and credit facilities to indigenous communities in NRT member conservancies.



Over the last six months:

- NR Sacco held its annual delegates meeting (ADM), where it presented its 2022 financial report to its 50 members, as well as 2023 plans, updates, and resolutions.
- During the ADM, the Sacco also issued **Ksh 1.6 million (USD 11,851)** in dividends from the previous year.
- **21** new members joined NR Sacco, collectively accruing **Ksh 40.2 million (USD 297,777)** in savings. Total Sacco membership now stands at **5,668** members.
- **400** youth were trained in financial literacy, providing them with knowledge on savings and loans, enabling them to start and expand their businesses.

Vocational Training

Ujuzi Manyattani Program places trainers from partnering polytechnics in villages to teach marketable vocational skills to community members. It provides access to learning to people from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and those who have been unable to access formal education. The Program aims at developing alternative livelihoods in indigenous communities in NRT member conservancies and fostering entrepreneurship to break poverty and conflict cycles.



In the last six months:

- Two new Ujuzi Manyattani sites were launched in Shurr and Kiunga Community Conservancies, with **90** youth and women (**26** male and **64** female) currently undergoing training at the sites.
- **30** of the youth participating in the Program are from Kiunga and have enrolled for courses in tailoring and outboard engine repair and maintenance.
- **30** youth (**18** females and **12** males) from Ishaqbini Hirola Community Conservancy in NRT Coast completed their three-month vocational training and graduated from the Ujuzi Manyattani Program. Upon graduation, the youth underwent business management training and were equipped with start-up tool kits so they could promptly launch their businesses.
- The Ujuzi Manyattani team conducted a marketable vocational skills mapping exercise in Shurr, Songa, Melako, Nannapishi, and Naibungu Central Conservancies, to determine the most relevant courses for community members. Tailoring, hairdressing, beauty therapy, and motorcycle repair emerged as the most popular courses.





Overcoming Tragedy: Peter Lepedo’s Inspiring Story of Courage and Resilience

When Peter Lepedo was a young man, his world was turned topsy-turvy by bandits when they raided his village in Baragoi, Samburu County at night, a memory permanently etched in his mind. He vividly recalls the terror, the flying bullets, and the many lives lost. When he woke up in a hospital bed, he found he had lost a limb as a result of the attack.

Many in his community thought his life was hopeless and devoid of a future.

Peter, on the other hand, refused to be defined by his disability. Determined to rise above all odds and improve his situation, he joined NRT Trading’s Ujuzi Manyattani Program and enrolled in the mobile phone repair course, which provided him with the knowledge, skills, and equipment he needed to start his own phone repair business.

Peter is now the proud owner of a profitable phone repair store in Karare, Songa Community Conservancy. His skills have made life easier for many in his village, who previously had to travel to Marsabit Town to have their phones repaired. Peter’s business not only provides him with a stable source of income but also with a sense of purpose.

“Ujuzi Manyattani transformed my life. The training I received from the Program restored my hope and will to live,” says Lepedo. He has since expanded his business to include a barber shop, which has increased his income while providing more services to his customers.

Ujuzi Manyattani empowers youth and women in underprivileged communities in northern

Kenya by training them on a wide range of vocational skills, including phone repair, hairdressing, and motorbike repair. The Program equips participants with skills and resources to start their own enterprises, making them self-sufficient and increasing their resilience.



“Ujuzi Manyattani transformed my life. The training I received from the Program restored my hope and will to live.”

Peter Lepedo,

Ujuzi Manyattani graduate, Songa Community Conservancy



Increasing Community Resilience to Drought: NRT Revives Simbol Fodder Farm

For the last few years, the residents of Masol Community Conservancy in Pokot Central

Sub-County have endured livestock losses due to drought and cattle rustling by neighboring communities, as they sought pasture.

In this region, the migration of livestock, wild-life, and herders to neighbouring countries, such as Uganda and Turkana, in search of pasture, is not uncommon. Recently, NRT revived Simbol Fodder Farm, to provide fodder and support the community in coping with drought.

The 60-acre farm in Masol is planned to produce enough fodder to feed the area's livestock while also generating enough income for community members to use for ploughing the land in the upcoming season.

In May, NRT purchased grass seeds, provided fuel for a tractor donated by the County Government, and erected a fence around the fodder farm under the EU-funded resilience project, Ustahimilivu.

NRT is also building a store that fodder farmers can use to store their harvest properly.

Germination is estimated at 60% two months after the farm was ploughed and the fodder planted, and there is anticipation for a huge harvest this season.

“

We lost hope as the land lay bare for several years. We are grateful NRT heard our plea for support, helped us plough the land and fence it, and gave us seeds. We now expect higher yields, and our livestock won't have to migrate.

Peter Akorle,
Farmer, Masol Community Conservancy





Output 7: Sustainable Rangelands Management Systems

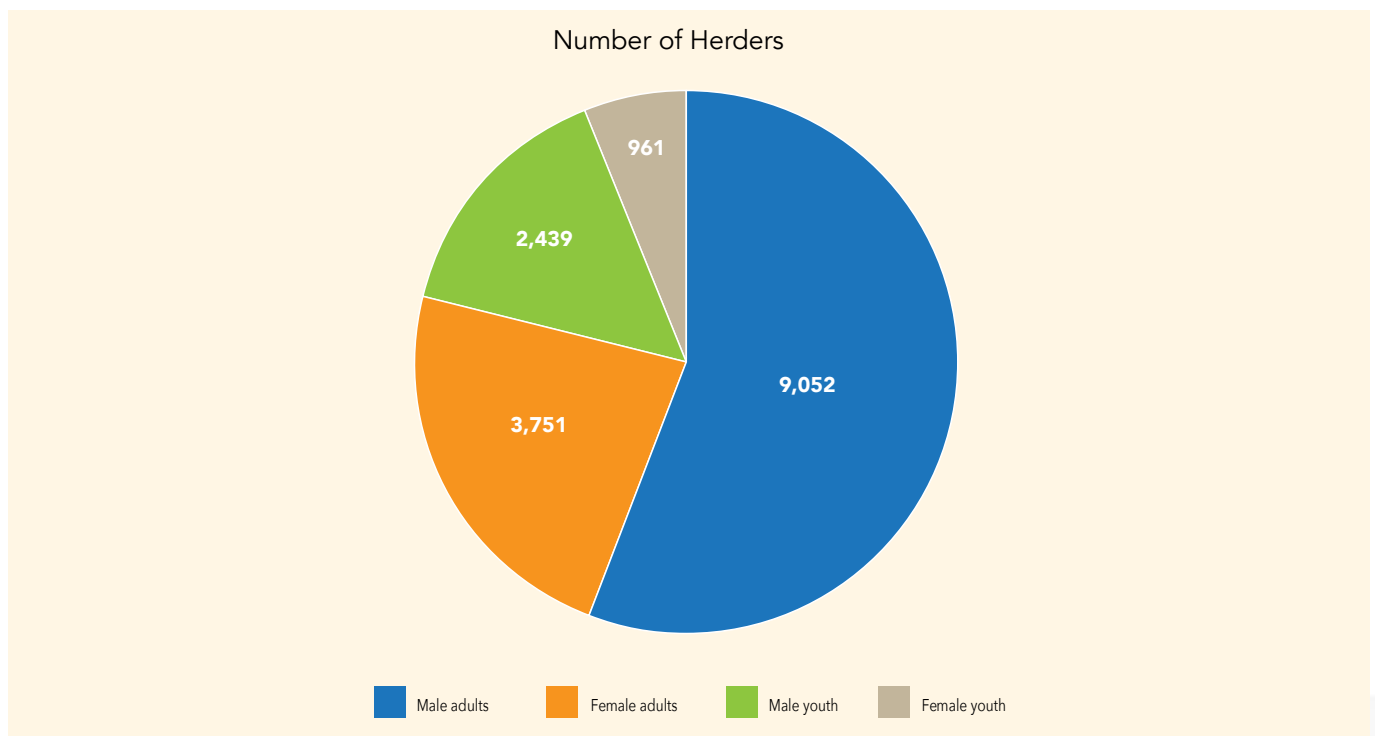
The majority of community members in the NRT landscape depend on livestock for their livelihood, but poor and inadequate grazing management has resulted in natural resource degradation, biodiversity loss, and a reduction in the amount of pasture available for livestock and wildlife.

Through rangelands management, NRT and member community conservancies strive to stabilise and rehabilitate degraded rangelands and grasslands. This improves forage for livestock and wildlife, reduces competition and conflict over pasture, and boosts the livestock economy on which pastoralists rely for their livelihoods.

Rangelands Governance

During the first half of the year, 16,203 herders were reached with information on rangeland management, planned grazing management and settlement, and livestock movement planning.

Reach of Information About Rangelands Management



Additionally, 348 herders and grazing committee members were trained on planned grazing management and implementation.

Women's participation in rangeland programs is gradually increasing.

In Kirimon, Lekurruki, Il Ngwesi, Naibunga Upper, Naibunga Central, and Naibunga Lower Community Conservancies, 200 herders were recently interviewed as part of a rangelands program evaluation. Their responses revealed more activities involving women are needed, that increase their knowledge of rangelands and livestock management, and their capacity to assume bigger roles and responsibilities in conservation.

Therefore, to increase women's involvement and promote their inclusion in rangeland management, in the first half of the year, training modules were developed and used to train them on rangelands and grazing management, while factoring in indigenous governance structures and contemporary practices. Peer-to-peer discussion sessions for the women were also held, enabling them to learn from each other.





Rangelands Rehabilitation and Restoration

Invasive Species Management

Since September 2019, cochineal insects have been spread in the three Naibunga Community Conservancies to control the growth and spread of the invasive *Opuntia stricta* plant. The cochineal selectively feeds on *Opuntia stricta*, destroying the plant's health, and weakening it before causing it to dry up.

Opuntia stricta plants in all three Naibunga Conservancies were infected with cochineal, with extensive plant loss being reported, and up to 75% damage being recorded. It was also noted in all three Conservancies that *Opuntia stricta* plants were producing fewer than five green and red fruits, limiting the plant's ability to propagate through its seeds.

The Rangelands Cartoon Program

Through a series of cartoons, NRT's Rangelands Cartoon Program explores how the northern Kenya landscape has negatively changed in recent years, determines the causes for the change, and seeks to provide potential remedies.

In the first half of the year, eight formal screenings of the cartoon series took place in four community conservancies (Westgate, Kalepo, Sera, and Meibae), with 1,680 people attending, including adults, youth and children.

Rangelands Monitoring

Rangeland health within the community conservancies involved in the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCP) is gradually improving, after several consecutive drought seasons in the last three years.



In the last six months:

- The Rangelands team monitored vegetation in 28 community conservancies using Veg-CoMMS, a simple system for monitoring vegetation. The team also visited 265 field transects to assess rangeland health.
- Conservancies supported herders in drought-stricken areas by restoring boreholes and providing livestock feed and fuel and transport subsidies. The herders also migrated to areas with plenty of pasture and water, reducing livestock mortality. Sericho Community Conservancy in Isiolo County, one of the areas in northern Kenya that was severely impacted by drought, supported its herders by providing fuel and a truck to transport over 2,000 livestock to Tana River County, over 200 kilometers away, ensuring the herds' survival.



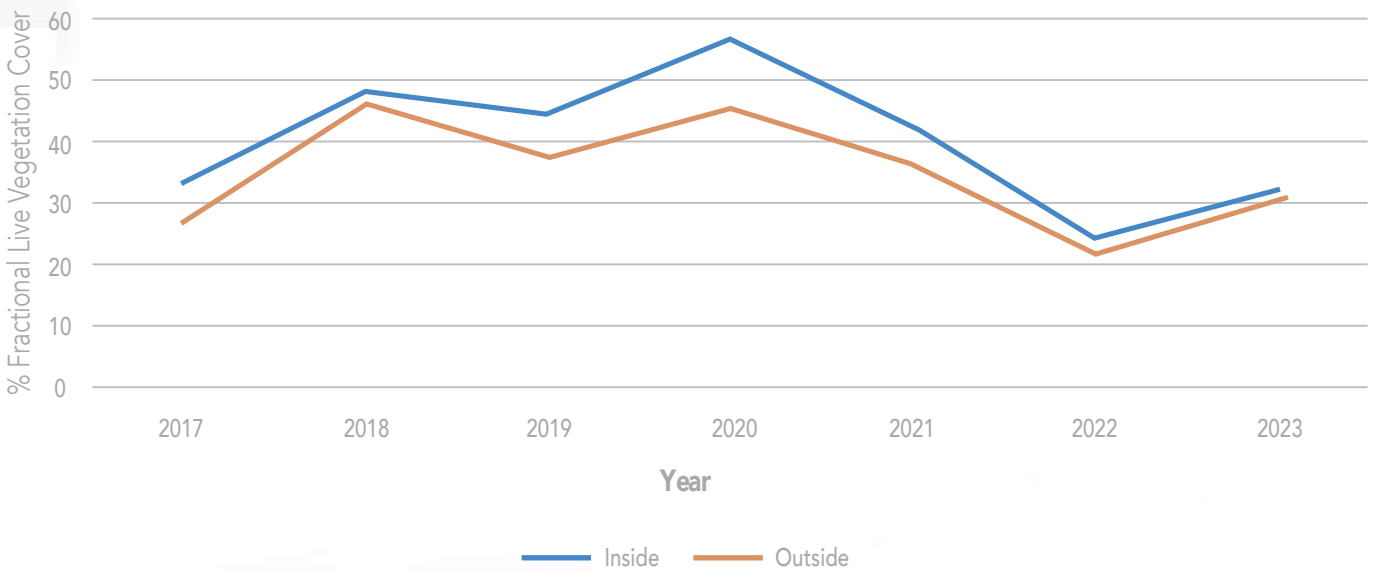
Within the Carbon Project area, indicators show an up to 5% improvement in rangelands' health and quality, demonstrating that conservancies are putting in a concerted effort to control rangelands' health. These gains were accomplished despite the area's below-average rainfall and a late start to the rainy season in April and May.

Fractional Vegetation Cover Assessment in NRT Member Community Conservancies

The health of rangelands within and outside community conservancies involved in the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCP) is monitored using satellite data that quantifies forage indicators after excluding tree cover.

Fractional Vegetation Cover Inside and Outside NKRCP Community Conservancies

Fraction of Vegetation Excluding Tree Cover Monitoring Every June Using Sentinel 2 Satellite Data

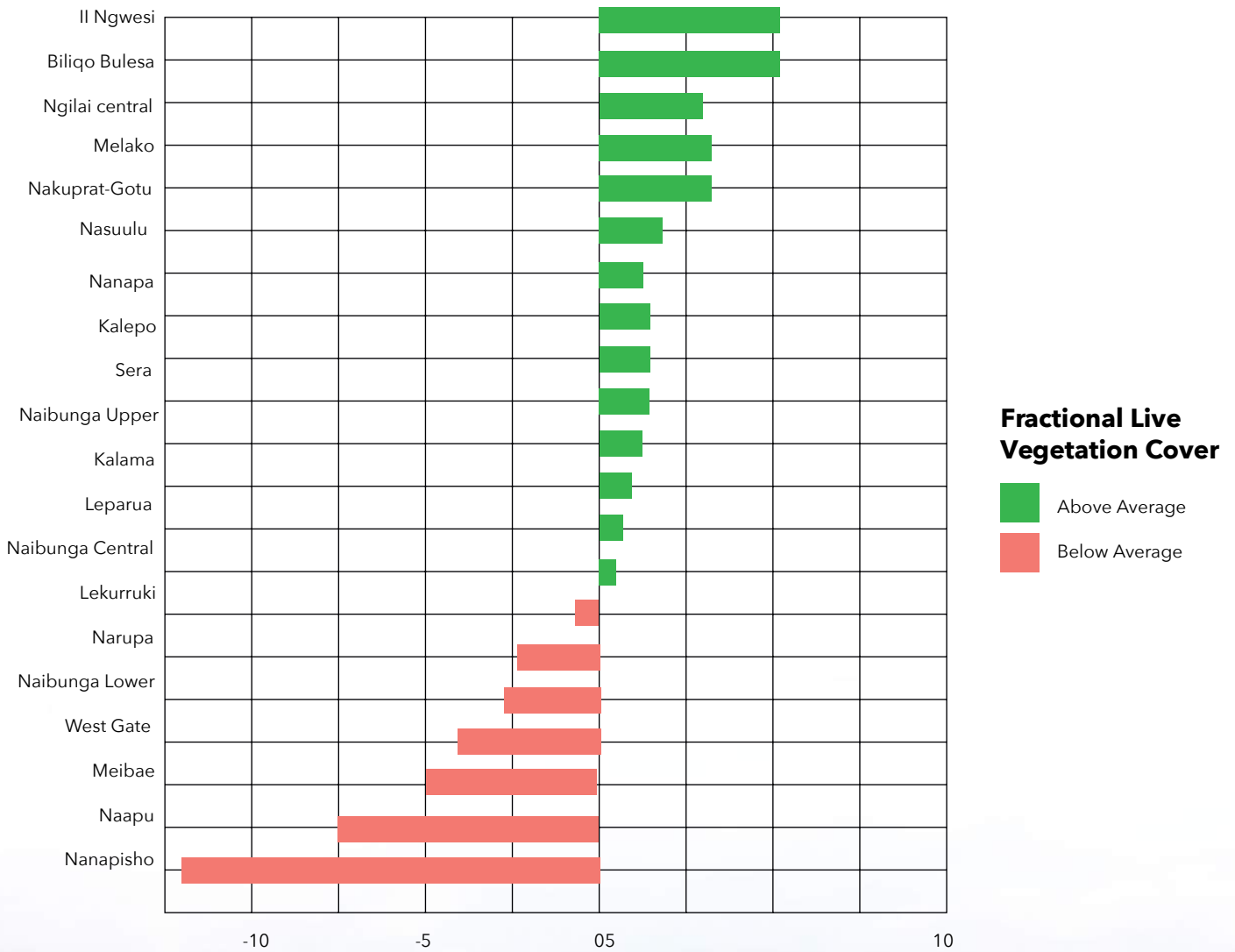


The availability of forage in NRT member community conservancies in northern Kenya is a result of improved rangeland governance and management and is heavily dependent on the variable amounts of rainfall the area receives.



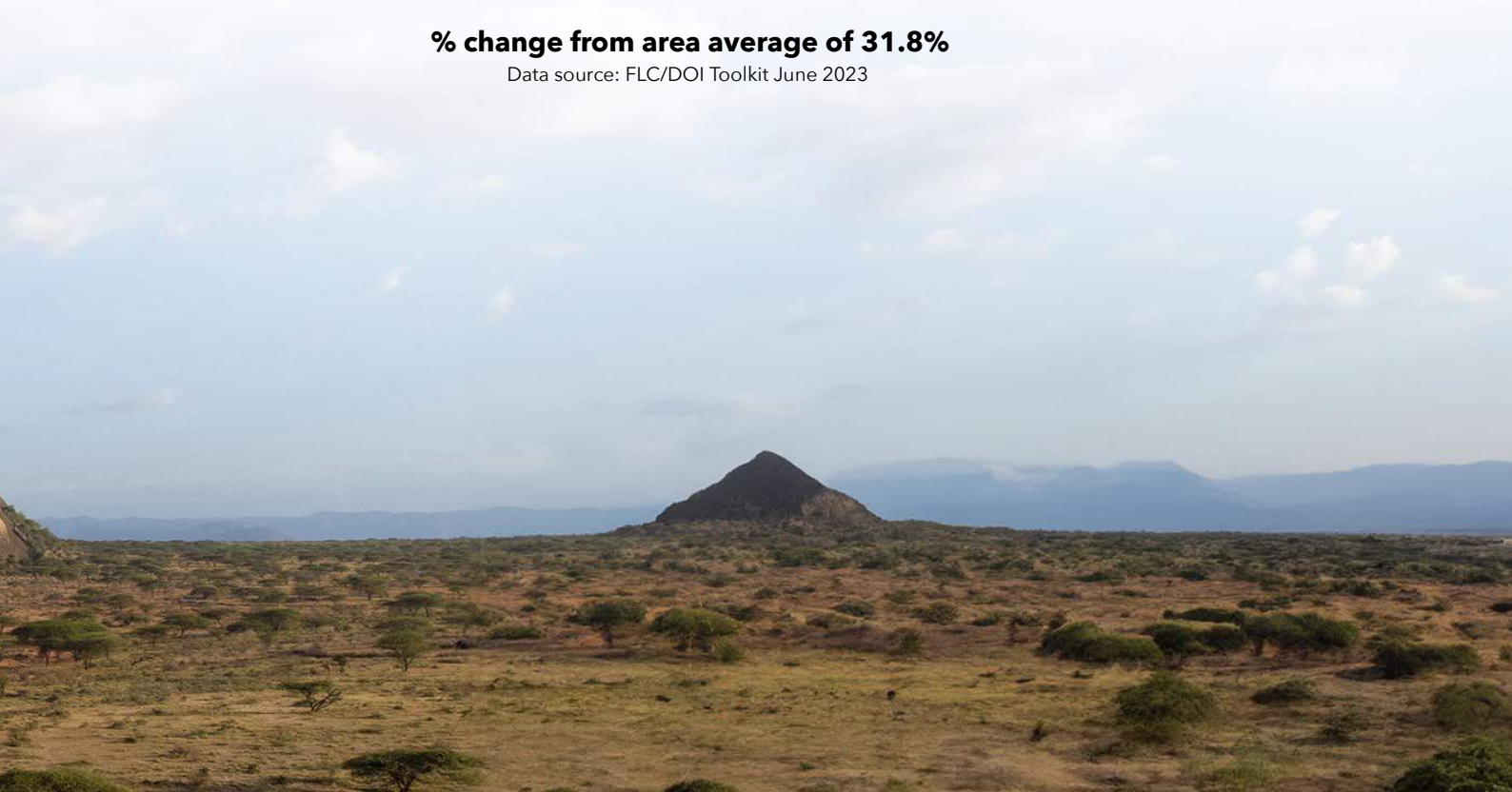


Fractional Live Vegetation Cover Inside and Outside NKRCP Community Conservancies



% change from area average of 31.8%

Data source: FLC/DOI Toolkit June 2023



The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project

The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCP) has made significant progress in achieving its goals in northern Kenya. It has successfully reduced carbon emissions and conserved crucial habitats, increasing biodiversity.

The Project has also strengthened local government systems, promoted social cohesiveness, created economic opportunities for indigenous communities, and empowered marginalised groups, increasing their resilience.

Between January and June 2023, NRT member conservancies participating in the NKRCP used their revenue from the Project to fund emergency responses to drought, and education bursaries, providing a lifeline for drought-stricken communities and fostering educational aspirations.



In the first half of 2023:

- **Ksh 51,750,500 (USD 383,337)** in bursaries was distributed to the 14 community conservancies participating in the NKRCP, benefiting **7,225** students in the project area, including secondary school, college, and university students. Il N'gwesi, Meibae, Namunyak, Lekurruki, Westgate, Kalama, Sera, Ol Donyiro, Nasulu, Nakuprat-Gotu, Naibunga, Leparua, Biliqo Bulesa and Melako are the 14 community conservancies involved in the NKRCP. Collectively, the landscape these conservancies cover is referred to as the project area.
- Five community conservancies: Kalama, Melako, Naibunga Upper, Naibunga Central, and Biliqo Bulesa, received funds amounting to **Ksh 23,393,039 (USD 173,281)** from the NKRCP for drought intervention.

'The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project has greatly helped my community in its efforts to advance education. It has also enabled women to start enterprises that supplement their household income.'

Sadia Mohammed,

Chairperson of Nasulu Community Conservancy and a member of the Carbon Project Oversight Committee (CPOC)





The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project: Building Community Resilience in an Unprecedented Drought

Many pastoralist communities in northern Kenya are yet to fully recover from last year's catastrophic turn of events.

Their worst fears came to life when the expected rains failed season after season, triggering a historic climate change-induced drought that decimated their livestock herds, robbing them of their primary source of livelihood. Pastoralists in Naibunga Central Community Conservancy, for instance, registered a 95% livestock mortality rate.

Children aged one to five, and pregnant and lactating mothers, bore the brunt of the prolonged drought as they experienced severe malnutrition.

In response to the escalating humanitarian crisis and the need for immediate intervention, the chairpersons of the community conservancies involved in the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCP) collectively agreed to 'pre-release' 2023 funding from the Carbon Community Fund (CCF) allocations to conservancies that wanted to use some of those funds to provide food relief for their communities.

The CCF has to date distributed Ksh 23,393,039 (USD 173,281) designated for drought mitigation to five community conservancies: Melako, Naibunga Upper, Naibunga Central, Kalama, and Biliqo Bulesa, benefitting 14,330 households.

"The CCF funds allotted for drought relief have been of great help to the community. School children received food items and remained in school throughout the drought season," explains Solomon Kaparo, Naibunga Central Conservancy Chairperson.

The NKRCP also handed over Ksh 23,848,500 (USD 176,655) to the Isiolo, Samburu, and Laikipia County Governments, which was received by Governors H.E. Ibrahim Guyo (Isiolo), H.E. Lati Lelelit (Samburu), and H.E. Joshua Irungu (Laikipia) respectively.

These funds represent a voluntary levy agreed upon by the community conservancies participating in the NKRCP to support county government engagement in the Project. The conservancies in each of the three counties agreed that the levy should support drought relief interventions so they would benefit all members of the community.

During the March to May 2023 rainy season, many parts of northern Kenya received above-average rainfall. This relieved some of the pressure on the area's rapidly dwindling natural resources and gave many pastoralist communities hope.





Representatives of the European Union (EU) from Brussels and Nairobi, led by the Policy Officer and Program Manager of the Landscapes for Our Future Program, Niclas Gottman, during their visit to the NRT West member community conservancies of Kaptuya and Ruko in Baringo County in January.

Political leaders from the four counties comprising the Amaya Triangle Initiative (ATI) economic bloc: H.E. Governor Benjamin Cheboi (Baringo), Deputy Governors H.E. Reuben Kamuri (Laikipia), H.E. James Lowasa (Isiolo), and H.E. Gabriel Lenengwesi (Samburu), when they met with NRT and the EU delegation from Brussels and Nairobi in January to discuss the ongoing EU-supported projects and long-term collaboration.



The United States Ambassador to Kenya, Meg Whitman, when she visited NRT and Nakuprat-Gotu Community Conservancy in Isiolo County in April. The Ambassador engaged and conversed with community conservancy members and learnt about the impact of the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project.

Isiolo County Governor, H.E. Abdi Ibrahim Guyo, when he presided over the launch of CCF-funded education bursaries in March, by Nasuulu, Biliqo Bulesa and Oldonyiro Community Conservancies, three of the 14 NRT member community conservancies engaging in the NKRCP. The bursaries, amounting to Ksh 19 million (USD 140,740), benefited 4,600 students in the County.





A USAID delegation during a visit to Kalama Community Conservancy in May, where they interacted with conservancy leaders, community members, and partners of Kalama, Nakuprat-Gotu, Westgate, Leparua, and Nasuulu Community Conservancies, gaining valuable insights on the implementation of environmental safeguards.



The Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage, Hon. Peninah Malonza, the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Wildlife, Silvia Museiya, and the Tourism and Wildlife Chief Administrative Secretary, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, when they visited NRT and Nasuulu Community Conservancy in April.



H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of Kenya, in June, when he visited NRT's booth at the 2023 Rhino Charge event—an offroad motorsport competition—held in Nkoteiya Community Conservancy by the Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust, to raise funds for conservation efforts in Kenya.





Output 8: Flagship Species and Habitat Conservation Programs

Elephant Conservation

Across the NRT landscape, efforts made to reduce trophy and ivory poaching have had resounding success.

Human-elephant conflict, on the other hand, is primarily retaliatory in nature, occurring when an elephant competes for or destroys a critical resource that communities rely on, such as crops and water.

Data on elephant movements obtained using EarthRanger, a software solution that collects information on wildlife in real-time, reveals an expansion in elephant range and increased connectivity between Mt. Kenya and Marsabit as a result of the enhanced safety that community conservancies provide.



I don't think anybody has found a silver bullet yet for the challenges we are facing in terms of wildlife conservation and sustainability of pastoralists' way of life and climate change impact in arid and semi-arid lands. This is something everybody is grappling with, and if there's no silver bullet that has been found, NRT has come close to it, or at least the closest that I have seen so far in trying to find solutions that are [not only] good for the people, but also for the animals, and for the land.

Henriette Geiger,
Ambassador of the European Union to Kenya





Elephant Mortality in NRT Member Community Conservancies

In the first half of the year, 55 elephant fatalities were reported in NRT member community conservancies through the Joint Operations and Communications Centre (JOCC). The number of fatalities gradually reduced from April 2023 to June 2023. The 2023 figures, however, are yet to be harmonized by the KWS, Wildlife Research and Training Institute, and other stakeholders in the landscape.

The number of elephants whose death cause was unknown remained high, as well as the number of illegally killed elephants, with the proportion of illegally killed elephants (PIKE) of the first half of the year being 29.09%.

Conservancy	Conflict	Illegally Killed	Natural	Problem Animal Control	Poaching	Unknown	Total	PIKE
Biliqo Bulesa	1		1			1	3	33.33
Il Ngwesi			3				3	0
Kalama	2					2	4	50
Kalepo	2					8	10	20
Kinna					1		1	100
Lower Tana Delta			1				1	0
Meibae						1	1	0
Melako						3	3	0
Naapu			2				2	0
Naibunga Upper	1		1			1	3	33.33
Naibunga Lower	1		1			1	3	33.33
Nanapa	1					1	2	50
Narupa	1		1				2	50
Nasulu	1		1				2	50
Ngilai	2		1				3	66.67
Nkoteyia						2	2	0
Pellow	1					1	2	50
Sera	1					2	3	33.33
Songa	1					1	2	50
Westgate			2			1	3	0
Total	15	0	14	0	1	25	55	29.09



Safe at Last: How the Naibunga Community Triumphed over Tragedy and Human-Elephant Conflict

For years, Naibunga Community Conservancy has grappled with the issue of human-wildlife conflict.

Elephants have caused loss of human life and property, injuring some residents, and displacing others. Children heading to school, and women fetching water, have lived in constant fear of encountering an elephant on their way.

40-year-old Tom Putunoi, from Kimanjo, Laikipia County laid his mother to rest in 2014.

She was herding her family's goats when she was attacked by an elephant. Her grandchildren were playing nearby and they watched helplessly as their grandmother was trampled to death by the elephant, just a few meters from her farm.

Several other community members have sustained injuries or lost their lives after encountering elephants, just like Putunoi's mother did. Understandably, this has been a major source of concern in the Conservancy.

Naibunga Community Conservancy borders Isiolo County to the north and covers 466 square kilometers of Laikipia North Sub-county. Due to its extensive acreage, in 2018, the community divid-

ed the Conservancy into three units: Naibunga Upper, Naibunga Central, and Naibunga Lower.

The Naibunga Central and Lower Community Conservancies serve as an elephant corridor, connecting the Laikipia-Isiolo-Samburu-Marsabit wildlife circuit. A feasibility study conducted in 2019 by NRT in collaboration with Naibunga Community Conservancy revealed that children and women were most at risk of being attacked by elephants.

More recent data from the KWS shows that since 2021, Laikipia County has reported 47 injuries and 12 fatalities, with two of the 12 occurring in Laikipia North.

According to the Naibunga Central Community Conservancy Chairman, Solomon Kaparo, many of the fatalities happened in settlement areas, and learning was disrupted as children missed classes for fear of being attacked by an elephant on their way to or from school.

To avert further loss of human life and prevent incidents of human-elephant conflict, in 2022, Naibunga Community Conservancy and the KWS jointly erected a 40-kilometer electric fence in Naibunga Central to keep elephants out of settlement areas while still allowing the free movement of people and livestock.

The Laikipia North KWS Warden, Dhadho Makorani, reports that since the fence's construction, no deaths or injuries have been recorded. The two-line fence limits elephant movement within settlement areas while allowing other wildlife and cattle to move freely.

The fence was also designed with camel access gates so herders could move their camels in and out with ease. "People who live in settlement areas now feel safer and can finally go about their daily lives without fear," says the Conservancy Chairman.

The KWS, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, and other partners funded the fence's construction, which is wholly managed by the Naibunga community conservancies and maintained by professional fencers.





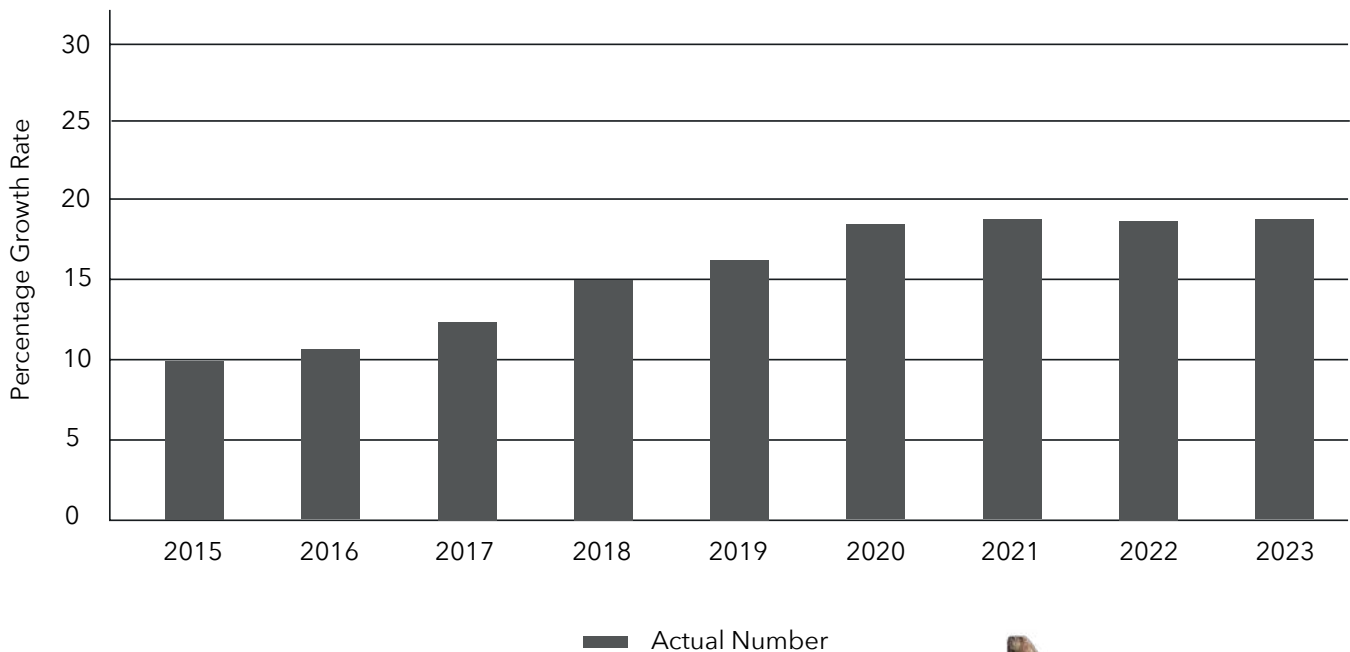
Sera Rhino Sanctuary

The establishment of community-managed wildlife sanctuaries for endangered species in NRT member conservancies has boosted national recovery efforts for the critically endangered black rhino and hirola.

Between January and June 2023, two black rhino calves were born at Sera Rhino Sanctuary, Unfortunately, two others died due to natural causes. This brings the total rhino population in the Sanctuary to 21.

There have been no poaching incidents at the Sanctuary since its inception.

Growth Rate of the Black Rhino in Sera Rhino Sanctuary



Ishaqbini Hirola Sanctuary

The hirola is the world’s most endangered antelope, with an estimated global population of around 500 individuals.

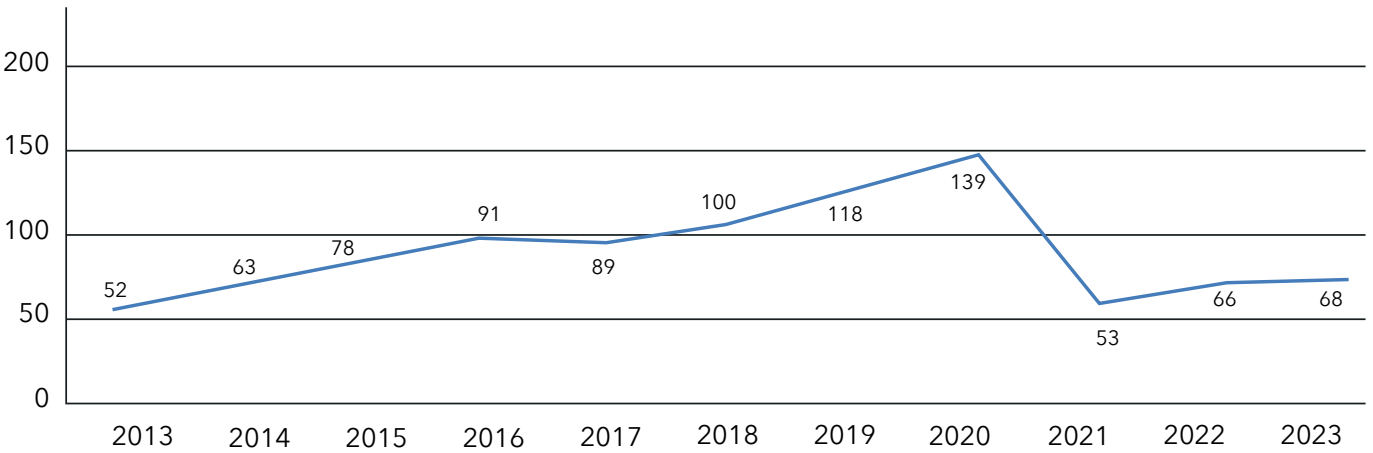
Since 2012, the community of Ishaqbini in Garissa County has been spearheading the recovery and protection of the endangered hirola. The Ishaqbini Hirola Sanctuary is the first community initiative of its kind in Kenya.

In 2021, a severe drought persisted northern Kenya, adversely impacting the critically endangered hirola antelope in Ishaqbini Hirola Sanctuary.

To reduce overpopulation in the Sanctuary and increase the hirola species’ chances of survival as the region continued grappled with the drought, 64 hirola antelope were released from the Sanctuary in 2021, nearly halving its population.

Since the release, hirola numbers in the Sanctuary have steadily increased from 53 in 2021 to 68 in 2023. At the beginning of this year, the Sanctuary recorded five new hirola births.

Ishaqbini Hirola Sanctuary’s Hirola Population (2013-2023)



Rothschild’s Giraffe

In the first half of the year, a Rothschild’s giraffe delivered a male calf, increasing the total Rothschild’s giraffe population in Ruko Giraffe Sanctuary to 14. Ruko, the KWS, and NRT are deliberating on translocating ten more individuals to the Sanctuary to expand its population, diversify its gene pool, and create a breeding ground that will ultimately facilitate the repopulation of areas where these giraffes were once endemic.





Output 9: Forest and Marine Ecosystem Management Systems

Forests and Mangroves

Forests

NRT member community conservancies have been actively involved in forestry operations targeting terrestrial forests, as they are not only crucial water catchment areas but are also home to a wide variety of species.



In the first half of the year:

- **8,040** tree seedlings were planted in two designated sites in Ngare Ndare Forest.
- **30,000** polythene tubes were distributed to community members in Ngare Ndare Community Conservancy to facilitate the establishment of 10 community tree nurseries. The Conservancy has six active community tree nurseries with 22,654 seedlings.
- **4,000** tree seedlings were planted in Kirisia Forest to mitigate deforestation and enhance biodiversity.
- The Kirisia Participatory Forest Management Plan was launched in collaboration with the KFS. The Plan reflects the collective goal of the community for sustainable forest management. During the occasion, Nkarro CFA and the KFS signed a community forest management agreement.
- Kirisia Community Forest Association received 310 beehives and harvesting kits from the East African Wildlife Society (EAWS) and Suyian Trust. This initiative will not only help to conserve forests, but will also provide sustainable livelihoods through beekeeping.



The Clean Energy Project

NRT is developing its first Clean Energy Strategic Plan that will guide its clean energy interventions and investments. To facilitate this process, sessions were held in NRT Coast and East to evaluate the Project's impact and raise community awareness of clean energy.

Data collected from these sessions will inform the development of NRT's Clean Energy Strategic Plan. It was also observed that portable energy-saving jikos are popular and better suited for NRT Coast.



Mangroves



As part of ongoing efforts to rehabilitate mangrove ecosystems, during the last six months:

- NRT Coast conducted a field-based ecological mangrove restoration training for communities in Pate and Lower Tana Delta Community Conservancies.
- **50,790** mangrove seedlings were planted and **18,593** propagules were established in nurseries, bringing the total number of mangroves planted since 2018 to **146,284**.
- Two mangrove Community Forest Associations (CFAs) in Lamu signed forest management agreements with the KFS.
- NRT Coast developed four participatory forest management plans and forest management agreements for four CFAs in Lower Tana Delta, and is awaiting the documents' approval by the KFS.
- Participatory forest management plans (PFMPs) for Lamu and Pate-Ndau-Awer (PANDAWE) CFAs were launched. The two CFAs also signed forest management agreements with the Kenya Forest Service, demonstrating their commitment to long-term forest management.





NRT Coast Women: Saving the World from Climate Change, One Mangrove at a Time

The perfect time to experience all the delights the Lamu archipelago has to offer is low tide.

From swimming in turquoise blue waters to soaking in the warm rays of a beautiful sun while lounging on the beach, to enjoying the spectacular panoramic view of the Indian Ocean, low tide is your cue to step outside and engage in a variety of leisure activities.

For 37-year-old Zulfa Hassan, a local mangrove expert, low tide is synonymous with call time for work. Her moniker, 'Mama Mikoko' (Mother of Mangroves), is befitting of her as when the tide is low, she assembles her team of 30 women from Mtangawanda Village in Pate Marine Community Conservancy (PMCC) and begins the day's task of planting mangroves.

For years, these women watched helplessly as the unrestrained logging of mangrove trees decimated fishing, their primary source of income. Both fish and crabs give birth in waters filled with mangroves, and the felling of the trees also destroyed their habitats.

Beyond Lamu, globally, thousands of acres of mangroves have been lost as the trees are felled

for farming or to provide timber and charcoal, threatening fishers' livelihoods.

While Lamu is still the most densely forested stretch of Kenya's coastal shore, making up 59% of the 61,000 hectares of mangrove ecosystem, roughly 40% of its mangrove areas are degraded.

In 2018, the women unanimously agreed to stop the destruction of mangroves, which are salt-tolerant trees, and voluntarily plant and protect them. To reverse the adverse effects climate change and deforestation had had on mangroves while simultaneously enhancing their livelihoods, the women started planting mangroves every year during the March-July and September-November planting seasons.

Mangrove forests are critical habitats for marine life, contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation, filter pollutants, stabilize the coastline ecosystem, and prevent erosion.

Since the women started restoring mangroves, fish and crab populations have increased in the area.



NRT, with the support of partners, including the KFS, TNC, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, and the Lamu County Government, trained the women on various aspects of mangrove restoration, paving the way for the Mangrove Restoration Program to thrive in three NRT Coast conservancies: PMCC, Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA), and Lower Tana Delta.

“We did not know there were nine different mangrove species and that they grew in different places and soils, so our initial attempts at mangrove restoration were unsuccessful as very few survived. The survival rate of mangroves is currently very high because of the training we received,” adds Zulfa, who also serves on the PMCC board and is the chairperson of the Mtangawanda Women Association Group.

Having honed their expertise in mangrove restoration, the women have so far planted and restored over 95,494 mangroves across 15,000 hectares of forest since 2018. This has increased the number of fisheries and their income.

“We used to rely on our spouses to take care of our households’ needs. Now, we are supporting entire families. Mangrove restoration has transformed our lives and enabled us to generate an income from small businesses and crab sales, reducing poverty levels,” Zulfa explains.

The women practise sustainable harvesting and plan to collaborate with partners to restore 35,000 hectares of mangroves over the course of five years.

Marine

NRT Coast continues to transform lives, build peace, and conserve natural resources along Kenya’s north coast through its robust Marine Program, which protects habitats, reduces fishing pressure on near-shore areas, provides a community-driven approach for reef restoration, and creates additional livelihood options.

Community-based Fish and Sea Turtle Conservation

To enhance the monitoring of fish catch and provide valuable reporting and feedback to communities and partner organizations, in the first half of the year, 26 youth (17 male and 9 female) from 13 BMUs in Pate and Kiunga Community Conservancies underwent training on fish data collection.

The last six months also saw four sea turtles rescued in Kiunga Community Conservancy after being caught in fishing nets as bycatch.





Ocean Plastic Collection and Recycling

The Kiunga Plastic Collection and Recycling Project, locally known as the ‘Bahari Moja Project’, aims at cleaning up beaches—which are nesting sites for endangered sea turtles—by collecting plastic debris.

In the last six months, **3.82 tonnes** of plastic waste were collected from the nesting beaches in Kiunga Community Conservancy and sorted for recycling. **67 tonnes** of plastic have been collected since the Project began in 2019.

The Project’s beach clean-up initiatives have enhanced sea turtle populations, with **79** sea turtle nestings being recorded in Kiunga between January-June.



Artificial Coral Reef Restoration

Pate and Kiunga Community Conservancies conducted biannual conservancy scout-based coral reef monitoring surveys in their wider conservation areas and the locally managed marine areas (LMMAs).

The surveys covered 18 sites in the conservancies and focused on assessing benthic cover, fish of high commercial value, and invertebrate indicators of ecosystem health. Data collected from these surveys is crucial for guiding management decisions and actions.

Scientific, scuba-based surveys were also conducted in 26 sites in the two conservancies to assess the ecosystem ahead of the Kiunga Marine National Reserve’s (KMNR) Management Plan review. The surveys’ findings will guide the development of fisheries’ co-management strategies, expand the coral reef inventory, provide insights on the effectiveness of the LMMAs, and facilitate the development of best practices for resilience-based coral reef management.



Fisheries Co-management

Curbing the Use of Destructive Beach Seine Nets

NRT Coast, in collaboration with the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), The Nature Conservancy, Basecamp Foundation, and Fauna & Flora, among others, continues to make a concerted effort to combat the use of destructive beach seine nets through a voluntary gear exchange program to promote sustainable fisheries management, protect marine ecosystems, and improve the livelihoods of community members.

In June, Kiunga Community Conservancy launched the Gear Exchange Program at an event in which **176** beach seine fishers (**11** owners and **165** crew) voluntarily agreed to cease using beach seine nets, and **85%** of Kiunga's seine nets were replaced with sustainable fishing gear.

To further advance the efforts of the Program, 232 fishers who recently joined the Fish-to-Market Pilot Project were trained on safety at sea, sustainable fishing methods, proper fish handling, processing, hygiene, and reduction of post-harvest losses.



The Gear Exchange Program is a step towards modernizing Lamu's cottage fishing sector as it faces the realities of overfishing and the effects of climate change. The Lamu County Government has set aside Ksh 40 million to go towards fisheries and the blue economy development budget, as part of our commitment to improve the blue economy sector

Hon. Issa Timamy,
Governor of Lamu County





Locally Managed Marine Areas

NRT Coast's Marine Program empowers the fisher community in Pate and Kiunga Conservancies to adopt sustainable fishing practices, preventing the loss of livelihoods caused by illegal and destructive fishing on nearshore reefs.

Three new locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) and fish replenishment zones in Kiunga Conservancy were established in collaboration with fisheries' BMUs, the KWS, local fishers, and the County Fisheries Department, increasing the number of LMMAs in Kiunga and Pate Conservancies from six to nine with a coverage of 746.64 hectares.

Each of the LMMAs has a unique management approach that includes the establishment of temporary octopus closures, no-take-zones, and gear restriction areas.

As a result of the closures:

- Octopus catch and size increased, with **2,646** kilograms of octopuses being harvested in Pate and Kiunga Community Conservancies in March 2023 and the highest individual octopus weighing 4.46 kilograms.
- The market price for octopus doubled, increasing the income generated by the fishers, who ultimately earned **Ksh 669,018 (USD 4,955)**.
- The population of other fish species in the closures increased, according to observations made by fishers, proving the closures positively impact the entire marine ecosystem.



Looking Ahead

Despite the challenges encountered during the first half of the year, our member community conservancies continued to make progress, overcoming significant barriers in their efforts to be self-sustaining.

Moving forward, we will continue to support them in increasing their resilience against climate change and its effects and in propelling their growth, ensuring they remain the gold standard for achieving economic development through community-led conservation.

We will also establish the structures required to facilitate an increase in NRT membership, opening up the NRT community conservancy model and its benefits to more indigenous communities.



ASANTENI SANA!

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

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