

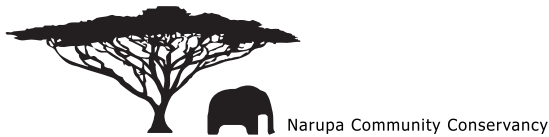


2019 State of Conservancies Report

Together, we are the Northern Rangelands Trust



Kirimon logo still under development



The Northern Rangelands Trust is a membership organisation started in 2004. We work for 39 community conservancies across 42,000 square kilometres of northern and coastal Kenya, fundraising and providing access to training, advice, and technical expertise. Community conservancies are local institutions, run for and by indigenous people, striving to transform people's lives, secure peace and conserve natural resources.

2019 in numbers



88% of conservancy members at the coast believe **wildlife is important to their future**



US\$ 3 million dispersed through the NRT Conservancy Livelihood Fund (CLF) since 2015

68,600 people have benefited from **126 indigenous-led development projects** through the CLF



6 rescued elephant calves from Reteti **released back into the wild** and are now interacting with wild herds



3,000 students received **bursaries** through their conservancies



US\$ 1.6 million of **County Government investment** in conservancies since 2014



76 **peace ambassadors** drawn from representative ethnic groups active across the landscape



96% drop in the **number of elephants killed for ivory** in NRT member conservancies since 2012



94% increase in income to BeadWORKS businesswomen since 2018



160% increase in the population of **critically endangered hirola** in the Ishaqbini Sanctuary since 2012, which counts for approximately **20-25% of the global population**



450 indigenous leaders in community conservancies have completed NRT's bespoke Leadership and Management Programme since 2016



50% of all livestock reported stolen were recovered and **returned to their owners** through conservancy collaborations, helping to mitigate a high number of retaliation attacks



5 times as many octopus were harvested by fishers in Pate Conservancy in the second opening of their seasonal closure. These closures are helping to improve sustainable fisheries



Increase in sightings of elephant and Grevy's zebra across the conservancies



1,309 permanent employees between NRT and the community conservancies collectively - making them one of the biggest employers in the landscape with thousands of temporary jobs created every year too



30,000 mangrove seedlings planted in community conservancies at the coast



6th black rhino calf born in Sera Rhino Sanctuary, bringing the total population to 16



Community Conservancies Fund Act passed by the **Samburu County Government** became the first in Kenya - committing financial support to community-led conservation



3,000 community members took part in rangelands **rehabilitation activities across 7,000 hectares** of what used to be productive grazing land



US\$ 284,000 dispersed as **business loans for 803 conservancy members** through the Nabulu Economic Empowerment Programme



741 people accessed **vocational training** through conservancies



US\$ 1.3 million in tourism revenue to communities

Karibuni, to our 2019 State of Conservancies Report

The Northern Rangelands Trust celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2019. We started with just nine member conservancies back in 2004, and we enter this new decade 39 members strong.

While our member conservancies are home to many different ethnic groups, landscapes and wildlife, one thing that unites them all is a central mission to act as indigenous institutions – to support the management of community-owned land for the benefit of improving livelihoods.

2019 has been a particularly triumphant year for community-led livelihoods development in conservancies, with the BeadWORKS businesswomen earning a 94% increase in income compared to 2018, over 3,000 students receiving bursaries, and over 740 youth and women accessing vocational training



through their conservancies. We've made significant investments in tourism infrastructure and the Conservancy Livelihoods Fund to link improved livelihoods to better conservation.

Indeed, indigenous-led endangered species conservation continues to break new ground and gain worldwide recognition. The endangered hirola in Ishaqbini Community Conservancy in Garissa County are thriving under community stewardship, and the first of Reteti's rescued elephants were returned to the wild (and are now interacting with wild herds). Sightings of Grevy's zebra and elephant in conservancies are increasing too. We're moving toward strengthening connectivity across the landscape through community conservancy networks – opening up ancient migration routes for so many species once again.

None of this work would be possible without our partnerships; particularly our long-term core programme supporters – USAID, The Nature Conservancy and DANIDA, whose funding runs through almost all of the impacts set out in this report. Newer partnerships with the EU, AFD and Sida are making great impact too, and support from San Diego Zoo Global, Fauna and Flora International, Tusk Trust, Conservation International and many others continues to be so very valued.

While 2019 certainly hasn't come without its challenges – our rain did not come until very late in the year and the majority of conservancies were suffering from a prolonged dry period – we continue to work with community conservancies, partners and County Government to build resilience and capability to weather climatic, political, and other storms.

County Government support to community conservancies - both financially and through policy – continues to strengthen, with Samburu County Government becoming the first in Kenya to pass a Community Conservancies Fund Act (CCF), while the County Governments of West Pokot and Baringo signed partnership MOUs with NRT and member community conservancies in the county, again the first of their kinds in Kenya. These linkages are essential as we think about the sustainability of community owned and led conservancies, which we discuss more in Chapter 6.

I humbly appreciate the support of the NRT Council of Elders and the able NRT Board who are championing community-led conservation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Lalampaa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Lalampaa,
CEO, Northern Rangelands Trust

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Abbreviations

AGM	Annual General Meeting (held by conservancies every year as per their MOU with NRT)	MCA	Member of County Assembly (Kenyan County Government)
CI	Conservation International	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CECM	County Executive Committee Member (Kenyan County Government)	MP	Member of Parliament (Kenyan Government)
CLF	Conservancy Livelihoods Fund (see pg 31)	NRTT	NRT Trading
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.	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
KFS	Kenya Forest Service		
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service		

For this report, Ksh. 100 = US\$ 1

Cover photo: Matthew Essman. Back cover: Roshni Lodhia | TNC

Chapter 1. Overview

What is a community conservancy?

A community conservancy is a community-based organisation created to support the management of community-owned land for the benefit of improving livelihoods. They are legally registered entities, governed by a locally elected board of directors and run by a local management team, which includes various sub-committees such as grazing, peace, finance and tourism. All the affairs of the NRT member community conservancies are run by the local communities themselves, with technical and oversight support from NRT.



NRT member conservancies - an overview

Community Conservancy	Date of Registration	Ethnicity	Livelihood*	Area (ha)	Population**	Number of Permanent Employees	2019 Operating Budget (Ksh.)
Baringo County		-	-	64,202	31,827	26	11,253,120
Ruko	2006	Njemps, Pokot	P	17,897	3,004	20	9,612,264
Kaptuya	2018	Pokot	P	46,306	28,824	6	1,640,856
Garissa County				89,977	10,271	42	10,871,148
Ishaqbini	2007	Somali	P	89,977	10,271	42	10,871,148
Isiolo County				632,711	47,020	171	34,230,938
Biliqo-Bulesa	2007	Borana	A, P	376,657	5,833	35	6,589,504
Leparua	2011	Laikipiak Maasai, Turkana, Somali, Borana	A, P	33,550	10,480	19	3,432,281
Nakuprat-Gotu	2010	Borana, Turkana	P	72,418	6,734	31	6,073,740
Nasuulu	2011	Samburu, Turkana, Somali, Borana	P	34,568	5,200	26	5,253,414
Narupa (Oldonyiro)	2018 (2017)	Samburu, Turkana	P	37,031	5,984	14	3,317,949
Nannapa (Oldonyiro)	2018 (2017)	Samburu, Turkana	P	25,471	6,006	14	2,655,684
Naapu (Oldonyiro)	2018 (2007)	Samburu, Turkana	P	28,143	2,268	15	3,589,896
Nanapisho (Oldonyiro)	2018 (2017)	Samburu, Turkana	P	24,873	4,515	17	3,318,470

Community Conservancy	Date of Registration	Ethnicity	Livelihood*	Area (ha)	Population**	Number of Permanent Employees	2019 Operating Budget (Ksh.)
Laikipia County			-	88,642	27,331	148	23,751,852
Il Ngwesi	1995	Laikipiak Maasai	A, P	8,933	2,137	24	6,214,884
Lekurruki	1999	Laikipiak Maasai	P	16,856	4,820	39	3,432,281
Naibunga Lower	2018 (2001)	Laikipiak Maasai	A, P	16,559	7,141	21	3,633,507
Naibunga Central	2018 (2001)	Laikipiak Maasai	A, P	14,316	5,765	21	3,633,507
Naibunga Upper	2018 (2001)	Laikipiak Maasai	A, P	15,666	6,200	24	3,780,346
Kirimon	2016	Samburu	P	16,312	1,269	19	3,057,327
Lamu County			-	292,865	37,267	65	17,185,489
Awer	2013	Boni	A	164,107	1,283	15	2,893,050
Hanshak- Nyongoro	2013	Orma, Swahili, Boni	A, P, F	77,896	15,988	14	2,885,984
Kiunga	2013	Boni. Somali, Bajuni	A, P, F	22,755	3,497	22	8,581,212
Pate	2013	Bajun	F	28,107	16,499	14	2,825,244
Marsabit County			-	1,774,273	56,442	84	19,874,917
Jaldesa	2013	Borana	A, P	550,270	12,670	16	4,163,567
Melako	2004	Rendille	P	1,040,792	20,974	36	8,452,107
Shurr	2013	Gabbra	P	122,884	10,128	16	3,325,631
Songa	2013	Rendille	A, P	60,327	12,670	16	3,933,612
Meru County				5,511	11,317	31	5,965,488
Ngare Ndare	2000	Meru, Laikipiak Maasai	A, P	5,511	11,317	31	5,965,488

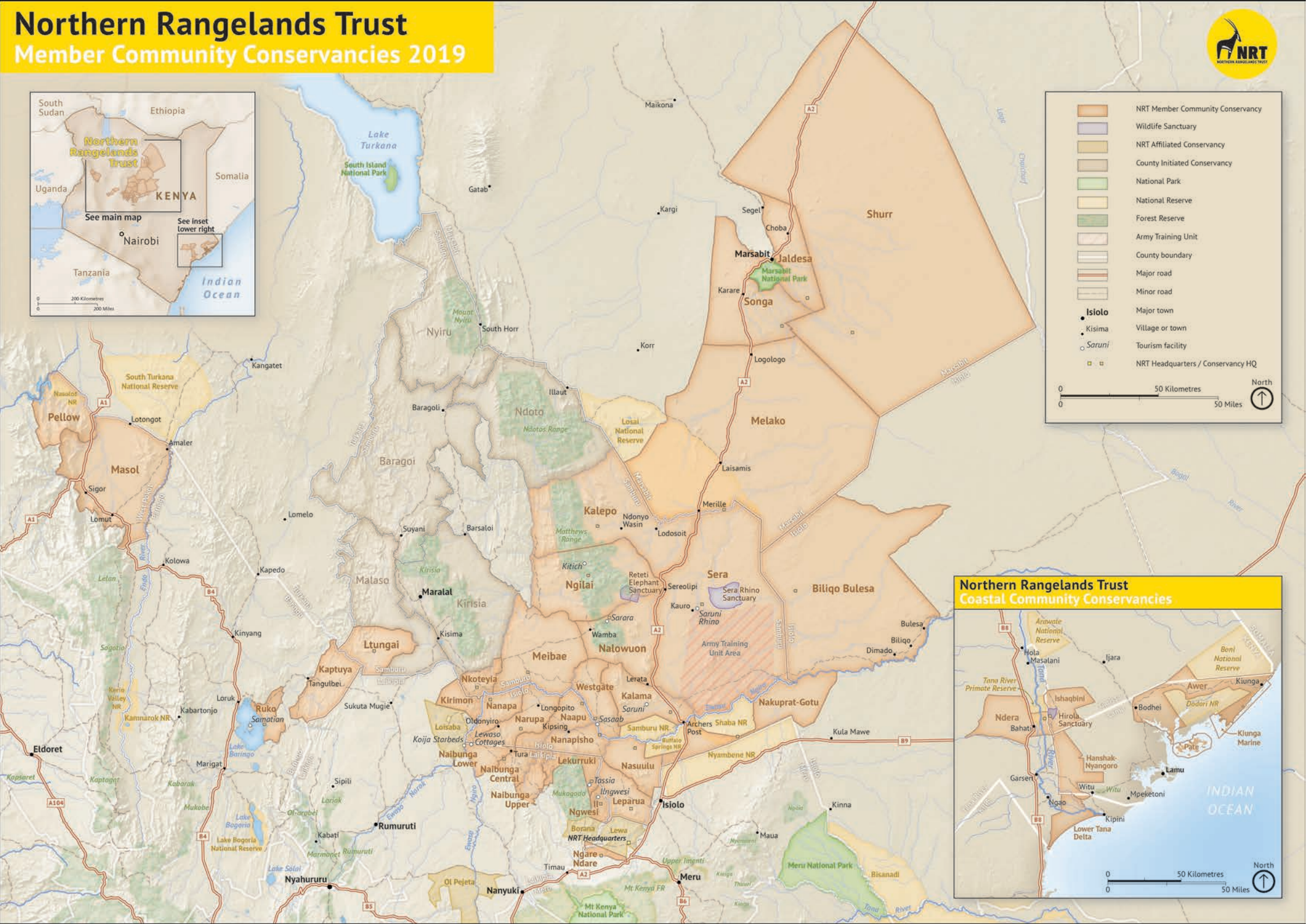
Community Conservancy	Date of Registration	Ethnicity	Livelihood*	Area (ha)	Population**	Number of Permanent Employees	2019 Operating Budget (Ksh.)
Samburu County			-	966,632	76,980	436	117,577,679
Kalama	2002	Samburu	P	49,588	9,958	46	12,117,915
Meibae	2006	Samburu	P	101,385	12,235	42	8,463,304
Ngilai (Namunyak)	2008	Samburu	P	124,789	9,405	80	25,607,264
Kalepo (Namunyak)	2008	Samburu	P	181,696	8,142	24	6,799,687
Nalowuon (Namunyak)	1995	Samburu	P	77,539	14,957	70	19,880,139
Sera	2001	Samburu	P	339,540	7,214	84	24,682,091
West Gate	2004	Samburu	P	36,294	4,494	43	10,278,841
Nkoteyia	2016	Samburu	P	15,715	3,285	22	4,545,160
Ltungai	2002	Samburu, Pokot	P	40,086	7,288	25	5,203,278
Tana River County			-	51,785	13,152	13	5,072,305
Lower Tana Delta	2013	Orma, Pokomo, Giriama	A, P, F	116,371	7,835	11	2,962,116
Ndera	2010	Pokomo, Wardei	A	330,425	84,608	39	13,696,912
West Pokot County			-	138,630	43,902	19	6,584,560
Masol	2015	Pokot	P	191,795	40,707	20	7,112,352
Pellow	2015	Pokot	P	191,795	31,903	20	7,112,352
Totals				4,413,394	404,050	1,066	262,441,965

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

** Population census was carried out in 2019, however detailed results are not yet available. For NRT member conservancy population data, a 2.5% annual increase has been applied to 2009 data based on the national population increase of 25% between 2009-2019

Northern Rangelands Trust

Member Community Conservancies 2019




	NRT Member Community Conservancy
	Wildlife Sanctuary
	NRT Affiliated Conservancy
	County Initiated Conservancy
	National Park
	National Reserve
	Forest Reserve
	Army Training Unit
	County boundary
	Major road
	Minor road
	Major town
	Village or town
	Tourism facility
	NRT Headquarters / Conservancy HQ

0 50 Kilometres 50 Miles

North





Chapter 2. Strengthening Conservancy Governance

“Good governance is the foundation of a successful conservancy. Without it, the programmes, activities and partnerships that enable conservation to improve livelihoods will fail. The community conservancy model rests on transparent, strong, and effective leadership.”

— DAVID LEKOOMET, CHAIR, NRT COUNCIL OF
ELDERS

450 indigenous leaders and change-makers have taken part in NRT’s bespoke Leadership and Management Programme since 2016.

To continue strengthening conservancy governance capacity for sustainability, independence and good management, **we have revised the way we measure and use the conservancy governance index.** We have discontinued the comparison of governance scores across our member conservancies and instead, we are providing more tailored governance support to each conservancy depending on their individual performance index.

Now, we use two modules that each make up 50% of the score:

- 1. A self-reporting management effectiveness score** - a survey filled separately by respective conservancy managers, a representative of the board and the county director. It measures aspects of accountability, performance, legitimacy, voice, fairness, rights, and direction to understand trends in operational efficiencies, strategic planning, inclusivity and fairness in decision making as well as benefit sharing.
- 2. A community voice component** - measured through Social CoMMS (NRT's socio-economic monitoring tool). As we develop an efficient way to implement Social CoMMS across conservancies (to capture community perceptions and feedback on their programmes and operations), current scores reflect the management effectiveness component only.

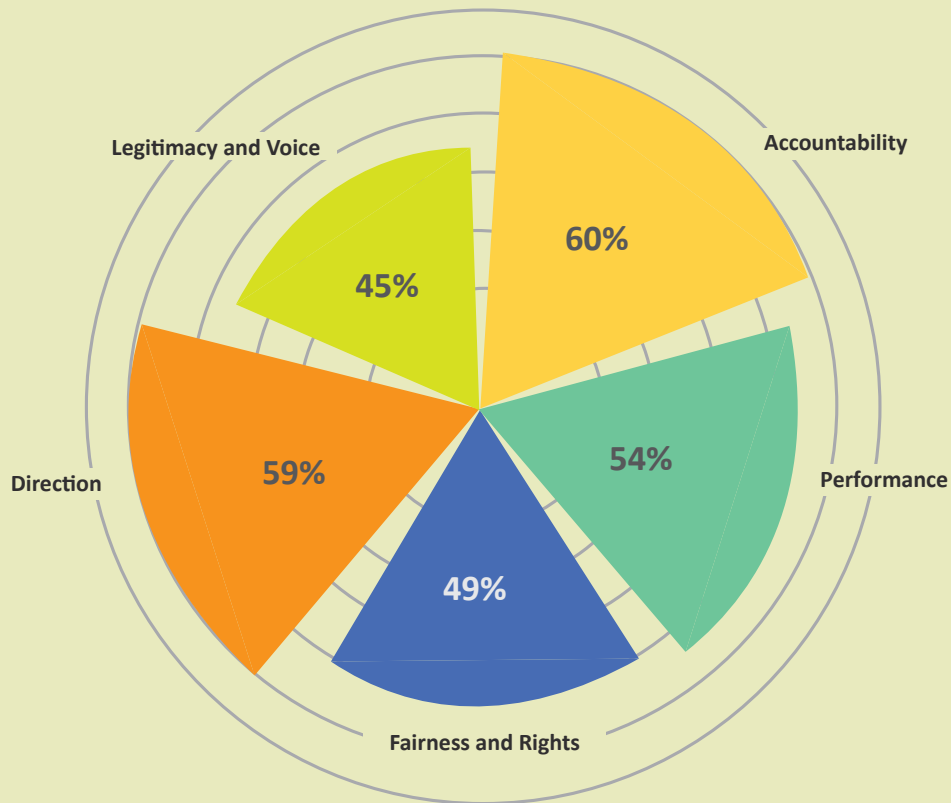
In 2019, conservancy strengths exist in operational systems and management mechanisms, transparency in financial management and a drive towards establishing sustainability through improved planning and partnerships. Areas such as effective AGMs, successful board and

committee meetings and the use of CoMMS in operational planning have been highlighted as opportunities for improving governance and management effectiveness in 2020.

Overall baseline NRT scores reported in 2019 reflect an average in each category across all conservancies.

Overall, conservancies scored an average of 53% management effectiveness, taking into account each category in the scoring system.

Conservancy Management Effectiveness Score at a Glance



Legitimacy and Voice: Recognition of all relevant actors and mutual respect between them

Accountability: Transparency supported by timely access to relevant information

Performance: Efficient achievement of conservancy's objectives as planned

Fairness and Rights: Identification and recognition of the rights of all relevant actors

Direction: Effective coordination and collaboration between different sectors and levels

To strengthen the governance of community conservancies, we are:

Investing in leadership, governance and management skills

- NRT's bespoke **Leadership and Management Programme (LAMP) for Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)** is a powerful transformational process to enlighten, equip and empower IPLCs to exercise their human rights to manage their land, conserve natural resources and wildlife and secure their livelihoods for an unpredictable future. It is offered to all conservancy boards and committee members in NRT member conservancies.

"A community's ability to successfully secure rights, sustainably manage lands, and pursue economic livelihood opportunities is also directly related to its leaders' integrity, management abilities, organising skills and commitment. Strong individual leaders, with awareness of and ability to navigate the local context and social norms, while holding the trust and respect of the community, serve as

crucial stakeholders who can drive community self-organization in natural resource decision-making.”¹

450 people, including conservancy managers, board members, and community committee members have taken part in LAMP since 2016, 97 of them women. In 2019, 256 people (community leaders, women’s groups, committee members) from 14 conservancies participated in LAMP, 72 of them women. This included 36 women from Pate and Kiunga conservancies, who are using their training to lead sustainable fisheries, mangrove restoration, plastic and waste management, and microfinance initiatives.

- **Programme management, business and peace training:**

Training	Region	People
Community conservancy awareness creation, natural resources management and governance (including rangelands management).	Samburu	41 (8 women)
	Laikipia	300 youth
	West Pokot	4 women
	Isiolo	60 youth and women
Business development and saving	Marsabit	27 youth
	West Pokot	108 women, 80 youth
	Isiolo	200 women

Training	Region	People
Peace; conflict transformation and resolution	Isiolo	25 peace ambassadors trained on conflict resolution
	Laikipia	40 peace committee members
Disaster risk reduction	Isiolo	75 people
	Samburu	125 people (23 women)
Gender mainstreaming	Laikipia	120 women
Finance and HR training	Baringo	10 men, 4 women

- **Governance training for boards and committees:** Baringo and NRT-Coast Conservancies, including **100 Beach Management Unit members** (19 of whom were women) from Awer, Pate and Kiunga conservancies were trained on their leadership and management roles and responsibilities, including financial management.

¹ Ostrom 2009. A General Framework for Analyzing Sustainability of Social–Ecological Systems. Elinor Ostrom. Science 24 Jul 2009. Vol. 325, Issue 5939: 419-422



Reshmi Lodhia | TNC

“In the first month [of LAMP training] our heads were down. We didn’t understand anything. The second time we lifted our eyes because of this knowledge we had found. The third time we expanded our minds and started looking at the activities we are going to do. Now I am a teacher, I am a leader, I can lead! In the coming years I will vie for the Women’s Representative seat because of the leadership training we have gone through here.”

– AMINA MOHAMED,
OCTOPUS FISHER

What is a Beach Management Unit?

Beach Management Units (BMUs) are a governance structure that allow for a collaborative approach to fisheries management. They are made up of fishers, fish traders, boat owners, fish processors and other stakeholders who traditionally depend on fisheries activities for their livelihoods. BMUs are governed using the Fisheries Act and the BMU Regulations of 2007, through their internal administrative rules (by-laws) approved by the BMU assembly and the Director of Fisheries. Conservancies act as umbrella institutions bringing together BMUs that operate over a geographic area determined by the conservancy membership, with the chairperson of each BMU sitting on conservancy boards.

Promoting inclusion and voice

Across the north Kenya landscape, women and children are frequently left out of, and left behind in, the decision making processes around the management of natural resources, despite being the main users of these resources. The patriarchal societies have cultural barriers which often hinder women’s involvement in governance, which ultimately impacts the ability of conservancies to reach their full potential as vehicles for social change, livelihoods development, and conservation. Just 8% of NRT member conservancy managers are women.

Female representation in NRT staff and the Board is slightly better, at 19% and 20% respectively.

To address this gap, **NRT employed a gender specialist in 2019** — to provide strategic focus to gender mainstreaming both internally and in the member community conservancies, to map out where gender gaps are, and to promote culturally-appropriate solutions to ensure that all conservancy members and leadership – regardless of their gender – are able to fully participate in, and benefit from, natural resource conservation efforts and livelihood activities.



Roshni Lodhia | TNC

NRT is developing a gender strategy which aims to provide a roadmap for how NRT and its member community conservancies can support indigenous communities to spearhead gender equality through conservation of natural resources. It focuses on two outcomes:

1. NRT **operations are gender-responsive**. This outlines sensitising the Board, ensuring staff have the key skills and knowledge to apply the gender strategy to programmes, looking at the use of language, and gender-responsiveness in M&E, recruitment and fundraising.
2. Community **conservancies operate in a gender-responsive way**. This outlines similar areas to outcome 1 but on a conservancy level, and also includes the development of gender champions and the mentorship of women leaders.

Women in the NRT and member conservancies staff

Staff	Number of women	% total staff who are women
NRT	22	19%
Board	118	20%
Conservancy managers	3	8%
Scouts	43	6%
Rangeland coordinators	2	5%

Conservancies and Gender Equality

Q&A with Rebecca Kochulem, NRT's Baringo County Conservancies Director.

You started your conservation career as Ruko Community Conservancy manager - the first female manager in an NRT member conservancy. Do you feel you faced any extra challenges being a woman in this role?

"When I became the manager of the newly established Ruko Conservancy in 2009, not everyone was sure that I could make it. The community had just emerged from three years of conflict, and they needed a strong leader. Some felt the role was too challenging for me, some thought I would give up along the way. I remember having to address a community meeting full of men, it was one of my most difficult moments during those first few months. In my community this just isn't done, and I was so fearful of saying the wrong thing. During those early days, I was always seeking affirmation from my team in the board, luckily there were some very supportive people around me.

Leading a male-dominated workforce was hard - especially when I had to issue disciplinary action. It was a slow process to win the confidence of the team, and ensuring everyone understood their roles and responsibilities was a key part of that. At the same time, I was also trying to balance being a young mother with my work as a manager - I remember frequently travelling to meetings on a matatu with my nanny and baby! This is where women in leadership positions in conservancies need support, it can be so overwhelming to manage work and motherhood."



Ruko has one of the first female drivers in an NRT member conservancy and now another female manager to replace you, why do you feel Ruko has been able to be such a trailblazer in gender equality?

“I think women respond well to other female role models, particularly in areas like Ruko where there aren’t many at all. And as more women take an interest in leadership positions or becoming agents of change, the confidence in female leadership grows. Four out of the five shortlisted candidates for the new conservancy manager position last year were women, and the Board were really supportive of this.

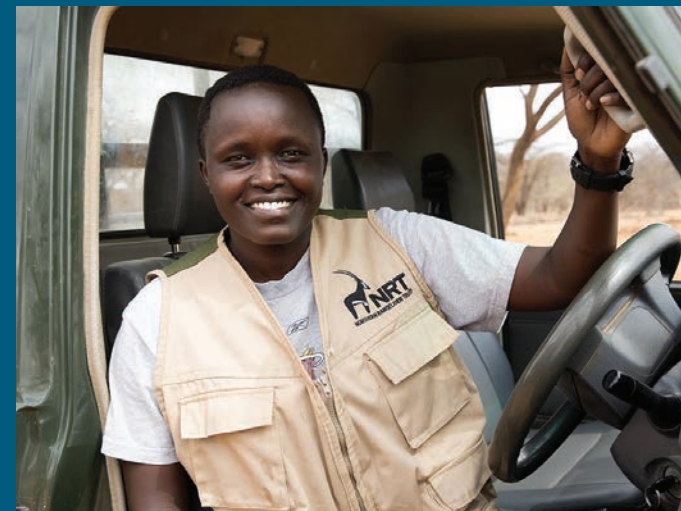
I think women are a powerful weapon in the peace process too. Throughout my time as manager I heard feedback from different communities that I was seen to be neutral, to treat everyone equally, and that many people wouldn’t expect the same from a man.”

Why is gender equality important for community conservation?

“I think gender equality is an integrated tool for development - and to have the most impact it has to be driven by both men and women. In my experience, how men and women in pastoralist communities perceive development is totally different. For men it will be about access to resources for wealth creation, while for the women the first priority will be to feed and clothe their families, and ensure they have access to healthcare and education.

So of course, their priorities are different. Men will want a water well in a grazing area while women will want a water well close to the homestead for example. So if women are not present in decision-making discussions, water wells will continue to only serve the men’s priorities. Actions in a programme have different impacts and implications to men and women too. So it’s important that community conservancies start to look at this systematically.

Ultimately, in a patriarchal society it is near impossible to reach women if men do not allow or support the process. So men need to know how they can best support women to participate in their conservancies.”



Jackie Cheron, Driver, Ruko Community Conservancy

Mariella Furrer

Using media communications to build community awareness and local influence

The NRT communications team have worked closely with conservancies across different regions in 2019 to harness the power of TV, radio, print and social media to promote their indigenous conservation and livelihoods development initiatives, and tackle misinformation.

TV & Print Media:

- At least **40 positive features on the work of NRT member community conservancies appeared in regional and national print media in 2019**, and on TV.
- Five national TV stations (Citizen TV, K24 TV, NTV, KTN, KBC) aired 15 stories on NRT member conservancies in 2019.
- The top three national newspapers (The Daily Nation, The Standard and The Star) featured 13 stories on NRT member conservancies in print, and a further eight online.

Radio:

- **Eight radio stations in four counties hosted regular features on different aspects of community conservation**, with a particular emphasis on peace. Conservancy staff members took part in audience Q&A sessions, and a number of pre-recorded feature pieces on topics including business and governance were broadcast. **Listener numbers are estimated at half a million people.**
- Three community conservancy events were broadcast live on local radio;

the Conservancy Livelihoods Fund (CLF) launch in Isiolo and Marsabit, and the morans peace marathon in Ltungai.

Social Media & Video:

- Many conservancies use WhatsApp and Facebook to share news and updates amongst constituents, stakeholders and board members. NRT have supported content development for these platforms including five videos addressing misconceptions about NRT and member conservancies, and three info-feature videos.
- Regional community conservancy Facebook pages have been established as platforms for content-sharing, run by conservancy managers. The communications team also developed a communications handbook for managers, which covers social media and content development best practices.

Supporting the development of conservancy plans and programmes

Under the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013, there is a legal requirement for all conservancies to have a management plan. It must capture the long-term vision for development and conservation success of a conservancy. It is developed in a participatory manner involving all stakeholders and communities in the conservancies and is a tool to:

- Guide conservancy management in their activities, ensuring they focus on priorities that have been determined by the wider community and conservancy staff and Boards.

- Provide continuity of management and enable members to hold managers and boards to account.
- Assist with fundraising, highlighting where additional resources are required.

17 NRT member conservancies now have complete management plans, 10 are in draft or under development. All completed plans are available on the NRT website.

Investing in conservancy infrastructure

In 2019:

- NRT **graded 160 kilometers of roads** and **built or repaired five kilometres of airstrip** in conservancies - improving access to services, supporting business links and in some conservancies, enabling tourism access.
- We **invested Ksh. 115 million (US\$ 1.15 million) in conservancy infrastructure**, including construction or improvements of six headquarters, three scout outposts, water provision for conservancy staff and wildlife, radio communications and sanctuary infrastructure.
- We **invested approximately Ksh. 50 million (US\$ 500,000) in the construction of infrastructure to support livelihoods**, including schools, health facilities, water, tourism infrastructure, and human-wildlife conflict fencing.

To encourage supportive Government policies, laws and finance, we are working with conservancies to:

Engage County Governments, Assemblies and MPs to increase understanding of community conservancies and build support

County Government engagements 2019

West Pokot

- West Pokot Governor launched the 2019 CLF & NRTT microfinance initiatives
- West Pokot County Commissioner and Deputy County Commissioner engaged with the National Police Reservist status of community scouts, and conservancy progress reports
- MPs for Pokot Central engaged in conservancy progress
- 12 MCAs, six senior officers from Tourism and Wildlife Department and three legal officers from West Pokot County Assembly engaged Masol and Pellow community conservancies in the development of the West Pokot County Conservation Bill. As part of this, they visited NRT's central HQ, the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary and the Samburu County Assembly.
- West Pokot County Governor also visited NRT HQ and Reteti, and has pledged support to community conservancies



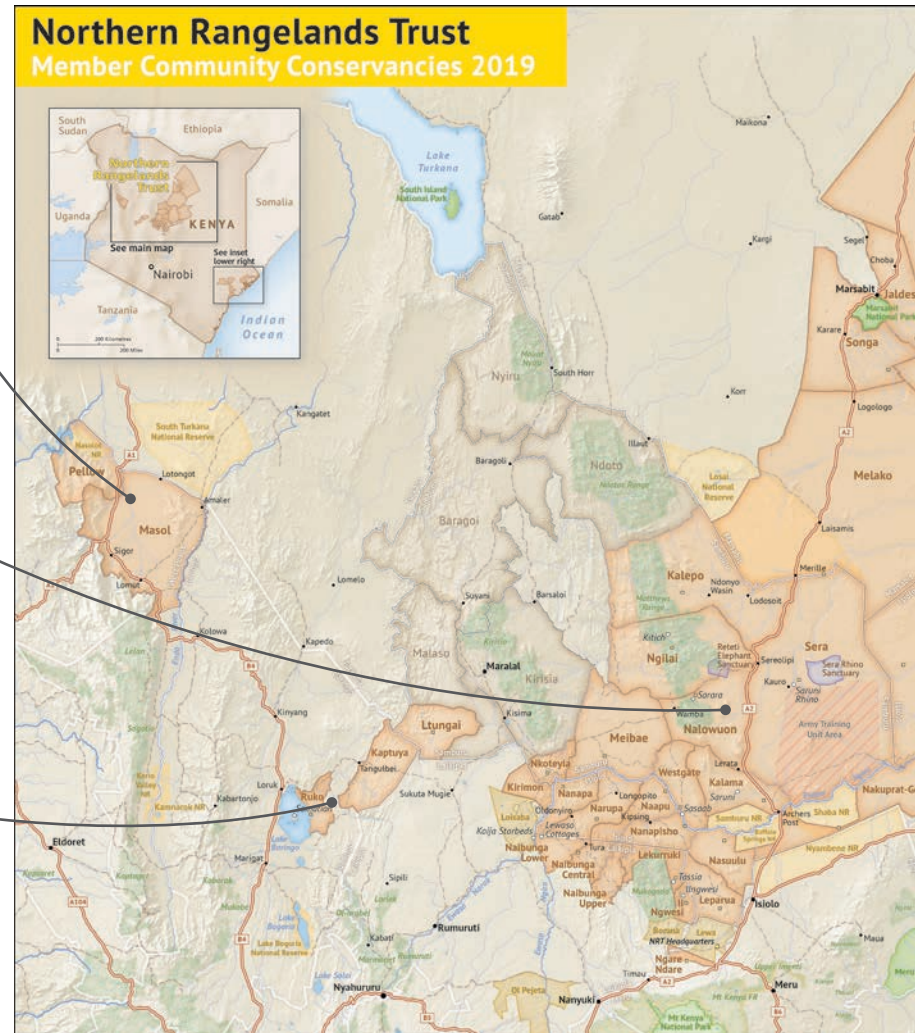
Samburu

- County Govt. supported *Acacia reficiens* clearing in Meibae Conservancy
- Governor, Senator, Women's Rep, Speaker, CECs, and MPs of Samburu East and Central attended several conservancy board meetings - this resulted in improved relations between conservancies and County Government



Baringo

- County Security Committee is supporting the National Police Reservist status of community scouts
- CISC (County Intelligence Security Committee) held a sanctuary site meeting at Ruko to develop its security strategy
- Ruko and Kaptuya AGMs were well attended by County Assembly Committee for Wildlife and Tourism, including the CEC and Chairperson
- Area MP for Baringo South engaged to support conservancy infrastructure development (security access roads and scout houses)





Marsabit

- Five County Steering Group meetings held around issues of peace and food security
- MCAs and MPs engaged during the joint CLF launch
- MCAs participated in management plan workshops, board meetings and CLF planning and implementation
- Six community meetings on human-wildlife conflict conducted in Songa and Jaldesa with KWS Marsabit Park management
- County Commissioner involved in stock theft recovery efforts



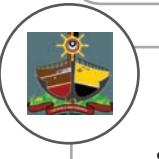
Isiolo

- At least five engagements were held with the County Government and over five with the County Assembly
- Partnership agreement with WWF to fundraise for the support of the National Reserves in Isiolo County



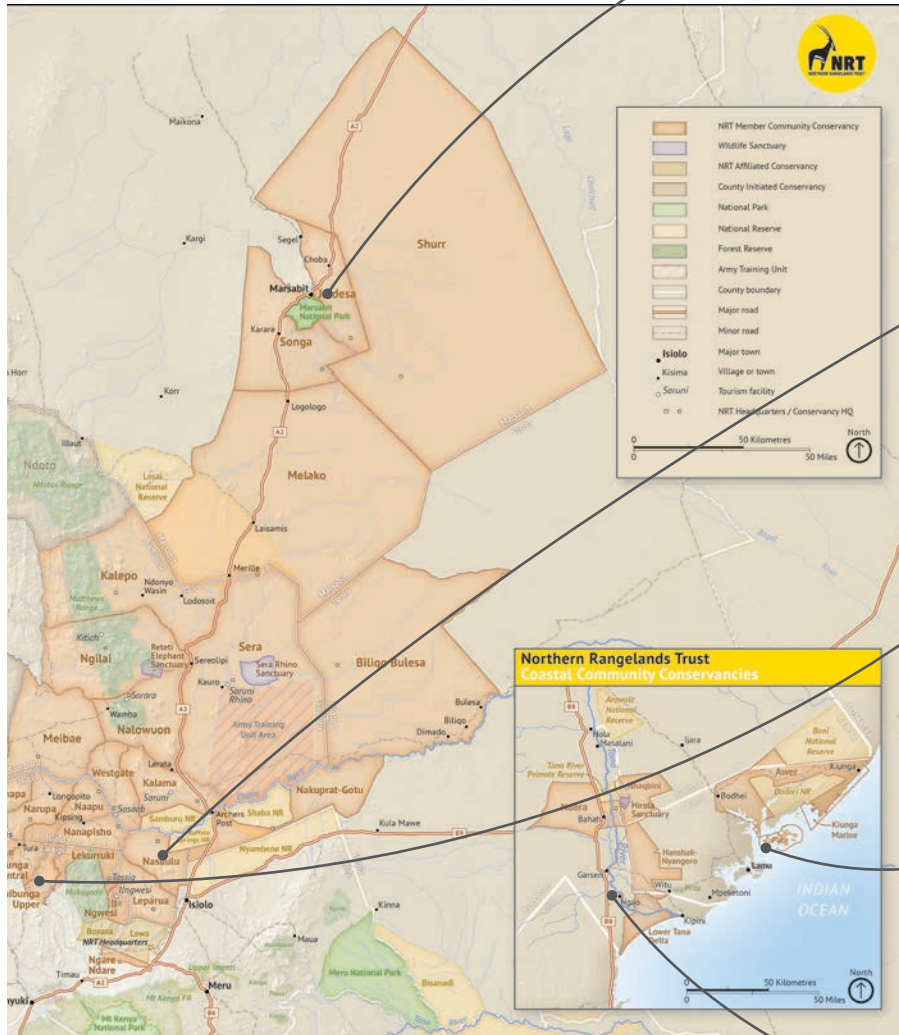
Laikipia

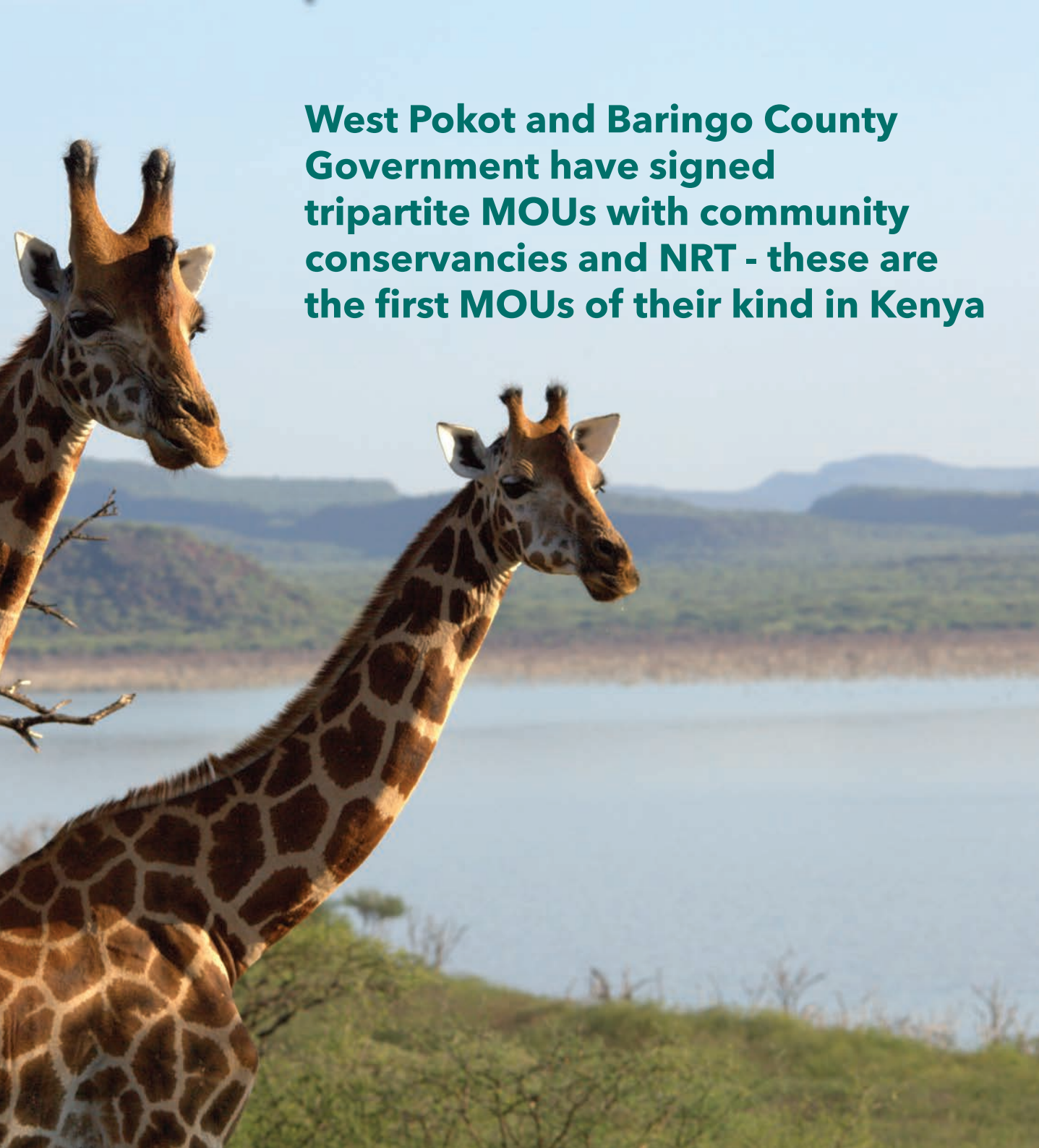
- Five formal engagements with the Laikipia County Government
- County Government now goes through community conservancies to hold community meetings
- County Government supported National Police Reservist training for scouts



Coast

- MP for Garsen/Tana Delta attended the Lower Tana Delta AGM, where he emphasised the need for stakeholders to work through the conservancy as an entry point to enhanced development and conservation
- MPs, MCAs, CECs of Lamu County attended Kiunga and Pate's AGMs
- Lamu MPs and MCAs attended a stakeholders meeting on education and security in Awer Conservancy, organised by the Lamu County Commissioner. This resulted in the re-opening of a primary school and a key access road.





West Pokot and Baringo County Government have signed tripartite MOUs with community conservancies and NRT - these are the first MOUs of their kind in Kenya

Lobby for supportive County and National policies and legislation, and for financial support from government to conservancy operations and programmes

NRT was a founding member of the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA), which is a representative body for private and community conservancies across Kenya. Working with KWCA, NRT has been a part of influencing supportive legislation and helping draft policy advice. Chairpersons from NRT member conservancies attended the annual KWCA Conservancy Leaders Forum in Nairobi in 2019, where they discussed key issues affecting conservancies nationally.

County Government policy/financial support 2019

West Pokot

- West Pokot County Conservation Bill currently being planned
- County Government signed an MOU with NRT and member community conservancies in the county, based on the agreement developed with Baringo County, to help structure working relations in natural resources management and livelihoods



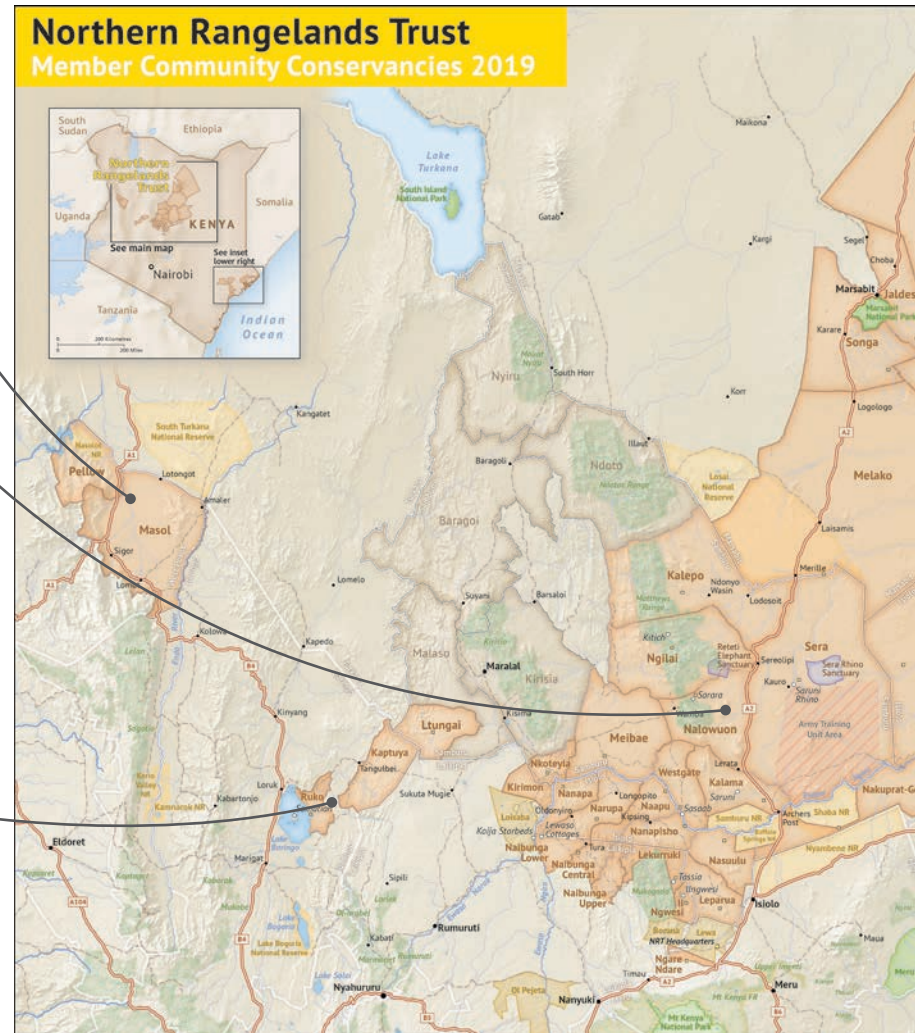
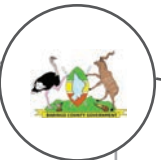
Samburu

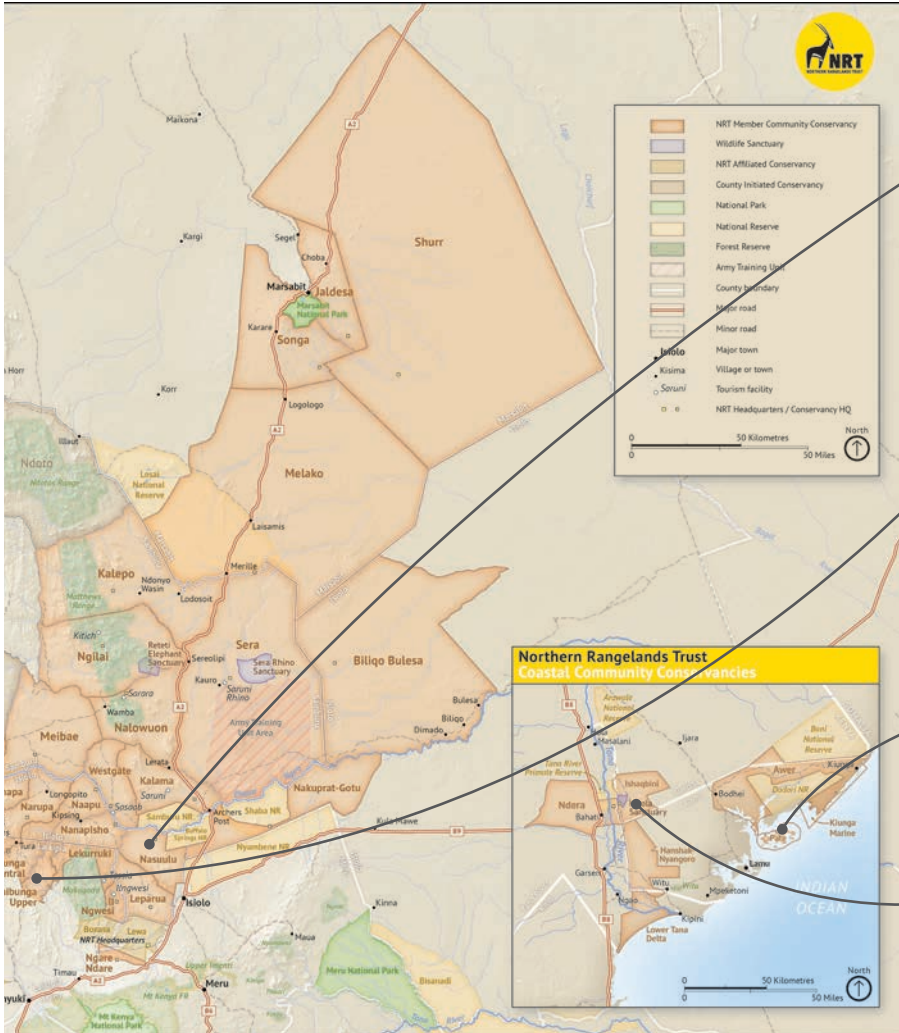
- Passed the Samburu County Community Conservancies Act - which strengthens County Government commitments to fund community-owned conservancies, starting with Ksh. 120 million this financial year. Samburu is the first County to approve such a bill, and it will have significant impact on the ability of community conservancies to reduce reliance on donor-funding.
- Passed the Rangelands Management and Planned Grazing Bill - which reinforces conservancy grazing plans and has established an annual fund to support them (Ksh. 110 million p/y)
- County Assembly allocated Ksh. 5 million to Ltungai Conservancy as seed capital to start a tourism facility



Baringo

- **County Government signed an MOU with NRT and member community conservancies in the county. This tripartite agreement will strengthen collaboration and support to conservancies and clearly stipulates the roles and obligations of each party.**
- MP for Tiaty committed Constituency Development Funds (CDF) to support the development of 9km of access road to Ruko Conservancy HQ





Isiolo

- Developed three supportive policies in 2019: a County Tourism Policy, County Community Conservancies Bill and a County Conservation and Wildlife Management Bill. These strengthen County Government support to conservancies and propose the establishment of a specific community conservancy fund.



Laikipia

- The County Assembly of Tourism and Wildlife house committee were engaged through a two-day sensitisation workshop to help develop a natural resources management bill



Coast

- Lamu: Currently reviewing a Charcoal Control Bill. If passed, the bill would give legal support to conservancies trying to reduce pressures on their forests
- Garissa: County Government is financing the construction of a conference hall and kitchen in Ishaqini



Social CoMMS

Samburu County Government became the first county government to pass a Community Conservancies Fund Act (CCF) to commit to funding to community-owned conservancies within the county.

Overall County Government funding to NRT member community conservancies 2014 - 2019.

Year	Total County Government Funding (Ksh.)
2014	13 million
2015	20 million
2016	31 million
2017	40.4 million
2018	24 million
2019	40 million
Total	168.4 million

Social-CoMMS is a tool developed by NRT in conjunction with TNC to monitor the socio-economic status of conservancy communities and measure the social impact of conservancy and NRT programme activities. It was carried out in six conservancies at NRT Coast in 2019:

- A total of 1,916 households were surveyed
- 27% of households are headed by women
- The most common livelihood activities in this region are farming (21%) and fishing (17%)
- Unemployment is 16% (higher than the national average of 9.3%*)
- 8% of the population are permanently employed and 12% are casually employed by the conservancies
- In the marine conservancies of Pate and Kiunga, beach seine nets account for up to 27% of the fishing methods used, despite being illegal
- Human wildlife conflict is high with 53% of household reporting being affected - mostly through crop damage. However, 58% believe the wildlife benefits outweighs the cost, and **88% of the population believe wildlife is important to their future**
- 24% of the households received education bursaries from the conservancies in the last five years
- Almost half of households report direct benefits from the conservancy through access to transport (vehicles and boats) and security, other direct benefits are the mangrove management programme (in Pate and Kiunga), and enterprise development through NRTT

*Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, December 2019

Chapter 3: Building Peace and Security

"When I saw our young men fighting I knew that in addition to bringing them together for peace meetings we needed to offer them other ways to support themselves and their families - I believe that when you have something to lose, you are more likely to see the value of peace."

- HABIBA TADICHA, BOARD CHAIR, BILIQO BULESA COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY. VICE CHAIR, NRT COUNCIL OF ELDERS.



To effectively build peace between ethnic communities requires both reactive and proactive approaches to conflict.

- NRT's **peace programme** focuses on an indigenous-led approach that facilitates the engagement of community peace ambassadors, inter-faith religious leaders, youth, and women with county and national government agencies in addressing ethnic and natural-resource based conflicts. Community conservancies enable a mutual and respectful forum for dialogue between different ethnic groups.
- NRT undertook a review of the peace programme at the end of 2019. 60 people took part, including elders, peace ambassadors, conservancy chairs, managers, wardens, youth and women from conservancies who have been active in peace building, as well as local administration (Chiefs and MCAs) and partners working in peace in the landscape.
- One priority that emerged out of the meeting was a focus on the Peace Ambassadors initiative, in which 76 men and women from selected member conservancies are supported to promote non-violent conflict resolution amongst their peers, provide information on planned

raids, and help coordinate return of stolen livestock in order to prevent retaliatory attacks. This has proven very successful in 2019, although as with most peace-related activities, impact is difficult to put into numbers. There is a need however to ensure a more regional and ethnic balance with this initiative, involve more women, and establish a more rigorous vetting process of those selected as Ambassadors.

- **The role of women in peace-building is being enhanced overall** with a greater emphasis on bringing women into peace dialogue and developing their strengths in building peace. Engagement of youth in peace is also critical and is being achieved through sports-for-peace events, widespread raising of awareness among youth and herders on the need for peace, and working with youth leaders from different ethnic groups to spearhead peace-building in their communities.

76 peace ambassadors drawn from representative ethnic groups are active across the NRT member conservancy landscape

- Other key areas of the peace programme that will be strengthened going forward are the inclusion of traditional Council of Elders in conservancy-led peace activities, and a greater focus on youth and herders in the peace process. These and many other outcomes of the review are helping to shape the 2020 Peace Strategy, which will be finalised in 2020.

Conservancies are promoting peace through training, awareness and events

2019 peace meetings and training sessions

County	No. of awareness meetings	No. women who participated in peace meetings	No. men who participated in peace meetings	Training sessions	No. members trained
Samburu	16	312	2,300	6	90
Isiolo	17	415	3,090	6	90
Laikipia	6	50	300	1	30
West Pokot	2	30	80	1	40
Baringo	5	220	160	1	50
Garissa	2	20	20	1	20
Tana River	2	10	10	1	20
Marsabit	12	180	1,080	2	20
Total	62	1,237	7,040	19	360

8,277 people participated in peace meetings in 2019

- Ltungai Conservancy held an inter-conservancies sports-for-peace event in 2019. 502 people from various NRT member community conservancies and indigenous groups took part in the games and dialogue sessions.
- 20 morans (young warriors) and 10 women from community conservancies won a place in the prestigious 2019 Safaricom Lewa Marathon event, competing in the 21km race. The Safaricom Marathon reserves places for NRT member conservancy runners each year.

The Journey From Cattle Rustler to Peace Ambassador

A wanted ringleader of a cattle-rustling ring, and an outspoken voice of anti-conservation – Erupe Lobun is the first to admit his transformation to preacher and peace ambassador is the stuff of fiction.

2011 was the year Lobun changed his life. He'd spent 10 years on the run from authorities, as well as communities and herders who blamed him for stolen livestock. One of his close friends, a fellow cattle-raider, had just been killed in a botched stock theft. He was mourning, and he was tired of running.

Trying to find a way out, Lobun turned to religion. At the same time, the communities in his area were coming together to form Nakuprat-Gotu Community Conservancy, an alliance between the Borana and Turkana ethnic groups who wanted to put years of conflict behind them. Lobun had previously been outspoken against this alliance, and its link to conservation. After all, conservation and cattle surely couldn't go hand in hand?

His newfound dedication to religion gave Lobun the space to think and reflect. The death of his friend had affected him profoundly, and he started to wonder if the peace programmes his community conservancy was spearheading might indeed be worth becoming a part of. He started to talk to his former peers about non-violent conflict resolution, and ways out of cattle rustling. In those early days, Lobun says he received death threats for trying to persuade cattle-rustlers to turn their lives around, and for tipping off authorities. "The threats didn't scare me," he says, "I just wanted us to have peace."

Lobun is now a preacher, and uses his position to promote peace and unity between the Turkana, Samburu, Borana and Somali communities in his area. "My life changed after quitting cattle rustling, I can now walk freely," he says.

When Lobun found out that the NRT Peace Team were recruiting peace ambassadors, he didn't think twice before volunteering. Now in his spare time, Lobun travels around conservancies supporting dialogue sessions between warring groups and telling his story to inspire others. "I hope my story can influence other herders to coexist and share the limited resources amicably," he says.



Conservancies are building and nurturing partnerships with Government to ensure an integrated approach to conflict resolution

- Community Conservancies continue to work closely with County Governments, National Government, the Kenya Peace Corps and other stakeholders to address conflict. Areas of collaboration include:
 - Regional, county and local stakeholders peace meetings
 - Heads of security peace meetings
 - Local administration peace and security meetings
 - Elders dialogue meetings
 - Cultural inter-tribal festivals that support peace and cohesion
 - Peace pacts or treaties between conflicting communities
 - Offering peace training to conservancy members
 - Inter-faith engagements
 - Sports-for-peace events
- Area Chiefs (National Government administrators) and MCAs participate in community conservancy boards, in the peace ambassadors team and on grazing committees.
- Peace ambassadors share conflict intelligence with Government and other stakeholders for a coordinated approach to resolution.

To ensure a human-centred approach to security in northern Kenya, conservancies are investing in community policing, to complement Government agencies.

- Compared to 2018, there was a 25% increase in the number of illegal weapons confiscated by community conservancy and NRT scouts working with the Kenya Police and KWS in 2019.
- Heavy rains fell across Kenya in late 2019, but most of the year was dry, resulting in the movement of huge numbers of livestock across the NRT member conservancy regions. This led to an increase in stock theft and road banditry, and in some cases deadly clashes between pastoralist groups.
- Road banditry cases were acute along the Marsabit – Isiolo road, targeting livestock traders and transporters. This had a negative impact on the Merille Livestock Market, a key source of income for communities in Melako and Kalepo.

- However, working in partnership with law enforcement agencies, conservancy scouts and the '9-teams' were able to help coordinate the recovery of thousands of stolen livestock, which had a positive impact on reducing retaliation attacks.
- 53 arrests were made by community conservancy scouts in 2019; including 30 for bush-meat poaching (six suspects successfully charged and prosecuted), five for logging (all were charged and prosecuted), three for ivory possession, and seven for illegal fishing. Two turtle poachers were issued a fine of Ksh. 3 million (US\$ 30,000) through the efforts of Kiunga Conservancy scouts.

50% of livestock reported stolen in 2019 were recovered and returned to their owners through a collaboration between community conservancies, NRT and Government. This helped prevent a high number of retaliation attacks.

Each conservancy employs a team of community scouts

The majority of community scouts are unarmed, and carry out daily patrols to monitor wildlife, gather information, raise conservation awareness among their communities, and other conservancy-specific duties.

Region	Scouts			KWS Trained
	Total	Men	Women	
NRT Coast	105	100	5	65
NRT Centre	438	403	35	214
NRT North East	72	69	3	29
NRT West	142	131	11	44
NRT North Rift	34	30	4	25
Totals	791	733	58	377

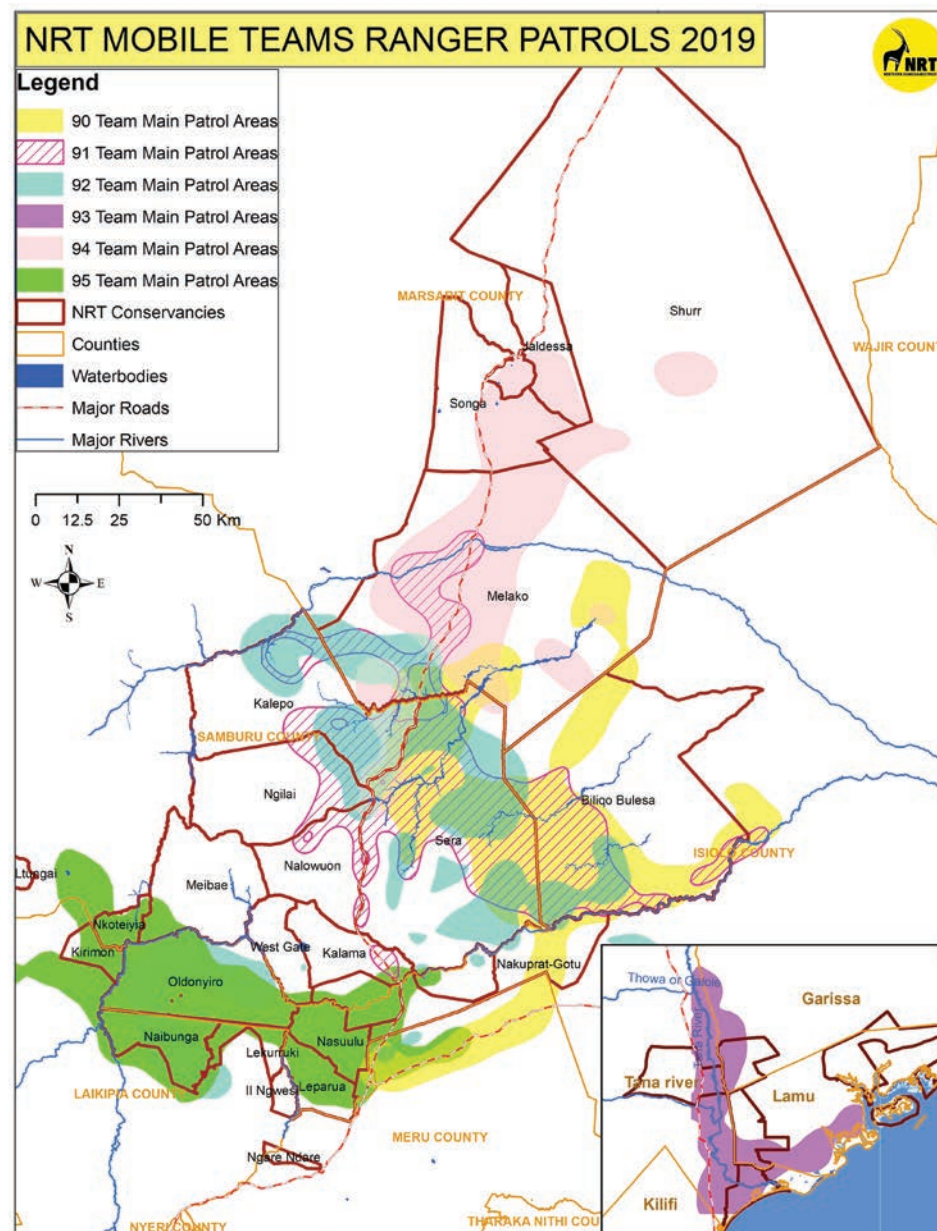
Community scouts receive supplementary training and refresher courses

- 721 community scouts received Standard Operating Procedure training in 2019, which includes a **strong human rights component**. 670 men and 51 women took part.

A series of multi-ethnic mobile teams work alongside community conservancy scouts, the National Police and KWS

- NRT employs six* mobile scout teams, known as the '9' teams, who operate on a regional level under the National Police Service and KWS, focusing primarily on anti-poaching and mitigating livestock theft, when called upon by the Government. The scout teams represent the ethnic diversity of the communities they serve, and this is one of their greatest strengths. Working under the ethos of a community policing model, they collaborate closely with the authorities. Together, the 9-teams and conservancy scouts are leading an unprecedented, landscape-level community policing initiative, which is improving security for both wildlife and people.

*Sixth team under establishment



Conservancies are working with partners to harness innovative software and support Government to coordinate landscape-level security and peace efforts

- The Joint Operations and Communications Centre at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy acts as a regional hub for security and peace operations, and for the correlation of information. It enables conservancy scouts, the National Police Service, KWS and other law enforcement actors to coordinate their efforts using shared information and data.
- An upgrade of the radio communication system, in partnership with Dimension Data, will expand the capability of the digital radio network for conservancies under the NRT Central and Marsabit umbrellas, whilst increasing the opportunities to use enhanced technology for the security of people and wildlife.
- NRT is supporting KWS to establish a Joint Operations and Communications Centre at the KWS Headquarters in Nairobi, to monitor and coordinate responses to human-wildlife conflict incidents across Kenya. A similar communications hub based at the Kenya Police HQ in Isiolo is currently being established, and will enable instant sharing of relevant and timely security information with all law enforcement agencies in the landscape.





“Running my own business has given me a lot of focus, I am no longer idle. A lot of young men here have nothing to occupy their time, and this makes them vulnerable to becoming swept up in harmful activities that endanger their lives and those of others. Now more than ever, they need opportunities to break into business. That is what Oldonyiro Conservancy’s microcredit programme has given me.”

PARAMASIE LESANANG’I, MECHANIC AND
ENTREPRENEUR, OLDONYIRO CONSERVANCY.

Chapter 4: Livelihoods & Business

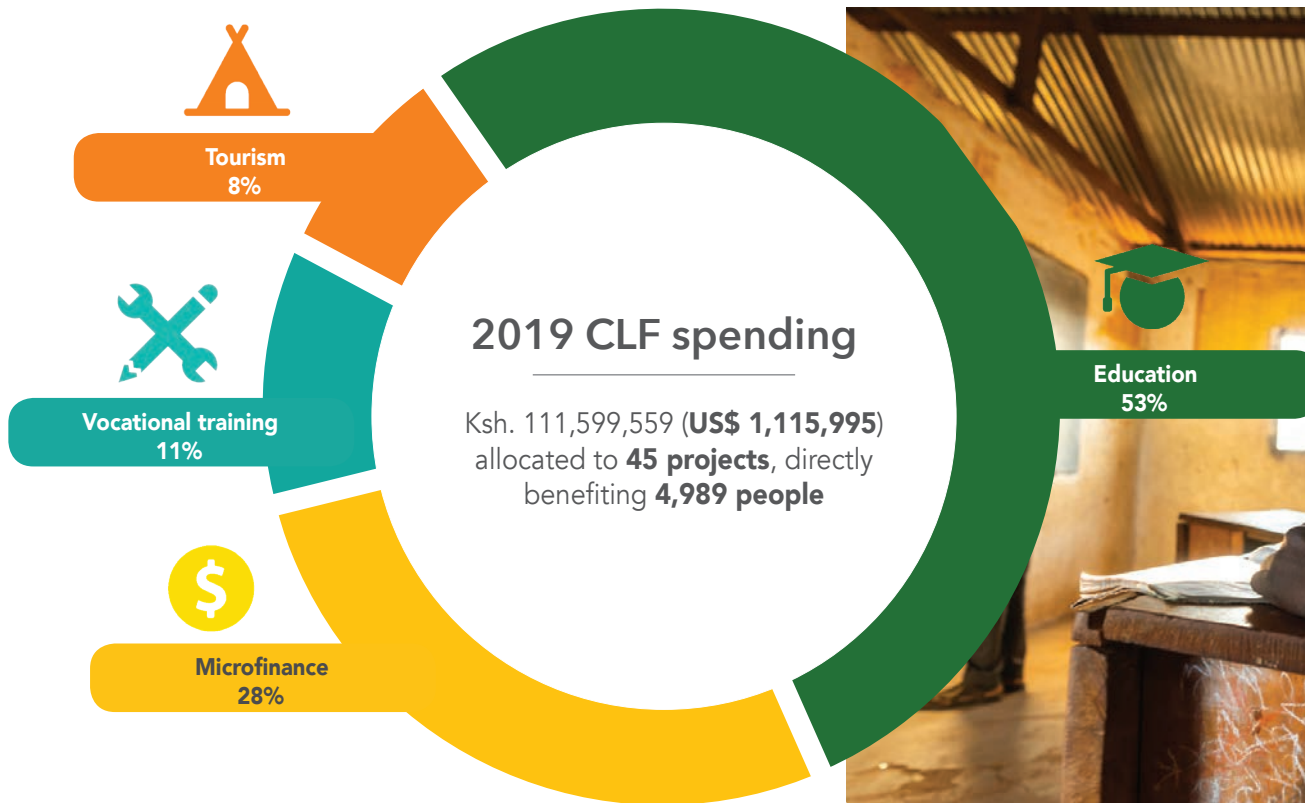
Conservancies enable equitable and responsive investments in community livelihoods.

Empowering communities to identify, plan and implement their own development programmes: The NRT Conservancy Livelihoods Fund (CLF)

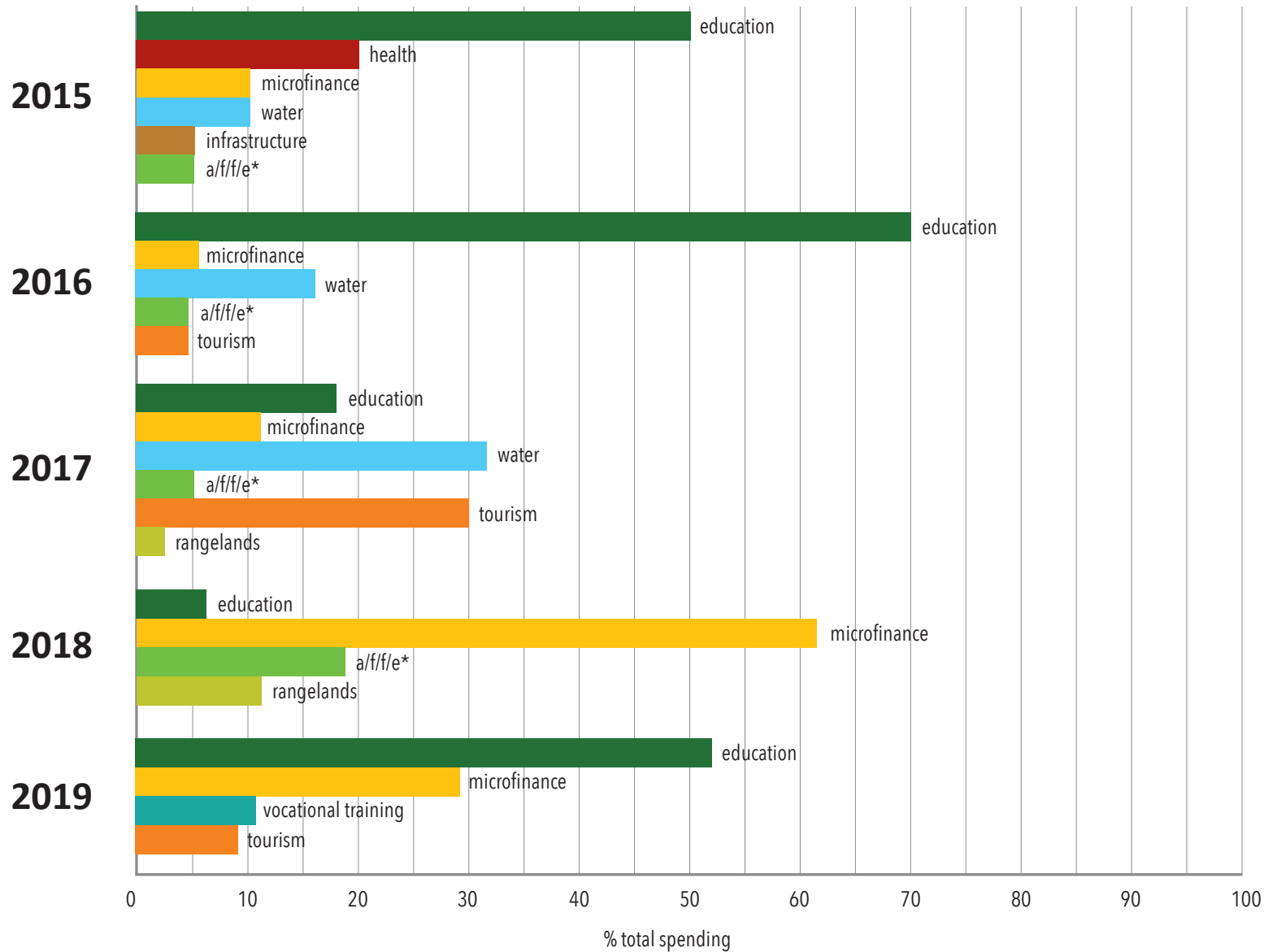
What is the Conservancy Livelihoods Fund?

- Established in 2015 to enable conservation activities to have more direct, tangible livelihoods benefits to community conservancy members.
- Open to any NRT member conservancy to apply for, with proposals that reflect community priorities and have been approved by conservancy boards.
- Priority is given to projects that link livelihood impacts to wildlife conservation, build long-term climate resilience, peace and sustainable enterprise, build capacity and empowerment of women and youth, and that leverage funding from Government and other partners for multi-year projects.
- An independent review of the CLF by Conservation Capital in 2019 highlighted it as a **rare and highly progressive grant-giving body**, with three key attributes:
 - It is a fund that **supports community-driven development** (empowering communities to identify their own livelihood priorities rather than being driven by donor agendas)
 - It is **enabled by close, institutional and enduring relationships** between NRT and member conservancies
 - It has an **investment strategy focused on outcomes** (what the funding causes to happen), rather than outputs (what the funding pays for). This strategy presents a strong case for unrestricted finance allowing communities to identify different projects (outputs) but with a common outcome.

To date (2015-2019), the CLF has provided more than Ksh. 300 million (US\$ 3 million) for 126 projects across all member conservancies, benefitting 68,600 people.



Conservancy Livelihoods Fund sector spending, 2015 - 2019



*agriculture/ forestry/ fisheries/ energy (a/f/f/e)

In 2019, 14 conservancies used CLF funding to support small businesses, while 6 used the CLF to fund vocational training for members.

2019 Spending:

- Education
 - 22 conservancies applied for CLF funding to sponsor students to go to school. More than **3,077 students received bursaries** through their conservancies in 2019.
- Microfinance
 - 14 conservancies applied for CLF support to **start or boost microfinance initiatives** amongst members, or to buy equipment for people to start or improve existing businesses
 - Working together with NRT Trading, beneficiaries receive basic accounting and financial literacy skills before accessing loans or equipment on loan
 - More than **1,489 women and youth benefitted from CLF-funded microfinance initiatives** in 2019;
 - Eight conservancies bought boda bodas (motorbikes) for around 776 youth to start public transport businesses
 - Eight conservancies used CLF-funding to provide business loans for women's beadwork and other small enterprises



Jeff Waweru

- Tourism
 - Meibae and Melako conservancies are using CLF-funding to establish **community tourism** facilities
- Vocational Training
 - Six conservancies used the CLF to fund scholarships for **683 adult beneficiaries to pursue vocational training**, and gain practical skills to get them into work and ultimately help boost the local economy

More than 3,077 students received bursaries through their conservancy livelihood fund projects in 2019.



Sophie Harrison

Implementing integrated water resource management

- NRT established a water programme in 2019 with dedicated personnel to lead it, and with technical support from Rural Focus Ltd and Excellent Development.
 - The new **integrated approach for water development** in the conservancies covers water resource planning, management and infrastructure development, and aims to build capability for good water governance.
 - Melako, Meibae and the four Oldonyiro conservancies have developed **water resources management strategies**. These assess current water use and infrastructure, water potential and need, options for technical solutions and optimal governance systems to conserve, use and manage water. 10 other conservancies are in the process of developing their strategies.
- Boards of six conservancies attended water resource management training.
 - Meibae Conservancy built a rock catchment to supply water to HQ and their future tourism site, and rehabilitated a borehole in Lekiji village to supply **400 people with fresh water** (including 200 pupils at Lekiji School). This has cut a 4-6km round trip down to about 30 minutes for water users.
 - Oldonyiro established rainwater harvesting tanks at Tuale Primary School and Tuale dispensary.
 - Melako Conservancy established a rock catchment, and installed six new water wells in villages across the conservancy.
 - Songa Conservancy installed a 2.5km pipeline and three water wells for both domestic use and livestock.
 - Ishaqbini constructed a 150m³ masonry tank at the Sanctuary and extended a 5 km pipeline to Korisa Village to provide clean, reliable and safe water for domestic use (from 2017 CLF funding).

Driving successful education projects

- NRT has established an education programme this year with a **dedicated Education Programme Officer**.
- We have developed the [Education Programme Outline](#) (available on the NRT website) - which outlines five project areas for the next three years:
 - Infrastructure development
 - School supplies
 - Training for teachers
 - Tuition bursaries
 - Conservation education
- Over the past year, the Education Programme has supported **12 schools in eight community conservancies, benefitting around 3,000 students**. This support has included the construction of two classrooms, a science lab, dining hall, kitchen, and three teacher's housing units as well as training, bursaries, and conservation education.
- 66 teachers from seven schools have received content delivery training through NRT and the Ministry of Education.
- 750 students from 25 schools took part in conservation education trips.
- Reteti Elephant Sanctuary used Ksh. 1.5 million (US\$ 15,000) of its 2018 income to support bursaries for 179 high school students, 37 mid-level college students and 24 university students from the local area in 2019.
- Other conservancies continue to support numerous bursaries for local students from tourism and other commercial revenue.

Over the past year, the Education Programme has supported 12 schools in 8 community conservancies, benefitting around 3,000 students.



Improving healthcare

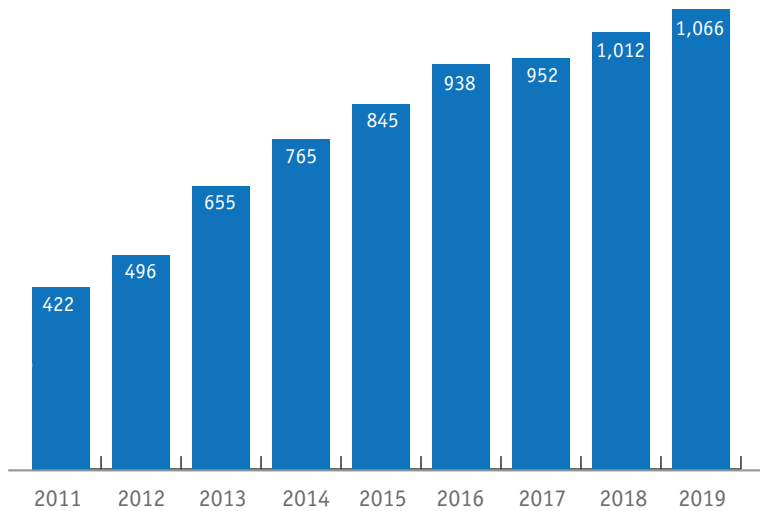
- To address community priorities and gaps in health care provision in the landscape, NRT is **developing a health programme** to complement Government health services, which is in its early stages. The University of Plymouth (UK) are working in an advisory capacity to assist NRT in understanding community health needs, and develop priorities for NRT's emerging health programme.
- In partnership with the University of Nairobi, rapid health assessments were conducted in six conservancies in West Pokot, Samburu and Isiolo. Recommendations from these assessments will inform future development of community health strategies, led by conservancies.
- Community conservancies frequently support medical bills and transport to hospital for their members.
- A food and nutrition security baseline survey was carried out in Marsabit in 2019. 120 women took part in the survey, which looked at levels of knowledge around maternal/infant/young children nutrition (MIYCN), hygiene, family planning, income generation and food security. **99% of those surveyed think family planning is a critical issue**, and **82% think that child spacing is important** for avoiding malnutrition of the current baby. The aim is to use the survey to enhance food and nutrition security for people (particularly pregnant women, nursing mothers and small children), as well as build resilience to food crises. As part of this, 1,131 women received training in MIYCN, 292 women received training on animal husbandry, 277 women were trained on improved poultry rearing and 292 were trained on home gardens, resulting in 150 women establishing kitchen gardens.

- Kalama Conservancy's Laresoro Dispensary (built with 2015 CLF funding) was ranked second out of 22 in Samburu East Sub County in the Integrated Commodity Supportive Supervision Index. It supports a population of around 4,000 people.
- NRT has invested Ksh. 7.5 million (US\$ 75,000) in the construction of a health clinic in Biliqo Bulesa Conservancy, which will include a laboratory and a maternity unit. This is in response to high maternal mortality in the area, due to inaccessible and sparse medical centres. Isiolo County Health Ministry will equip, maintain and staff the centre, which will serve three settlements in the conservancy and provide much needed **maternal healthcare for around 3,000 women**.

Providing employment

- In a landscape where formal employment is hard to come by, **NRT and the community conservancies collectively are one of the biggest employers**, with 1,309 permanent staff and thousands of temporary jobs created every year.
- There are **1,066 permanent employees in community conservancies**, and at least **190 people from local areas are permanently employed in tourist camps** and lodges in conservancies.
- **2,737 temporary jobs were created in conservancies in 2019**, ranging from road projects to classroom construction.

Permanent Conservancy Employees 2011-2019



Conservancies nurture enterprise and provide financial services through the NRT-owned business incubator, NRT Trading.

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

Creating an ecosystem for individual and group enterprises - Nabulu and the Northern Rangelands Savings And Credit Cooperative

- Nabulu is a skills development and entrepreneurship programme for morans and women. It strives to identify and develop talent and business skills, linking entrepreneurs to markets, funding and service providers.
- The objectives are to promote financial inclusion, entrepreneurship and livelihood diversification, and encourage a culture of savings and alternative investments.

- Through Nabulu, **739 community members were trained on entrepreneurship and financial literacy in 22 conservancies** in 2019, while **Ksh. 28.4 million (US\$ 284,000) was dispersed as business loans** for 803 community members.

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

- There are now **2,725 SACCO members** - 885 new members joined in 2019.
- Ksh. **16.2 million (US\$ 162,000) was invested** in the SACCO in 2019.
- Members accrued savings and share capital of Ksh. 12.5 million (US\$ 125,000).
- 29 Community Enterprise Agents have been trained, and are charged with following up on loan repayment, recruiting new members to the SACCO, and generating new business ideas.

Ksh. 28.4 million (US\$ 284,000) was dispersed as business loans for 803 entrepreneurs through the Nabulu Programme in 2019.



Jeff Waweru



Wivian Jebet

Bringing the Classroom to the Field; New Mobile Vocational Training Programme Tailored to Pastoralists

Young warrior Lobore Lekanta cannot read or write, and never received a formal education. He has spent most of his life herding his family's livestock across the rangelands of northern Kenya – following in the footsteps of his father, his grandfather, and the men before them. Navigating a landscape fraught with challenges - conflict with other herders over scarce resources, degraded grasslands, unpredictable weather - was getting harder each year, but Lekanta saw no other options for an illiterate, rural pastoralist.

It was that same young man that stood in front of Kenya's Principal Secretary for the State Department of Vocational and Technical Training (TVET) on the 30th November 2019 to receive his graduation certificate in masonry, welding and motorcycle mechanics. "This is a dream that had never crossed my mind," he said at the ceremony afterwards, "I'm a different moran now!"

Lekanta was one of 58 young warriors to graduate from the pilot vocational training programme Ujuzi Manyattani, supported by NRT Trading. Ujuzi Manyattani aims to provide mobile, village-based vocational training to people in community conservancies by partnering with polytechnic institutions. It is a response to a wider drive by community conservancies to diversify indigenous livelihoods and encourage entrepreneurship amongst women and young morans.

Proposed by community conservancies and developed by NRT Trading's Community Economic Empowerment team, the programme is tailored to the demands and lifestyles of the pastoralists it aims to serve. Courses in mechanics, masonry, mobile phone repairs, welding and carpentry were all chosen by the pilot students as the most useful skills to learn. They created their own timetable, allowing for morning and evening livestock duties, and market days.

Teachers from Kiirua Technical Institute and Laikipia North Technical and Vocational College led the course delivery, tailoring the lessons for an audience with around 80% illiteracy. Moving between Ltungai, Westgate and Nkoteiya community conservancies for this initial pilot, the teachers were as self-sufficient as possible – bring their own materials with them and using empty school classrooms, and even the shade of a big tree, as places to teach. Conservancies supported the teachers with accommodation and transport.

Demand for the graduate's newly acquired skills became apparent as soon as they finished their courses. Before the graduation ceremony, a number of trainees had already started earning an income from their specialisms, including Lekanta. He was commissioned to make a bed and build a small structure in his village, which earned him Ksh. 10, 000 (US\$ 100). Lokeno Toriepe from Ltungai didn't waste time starting his business either, a motorcycle repair service that earned him Ksh. 10,000 in the first week. An entrepreneurial spirit that will enable these young men to take advantage of future development, says NRT's Director for Community Economic Empowerment, Ture Boru.

Boosting the local economy, reducing poverty and unemployed are all great and immediate benefits of the programme, says Lekanta, but Ujuzi Manyattani will have a wider impact in conservancies. "Ujuzi Manyattani will bring peace and coexistence between warring communities," he says. "We [morans] are now fully concentrating on making a living out of the skills we learnt rather than getting involved in livestock raids or conflict."

In Ltungai Conservancy, morans from the Pokot and Samburu communities set aside a long history of conflict to study together in the programme, even playing mixed 'after school' sports matches.

During the launch, Principal Secretary (PS) in the State Department of Vocational and Technical Training (TVET) in the Ministry of Education Dr. Kevit Desai praised the initiative, saying that National Government would work with other counties to replicate the project among other pastoralist communities.

With a successful pilot now complete, NRT will work to offer aftercare services to the graduates by offering start-up kit loans, vocational clinics, mentorship services and market linkages. The next phase of Ujuzi Manyattani will focus on different conservancies and indigenous groups.



Vivian Jebet

Empowering women through BeadWORKS

- BeadWORKS had the best year on record, with a **94% increase in income to BeadWORKS businesswomen** (compared to 2018), who earned Ksh. 9.1 million (US\$ 91,000) for producing more than 100,000 items.
- This increase was due to a focus on high-end markets in the US, and the diversification into leather products.
- BeadWORKS uses its access to global markets to generate orders for beaded products at scale, then works with women in conservancies to meet these orders, improve their skills, increase income and take advantage of growth, income diversification and leadership opportunities.
- Links with the financial services and technology training provided by Nabulu enable women to maximise business opportunities.
- BeadWORKS currently **empowers more than 1,200 women** in nine conservancies, including 122 Star Beaders - who organise beading groups, train their members, manage raw material distribution and are responsible for design input, prototyping, quality control and ensuring on-time order production. Star Beaders are rewarded at the end of each year, based on the amount of production they oversee, and in 2019 these financial rewards amounted to Ksh.450,863 (US\$ 4,508).
- 5% of **BeadWORKS sales contribute to conservation efforts** in host conservancies, and in 2019 this amounted to Ksh.1,750,000 (US\$ 17,500).

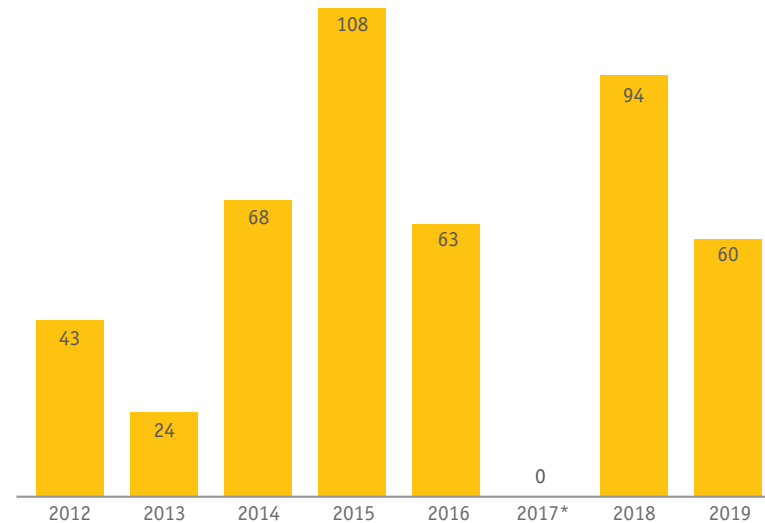
94% increase in income to BeadWORKS businesswomen in 2019.



Improving income to pastoralists through Livestock-to-Market

- Livestock is the mainstay of north Kenya's economy and community livelihoods, but pastoralists face new and changing challenges. In recent decades, livestock numbers have expanded dramatically, with pastoralists responding to changing climatic conditions by replacing cows with more drought-tolerant sheep, goats and camels. The grazing nature of these animals is increasing pressure on the rangelands.
- The NRTT Livestock-to-Markets (LTM) business uses market forces to **improve the income pastoralists receive from their cattle**, and reinforce the link between healthy rangelands and healthy livestock.
- NRTT held markets in 12 conservancies in 2019, buying 1,532 cattle directly from pastoralists in 570 households (down from 2,336 households in 2018), who earned a total of Ksh. 62 million (US\$ 620,000).
- Interference from local cattle brokers in some conservancies meant that some households were unable to sell to NRTT. Therefore, to maintain viable livestock numbers for the business, there was an increase in the amount of cattle one household was allowed to sell to NRTT in other conservancies. This has affected household beneficiary numbers.
- For each animal purchased, LTM contributes Ksh. 2,000 (US\$ 20) to the host conservancy, and the seller contributes Ksh. 1,000 (US\$ 10) as a conservation levy to support conservancy operations and community projects. This levy totaled Ksh. 4 million in 2019. In addition, over Ksh. 554,900 (US\$ 5,549) was paid in local County Government taxes.

Income to households from LivestockWORKS (Ksh. millions)



*severe drought in 2017 meant that no cattle were purchased by LTM that year

- LTM strengthened its position in the Nairobi beef markets in 2019 through sales agreements with Kenya's largest grocery store chain. LTM offers meat traceability through chipping and data recording which sets the product apart from competitors. 2,654 cattle were sold in 2019.
- LTM has developed credit risk practices to manage outstanding receivables.

Pastoralists sold 1,532 cattle to NRT Trading in 2019, earning a total of Ksh. 62 million, and leveraging support for conservation.

- The business continues to explore supplementary feeding and fodder bank strategies which will be trialed more systematically in 2020 in El Karama Ranch and Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, where community conservancy cattle are quarantined.



Creating financial sustainability and conservation incentives through tourism

Tourism income to conservancies is at its highest level yet, at Ksh.133 million (US\$ 1.3 million), with a steady increase in revenue seen from most tourism operators. Oldonyiro's Nanaapa Conservancy received a boost from Kenya's annual off-road vehicle race 'Rhino Charge', which takes place in a different location every year. Ngare Ndare Forest showed a growth in income through direct marketing to (particularly local) tourists.

NRT invested Ksh. 4.7 million (US\$ 47,000) in tourism infrastructure in conservancies in 2019, including the construction or refurbishment of five community-owned facilities in five conservancies (Melako, Meibae, Naibunga (two units), Nkoteiya) to serve the growing market of local tourists interested in visiting Northern Kenya.

NRT invested Ksh. 4.7 million (US\$ 47,000) in tourism infrastructure in conservancies in 2019.



Céline Nemory de Bellevaux



Céline Nemory de Bellevaux

Tourism Income to conservancies 2012 - 2019 (Ksh.)

Conservancy	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Namunyak	14,463,833	17,802,000	16,961,339	16,427,099	21,665,718	22,911,700	38,247,520	-
Namunyak - Ngilai								3,839,719
Namunyak - Nalowuon								36,200,000
Kalama	5,245,514	7,523,501	7,675,264	7,047,550	8,880,000	13,921,356	19,041,860	24,711,375
Ngare Ndare	3,281,709	3,200,000	4,600,000	6,797,497	6,800,000	8,987,982	9,800,000	15,220,000
Westgate	7,553,007	6,961,902	2,807,661	5,109,296	7,197,111	10,567,004	11,527,515	16,000,000
Lekurruki	3,554,585	5,178,495	3,444,980	2,553,600	2,034,174		3,200,000	2,505,500
Lower Tana Delta		1,457,500		1,433,302			592,295	-
Il Ngwesi	15,203,937	13,086,610	15,042,840	11,958,480	10,522,050	12,773,837	20,531,715	22,857,736
Nakuprat-Gotu		620,000	1,562,000	1,320,166	673,154	72,500	655,000	30,000
Sera	810,000	1,803,248	2,208,162	403,029	84,490	3,002,000	5,647,000	6,649,000
Ruko	1,356,406	50,000	1,039,750	200,000	198,100	211,000		103,400
Melako			2,945,000	2,052,000				
Ltungai			2,968,200					
Ishaqbini		56,000	400,000			147,000	40,000	
Biliqo-Bulesa	522,091	329,306	116,000					
Naibunga Upper	57,000				68,000			20,000
Meibae		25,000			9,000	-		
Oldonyiro - Nanapisho					100,000	13,000	150,000	
Oldonyiro - Nanapa								4,900,000
Kaptuya								
Songa						4,460,000		
Total	52,048,082	58,093,562	61,771,196	55,302,019	58,231,797	77,067,379	109,432,905	133,036,730



Tourism in Kalama - Nicole's Story

Nicole Nanetoi grew up in a traditional pastoralist community, in Lorubai in eastern Samburu. After excelling at school, Nicole applied for the job of housekeeper at Saruni Lodge in Kalama Community Conservancy. Seven years later and Nicole is the Assistant Manager, helping to oversee 40 staff and an average of 1,500 visitors every year.

"Tourism has helped us a lot," she says. "Income from the Lodge supports various development projects within our community - we pay bursaries for our children, build schools, and provide a direct market for women doing bead craft. It also provides employment, both directly and indirectly, and that is really important for the local economy."

Between conservation and bed nights fees to the Conservancy, and salaries to the local staff, Kalama's tourism benefits totalled Ksh. 40 million (US\$ 400,000) in 2019. As well as supporting development projects proposed by the community, a portion of this revenue also contributes to conservancy operational costs. Beyond providing valuable income and employment, Nicole says tourism is a catalyst for peace and conservation. "We see the benefits of tourism, and how visitors come here for the wildlife and wilderness. So it's an incentive to protect animals, and work together peacefully with our neighbours. Kalama brings people together for a common cause."

Chapter 5. Conserving Wildlife and Natural Resources



"My forefathers told me that in the 80s we had wild rhinos here. They became fewer, and then they vanished. Today however, we have hope with Sera Rhino Sanctuary. It is the community that have embraced this initiative, it is us the community who play a key role in saving one of the world's most endangered species. We do not want our children to see rhinos in pictures only. This is our heritage, our employment."

- JIMMY LEKIONDO, COMMUNITY SCOUT, SERA RHINO SANCTUARY.

Stabilising and improving the productivity of community grasslands is critical for livestock, and the health and diversity of the wildlife and natural resources which underpin the economy of northern Kenya.



The NRT **rangelands programme** focuses on **building the capability of community conservancies in grazing management** through grazing committees and conservancy leadership:

- It supports conservancies to develop conservancy-level rangelands plans, by identifying their own priority areas for rangelands management, as well as looking at a landscape-level approach.
- It provides support to conservancies for community outreach activities, to increase awareness and support for rangelands management, (there is widespread community support in those conservancies that have active rangeland management programmes, in which an increasing number of women are involved).

Challenges remain around herders from 'outside areas' disrupting conservancy grazing plans and plundering reserve/wet/dry season areas, and there is still room for improvement in conservancy grazing governance across most of the landscape. Grazing committee members and conservancy grazing coordinators require close mentorship and support to maintain momentum and tackle the scale of the challenge.

Developing community rangeland management and rehabilitation plans

- NRT finalised its [Rangelands Management Strategy](#) in 2019, which is available to download on the NRT website.
- **33 NRT member conservancies have grazing plans**, which map out

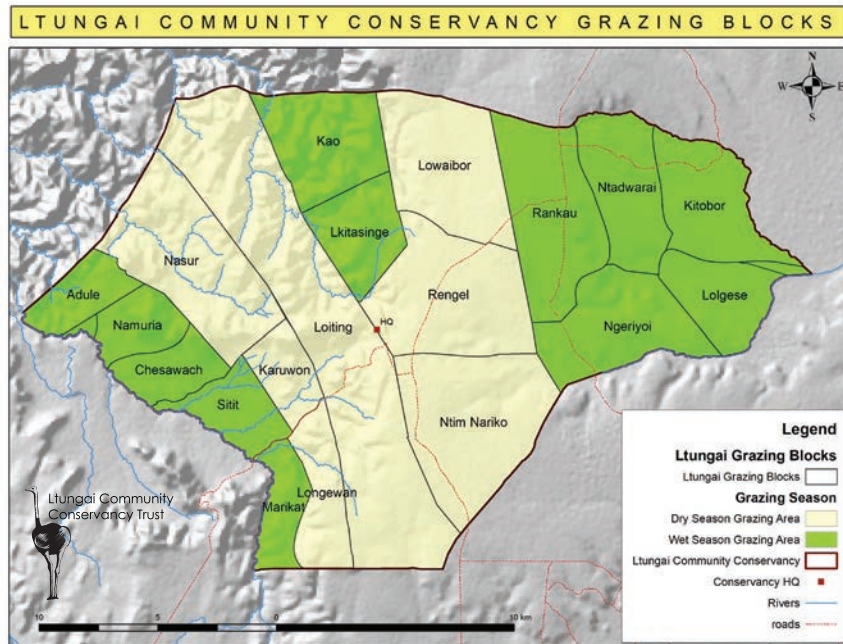
wet and dry season grazing areas, contain grazing calendars, and set out grazing by-laws. However, as 2019 was largely very dry and huge numbers of livestock moved towards Maralal and Baragoi, only Ltungai, Biliqo Bulesa and Il Ngwesi were able to effectively implement their plans throughout the year. This was due to sufficient pasture and good grazing management in these conservancies.

Supporting stakeholders to understand and seek solutions to degradation of natural resources

- 113 **awareness creation meetings** on rangeland management reached 5,168 men and 942 women in conservancies.
- The NRT rangelands team has developed a highly popular three-part cartoon series in English, Swahili and Maa. The cartoons look at how the north Kenya landscape has changed in recent years, and examine the causes and potential solutions. They are designed to trigger discussion amongst largely illiterate audiences, and are shown on laptops to herders, elders, women and children at rangelands meetings. Four formal screenings took place this year, reaching 1,826 people, but the cartoons have been adapted for sharing on WhatsApp and social media, where they have reached thousands more. There is now a dedicated team and vehicle which will tour the conservancies on a weekly basis in 2020 to show the cartoons. There will be a strong focus on collecting data on viewing numbers and attitudes during these engagements.

Still images from the NRT rangelands cartoon series





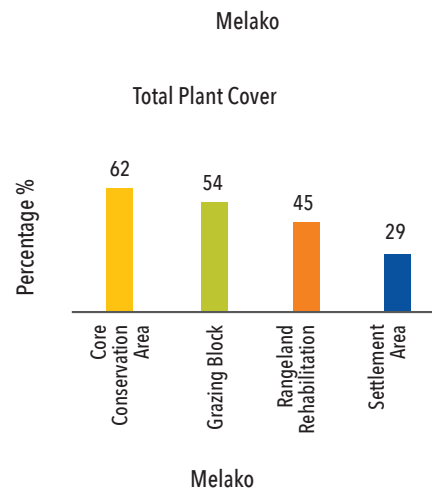
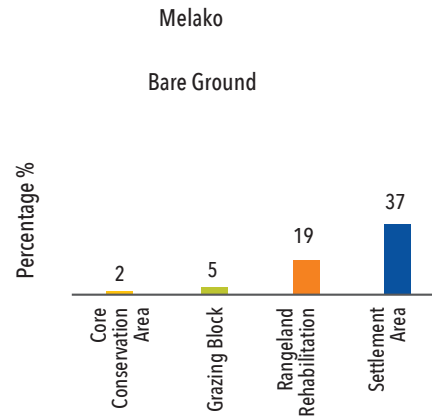
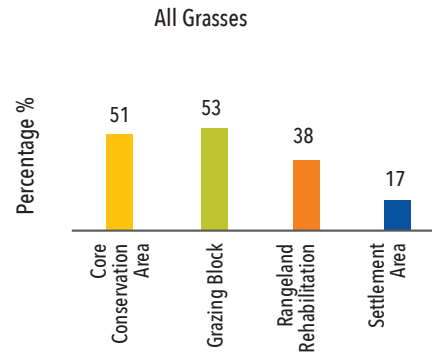
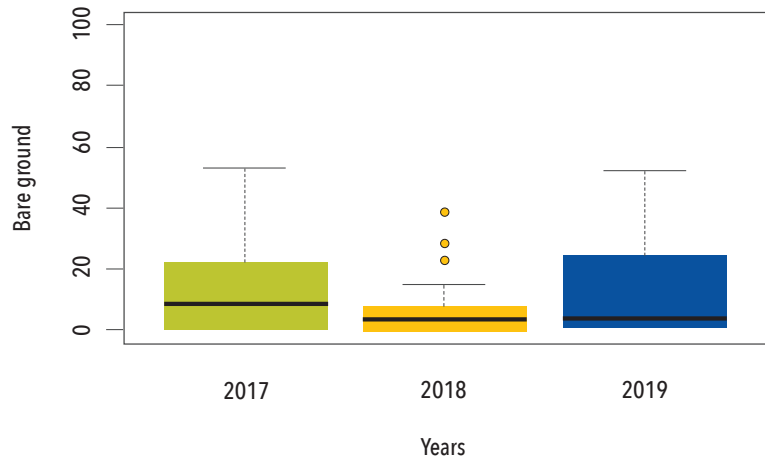
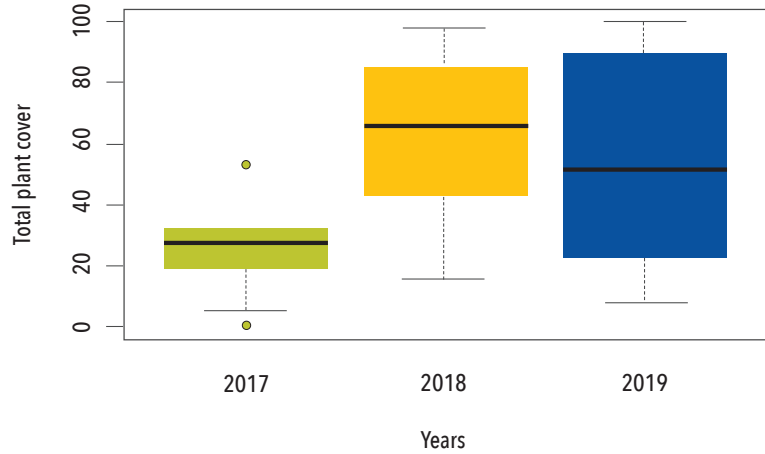
Example of a grazing plan from Ltungai Community Conservancy

Using community-based vegetation monitoring to monitor impact and inform management decisions

- Veg-CoMMS is a vegetation monitoring system adapted by NRT from the US Department of Agriculture's Monitoring Rangeland Health Guide, to be appropriate for implementation by community conservancies.
- Approximately 200 Veg-CoMMS monitoring sites have been established

in 13 conservancies, all of which carried out vegetation monitoring in 2019. This data will be available by the end of the first quarter of 2020.

- An example of Veg-CoMMS data for Melako Conservancy for 2019 (overleaf) shows results of key rangeland indicators across different management zones in the conservancy. Results indicate that grazing management practices by the conservancy - the establishment of core conservation areas (where livestock grazing is restricted), grazing blocks (wet and dry season) and rangeland rehabilitation sites (clearing of invasive species and grass re-seeding) - are having a positive impact on rangeland health compared to settlement areas which are subjected to continuous and high livestock grazing pressure.
- Grass cover was highest in the core conservation area and the grazing blocks, and lowest in the settlement areas.
- Bare ground, a negative indicator of rangeland health, was highest in the settlement area and lowest in the core conservation area and grazing blocks.
- Rangeland rehabilitation areas established recently have shown only minor improvements in increased grass cover or reduced bare ground, however this is likely due to the short timeline.
- Overall total plant cover was highest in the core conservation area and lowest in the settlement areas.
- Changes in overall rangeland condition in Melako over the past three years are highly dependent on rainfall. Rangeland condition as measured by grass cover and bare ground show that conditions in Melako were best in 2018 which had relatively good rainfall, compared with the extreme drought in 2017 and 2019 which was very dry until late in the year (data for 2019 are combined for April and December).



Developing a community conservancies grassland carbon project

- NRT began exploring the potential for the 'Northern Kenya Grassland Carbon Project' in 2010. This innovative and ambitious project has taken almost a decade to come to fruition, however, by the end of 2019 it had reached the final stage of approval. The first carbon credits are expected to be issued and ready for sale in the second quarter of 2020.
- The project is based on member conservancies' rangeland management practices, and will provide an important incentive for better rangelands management in the long-term, and provide valuable income - helping to build the financial sustainability of conservancies.
- Revenue sharing agreements with conservancies will be finalised in early 2020, based on an equal share for all 14 conservancies involved, to cover the costs of all rangelands activities as well as other conservancy operating expenses, and direct income to support conservancy community projects. NRT will play a facilitation and oversight role in this.



Marcus Westberg | bioGraphic



Marcus Westberg | bioGraphic

Controlling invasive plant species

- Several invasive plant species are colonising degraded areas of community lands, including *Acacia reficiens* and *Opuntia stricta*.
- Over 3,200 community members in 10 conservancies* took part in rangelands rehabilitation activities in 2019:
 - Over **7,100 hectares** of degraded land (that used to be productive grazing land), were cleared of *Acacia reficiens*, in areas where it prevents grasses and other palatable plants from growing
 - **12,000 kgs of grass seeds were sown** in these areas
 - **Gullies across more than 4,046 hectares were rehabilitated** (using trenches to anchor the earth and cause a build up of soil when it rains)
 - *Nalowuon, Meibae, Nakuprat-Gotu, Narupa, Melako, Westgate, Kalama, Naibunga Upper, Central, and Lower conservancies.
- The management and biological control of *Opuntia stricta* in the Naibunga conservancies continues to make slow but sure progress. The conservancies have 18 greenhouses, each with a caretaker, growing the Cochineal insects that feed solely on *Opuntia stricta* - an invasive alien

cactus species. 180 community members are employed once a month to spread the Cochineal across the landscape.

- The US Forest Service (USFS) provided technical support to NRT and the Naibunga conservancies to map the extent of *Opuntia stricta* in 2018 and to establish a community-based monitoring system to measure the impact of the bio-control. A baseline survey and community monitoring training was carried out by USFS in August 2019; results showed that plants heavily infected with cochineal were weaker (fewer fruits and flowers, and smaller in size) than those not infected.

Over 3,000 community members took part in rangelands rehabilitation activities in 2019, kickstarting the restoration of over 7,000 hectares of what used to be productive grazing land for cattle and wildlife.



Sowing the Seeds of Change

“We elders are now seeing indigenous grass species which we haven’t seen since we were children,” — Peter Lemburkel, elder from Narupa Community Conservancy.

In February 2019, 200 community members from Narupa Community Conservancy and surrounding areas took off into the bush with machetes, ready to wage war on a prolific and damaging tree that has been taking over the northern rangelands at an alarming rate.

Unemployed men, women, youth and people living with disabilities divided into teams to tackle *Acacia reficiens* in strategically mapped blocks, each receiving a daily wage for their work. The tree, which thrives in degrading areas, prevents grass growth and contributes to soil erosion, resulting in barren land that has a negative impact on local pastoral livelihoods as well as wildlife.

They worked for almost two months, clearing *Acacia reficiens* from at least 219 hectares of conservancy land. Once cut, tree branches were laid over the bare earth and packed into gulleys to prevent further soil erosion. Perennial grass seeds were planted across 61 hectares, sprinkled between the branches on the ground so that new shoots were protected from grazers.

The clearing programme stemmed from a community-driven campaign to protect and rehabilitate the land upon which their livelihoods depend. After Narupa management took the conservancy Board and some community members for an exposure tour to a previously cleared site in Westgate Community Conservancy, there was an unstoppable momentum behind the project, and support from NRT, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the Grevy’s Zebra Trust enabled it to kick off.



By the beginning of July, the area was almost unrecognizable from the barren land it had been at the start of the year. Although grass seeds were only planted on 61 hectares, they had spread, and green shoots took the place of bare, cracked earth across the entire area. Different grass species – some of which had not been seen in the area for almost a generation – were thriving. Deep gulleys, which not only exacerbated land degradation but also posed a fall risk to passing livestock and wildlife, were starting to fill in.

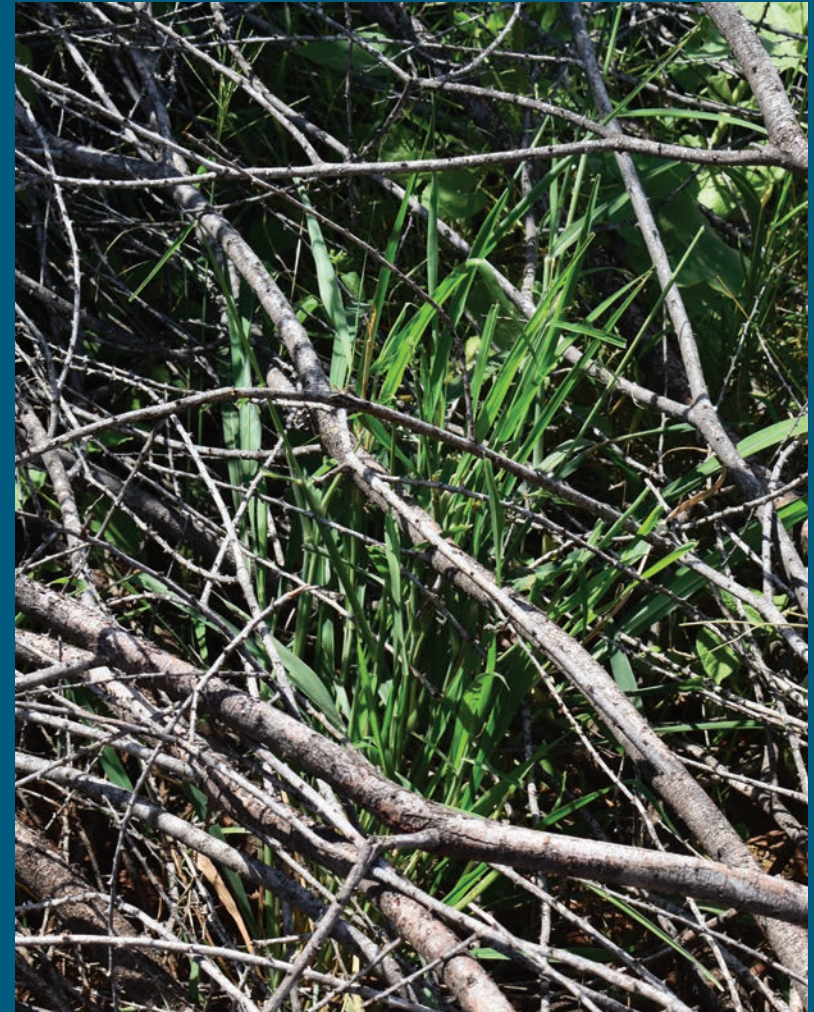
“We have witnessed such improvement in rangeland condition,” says Rapes Lochopoko, a member of the Narupa Conservancy Grazing Committee. “There is increased forage for both livestock and wildlife now – a win-win!”

Jackson Lekumoisa, Narupa Conservancy rangelands officer, thinks the rehabilitated land will also contribute to peace efforts. “If a larger size of area will be cleared, our livestock will no longer migrate to neighbouring ranches and conservancies,” he says, “reducing grazing conflict and boosting peaceful coexistence with our neighbours.”

Faith Lepiranto, representing women in the conservancy, says it’s had a positive impact on family life too. Children are able to stay in school, rather than have to move with their families in search of pasture. “We also have more milk,” she says, “if families continue herding within the area, they will have sustained food security in their households.”

Narupa Conservancy is now planning to improve grazing management, and seek funding to clear a wider area.

“Our next plan is to engage the County Government of Isiolo through the County Rangelands Policy (currently at the draft stage) to allow the community to manage their settlement patterns since they affect the grazing patterns,” says Jackson Lekumoisa.



Securing populations of endangered or threatened wildlife is more than just anti-poaching patrols. It's about flagship species and habitat conservation programmes, community-based monitoring, and creating positive economic and cultural opportunities linked to wildlife.



Safeguarding endangered species

Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, Ngilai, Namunyak Conservancy



- Kenya's first and only community-run elephant sanctuary continues to do extraordinary work and gain international recognition and support.
- The Sanctuary **employs 58** people and is currently **home to 14 orphaned or abandoned elephants** rescued from community conservancies and neighbouring areas.
- **Nine elephants were rescued in 2019**; seven survived, and one was reunited with its herd without needing to be taken to Reteti.
- **Six of Reteti's rescued elephants were released** into the Sera Rhino Sanctuary in 2019, with the long-term vision of having them integrate into the wild herds in Sera. The first group of three were released in May 2019, and the second three in November. In partnership with Save the Elephants, they have been fitted with GPS tracking collars, and are being monitored both remotely and by community scouts on the ground - who report that all are doing well and have had several positive interactions with wild elephant herds. There are plans to release six more orphans into Sera in 2020.
- Several elephant keepers attended training sessions on animal welfare, conflict resolution and hormone extraction for hormone monitoring (to measure stress, among other things) with technical support from KWS, San Diego Zoo and Save the Elephants.



Ami Vitale

6 rescued elephants from Reteti were returned to the wild in 2019.

Giraffes:

- Rothschild's Giraffe Sanctuary, Ruko Conservancy
 - **Plans are underway for a new 27 km² Ruko Giraffe Sanctuary** on the shores of Lake Baringo for the endangered Rothschild's giraffe, with a long-term mission to reintroduce free-ranging giraffe into their former range



- Ruko is currently home to seven Rothschild's giraffe, which have been stranded on an island for several years after rising water levels in Lake Baringo cut off the mainland from their peninsula home
- The conservancy have had to invest in supplementary food as there is not enough browse on the island to support the giraffe — as well as being unsustainable and expensive, the conditions are also affecting the health and breeding potential of the animals
- **One calf was born** in April 2019 and is doing well, however the four other calves born over the past two years have not survived: one fell victim to a python just after birth, and the others likely died due to nutritional deficiencies
- Approval from KWS has been granted to move the island giraffe to the mainland, and a management plan for the new sanctuary has been developed — fundraising for the new sanctuary is ongoing
- Giraffe collaring:
 - **28 endangered reticulated giraffe in and around NRT member conservancies were fitted with GPS trackers** in 2019, in the largest giraffe satellite tagging project ever undertaken. Five NRT member conservancies (Westgate, Sera, Biliqo, Melako and Kalama) partnered with NRT, the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF), San Diego Zoo Global (SDZG), KWS, and Shaba and Samburu National Reserves on this landscape-level project, which will provide important data on giraffe home ranges, movements, poaching and conflict with humans - very little of which has been quantified. It is hoped this information will inform effective conservation strategies.

Hirola Sanctuary, Ishaqbini Conservancy:

- The population of critically endangered hirola in the Ishaqbini Hirola Sanctuary is now estimated to be between **119 - 131 individuals**, an increase of 160% from the founder population of 48 in 2012 and approximately **20-25% of the global population**.
- There were **12 births** and 10 deaths recorded in the Sanctuary in 2019; a 1.7% population increase.
- It is evident that the Sanctuary has likely reached carrying capacity, and there is urgent need to expand in order to allow the hirola population to continue growing. Ishaqbini and NRT are in the process of fundraising for this **expansion**, which is planned to begin in early 2020.
- The National Recovery and Action Plan for Hirola Antelope (2018-2027) was finalised by KWS in 2019 with significant input from NRT and Ishaqbini.



160% increase in the hirola population of Ishaqbini Sanctuary since establishment - which now represents 20-25% of the global hirola population.



Michael Gumther



Mariella Furrer

- **63,100 head of community livestock were involved in Ishaqbini's vaccination programme** in 2019, which aims to improve livestock health in the communities as well as protect hirola from disease — which is the likely cause of the massive decline of hirola in the 1980s. 232 households benefited from this initiative.
- There are 31 cattle grazing in the Sanctuary as part of a tick control programme - where cattle 'collect' ticks as they graze and are subsequently treated with a dip. This is an effort to reduce heavy tick densities in the area, which pose a threat to wildlife.
- Ishaqbini's world-famous **white giraffes** have grown to a family of three, with one new calf born in 2019. The giraffes are thought to have a condition known as leucism, which causes partial loss of pigmentation in the skin.

63,100 head of community livestock were involved in Ishaqbini Community Conservancy's vaccination programme in 2019, benefitting 232 households.

Rhino Sanctuary, Sera Conservancy

- Sera Rhino Sanctuary continues to provide a safe space for endangered black rhino, with **zero poaching incidents** since inception and a steadily growing population (there are now 16, from a founder population of 10 in 2015).
- One calf (female) was born in 2019. **Six calves have been born in the sanctuary since 2016.**
- 40 impala were moved from Lewa Wildlife Conservancy into the Rhino Sanctuary this year to improve biodiversity in the area. This follows an initial translocation of 33 animals in 2015.
- Rhinos are monitored on a daily basis by conservancy scouts; their location, body condition and behaviour is recorded and monthly reports are shared with NRT and KWS.
- Motion-sensor cameras have been set up at each water hole in the Sanctuary, which provide images of rhino and other wildlife to support monitoring efforts.
- A 10-year Sanctuary Management Plan is under development in collaboration with FFI and KWS.



Tana River Primates, Ndera Conservancy

- Ndera Conservancy scouts conducted their first count of the critically endangered Tana River Red Colobus and Tana Mangabey.
- Approximately two thirds of the forests within Ndera have been surveyed, with the remaining forests due to be surveyed in early 2020.
- So far the teams have counted 38 groups of Tana Red Colobus and 10 groups of Tana Mangabey. Based on scout monitoring data, the average group size of Tana Red Colobus is 13 individuals, and 31 for Tana Mangabeys, equating to approximately 500 Red Colobus and 310 Mangabeys counted so far in Ndera.



Turtles, Pate and Kiunga Marine Conservancies

- There was only one recorded incident of turtle poaching in 2019 in Pate, with two other turtle deaths recorded as by-catch/natural/unknown causes.
- Overall turtle mortality reported by conservancies has decreased significantly since 2016 as conservancies have placed increased focus on monitoring and protection.
- Kiunga is an important nesting area for green turtles, and patrol efforts between community scouts, KWS marine rangers and WWF project staff have helped to monitor and protect many nests. Insecurity in the area has been a challenge for patrols in some of the more remote nesting beaches.

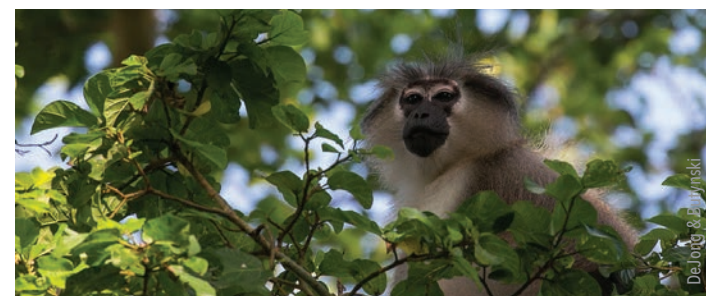


Turtle mortality in Kiunga and Pate 2016 - 2019

Year	Kiunga	Pate
2016	71	7
2017	42	15
2018	26	13
2019	17	3

Nests recorded in Kiunga:

Year	Green Turtle	Hawksbill
2016	36	3
2017	18	2
2018	1	0
2019	20	0



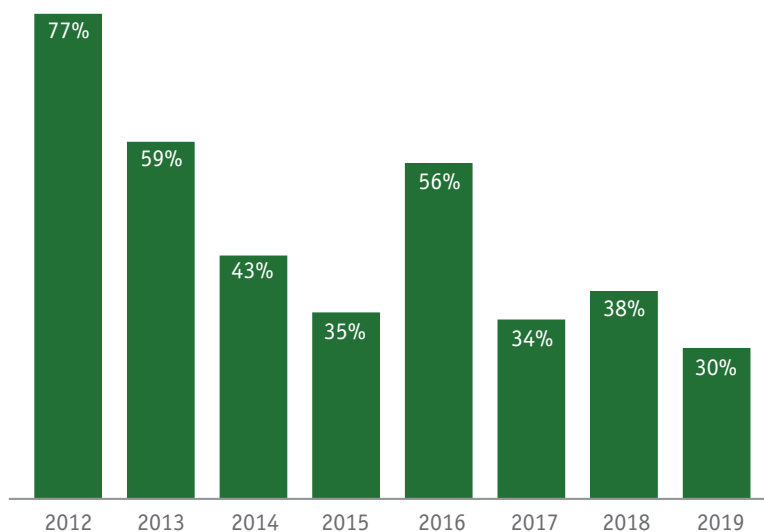


Securing a landscape for elephants

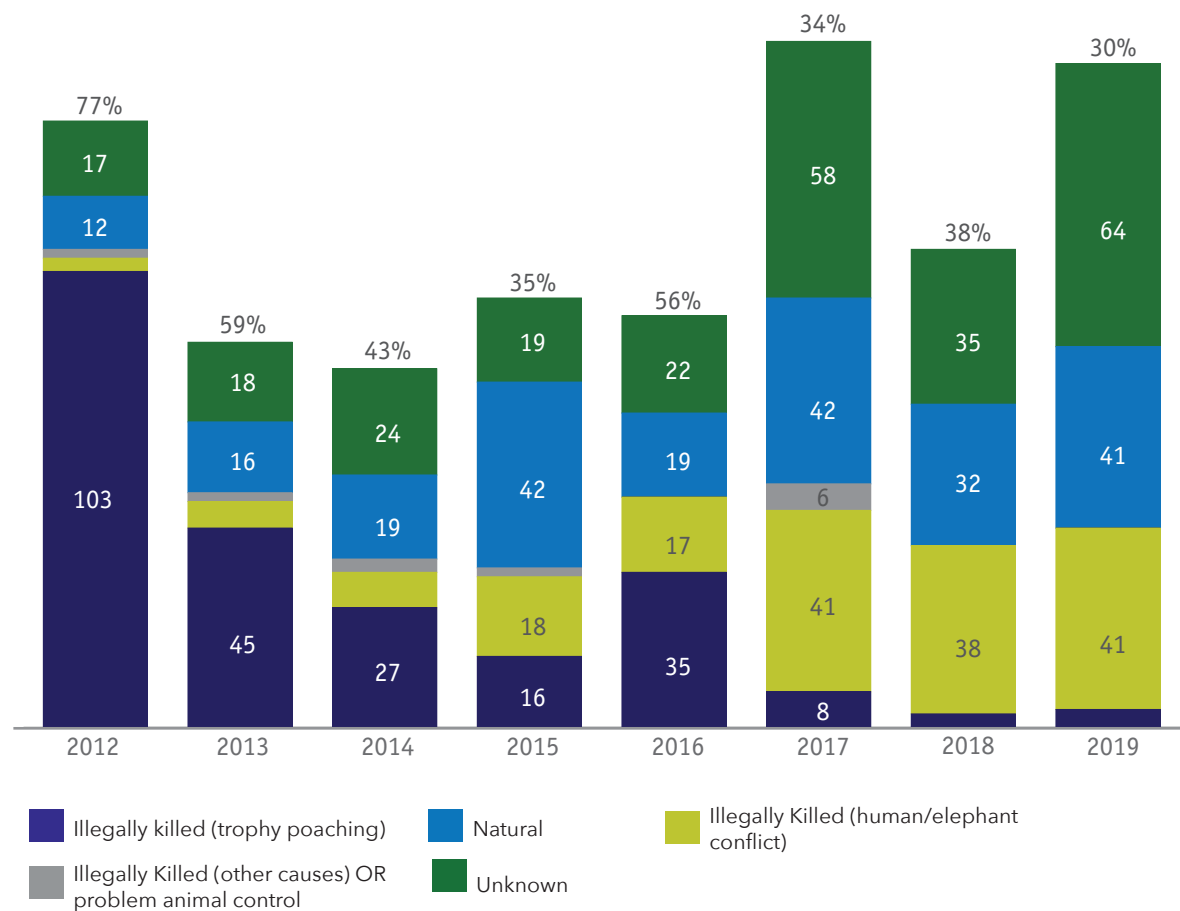
- Data from NRT's Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) are harmonised with KWS for an accurate picture of elephant mortality in Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo and the lower areas of Marsabit. A total of 150 elephant carcasses were reported in this landscape in 2019.
- The Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE) - that is, the number of elephants that have been illegally killed (for ivory or in conflict) out of all carcasses found - has reduced slightly in 2019 to 30% down from 38% in 2018.
- Human/wildlife conflict is the highest cause of illegal elephant killing in the region, responsible for 41 elephant deaths in 2019, up from 38 in 2018.
- Incidents of elephant poaching for ivory remain very low, with four elephants killed for their tusks in 2019 (compared to a high of 103 in 2012).

The number of elephants in NRT member conservancies killed for ivory has dropped 96% since 2012. However, the number of elephants killed in conflict with humans is increasing, up 7% from 2018.

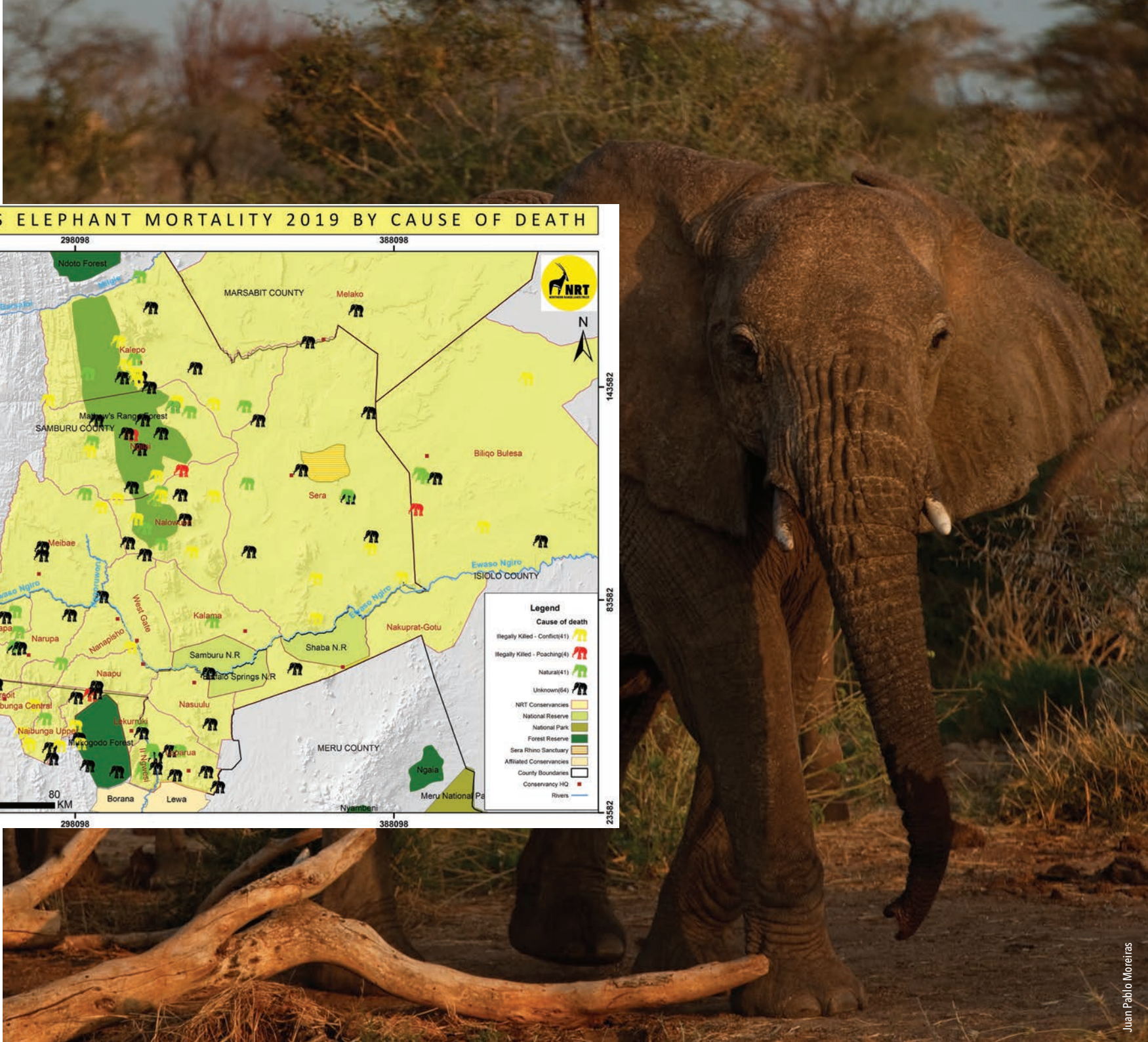
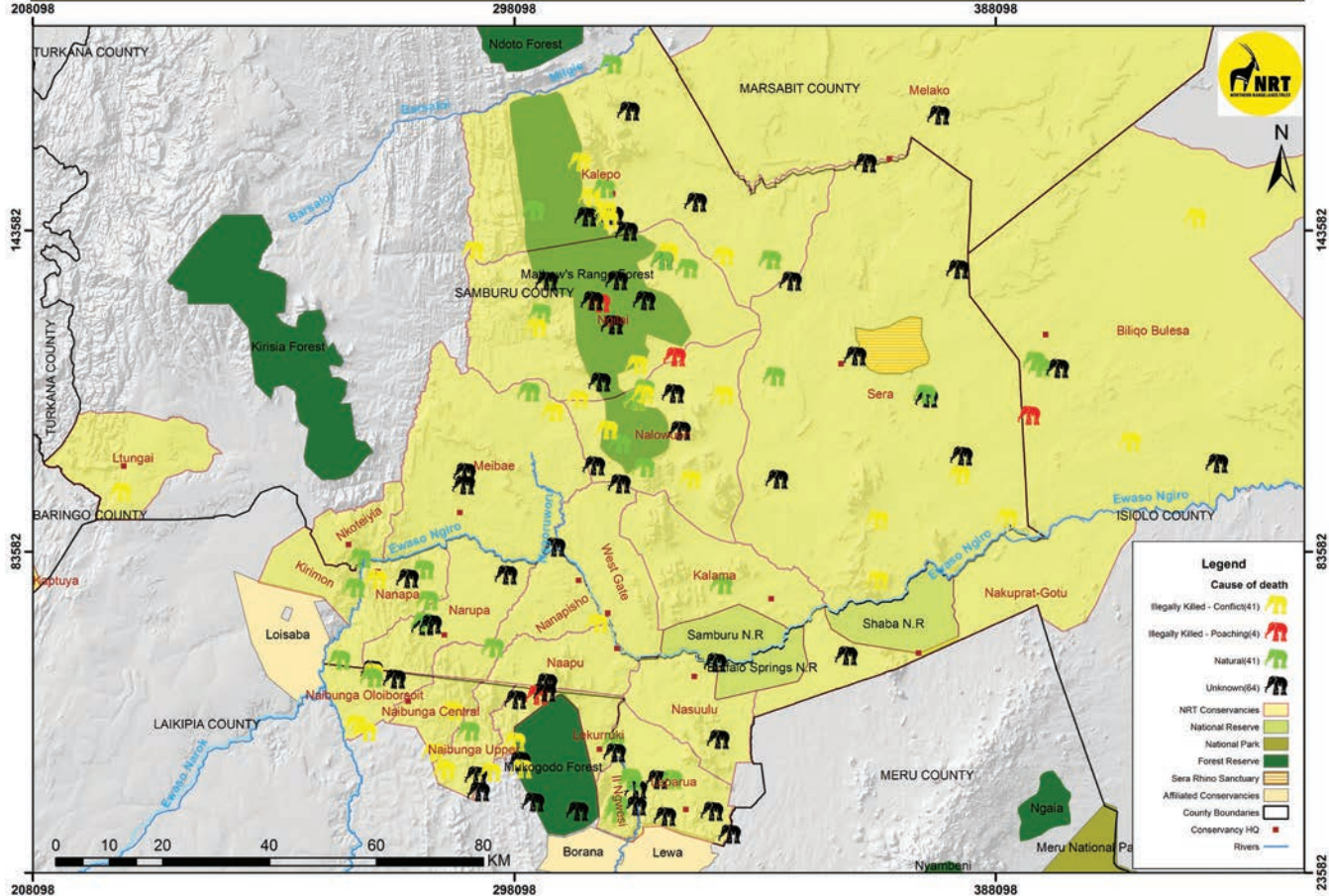
Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE %) in NRT Member Conservancies 2012 - 2019



Elephant Mortality in NRT Member Conservancies by Cause of Death



NRT CONSERVANCIES ELEPHANT MORTALITY 2019 BY CAUSE OF DEATH



Mitigating human-wildlife conflict

- Human/elephant conflict is particularly high in Namunyak and Naibunga conservancies.
- In Namunyak:
 - An Elephant Compensation Fund was trialed from 2017-2019 in a bid to reduce the retaliatory killing of elephants that had killed livestock, or in some tragic cases, injured or killed people
 - In 2017 and 2018, the **compensation scheme led to a 50% reduction in elephant conflict killing**, but leadership challenges and inconsistent engagement with the Fund in 2019 reduced its impact, and conflict killing rose once again
 - A review of the Fund will be carried out in 2020, with the Boards of all the Namunyak conservancies — one solution expected to be proposed is the employment of someone solely to focus on compensation and community engagement
 - Six local primary schools visited the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary in 2019, where they learned about the importance of elephants to the landscape and the challenges they face.
- In Naibunga: NRT initiated a feasibility study for the fencing of settlement areas in order to protect people and elephants.
- In Marsabit:
 - NRT, KWS, and Songa and Jaldesa conservancies have begun discussing farmland fencing to reduce human-elephant conflict
 - Technical support for this project has been provided by USFS and Save the Elephants, with five elephants in Marsabit now collared to monitor their movements

- In Ndera: Farmers are using fencing to reduce crop raiding by wildlife, including elephants. Four farms are now fenced, with plans to scale the fencing project to 55 farms now that additional funding has been secured.

Monitoring key species trends

- Substantial decrease in key species sightings were noted in Ndera, Kalama and Westgate.
- In Ndera; scouts patrol efforts reduced due to low team numbers and the flooding of the Tana River in November and December 2019, which severely restricted patrols.
- Elephant and Grevy's zebra showed significant increase across the conservancies.
- Wild dog sightings decreased in most conservancies. In late 2019 there was an outbreak of canine distemper disease which affected packs in Kalama and Westgate.

Sightings of elephant and Grevy's zebra significantly increased across the community conservancies in 2019.

NRT key species population trends based on Index of Abundance from Wildlife CoMMS (2014 to 2019)

Community Conservancy	Elephant	Eland	Oryx	Giraffe	Gerenuk	Lion	Cheetah	Wild dog	Grevy's Zebra	Plain Zebra	Buffalo
Baringo County											
Ruko (2014 - 2019)	NIL	NIL	NIL	Stable	Decrease	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Kaptuya	Rangers trained but database not in place yet										
Isiolo County											
Biliqo Bulesa (2014 - 2019)	Increase	NIL	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Stable	Decrease	NIL	NIL	Increase
Nakuprat Gotu (2017 - 2019)	Increase	NIL	Increase	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Stable
Nasulu (2017 - 2019)	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Stable	NIL
Leparua (2017 - 2019)	Increase	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	NIL	Increase	Decrease	NIL
Oldonyiro - Nanapisho (2017 - 2019)	Increase	NIL	NIL	Stable	Increase	NIL	Decrease	Increase	NIL	NIL	NIL
Oldonyiro - Naapu (2017 - 2019)	Decrease	NIL	NIL	Increase	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Stable	NIL
Oldonyiro - Narupa (2018 - 2019)	Increase	Stable	NIL	NIL	Increase	NIL	Increase	Stable	Stable	NIL	NIL
Oldonyiro - Nanapa (2018 - 2019)	Increase	Increase	NIL	Stable	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Stable	Increase	Stable	Increase
Laikipia County											
Il Ngwesi (2014 - 2019)	Stable	Increase	NIL	Increase	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	NIL	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease
Naibunga - Lower (2014 - 2019)	Decrease	Stable	Stable	Stable	Decrease	Stable	Stable	Stable	Increase	Increase	Stable
Naibunga - Middle	Database yet to be split - No trends										
Naibunga - Upper											
Lekurruki (2014 - 2019)	Decrease	Decrease	NIL	Stable	Decrease	Stable	Stable	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease
Kirimon	WCOMMs not yet in place										

Community Conservancy	Elephant	Eland	Oryx	Giraffe	Gerenuk	Lion	Cheetah	Wild dog	Grevy's Zebra	Plain Zebra	Buffalo
Marsabit County											
Melako (2014 - 2019)	Decrease	NIL	Increase	Decrease	Decrease	Stable	Decrease	NIL	Decrease	NIL	Increase
Jaldesa (2017- 2018)	Increase	NIL	NIL	Increase	Stable	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Shurr (2017 - 2018)	Increase	NIL	Increase	Increase	Increase	Decrease	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Songa (2017 - 2019)	Increase	NIL	Increase	Increase	Increase	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	Increase
Meru County											
Ngarendare (2014 -2019)	Decrease	Stable	NIL	Decrease	NIL	Decrease	NIL	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Decrease
Samburu County											
Ltungai (2017 - 2019)	Stable	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	Stable	NIL	NIL	Stable	Increase	Stable
Nkoteiya (2018 -2019)	Stable	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	Increase	Increase	NIL
Meibae (2014 - 2019)	Decrease	Decrease	NIL	Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Decrease	Decrease	NIL	NIL
Namunyak - Kalepo (2014 - 2019)	Increase	NIL	NIL	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Decrease	Increase	NIL	Increase
Namunyak - Nalowuon (2014 - 2019)	Increase	NIL	Increase	Increase	Stable	Increase	Increase	Stable	Increase	NIL	NIL
Namunyak - Ngilai (2014 - 2019)	Increase	NIL	NIL	Increase	Increase	Increase	Decrease	Stable	Decrease	NIL	Increase
Sera (2015 to 2019)	Decrease	Stable	Increase	Increase	Stable	Decrease	Decrease	Stable	Increase	NIL	Stable
Kalama (2014 - 2019)	Decrease	NIL	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
Westgate (2014 - 2019)	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Stable	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	NIL	NIL
West Pokot County											
Pellow	Rangers Trained on WCoMMs in 2019 – No Trends yet										
Masol											

Garissa County											
	Elephant	Eland	Oryx	Giraffe	Gerenuk	Lion	Cheetah	Wild dog	Hirola	Plain Zebra	Buffalo
Ishaqbini (2014 - 2019)	Decrease	NIL	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase
Tana River County											
	Elephant	Hirola	Oryx	Giraffe	Gerenuk	Lion	Cheetah	Tana River Mangabey	Tana River Red Colobus	Plain Zebra	Buffalo
Ndera (2017 - 2019)	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease	Decrease
Lower Tana (2017 - 2019)	Increase	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	Decrease	Increase	NIL	NIL	NIL	Decrease
Lamu County											
	Elephant	Water-buck	Topi	Giraffe	Hippo	Lion	Cheetah	Tana River Mangabey	Tana River Red Colobus	Plain Zebra	Buffalo
Hanshak Nyongoro (2017 - 2019)	NIL	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Decrease	Decrease	NIL	Increase	NIL	Increase	Decrease
Awer	Rangers trained but database not in place yet										
Pate	On Marine CoMMs										
Kiunga	On Marine CoMMs										

Helping forest and marine ecosystems to stabilise and recover sustains the forest and fisheries resources that underpin local economies, and improve habitats for wildlife. Conservancies are doing this through:

Establishing Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs)

- **Four LMMAs are now active in Pate Conservancy;** two are no-take zones targeting specific reefs where all fishing is restricted, and two are seasonal closures specifically targeting octopus.

Promoting the use of alternative non-destructive fishing gear in coastal fisheries

- Coastal conservancies have been conducting joint patrols with key security agencies (Fisheries Department, KWS, KFS) and as they do so, they are raising awareness on the effects of using destructive fishing gear.
- Kiunga has developed criteria for a beach seine nets exchange programme (beach seine nets are illegal). Three out of 12 fishers using beach seine nets have said they would be willing to exchange. This programme will be rolled out in 2020.

Using community-managed monitoring systems to track changes in marine ecosystem health and fish-stocks

- 34 people from Kiunga, Pate and Lower Tana conservancies were trained on monitoring and assessing mangrove restoration sites.
- Pate and Kiunga scouts completed coral reef monitoring surveys and received training on Marine CoMMS. A database for community-based coral-reef monitoring is being developed by TNC for automated analysis and reporting of data by Conservancies.
- Pate trialled [two octopus fishing closures](#). After the first closure (Jan-



April 2019), fishers harvested 186 kg of relatively small octopus over five days. However, after the second opening (May-Sep 2019), 70 fishermen and women from the three BMUs harvested 868 kgs of octopus over five days. Each fisher caught an average of 6.5 kg per day. For every octopus caught, Ksh. 30 was donated to the women's association. 13 conservancy members (two of whom were women) in Pate and Kiunga completed training in octopus catch monitoring.

Facilitating conservancy exchange visits

Kiunga Conservancy members took part in a learning exchange visit to Zanzibar (Pemba) in 2019, focusing on fisheries co-management and LMMAs.

Fishers in Pate harvested almost five times as many octopus in the five days following their second seasonal closure, compared to their first trial closure.

Developing and enforcing conservancy forest management plans, and establishing Community Forest Associations (CFAs) in collaboration with Kenya Forest Service

- Two CFAs were established in Lower Tana Delta Conservancy.
- Pate and Kiunga conservancies have started consultation meetings to establish mangrove CFAs. They will be charged with leading the development of a 5-year mangrove forest management plan and mangrove zonation / harvest strategy in 2020.
- Ndera Conservancy is in the process of establishing a CFA in partnership with the KFS. They have drafted **forest by-laws based on traditional forest management practices**, which are awaiting validation and endorsement. Results from a survey carried out by NRT in 2018 revealed a 35% decline in riverine forest cover in Ndera since 2010, largely due to the changing river course, river flood dynamics, and less rainfall causing the forests to 'dry up', as well as the clearing of forests for farmland and logging. There is urgent need for action by the community if these forests are to be conserved in the long-term.



- Namunyak conservancies held two CFA committee meetings and six community awareness meetings - garnering support for forest restoration efforts.

Carrying out reforestation activities in degraded forests and mangroves

Almost 30,000 mangrove seedlings were planted in the NRT-coast in 2019.

NRT-Coast

- 204 people (82 of whom were women) from Kiunga, Pate and Lower Tana conservancies took part in field-based mangrove restoration training this year.** After the training, 50 'mangrove experts' were selected to spearhead mangrove restoration in their conservancies.
- 29,552 mangrove seedlings were planted** across 10 hectares in the three conservancies.
- 10,000 mangrove seedlings were grown in nurseries.
- Pate established three permanent sampling plots in newly planted mangrove sites to measure the impact of replanting on forest recovery.

- Pate and Kiunga conservancies identified and mapped degraded areas of mangrove forest:

	Critically degraded sites	Moderately degraded sites	Non degraded sites
Pate	11	6	2
Kiunga	9	18	2

Ngare Ndare Forest

- With an expanding forest canopy cover, good tourism operations, and meaningful community impact, Ngare Ndare is leading the way in CFA best practice in Kenya.
- Ngare Ndare has three tree planting programmes:



- The Forest Rehabilitation Programme - where indigenous seedlings are planted in degraded areas of forest. Since 2013, Ngare Ndare has planted over 120,000 indigenous seedlings, which were all germinated from the conservancy tree nursery. There is a 70% survival rate in seedlings planted over the last five years.
- The 1-for-1 Programme – which supports agro-forestry on farms in the communities to reduce pressure on the forest for firewood and building material. Ngare Ndare has established nine community tree nurseries, from which 23,150 seedlings were purchased for planting on farms in 2019.

3. Adopt-a-Tree Programme – where neighboring primary schools and other institutions plant seedlings on their properties, contributing to clean air, environmental awareness and healthy soils.

- **Since its inception Ngare Ndare has planted over 600,000 indigenous seedlings** inside the forest and over 2 million exotics on surrounding farms. As a result, it is widely thought to be the only indigenous forest in Kenya with an expanding canopy cover.

Namunyak

- Supported two tree nurseries in Wamba town and Ngilai, with over 5,000 seedlings planted between them. The success rate was low however due to water constraints.

Marsabit

- 200 women attended natural resources management training and planted 1,100 trees as a result.



Tatiana Karanja

Community-led endangered species conservation - Jimmy's Story



"When I was a small child, if you had told me I'd be monitoring black rhinos here in Sera Community Conservancy, I could have laughed!" says Jimmy Lekiondo, one of the community scouts at Sera Rhino Sanctuary. Growing up in Samburu County, Jimmy only ever heard of rhinos in stories from his grandparents. "In the 80s there were populations of rhinos here, but they vanished. Poaching, human wildlife conflict, forage competition and conflicts among people, all of it led to their disappearance."

But in 2015 Sera Community Conservancy made history when it became the first community-owned and run black rhino sanctuary in East Africa, bringing black rhino back to the Samburu area for the first time in about 25 years. Not only did the establishment of Sera see a flip in Kenya's endangered species conservation narrative - where indigenous communities had largely been excluded - but it also solidified the link between conservation and socio-economic empowerment for local people.

"The Rhino Sanctuary has brought jobs, like mine, and income from tourism to the community. It has also increased security for people and wildlife," says Jimmy. "Poaching doesn't just kill wildlife, it threatens our natural heritage, our jobs, peace. I am proud that we have had no single incident of poaching since the Sanctuary opened. It is because we the community have embraced this, we the community are leading this, that it continues to work and have these benefits. That is why it is so important for communities to be the ones to lead the conservation of endangered species."

The black rhino population in the 107 km² sanctuary has increased from 10 to 16 since inception. A partnership with Saruni lodges has seen over US\$ 150,000 in revenue to the Conservancy, which has supported community projects and operating costs.

"We do not want our children to see rhinos in a museum or in pictures" says Jimmy, "Sera gives us all hope for our future."



Roshni Lodhia | TNC

Chapter 6: Finance & Sustainability

Commercial income to NRT member conservancies 2012 - 2019

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total commercial	35,913,000	38,573,435	53,013,744	58,417,997	58,841,746	64,324,097	71,692,363	154,266,510	137,608,470
Total operations (conservancy income)	14,365,200	15,429,374	21,205,497	23,388,799	23,536,699	25,729,639	28,676,945	61,706,604	55,043,388
Total livelihoods (community income)	21,547,800	23,144,061	31,808,246	35,083,198	35,305,048	38,594,458	43,015,418	92,559,906	82,565,082

To achieve our Strategic Plan 2018-2022, NRT must maintain and sustain the current level of support to community conservancies. We see three ways to do this:

- **Capability; strong governance and management:**

NRT's LAMP training programme (page 8) is building the capabilities required for conservancy boards and managers to lead a sustainable and independent future. More emphasis will be placed on local communications in conservancy communities, raising awareness and building knowledge and understanding of the critical challenges — with an overall aim to strengthen governance and ensure effective conservancy management.

- **Finances; sustainable financial independence:**

NRT is working closely with the most mature member conservancies to help maximise opportunities to become financially self-sustaining. This includes leveraging revenue streams to support conservancy operations, as well as identifying further opportunities through livelihoods investments and partnerships with County Government.

Within NRT itself, the Sustainability Plan aims to diversify its existing donor base, capitalise a critical Conservation Trust Fund, increase focus on potential commercial opportunities for conservancies, seek further financial support from County Governments and ensure cost and operational efficiencies across the organisation.

- **Policies; Supportive government policies and regulations:**

A number of critical areas of national policy and legislation are shaping the future of community conservancies in Kenya, as are County Government policies. NRT will continue to engage with and influence this legislation, through support to the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) in drafting policy advice, drafting regulations with KWS, and lobbying legislators.

There is always pressure to grow – be it from communities wishing to develop their own institutions under NRT guidance, or County Governments, private investors and NGOs.

The number of member conservancies under the NRT umbrella is anticipated to reach 50 by 2022, primarily through 50/50 support agreements with County Governments.

This is why NRT are looking at developing incentives and frameworks for conservancies to move beyond financial dependence on NRT, becoming self-reliant entities with effective governance and management. This is in line with the proposition in the Strategic Plan that conservancies are “strong, independent, sustainable, well-governed and well-managed local institutions with community-led decision-making, widely understood and approved by the community at large.”

To achieve sustainability will require leadership, drive and innovation from conservancy boards and management teams – it will not succeed in the long-term if it is entirely externally driven by NRT. Inherent in this is the

willingness for conservancies to operate cost-effectively and efficiently, including capping staff numbers and operating costs, and to operate with a stronger business ethic. The NRT Community Conservancy model has achieved proof-of-concept in terms of delivering successful conservation and development outcomes; but it has not proven it is sustainable despite some conservancies being more than 15 years old.

The long-term future of community conservancies depends on their ability to achieve financial and operational independence, with strong community ownership.

In collaboration with TNC, CI and FFI, a dedicated member of staff was appointed to focus on conservancy graduation in 2019. Eight conservancies were selected as pilot graduates; Kalama, Westgate, Sera, Il Ngwesi, Ngare Ndare and Namunyak's three conservancies. In-depth financial analysis and a review of governance and management capacity is currently being conducted, with a view to developing detailed business plans, tailored governance and management training plans and organisational policies for each conservancy. We aim to have a clear road map for graduation in 2020 for at least half of these conservancies.



Juan Pablo Moreiras

ASANTENI SANA

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