



# BI-ANNUAL REPORT

January to June **2022**

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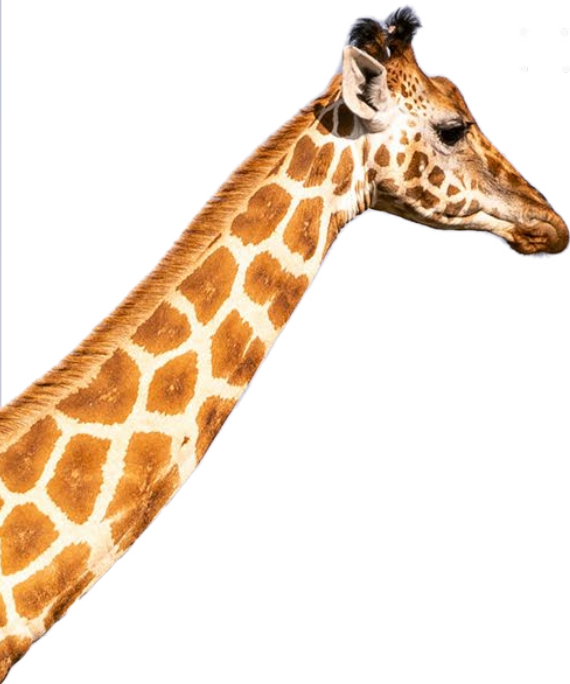








# Table of Contents



<b>Our Mission</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Letter from the CEO</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>NRT'S Strategic Plan &amp; Objectives</b>	<b>09</b>
Well-governed Community Conservancies	12
Supportive Government Policies, Laws and Finance	17
Effective Peacebuilding	17
Effective Community Policing	18
Equitable and Responsive Livelihood Investments	21
Successful Enterprises and Financial Services	26
Sustainable Rangelands Management Systems	30
Flagship Species and Habitat Conservation Programs	35
Forest and Marine Ecosystem Management Systems	38
<b>Looking Ahead</b>	<b>41</b>



**NRT's mission is to develop resilient community conservancies that transform lives, secure peace and conserve natural resources**

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## Our Mission

NRT is a membership organization owned and led by the 43 diverse community conservancies it serves in northern and coastal Kenya. Since its inception, NRT has been making significant strides in developing resilient community conservancies that transform lives, promote peace, and conserve natural resources.

Three pillars underpin NRT's approach to conservancy resilience:



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



**Effective Management:** the proficient administration of conservancies and the successful implementation of programs.



**Financial Viability:** sufficient and reliable funding for current and future conservation operations.

Previously, the NRT Sustainability Plan anticipated conservancies 'graduating' out of NRT as they became financially self-sufficient. However, the Covid-19 pandemic showed that even the most established conservancies with large tourism earnings are vulnerable when tourism declines. Additionally, new and significant governance concerns have emerged as conservancies' revenue grows and their leadership changes.

Therefore, rather than seeing conservancies graduate from NRT and make place for new ones, we see conservancy resilience as a long-term collaboration in which NRT's input and support to a conservancy fluctuates based on the specific needs, capacity, and challenges of each of our members.

While financial viability is the ultimate goal for our member conservancies, experience has revealed that conservancy resilience is not linear, and NRT's mentorship role is crucial in the long run. Currently, NRT is developing specific workstreams aimed at increasing conservancy resilience.





NRT has been conducting a series of conservancy capacity assessments that will allow it and its member conservancies to track each conservancy's progress towards resilience in a systematic and objective manner.

The capacity assessment Conservancy Resilience Assessment Framework, which is currently under development, is designed to track progress in good governance, management effectiveness, and financial viability, as well as provide detailed data to support targeted action plans aimed at increasing conservancy capacity.

This Framework will be based on NRT's bespoke governance and management effectiveness tool, the 'Governance Index,' as well as other pilots on conservancy capacity assessment conducted in collaboration with Fauna and Flora International (FFI).

Thanks to the generous support of donors and partners, since 2015, with funding from the Conservancy Livelihoods Fund, NRT has implemented 162 development projects in its member conservancies, spanning **63,000** square kilometers of land, with **75,702** direct beneficiaries and over **500,000** lives positively impacted while also contributing to the creation of a sustainable future.

NRT will continue to work in an environment where we endeavour to implement initiatives that benefit people and wildlife in the context of climate change and poverty.

This approach to conservancy resilience while maintaining the hope of financial viability for the community conservancy model, will ideally lead NRT into the next chapter of its existence, ensuring the continued success and growth of this vital model which empowers communities to protect natural resources that support their livelihoods, while also conserving the wildlife and habitats of essential landscapes and seascapes.

***NRT will continue to work in an environment where we endeavour to implement initiatives that benefit people and wildlife in the context of climate change and poverty.***









## GROWTH, IMPACT AND LESSONS

## From the CEO's Desk

A Kenyan proverb tells us, "A tree that has dried up does not bear a green one." These words spring to mind as I pause to reflect on some of the biggest conservation issues we are grappling with today.

Climate change continues to pose an existential threat as world leaders strive to achieve the Global Goals. The report the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently released is a jarring reminder that the fight against climate change is a global group project, and we need to act swiftly.

Arguably, no one understands the urgency of restricting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius more than the people in the country experiencing massive losses due to the prolonged absence of rain.

The current multi-season drought is having a devastating effect on the livelihoods of indigenous communities across northern and coastal Kenya, and climate change is worsening an already dire situation. During these trying times, I am greatly encouraged by my recent visit to Kigali for the inaugural IUCN Africa Protected and Conserved Areas Congress, in which more than 2,400 participants from 53 African and 27 other countries committed to act with urgency to address the biodiversity and climate change crises. Knowing that NRT and NRT member community conservancies are actively working on the solution to the drought problem gives me hope for a better, greener future.

Earlier this year, NRT launched the world's first large-scale grasslands soil carbon project, the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project. This is the largest grasslands carbon removal project to date and is anticipated to remove and store 50 million tons of carbon dioxide over 30 years. Working with partners, NRT facilitated the Project's development over the past ten years so that the sale of credits generated by the Project can provide a valuable new revenue stream to support conservancy operations sustainably and fund projects of the community's choice.

This history-making Project will not only address the impact of climate change but also enhance conservation efforts and improve the habitats of four endemic



endangered species—the eastern black rhino, Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, and beisa oryx. The Project is certified by Verra and was awarded the Triple Gold Status by the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) for the additional benefits it provides to wildlife and communities.

Our efforts to step up our conservation efforts have seen us expand our regional footprint. Currently, NRT and NRT member community conservancies are leading the way in wildlife protection, not only here in Kenya but also in Uganda! Earlier this year, 15 elephants were collared from Kidepo Valley National Park, through northeastern Uganda, into Kenya's West Pokot and Nasolot areas. These collars, generously donated by Save The Elephants, will reveal the movement patterns of Kidepo's elephants, providing insight on how they move, where they go, and what they need. The data gathered from the collars will additionally inform the conservation of elephants and avert elephant-human conflict.

As we augment our efforts in natural resource conservation, we are utilizing every tool at our disposal, including digital platforms, earning NRT recognition by the Kenya E-commerce Awards, who nominated NRT Trading's BeadWORKS E-commerce website for not just one but three awards: Best Fashion E-commerce Website of the Year, Best B2B E-commerce Website of the Year, and Best Sustainability Initiative of the Year. Ultimately, BeadWORKS took home the Gold Award for Best Sustainability Initiative of the Year 2022. The



***Arguably, no one understands the urgency of restricting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius more than the people in the country experiencing massive losses due to the prolonged absence of rain.***

nominations and Award were a testament to NRT's utmost commitment to investing in the future of NRT member community conservancies through sustainable, social, and ethical enterprise.

We are leaving no one behind as we take climate action. At the Coast, NRT member community conservancies are spearheading reforestation and mangrove restoration. In a grand win for the fight against global temperature rise, communities in the NRT Coast Conservancies of Pate Marine, Kiunga, and Lower Tana Delta in Lamu and Tana River Counties this year planted over 20,000 mangrove seedlings in degraded areas in collaboration with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and USAID.

The second half of the year is upon us and is an opportune time to commend all our illustrious NRT staff for putting their heart and soul into serving NRT member community conservancies. Thank you for going over and beyond and driving the conservancies to achieve results that exceed all expectations. On this journey to increase the resilience of NRT member community conservancies against climate change, it would be naïve to predict that we will not encounter unprecedented events along the way. However, I am confident that we will learn as we go, that we will adapt and shine, and keep responding nimbly to the global and local challenges we will face.

18 years ago, NRT was established as a shared resource to help build and develop community

conservancies, which are best positioned to enhance people's lives, build peace and conserve the natural environment. Through the years, our unfailing donors and partners have stood with us and made it possible for us to be successful in our endeavours.

A heartfelt thank you to each of you for the unwavering support you have given at every turn and continue to give. Because of your generosity, NRT member community conservancies can mitigate the debilitating effects of the drought and climate change. I now invite you all to continue reading to learn more about the impact we achieved together across the NRT landscape in the first half of 2022.



*Tom Lalampaa,*  
CEO, NRT





[www.nrt-kenya.org](http://www.nrt-kenya.org)

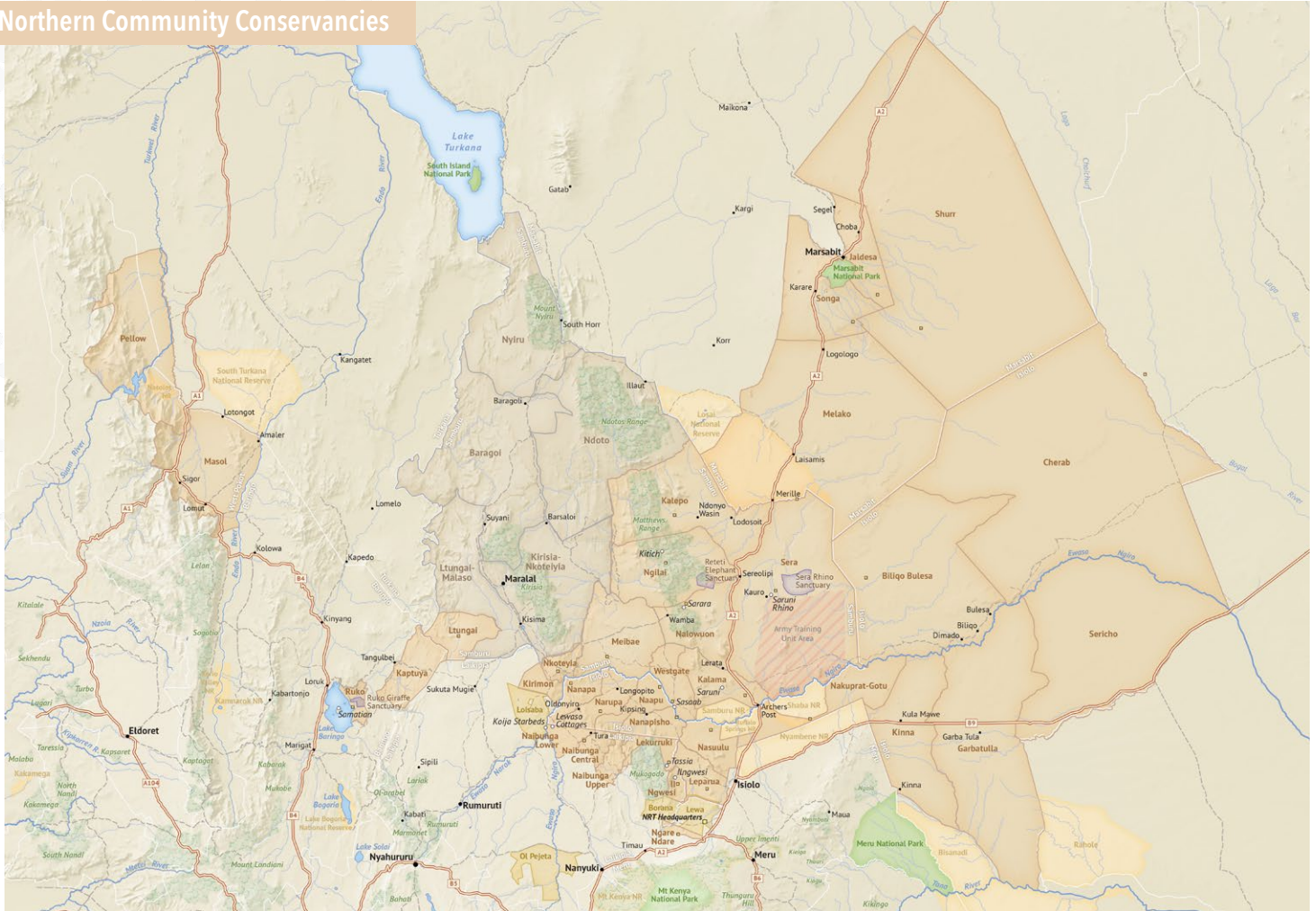






# MEMBER CONSERVANCIES 2022

## Northern Community Conservancies

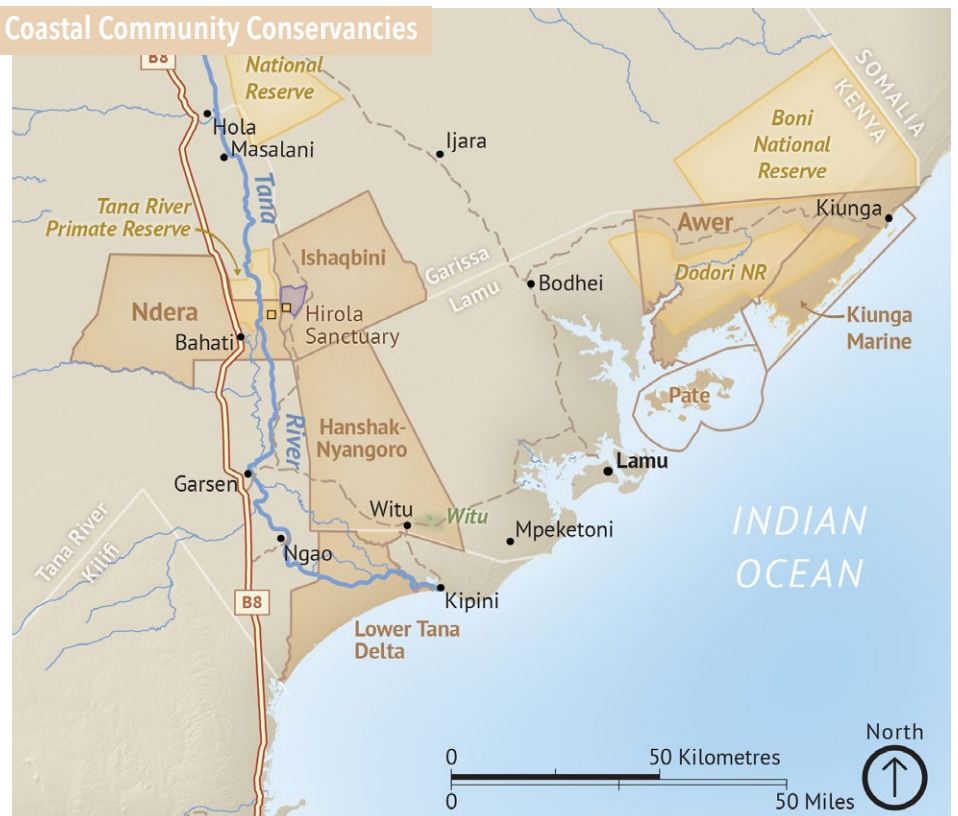


### Legend

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



## Coastal Community Conservancies

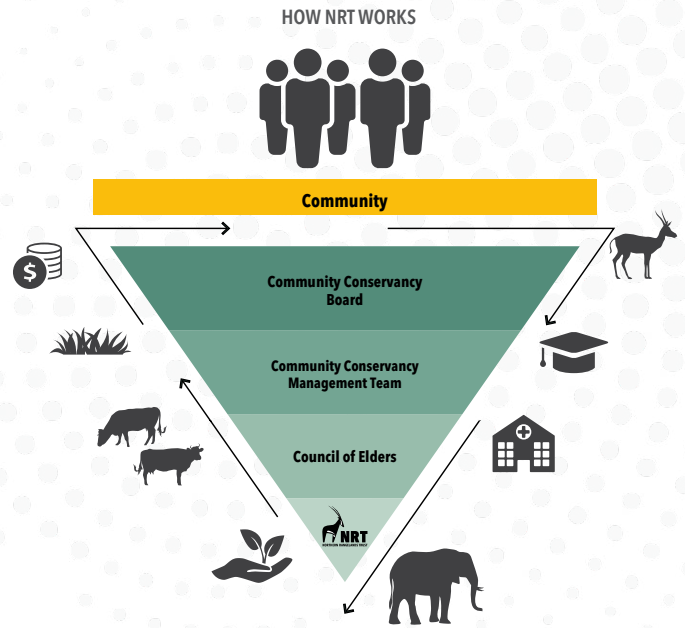




# NRT'S STRATEGIC PLAN & OBJECTIVES

## TRANSFORM LIVES, SECURE PEACE AND CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES

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



### Goal 1: Transform Lives

**80%** of community members reported improved wellbeing in the last six months, and **493,336** conservancy members benefited from conservation. This is significant because businesses are still reeling from the aftershocks of the pandemic, and there has been growing concern over little rainfall and its knock-on effect on people, livestock, and wildlife.

### Goal 2: Secure Peace

NRT's Peace Program is a non-political platform that brings people in conservancies together, resulting in a safer environment for them, their families, and their livestock.

While there have been insecurity incidences in both the coast and the north over the last six months, the presence of conservancies has made individuals living in the unsafe areas feel safer in these uncertain times.

When asked about their safety, **77%** of individuals in the communities said their safety and security had improved as a result of NRT's conservancy care and support.

### Goal 3: Conserve Natural Resources

NRT now supports **43** community conservancies spanning over **15.5 million** acres.

Despite the inadequate rainfall across the terrain, **68%** of the communities involved in the conservancy model had a positive attitude adjustment regarding grazing management, up from 62% in 2021.

NRT has continued to provide outstanding protection for major species including elephants and rhinos, with only one case of ivory poaching reported in NRT conservancies in the first six months of 2022.

While there are very few cases of ivory poaching, elephants continue to die as a result of human-wildlife conflict. To address this, NRT has taken a proactive approach and where practicable, is implementing customized interventions.

Bushmeat poaching remains a significant threat to wildlife across parts of the NRT landscape and particularly in parts of NRT Coast. NRT's mobile anti-poaching teams and conservancy rangers are laser focused on reducing poaching cases to zero.



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

OUTCOMES	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
Outcome 1: Transform Lives	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
1. Proportion of community members reporting improved socio-economic status	75%	73%	80%	79%	85%	83%	85%	84%	85%	80%
2. Number of conservancy members benefiting from conservation	400,000	266,473	450,000	404,050	450,000	465,170	500,000	481,303	500,000	493,336
Outcome 2: Secure Peace										
3. Proportion of individuals in conservancies that feel safe and secure	70%	73%	75%	75%	80%	75%	80%	77%	80%	77%
Outcome 3: Conserve Natural Resources										
4. Area under community conservancy management (In millions of hectares)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.5	4.3	4.5	6.2	4.5	6.2
5. Proportion of rangelands highly degraded (N1)	65%	70%	65%	70%	Indicator updated to measure avoided degradation of rangelands on an annual basis					
					5%	0%	6%	6%	7%	
6. Degree of avoided degradation in rangelands condition					Baseline	5%	6%	6%	7%	6%

N1: Improved condition of conservancy rangelands when compared to a non-conservancy area with similar ecosystem and climatic conditions, measured on a cumulative basis. Condition measured using the percentage of live vegetation cover

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
SO1: Governance	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
Output 1: Well-governed Conservancies										
Indicator 1.1 Governance Index	55%	70%	60%	53%	50%	70%	80%	63%	80%	-
Output 2: Supportive Government Policies, Laws and Financing										
Indicator 2.1 Number of policies, laws	1	1	2	1	2	0	2	1	2	1
Indicator 2.2 Value of government financing in millions (Ksh)	70	24	40	40	50	77	50	247.4	50	152
SO2: Peace & Security	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target		Target	
Output 3: Effective Peacebuilding										
Indicator 3.1 Number of insecurity incidents (tourist attacks and road banditry, tribal clashes, poaching, cattle rustling)	<22	84	<50	187	<50	159	<150	172	<50	97
Output 4: Effective Community Policing in Support of Government Security Agencies										
Indicator 4.1 Proportion of illegally killed elephants (PIKE)	38%	38%	38%	31%	<45%	37%	<45%	25%	<45%	23.7%



	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
<b>SO3: Livelihoods &amp; Enterprises</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>Output 5: Equitable and Responsive Livelihood Investments</b>										
<b>Indicator 5.1</b> Value of livelihoods investments in health, water, education and infrastructure in millions (Ksh)	50	52	52	111.6	52	20	52	120.4	52	41.4
<b>Output 6: Successful Enterprises and Financial Services</b>										
<b>Indicator 6.1</b> Value of commercial incomes to conservancies (tourism, livestock to markets, BeadWORKS etc.) in millions (Ksh)	120	86.5	140	133	180	62	180	90.5	180	46.4
<b>Indicator 6.2</b> Value of HH incomes through employment by NRT conservancies in millions (Ksh)	300	357	400	358	450	414.5	450	368.6	450	-
<b>SO4: Natural Resource Management &amp; Endangered Species Conservation</b>										
	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>Output 7: Sustainable Rangelands Management Systems</b>										
<b>Indicator 7.1</b> Area of conservancies rehabilitated and under planned grazing (cumulative million hectares)	2.7	3.5	3.94	3.5	3.94	3.5	3.94	3.5	3.94	3.5
<b>Output 8: Flagship Species and Habitat Conservation Programs</b>										
<b>Indicator 8.1</b> % growth rate of rhinos in Sera Rhino Sanctuary population	5%	15%	5%	16%	5%	13%	5%	0%	5%	5%
<b>Indicator 8.2</b> % growth rate of Hirola Sanctuary population	10%	17%	15%	1%	15%	18%	15%	0%	15%	0%
<b>Indicator 8.3</b> % growth rate of Ruko Rothschild's giraffe population	5%	0%	5%	17%	5%	14%	5%	11%	5%	14%
<b>Output 9: Forest and Marine Ecosystems Management Systems</b>										
<b>Indicator 9.1</b> # of turtle nests recorded	20	1	20	20	40	15	40	24	40	7



## FOCUS ON NRT'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



### Governance

NRT is presently engaged with several conservancies and working to support them in integrating a new Land Act law.

Between January and June, the government spent **Ksh 152 million** on conservancies (**\*USD 1.32 million**), a commendable effort. **Ksh 133 million (USD 1.15 million)** of this amount supported the day to day operations of conservancies while **Ksh 19 million (USD 165,217)** financed the implementation of infrastructure projects such as water development, tourism bandas construction and equipping of the same.

#### Output 1: Well-governed Community Conservancies

For nearly seven years now, NRT's bespoke Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) has been building the capacity of community conservancy leaders, enabling them to effectively lead and manage their conservancies. LAMP drives independent governance and proactive conservancy management. The Program is offered to all conservancy board and committee members in NRT member community conservancies and is one of NRT's most impactful programs.

LAMP is designed to run over a period of four months in order to maximize its impact. It is divided into four modules, one running monthly and each lasting 2-3 days.

NRT held **14 LAMP** trainings from January to June 2022. **183** community members (**134** women and **49** men) attended the trainings.

NRT Coast completed Phase 1 of LAMP training of women leaders and kicked off phase **2.52** women leaders from NRT Coast conservancies and gender champions successfully underwent training in Phase 1. Phase 2 was attended by **104** women, registering a **100%** rise in the number of women enrolled in the Program.

**7 youth** (**5** female and **2** male) from the local communities in NRT Coast's conservancies underwent LAMP's Training of Trainers (ToTs) training and are currently assisting in the delivery of the ongoing women's LAMP.

The 2022 NRT Women Leadership Summit was held at the NRT Coast headquarters in Lamu with **60 participants** from across the NRT landscape and several partners attending. During the Summit, a proposal was made to establish a women in conservation caucus with a structure customized for NRT member

\*For this report: Ksh 115 = US\$ 1



community conservancies. The initiative is to be adopted at a regional level to amplify women's voices in leadership and conservation across the NRT landscape.

All conservancies in the NRT Coast region held quarterly Board, sub-committee, and awareness meetings to deliberate on conservancy plans, progress, management issues, challenges encountered, and other decisions regarding conservancy governance.

The constitution of the Hanshak Nyongoro Community Conservancy was reviewed and endorsed by members of the Conservancy. A Board election was conducted and there was unanimous agreement that the Board serves two terms on rotation and there be equal representation and gender balance. 4 of the 12 elected board members are women.

A regional council of elders meeting and managers' forum was held to set the tone for 2022 and discuss the progress made, challenges faced and plans for the year.

All NRT Coast conservancies underwent an annual audit and feedback was provided to the respective conservancies' management on the key areas that need improvement.

In a remarkable effort to fundraise, for the very first time, NRT Coast conservancies formed a consortium and independently submitted an application to USAID for funding.

All 7 NRT Coast conservancies submitted a proposal for consideration in the Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF) Sustainable Management and Access to Water and Sanitation in the ASALs (SWASAP) Project. 5 of the 7 conservancies have passed the desktop evaluation and field appraisal stages and are awaiting final review and awarding.

***"In the face of an uncertain future, the NRT LAMP Program is a shining light which enlightens, equips and empowers community members across the NRT landscape to exercise their human rights, to manage their land, to conserve natural resources and wildlife, and to secure their livelihoods."***

*Tom Lalampaa, NRT CEO*



## Gender Inclusion

Gender inclusion is one of NRT's primary priority areas. The importance of including women's voices in conservation and the management of community conservancies is reflected in all of NRT's strategic goals. Longer-term solutions are more likely to be successful when women are included in discussions on development, education, peace, water, and population.

*According to the United Nations, "Rural women play a key role in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income, and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being. They contribute to agriculture and rural enterprises and fuel local and global economies."*

Women, it goes without saying, play a vital role in the realization of both the Millennium Development Goals and NRT's strategic objectives.

NRT is focused on increasing the participation of women and youth in conservation and community development in order to achieve success in these areas. This approach has proven to be fruitful, as evidenced by more sustainable natural resource use and a decrease in gender disparity.

Achieving gender equality has been a major priority at NRT Coast for the past six months. Over **1,000 women** are currently working in conservation and community development projects across the conservancies. The projects at NRT Coast that are centered on women and their involvement in conservation include the Temporary Octopus Closure Project, the Mangrove Restoration and Reforestation Program, the Coastal Women in Microfinance Program and the Ocean Plastic Collection and Recycling Project.



### NRT's Brand New Regional Offices are now Open!

Every day, NRT teams work tirelessly and selflessly to enable NRT member community conservancies become more independent, sustainable and resilient against climate change. Towards this end and as part of a newly introduced regional transition approach aimed at devolving NRT's programs and services to NRT member community conservancies, NRT established regional offices in NRT Center, NRT West and NRT Coast.

And now, it is official. NRT has opened brand new offices in NRT Mountain and NRT East!

In February, in Nanyuki Town, at an event presided over by H.E. John Mwaniki, the Laikipia County Deputy Governor, the NRT Mountain office opened its doors to serve Il Ngwesi, Lekurruki, Ngare Ndare, Naibunga Upper, Naibunga Central, and Naibunga Lower Conservancies.

Later in March, we were very excited to move even closer to our member conservancies by opening the NRT East office. Leparua, Biliqo Bulesa, Nasuulu, Sericho, Nakuprat Gotu, Cherab, Nannapisho, Naapu, Garbatulla, Melako, Nannapa, Narupa, Shurr, Songa, Kinna and Jaldesa Community Conservancies are served by this office.





## Infrastructure

Conservancies occasionally require NRT's assistance in developing infrastructure for effective conservancy management and operations. The needed infrastructure includes offices, lodges, ablution blocks, and tourism camps, just to name a few. In the first six months of this year, **Ksh 146.3 million (USD 1,272,173)** was invested in conservancy infrastructure, facilitating the construction (or improvements) of headquarters, outposts, schools, tourism facilities, wildlife sanctuaries, KWS camps and hay stores.

### Infrastructure Projects Rolled Out in 2022 in NRT member Community Conservancies

County	Conservancy	Infrastructure
NRT Coast	Masalani KWS Camp	Masalani <b>KWS</b> Camp - Construction of 4 rangers' accommodation units and additional ablution facilities
	Minjila KWS Camp	Minjila <b>KWS</b> Camp - Construction of 4 rangers' accommodation units and additional ablution facilities
	Mongo Shariff KWS Camp	Mongo Shariff <b>KWS</b> Camp - Construction of a surface rain water collection and water storage Djabia (underground concrete water tank) for the Camp
	Pate Headquarters	<b>Headquarters</b> renovation
	Pate Outpost	<b>Outpost</b> renovation and improvement
	Kiunga Outpost	Mkokoni <b>Outpost</b> renovation and improvement
Marsabit	Melako Conservancy	<b>Logologo School</b> - Renovation of 4 classrooms at Logologo Primary School
Baringo	Ruko Conservancy	<b>Sanctuary Fence</b> - Continuous maintenance of a 7-kilometer fence Construction of gabions along the fence in the sanctuary
	Naibunga Conservancy	Construction of a 40-kilometer fence to avert human-elephant conflict
Garisa	Ishaqbini Conservancy	Renovation of the sanctuary's fence and installation of a cantilever on the fence
Samburu	Westgate Conservancy	<b>Tourism</b> - Construction of a dormitory to be used by local tourism groups
	Nkoteiya Conservancy	<b>Tourism</b> - Construction of a fourth double banda
	Nkoteiya Conservancy	<b>Tourism</b> - Construction of 2 upmarket tents and improvement of the lodge's power system
	Kalama Conservancy	<b>Tourism</b> - Designs and Bill of Quantities (BoQs) of the Kalama Resource Center are complete; currently at the tender stage
Isiolo	Cherub Conservancy	<b>Headquarters</b> - At tender stage
	Garbatula Conservancy	<b>Headquarters</b> - At tender stage
	Sericho Conservancy	<b>Headquarters</b> - At tender stage
	Kinna Conservancy	<b>Headquarters</b> - At tender stage
	Biliqo Conservancy	Hay shed and 1-kilometer fence - mobilisation (purchase of construction materials, collection of local materials, collection of tools in readiness for actual construction)
	Nasuulu Conservancy	<b>Tourism</b> - Nasuulu Lodge - At the approval stage (Currently processing the documents of approval; county letter of no objection, approval letters by the chief, ward administrator, sub-county administrator, physical planning, public health and public works)
	Biliqo Conservancy	Construction of ablution facilities for the GSU Security Camp



Previously completed Rapid Response Unit operations headquarters located between Leparua and Nasuulu Community Conservancies



Before



After

Kiunga KWS renovated ranger units



Before



After

## Social-CoMMS

The Social-CoMMS tool was created by NRT and The Nature Conservancy to track the socioeconomic status of conservancy communities and assess the social impact of conservancy and NRT program operations.

Between January and June 2022, a Social CoMMS survey was conducted in **7** conservancies: Lekurruki, Leparua, Kirimon, Meloko, Songa, Shurr and Jaldesa. **2,993** households participated in the survey. These were the findings:

- **47%** of households had livestock as the predominant livelihood activity, and 15% had casual employment
- **61%** of the respondents believed security has improved
- **77%** of the population felt 'safe'
- **68%** of people had experienced wildlife conflict
- **76%** of people believed the benefits of wildlife outweighed the cost
- **93%** of respondents believed wildlife is important to their future
- **10%** of households had a member permanently employed by the conservancy; **15%** were casually employed by the conservancy
- **56%** of people reported an increase in income
- **80%** of people reported improved well-being



## Output 2: Supportive Government Policies, Laws and Finance

### Government Support

Samburu County provided **Ksh 120,000,000 (USD 1,043,478)** to support conservancy operations and several conservancy projects including the construction of bandas and outposts, the drilling of a borehole, and remuneration for rangers.

At the coast recently, NRT Coast hosted a Lamu County stakeholders' forum where NRT Coast's work was presented, collaboration was encouraged, and the future priorities were discussed, as well as the alignment of NRT's programs with County plans. Numerous local partners including representatives from the Lamu County Fisheries Department and Ministry of Environment, The Nature Conservancy, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, National Environment Management Authority and the County Commissioner's Office attended and participated in the forum. The forum has increased the County and National Governments' awareness of and understanding of NRT's work and the activities of NRT member community conservancies.

### Peace and Security

Instances of conflict have arisen in the terrain during the last six months. These have been aggravated by the negative effects of the ongoing drought.

The challenges notwithstanding, the overwhelming feedback from the conservancy communities is that, even with the increase in security incidents, the situation is considerably safer and more tranquil, thanks to the conservancies' cooperation and by extension, NRT's support.

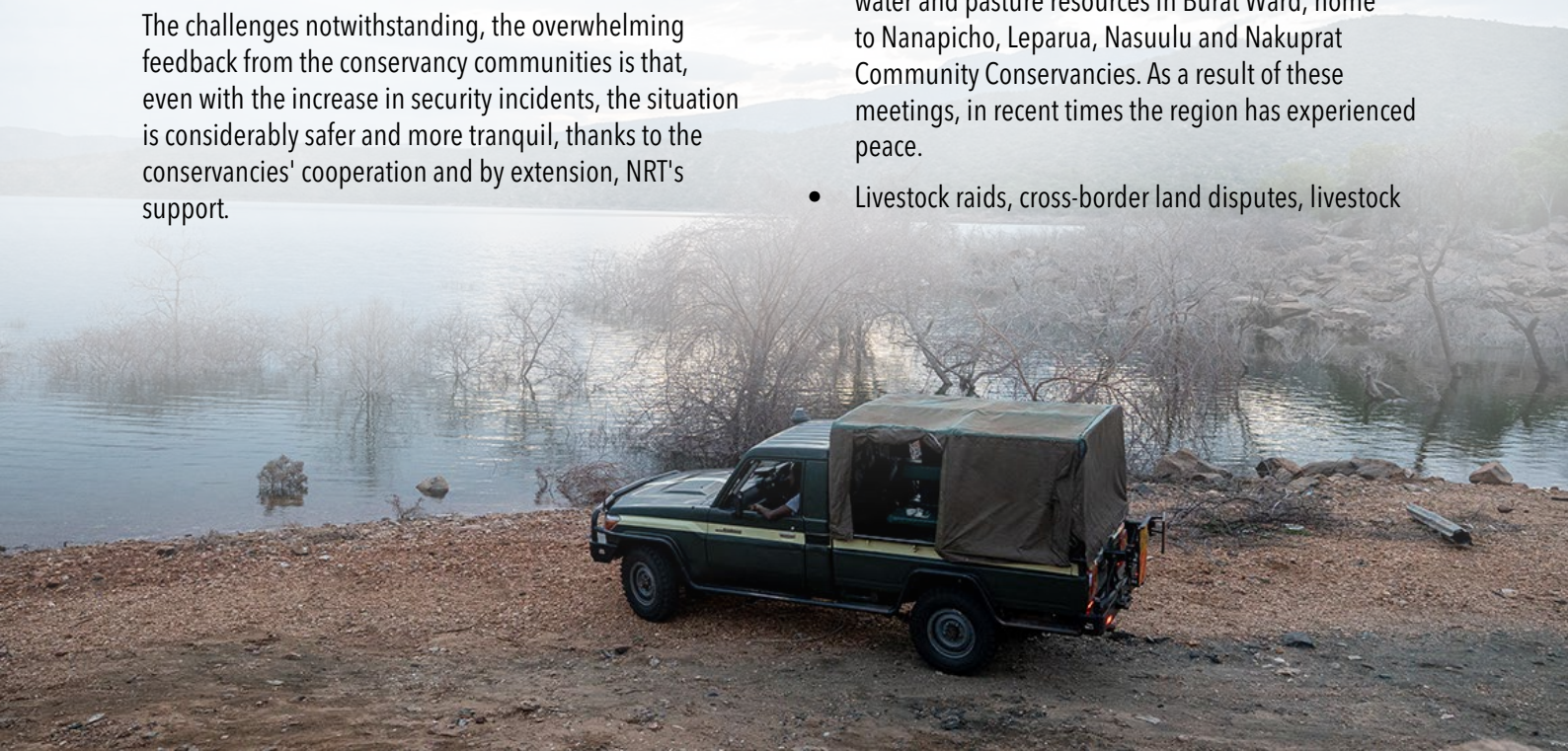
## Output 3: Effective Peacebuilding Between Ethnic Communities

During the prevailing times, when the country's general elections are looming and low rainfall is a threat, the Peace Team and the activities that they carry out are critical.

The NRT Peace Program promotes a culture of peace and non-violent conflict resolution among communities in the NRT landscape, using community conservancies as the entry point and in support of government peacebuilding efforts. This is achieved by bringing divided people of different ethnicities, religions and political allegiances together in a trusted, safe space for dialogue.

Over the last six months:

- **5,137** community members (**4,261** men and **876** women) were engaged in different peacebuilding activities across 5 Counties (Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit, Baringo and West Pokot).
- The Peace Team organized **48** peace interventions.
- **555** National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO) were engaged in various peacebuilding activities.
- **5** teams of actors were identified to drive reconciliation efforts across the NRT landscape: faith-based groups, traditional Council of Elders, National Government Administration Officers, women leaders and youth leaders.
- The Samburu, Turkana and Somali Councils of Elders held joint meetings to ensure peaceful sharing of water and pasture resources in Burat Ward, home to Nanapicho, Leparua, Nasuulu and Nakuprat Community Conservancies. As a result of these meetings, in recent times the region has experienced peace.
- Livestock raids, cross-border land disputes, livestock





encroachment into tribal grazing blocks and climate change (exacerbating the aridity of the landscape) were identified as drivers of conflict.

- The first meeting of the Marsabit-Isiolo Regional Women Peace Council members took place in Daaba Village in Isiolo.
- Tribal herders from Samburu, Rendille, Borana, Somali, and Turkana congregated in the areas surrounding Kom in the Isiolo North Sub-county as a result of the prolonged drought to compete for the scarce and diminishing pasture and water available. The Peace Team successfully coordinated the grazing activities in this area and avoided violence amongst the herder groups, in spite of many challenges, including bloody clashes and livestock theft.
- 2 peacebuilding meetings were successfully held in Samburu North's Baragoi region.
- 5 planned raids were averted by a joint team of NRT peace ambassadors, conservancy rangers and government teams.
- 5 peacebuilding meetings were held in Laikipia, Isiolo, Samburu, West Pokot and Baringo Counties, to prepare the communities for the country's general elections. The Peace Program has sought to give women, youth, and persons living with disabilities opportunities to be part of the communities' peacebuilding teams as they are the most affected by interethnic conflict and tribal clashes.
- The existence of conservancies and their leadership structures such as the board, grazing committees, peace ambassadors, chiefs, women and youth leaders continue to make the environment favorable for the People-to-People Reconciliation Program and improve its effectiveness.



*The Peace Program has sought to give women, youth, and persons living with disabilities opportunities to be part of the communities' peacebuilding teams as they are the most affected by tribal clashes.*

- The Peace Team will continue to actively work with communities across the NRT landscape to provide nonviolent dispute resolution options and to foster increased mutual understanding.
- To improve the monitoring of fisheries and wildlife and boost conservancy operations, NRT Coast purchased 8 motorbikes (Haojin HJ150-11A model-150cc) for Pate, Kiunga and Awer Conservancies.
- Pate Conservancy, Lamu County Fisheries Department, and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) rangers conducted a 4-day joint patrol in 'hotspot' areas to deter illegal fishing.

#### Output 4: Effective Community Policing in Support of Government Security Agencies

NRT's efforts to safeguard wildlife, humans, and livestock have largely been successful. This is not to say that security concerns are non-existent.

There has been an upsurge in bushmeat trade, targeted at more common species including dik-dik, impala, and colobus monkeys at the coast. NRT has been able to pick up more bushmeat poaching cases as a result of enhanced efforts and the presence of two mobile teams in the coast region.



Many pastoralist groups engage in conflict over pasture due to lack of rain in some areas, and increased stock theft and ethnic blood feuds.

Since January, there have been **160** security incidents. Livestock theft accounts for the majority of these occurrences, with **10,489** cattle stolen and **3,226** recovered.

Security personnel were successful in making **22** arrests, and there were **2** cases of bushmeat poaching.

### Quick Stats: Security Incident Reports in NRT Member Community Conservancies (January-June 2022)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Livestock Theft Incidents	90	66	168	130	206	87
% of Livestock Recovered	48%	34%	50%	77%	59%	23.52%
Road Banditry Incidents	22	15	19	29	30	10
Tourist Attacks	3	1	1	1	0	0
People Killed in Ethnic Conflict	43	11	29	36	23	96
Pieces of Ivory Recovered	21	12	25	26	28	6
Illegal Firearms Recovered	6	8	10	7	13	-
No. of Bushmeat Poaching Incidents	-	-	-	17	47	2
No. of Illegal Fishing Incidents	-	-	-	61	16	9

### Arrests and Prosecutions (January-June 2022)

Poaching	Logging	Illegal Fishing inside LMMAs	Total Arrests	Jailed	Released with Cash Bail	Fined	Ongoing Cases	Released with Warning	Failed Cases
4	3	18	25	1	3	18	3	-	-
Recoveries/ Confiscation				Rescues				Carcasses	
Poaching tools: 10 alarms, 10 motorbikes, 2 slashers, 3 pangas (machetes), 1 bag and 4 manila sacks, 2 cooking pans and 1 basin				2 sea turtles rescued after being caught in fishing nets				1 dugong in Pate	
68 pieces of timber, 1 power saw and 350 kilograms of charcoal				1 female adult leopard successfully rescued from a trap. The animal was darted and its foot injuries treated				7 sea turtles	
				1 female adult giraffe rescued from a snare trap and successfully released back to its natural habitat after an hour in stable condition				1 whale shark	
NB: All arrests, recoveries/confiscations are handed over to the mandated security agencies (Wildlife - Kenya Wildlife Service; Forest - Kenya Forest Service; Fisheries - Kenya Fisheries Service & County Fisheries Department)									



# Spotlight

## Leveling Up: 233 Conservancy Rangers Complete Ranger Training in Manyani

233 community rangers from 38 NRT member community conservancies have completed a three-month Basic Ranger Training Course at the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Law Enforcement Academy in Manyani to improve their capacity in various areas including wildlife monitoring, anti-poaching law enforcement, and general ranger discipline. The training equipped the rangers with knowledge and skills in protecting, conserving and managing wildlife in collaboration with KWS.





## Livelihoods + Enterprise

The value of livelihood investment is inextricably linked to ecosystem health and natural resource protection. For developing communities, better healthcare, water supply, education, and infrastructure are all key incentives for safeguarding natural resources.

**Ksh 41.4 million (USD 360,000)** was invested in conservancies in the first half of the year to achieve these livelihood needs. Additionally, the conservancies received **Ksh 50,364,045 (USD 437,948)** in commercial income from programs such as Livestock-to-Market, BeadWORKS and tourism.

Over the last six months, household incomes and employment in NRT conservancies and tourist lodges totaled **Ksh 195.8 million (USD 1,702,608)**. Carbon credit sales, which began in June 2021, are a crucial new financing instrument for conservancies.

The value of household incomes and employment in NRT conservancies and tourist lodges totaled

**Ksh 195.8 million**

over the last six months



**16**

CLF projects initiated in the first half of 2022 with **Ksh 41,432,376**

The programs which have received support include **education, water and health**



### Output 5: Equitable and Responsive Livelihood Investments in Conservancy Communities

The Community Livelihoods Fund (CLF) is an outcome-based project model in which conservancies select, fund, and implement initiatives that meet their livelihood needs.

In the first half of 2022, **16** CLF initiatives were launched, with a total investment of **Ksh 41,432,376 (USD 360,281)** in community development priorities. Education, water and health are among the programs that received CLF funding.

The Conservancy Livelihood Funds operate on the basis of a set of application regulations. Microfinance programs are currently being implemented in **39** of the conservancies, with infrastructural projects underway in Soit Oudo, Learata, and Lodung'okwe Primary Schools.

#### Water Resource Management

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





During the first half of 2022, we continued to work to improve water access for people, livestock and wildlife, in a bid to improve livelihoods across the entire NRT landscape through various interventions.

The ongoing partnerships with the County Governments, especially through the EU Ranger Program are set to improve water access across the communities within and outside NRT member community conservancies.

*The integrated approach to water resource planning and management, with conservancies serving as the entry point for water development, has resulted in more focused investment in community priorities across the NRT landscape, resulting in more secure livelihoods, reducing human-wildlife conflict, and boosting environmental conservation.*

### Water Infrastructure in NRT Member Community Conservancies (January–June 2022)

CONSERVANCY	INFRASTRUCTURE
<b>ISIOLO COUNTY</b>	
Narupa	Water supply extension from Tura Borehole to Narasha community is ongoing to bolster peacebuilding efforts. This is being carried out in collaboration with other partners (including NAWIRI), and using conservancy carbon funds
Nannapa	Exploration for a new borehole in the Labarishereki area is ongoing to provide water for domestic use, livestock and institutions in the Nannapa Conservancy of OI Donyiro
Biliqo Bulesa	Using Carbon Project funds, the communities of Biliqo Marara, Dima Adho, Biliqo and Bulesa are rehabilitating and extending existing systems to improve water access
Leparua	Utilizing Carbon Project funds, the Conservancy has improved water access in seven community settlements by undertaking water extension and new intake construction
Nakuprat Gotu	Completed drilling the Attan Borehole whose yield is 26m <sup>3</sup> /hr, to support the Attan community in irrigation, enabling them to diversify their livelihoods
Isiolo South Conservancy – Sericho, Kinna, Garbatula and Cherab	Water assessments are ongoing for the proposed Conservancy headquarters and outposts. Construction is expected to commence within the year
<b>SAMBURU COUNTY</b>	
Meibae	Sand dam rehabilitation is ongoing to improve the reliability of the critical Muger e Muny Sand Dam for both livestock and wildlife use
Kalama	The Kalama Resource Center’s water supply has been completed. Currently awaiting rains

Sera	Water extension has been completed and tested to improve water access within the Sanctuary, facilitating rewilding  The water quality in the Sanctuary's water pints is continuously being monitored
Westgate	Detailed assessments for interventions that can improve water access for domestic use across the Conservancy have been conducted, thanks to the existence of Carbon Project funds  In collaboration with the County Government, through EU Ranger, completed the preliminary works on the extension of the Naisunyai water supply. The extension is expected to be complete by the end of the year
Nkoteiya	Completed drilling and equipping the Lounnoi Borehole, enhancing water supply to the community, Conservancy headquarters, and the Nkoteiya Eco Lodge
Ltungai	The development of the Sunoni Borehole is ongoing. The borehole is expected to provide water for both domestic use and livestock
<b>MARSABIT</b>	
Melako	Using Carbon Project funds, currently working on pipeline extension to improve water access in the settlement of Manyatta Silapani
Songa	The rehabilitation of the Leyai pipeline supply is now complete. The pipeline is providing an uninterrupted supply of clean water to the residents of Leyai, improving their livelihoods and also reducing human-elephant conflict in the area
<b>NRT COAST</b>	
Ishaqbini (Garissa County)	The Ishaqbini water supply is being rehabilitated and solarized to serve the Hirola Sanctuary, communities of Hara and Korisa, and the Conservancy headquarters
Ndera (Tana River County)	The Ndera headquarters' water supply was rehabilitated and a new pump fitted
Awer (Lamu County)	The installation of a 285 l/hour desalination plant is ongoing, to provide portable water to the residents of Kiangwe Village who have no alternative source of clean water

Rainwater harvesting is an untapped resource that the Water Program has been advocating for and will continue to.

The allocation the communities have made from their Carbon Project revenues to water initiatives indicate how important water is to their lives. This underscores the fact that communities' overall well-being is heavily dependent on water.

In the NRT Coast region, following the construction of 1 solar-powered water desalination plant in Awer

Kiangwe Village and the solarization of the Ishaqbini water pump, 330 households now have access to portable, clean, fresh water.

Water governance continues to be a very important area that requires attention to ensure our water supplies function effectively. NRT has begun capacity building and providing training on water governance across the conservancies. This will be the next area of focus in the coming years.





## Education

Access to good quality education is a catalyst for the empowerment of men and women, the growth of economies, the development of healthy families, and environmental conservation.

Several conservancies have been able to finance essential education infrastructure as a result of donor support, resulting in rapid improvement in educational quality.

Many schools remain in desperate need of water and sanitation facilities. In some schools up to 100 students are crammed into a single classroom, making it vital to have teachers who have been properly trained and equipped to instruct large groups of students. To facilitate this effort, NRT undertook a capacity building exercise for teachers after completing the construction of two classrooms at Wamba Mixed Secondary School.

This year, 4 classrooms at the integrated Logologo Primary School which were constructed in 1970 but had never been repaired were renovated.

A needs survey was conducted earlier this year in several conservancies. The survey's findings will serve as the starting point for NRT's next phase of investments and partnerships in the field of education.

## Access to Health Care

The larger community has benefited from increased health care facilities thanks to NRT conservancies.

In collaboration with partners, NRT added a maternity ward to the Biliqo healthcare facility. Since its completion in 2020 the ward has improved the quality of medical care provided to the inhabitants of Biliqo. The maternity ward currently serves 1,686 households found in the area. The number of patients treated by the medical team has also doubled as more patients can now access health care providers.

Government services and amenities are still sparse in this isolated Northern Kenya region, and residents walk considerably long distances to receive health services. Maternal care services are severely lacking. Many women do not receive the critical care they need during and after pregnancy, endangering expectant mothers and their new-born babies.

The addition of modern technology to the maternity ward has substantially improved the situation, allowing many more expectant mothers to access vital pre and post-natal services.

This year, the Isiolo County Government invited NRT to expand the Health Care Program into Isiolo South. NRT therefore, conducted a health needs assessment to gather baseline data and the proposals of the region's indigenous communities and health workers. The assessment, which was conducted in 8 health facilities revealed, among other findings, that across all the facilities, there was a limited supply of drugs available, that some communities still struggle to access basic health care because they reside in remote areas, that most health facilities lack adequate staff or equipment, and that upper respiratory diseases, particularly malaria, diarrhoea, and kala-azar (black fever) are widespread.

NRT is committed to the use of clean energy as a means of promoting good health while simultaneously conserving natural resources and has so far installed over **250 biogas units** across conservancies in northern and coastal Kenya.



*Since its completion in 2020 the Biliqo Maternity Ward has improved the quality of medical care provided to the Biliqo community, and the number of patients treated by the medical team has doubled.*

## Spotlight

### Transforming Lives, Conserving Forests, One Biogas Unit at a Time

At least 90% of rural Kenyan households rely on firewood for cooking, endangering forests, according to Kenya's Ministry of Energy.

Phase 1 of NRT's Clean Energy Project, launched in February 2020, revolutionized life for northern Kenya communities in 8 NRT member community conservancies and reduced the pressure on dwindling forest habitats caused by charcoal and firewood harvesting. In the Project, biogas digester units are installed in community members' homes. Phase 2 of the Clean Energy Project is underway, with the installation of biogas digester units taking place in 20 additional conservancies across northern and coastal Kenya.

Earlier this year, the NRT Clean Energy Team held community awareness meetings in 5 NRT Coast Conservancies: Ishaqbini, Ndera, Lower Tana, Hanshak, and Pate Marine, to mobilize communities to embrace the use of clean energy for cooking and reduce their reliance on charcoal and firewood. Each conservancy will receive 30 biogas units and all 5 conservancies are expected to establish a revolving fund based on household repayment plans. This fund will enable the purchase of more biogas units to benefit other conservancy members.





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

NRT Trading's work, coupled with peace and security, is critical to the success of community conservancies. NRT Trading-affiliated businesses have expanded and flourished in the last six months.

The Security, Peace, and Governance Teams aim to establish conducive circumstances for businesses to thrive, demonstrating the direct link between environmental conservation and economic growth.



### Highlights of the NRT Trading Program (January to June 2022):

#### BeadWORKS

- **Ksh 10,091,339 million (USD 87,750)** was generated in sales in the first half of 2022.
- **27,128** items were produced.
- **Ksh 3,768,650 (USD 32,770)** million was paid out to women for production labour.



- BeadWORKS contributes **5%** of revenue to conservation efforts in the Program's host conservancies. This amounted to **Ksh 504,567 (USD 4,387)** as of June 2022.
- **Ksh 188,435 (USD 1,638)** was paid out to Star Beaders as financial rewards.
- **275** women underwent upskill training. **160** of these women came from Melako, Westgate, Lekurruki and Leparua Conservancies and were trained on leather product making, while **115** were from Naibunga, Sera, Kalama and Il Ngwesi Conservancies and were trained on bead looming.



## Spotlight

### Joy and Excitement as 337 Women and Youth Graduate from Ujuzi Manyattani

Graduation is always an amazing milestone to celebrate. It serves as a powerful reminder of what we can achieve in the face of the greatest of challenges and opens the door to a world of possibilities.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, jubilant cheers filled the air, and the joy of 337 women and youth was palpable as they graduated from NRT Trading's Ujuzi Manyattani Program. During the Program, the 337 graduands who hailed from Nakuprat-Gotu, Nasuulu, Ltungai, Shurr, Jaldesa, and Songa Community Conservancies underwent three months of intensive training, acquiring vocational skills that will enable them to benefit from the growing infrastructure investments in northern Kenya resulting from Vision 2030 and devolution.

Ujuzi Manyattani is a mobile, village-based vocational training program that collaborates with polytechnics to teach community members marketable skills, helping women and young morans in NRT member community conservancies diversify their livelihoods, encouraging entrepreneurship and breaking poverty and conflict cycles.

Ujuzi Manyattani also provides access to learning to people from underprivileged socio-economic backgrounds and those who have been unable to undertake formal education. NRT, through its enterprise arm NRT Trading, implements the Program.

The April graduation marked the Program's third and was presided over by H.E. Ole Thonke, Danish Ambassador to Kenya, who was accompanied by the USAID Kenya and East Africa Director, Aurelia Micko.

At the colorful ceremony, the 337 graduands were awarded certificates, issued toolkits to enable them launch their own businesses, and celebrated for their tremendous achievements in masonry, mobile and motorcycle mechanics, catering, hairdressing, welding, tailoring, electrical engineering and solar installation.

Earlier this year, the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) and NRT Trading engaged in a new partnership aimed at jointly expanding the Ujuzi Manyattani Program, opening the doors for the training and certification of Ujuzi Manyattani beneficiaries using NITA curricula and the Government Trade Test.

This new partnership will drive the socio-economic development of the participating NRT member community conservancies by ensuring the curricula offered in the chosen trades are current and relevant in the face of rapidly changing industry dynamics and technological advancements.



## Tourism

NRT member community conservancies generated a total of **Ksh 46.4 million (USD 403,478)** in tourism revenue in the first half of 2022.

The NRT Tourism Team has sought to establish self-catering camp grounds (bandas) to attract local and foreign tourists seeking a unique experience.

In the first six months of 2022, these camps earned **Ksh 3,469,500 (30,169 USD)**, providing a valuable funding source for conservancies. Two new camps, Nkoteiya and Tassia, have been added to the conservancy portfolio.

To bolster the efforts to grow tourism in the area, the Big North Tourism Project recently launched a new website: [www.thebignorth.travel](http://www.thebignorth.travel)

### Household Enterprises Savings and Credit Cooperative

Many rural households do not have access to commercial finance and credit. The lack of financial literacy and business skills combined with the fact that family assets are mainly livestock inhibits the development of household enterprises.

Administered by NRT Trading, the Northern Rangelands Savings and Credit Cooperative (NR

Sacco) provides an accessible microfinance option for community members. Beneficiaries are provided with access to financing, and financial literacy and entrepreneurship training, to help them support their household businesses.

Between January and June 2022:

- **365** new members (**267** women and **98** men) were recruited into the Sacco.
- **5,405** members are currently in the Sacco.
- A total of **Ksh 3,792,000 (USD 32,973)** was disbursed to finance 62 businesses.
- **378** community members (**288** women and **90** men) and **185** youth (**127** female and **58** male) from **10** conservancies (Ruko, Shurr, Masol, Biliqo Bulesa, Oldonyiro, Ishaqbini Hirola, Ltungai, Meibae, Nabunga Lower, and Pate), were trained in entrepreneurship.

The high cost of living and the impact of Covid-19 on the economy have decreased customer purchasing power and hampered Sacco members' abilities to save and repay loans.



**Ksh 3.79 million**

had been disbursed to finance 60 businesses by close of June 2022



## Vocational Training

Ujuzi Manyattani is a mobile village-based accredited vocational training program NRT Trading instituted in collaboration with polytechnics to ensure that no one is left behind in economic development. Training is provided in the villages, with a focus on optimizing local market opportunities.

The Program's curriculum has been adapted to accommodate trainees' performance of household responsibilities (such as livestock herding) and accommodates trainees who have not completed formal education. The last six months saw 117 trainees across 4 Conservancies (Nakuprat Gotu, Ruko, Masol, and Ishaqbini) complete the Ujuzi Manyattani Program.





## Natural Resources and Conservation

A total of **3.5 million** hectares of conservancy rangelands have been rehabilitated and grazed according to grazing plans. To safeguard critical marine species, mangroves and coral reefs have been established and the effectiveness of four locally managed marine zones has been strengthened.

### Output 7: Sustainable Rangelands Management Systems

The effective management of rangelands is key to unlocking the potential of many of the conservancies.

Many community members rely on livestock for their livelihood, but the presence of livestock coupled with inadequate grazing management leads to natural resource degradation and biodiversity loss.

Natural resource management is directly linked to peace and security. The NRT Rangelands Team recently met with **3,330** herders (**2,767** men and **563** women) to discuss rotational grazing plans

and how conservancies might benefit from their participation in the implementation of grazing plans.

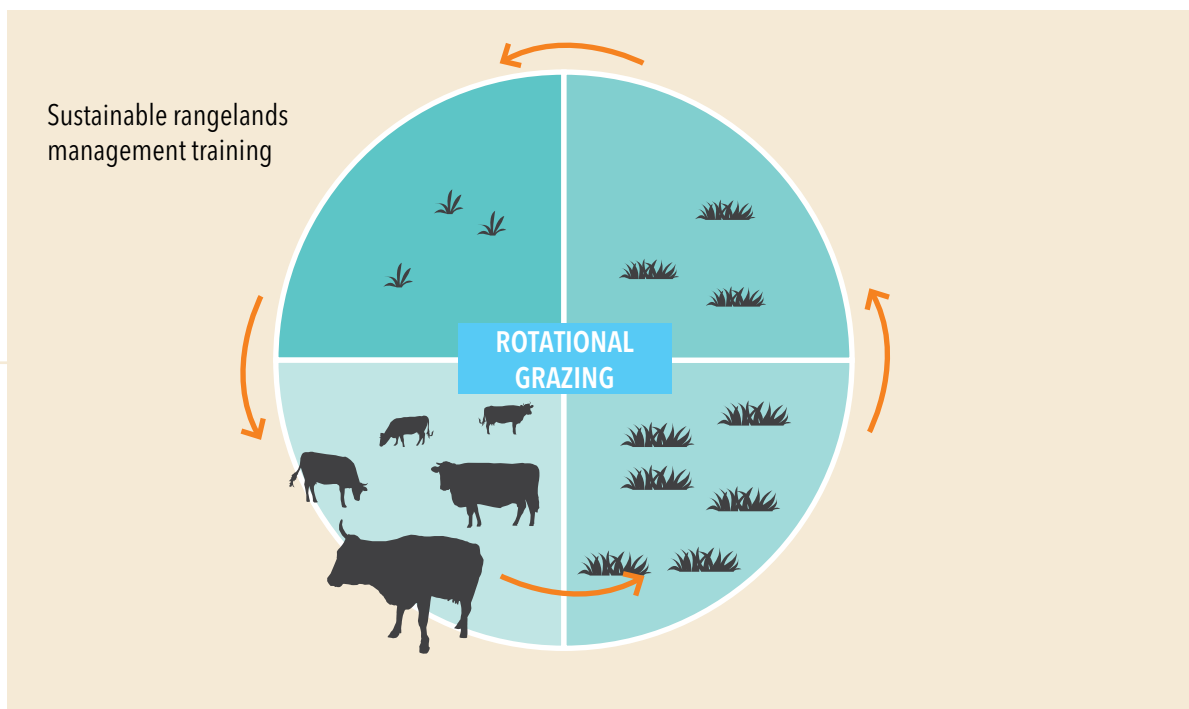
**1,262** conservancy area leaders, including **496** grazing committee members for **37** conservancies attended the quarterly and regional grazing meetings for wet and dry season grazing planning.

The proliferation of invasive species such as *Acacia reficiens* has taken a toll on the rangelands, posing an existential threat to both wildlife and community members.

Consequently, NRT launched a program to breed cochineal (a moth) in **18** greenhouses with the goal of releasing these insects into areas densely

**3,330**

Headers engaged on rotational grazing plans





populated with *Opuntia stricta* in an effort to minimize invasion by this alien species. Cochineal, feeds solely on the *Opuntia stricta* cactus and lives only on Opuntia plants.

Invasive species frequently infiltrate regions overgrazed by cattle.

The Veg-CoMMS (Community Monitoring and Management System), which began in 2012, is currently being implemented by 15 conservancies.

### The Rangeland Cartoon Program

The Rangeland Cartoon Program is still going strong, and epitomizes ways in which natural resource management and education can go hand in hand.

This Program screens educative and entertaining rangeland cartoons, with a focus on the Meibae and Ngilai Conservancies.

Veg-CoMMS enables conservancies to monitor the present state of their rangelands in order to tailor grazing management to local conditions and weather patterns.

Grazing management is extremely important; even where grass cover is below average, places with effective grazing practices have more pasture than those with poor grazing management. Despite severe pasture shortage throughout the region, and a lack of regular rainfall for over 2 years, animals in the conservancies have survived.

*In an effort to reduce the alien invasives, primarily the Opuntia stricta (i.e. prickly pear), NRT has embarked on a program to breed cochineal (a moth) in 18 greenhouses with the aim of releasing them into densely populated Opuntia stricta areas.*

Between January and June, the Cartoon Team conducted **4** screenings, and reached **1,724** community members (**239** male elders, **448** women, **810** children and **227** youth) with diverse environmental messages that included grazing planning, grazing management, and land restoration approaches.





**Did You Know?**

**What is a Dipole?**

A dipole is the movement of different ocean surface temperatures within the Indian Ocean. The temperature differences between the eastern and western Indian Ocean create or push away the rains received in East Africa. A negative Indian Ocean Dipole was recently declared. Since the dipole currently favors rainfall to the east of the Indian Ocean, Australia will likely receive above-average rainfall in the upcoming months while East Africa will remain dry. The dry season is predicted to continue in the next rainy season and may result in below-average rainfall recordings.

**The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project**

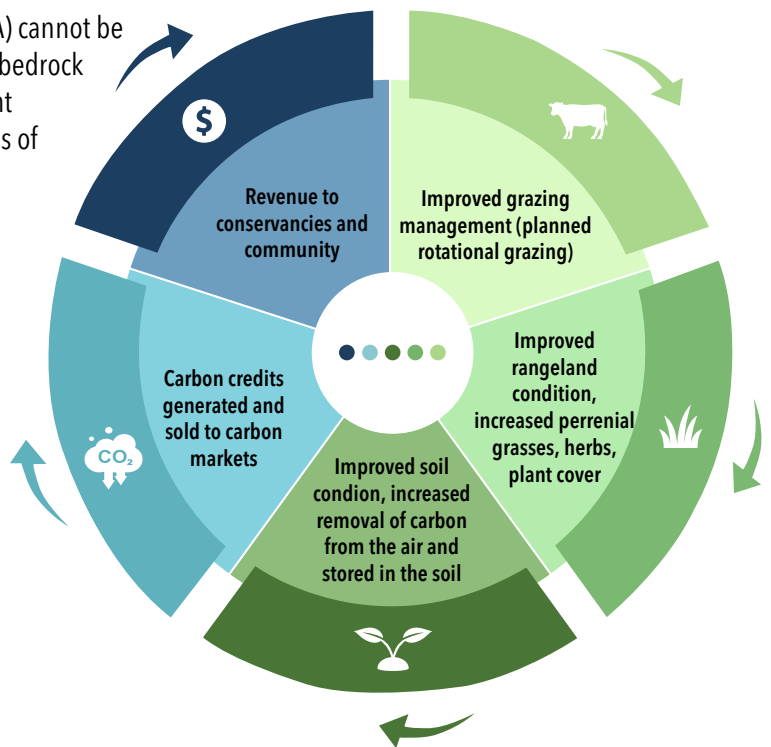
One of the most innovative projects and biggest successes of the first half of the year was the launch of the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project.

Land degradation in Kenya takes numerous forms, including unsustainable loss of vegetation and landscape features, rising aridity and water scarcity, and the spread of invasive species. These elements are inextricably linked, acting as mutual degradation accelerators.

Combating land degradation in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) cannot be understated in terms of relevance and urgency. It is the bedrock for attaining all of the region's Sustainable Development Goals, as soil and land are communities' primary sources of livelihoods and economic activity.

The degradation of grasslands not only poses a significant risk to the hundreds of millions of people who rely on them, but also poses a severe environmental threat due to the massive amounts of soil organic carbon released into the atmosphere.

Kenya has been a signatory to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) since 1997 and has laid out its targets for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), and aims to achieve no net loss of healthy and productive land by 2030.





## Pioneering the Future of Conservation: The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project

A journey of a 1,000 miles begins with a single step. A decade ago, NRT took a pioneering step and begun working with participating conservancies to implement the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project.

This is a highly ambitious and exciting project. Developing a carbon project can be a long and expensive process requiring specific technical expertise and formal structures to credibly verify the project's soil carbon storage at the highest standard and ensure its long-term success. Working with expert partners, NRT facilitated the Project's development over the past ten years so the sale of credits generated by the project's activities on global markets could provide a valuable new income stream to support conservancy operations sustainably, and fund projects identified as priorities by communities.

After ten years of hard work, the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project—the world's first large-scale grasslands soil carbon project, was able to disburse the first revenue to conservancies in February this year.

This history-making Project is the first in the world to use the new VM0032 methodology, making it a 'beta test' of that methodology; the first to use modeled removals rather than measured removals, and the first project focused entirely on soil removals. It is also the first to work with pastoralist communities who use land resources communally and is one of few large, landscape-level carbon removal ventures currently on the market. It is anticipated to remove and store 50 million tons of carbon dioxide over 30 years which is the equivalent of the annual emissions from over 10,000,000 cars!

The sale of this sequestered carbon from community rangelands in northern Kenya will create additional and much-needed income for the communities and enhance conservation efforts, including the improvement of habitats for four endemic endangered species—the eastern black rhino, Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, and beisa oryx, as well as address the impact of climate change.

14 NRT member community conservancies will benefit from the Project (representing 21 different conservancy units). Each partnering conservancy will receive Ksh 36 million (USD 313,043) this year.

Within the agreed revenue share arrangements with the participating conservancies, approximately 40% of carbon revenue will finance conservancies' operations and the rehabilitation of rangelands and degraded areas, benefitting community members' livestock and wildlife. The remaining 60% will go towards funding projects of the community's choice, such as health, education bursaries, water, and classroom construction.





## Output 8: Flagship Species and Habitat Conservation Programs

From elephants to black and white rhinos to Rothschild's giraffes, Grevy's zebras, and octopuses, we are witnessing a rise in critical species across the conservancies.

Northern Kenya's elephant population (in Laikipia, Samburu, Marsabit, and now Meru) is arguably the country's second most important after Tsavo. Due to the substantial overlap between their territory and migratory routes and those of people, it is one of the most distinctive elephant populations on the continent. This example of people and elephants living side by side has many challenges. The percentage of illegally killed elephants (PIKE) is currently 23.7%. Many conservancies have held meetings to discuss this issue as human-elephant conflict remains a huge present and future concern.

Across the NRT terrain, efforts made to reduce trophy poaching and ivory poaching have been a huge success. Ivory poaching is the deliberate killing of elephants to extract and sell their tusks. Human-elephant conflict on the other hand is primarily retaliatory in nature, occurring when an elephant competes for or destroys a critical resource that people in communities rely on, such as water or crops. The decline in poaching in recent months is encouraging, especially given forecasts that human-elephant conflict-related killings would rise as both elephant and human populations grow over the landscape.

We believe that a variety of variables contribute to our ability to keep these numbers low, including:

- Collective ownership of wildlife resulting in communities serving as wildlife custodians.
- Investment in intelligence-led wildlife protection efforts.
- Collaboration of the mobile teams, conservancy scouts, and government law enforcement agencies.
- Investment in digital radios and EarthRanger technology.
- High-level training sessions.

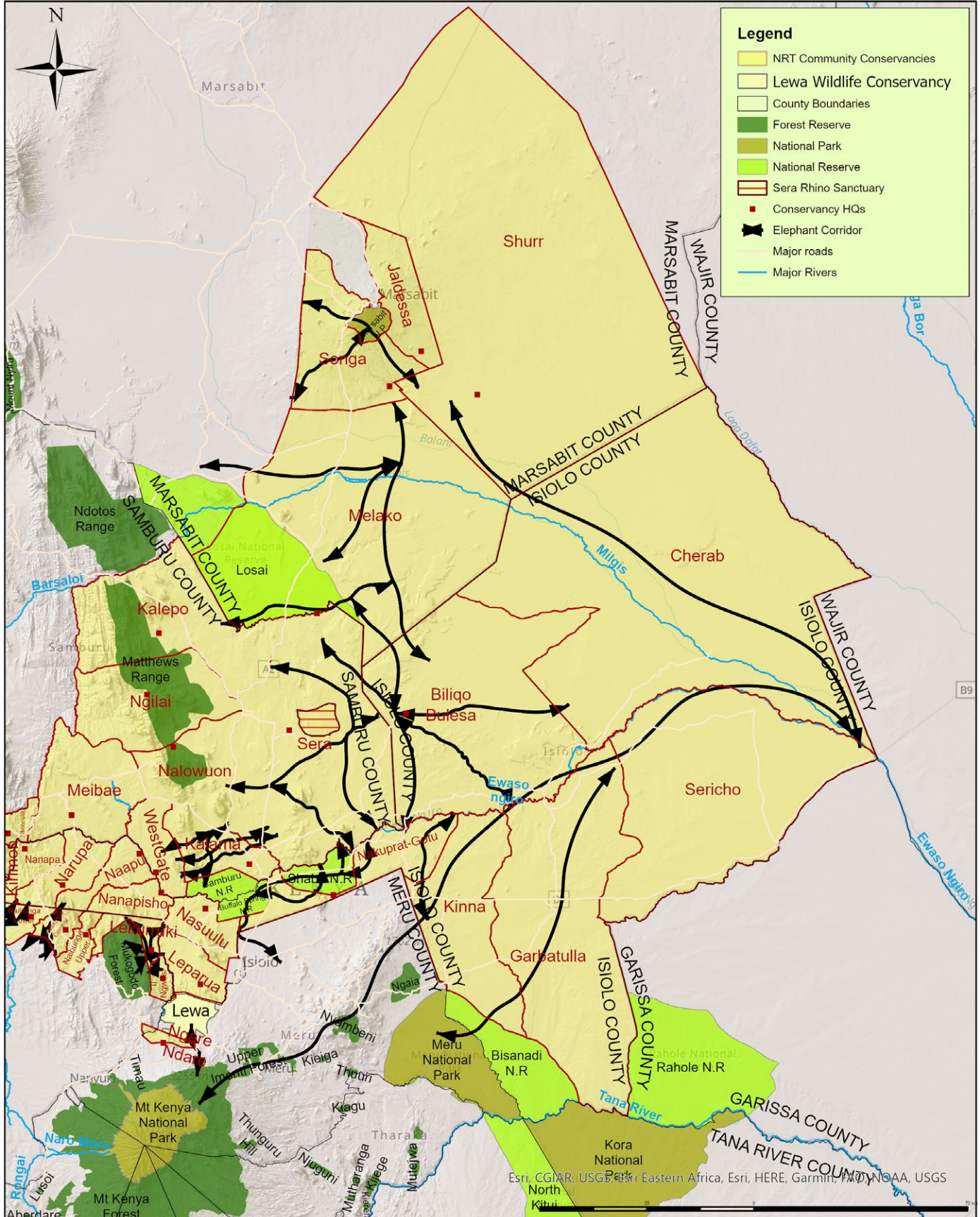
The bulk of Kenya's wildlife lives outside of protected areas. Therefore, NRT's work must continue to focus on preserving biodiversity in these regions, in addition to improving livelihoods and ensuring the peace and security of the communities who live in the conservancies.

NRT is working in collaboration with the Connected Conservation Foundation (CCF) to harness the power of satellite imagery for nature and wildlife habitat conservation. Satellite imagery makes it possible to measure changes on the earth's surface and understand ecosystem dynamics, which may range from the rapid detection of deforestation and poaching to locating endangered species in hard-to-reach areas and other activities changing the landscape.

NRT and CCF are using satellite imagery to capture information on the extensive Lorian Swamp. This technology ensures that vital data on the Swamp is gathered unobtrusively, eliminating the risk of disturbing the surveyed species and habitats. By mapping this water resource and its ecosystem, NRT researchers can develop more informed plans and conservation activities to deal with evolving climate-driven events and changing natural resources.

Data collected on Lorian Swamp will also provide a baseline to measure ecosystem recovery over the next ten years for NRT and NRT's partners' conservation projects. The data will define new protected areas where researchers will survey several species and categorize and map vegetation types, including the status of the invasive *Prosopis juliflora* tree, alongside hydrology channels and human settlements. Additionally, governmental agencies, including the National Museums of Kenya, Kenyatta University, and the Kenya Wildlife Service, will work with NRT to use this imagery to plan the mitigation of human-wildlife conflict occurrences between elephants, lions, and local communities. This will facilitate the establishment of wildlife corridors so that communities and wildlife co-exist and thrive together.

ENHANCED CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN MERU AND MARSABIT THROUGH SHABA NATIONAL RESERVE AND LORIAN SWAMP







## Spotlight

### NRT goes International with Collaring Partnership in Uganda

Northern Uganda is a savanna punctuated by woodlands, thickets and shrublands with diverse wildlife. Many of its characteristics are similar to northern Kenya's, including climate, vegetation, livelihoods, and culture.

Elephant populations across Kenya and Uganda's wild borders garner little attention and information on the threats they face is scanty. We may not know all the challenges they encounter, but we do know holding a valid passport is not one of them—they roam across the Kenya-Uganda border freely, although we do not know when or the specific spots.

To gather data that would help avert elephant-human conflict, as well as inform the conservation of elephants, wildlife research and management, and the monitoring of potential trans-boundary elephant movements between Kenya and Uganda, NRT and the Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF) launched a transboundary elephant-collaring operation in 2021 in Kenya's West-Pokot, South Turkana, and Marakwet Counties, and in Uganda's Kidepo Valley National Park located in northeastern Uganda, in partnership with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Kenya Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Save the Elephants (STE).

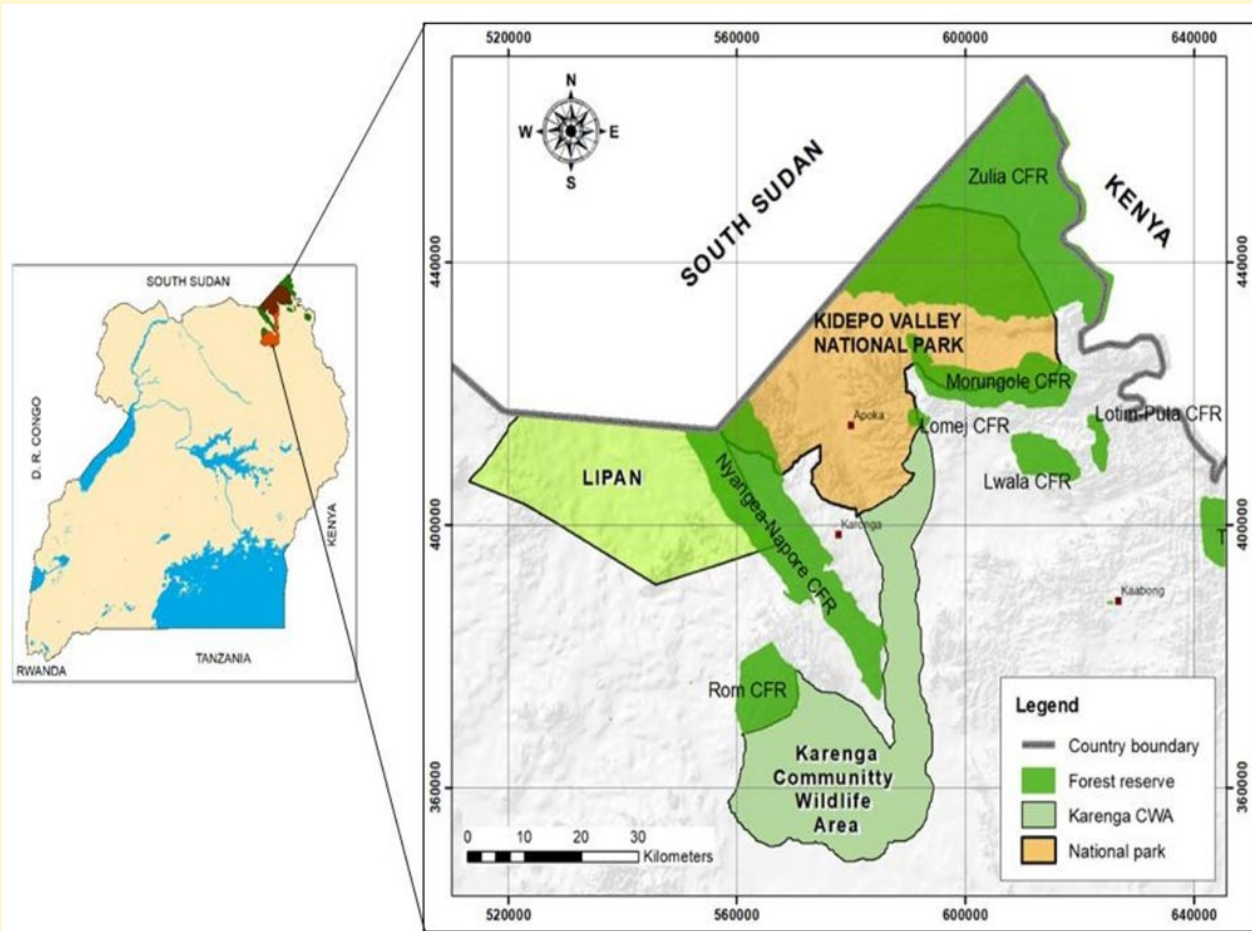
STE and NRT, in collaboration with KWS, had previously collared and tracked elephants in West Pokot, Turkana and Marakwet Counties from 2017 to 2021. These collars

had defined the elephant range and revealed intriguing movement patterns—males moved in close proximity to females, which is unusual because males are typically more self-reliant than females. This is perhaps an effect of the severe poaching these elephants endured before 2017, which may have encouraged the males and females to stay in larger groups for safety in numbers. The elephants' vulnerability and the upsurge in human-elephant conflict necessitated a collaring operation across the entire ecosystem to enable continuous elephant surveillance.

In February this year, 15 elephants were collared from Kidepo Valley National Park, through northeastern Uganda, into Kenya's West Pokot and Nasolot areas. These collars, generously donated by STE, will reveal the movement patterns of Kidepo's elephants, providing insight on how the elephants move, where they go, and what they need, and determine whether connectivity still exists between neighbouring countries. During the collaring operation, the team relied heavily on NRT's and STE's elephant distribution know-how and the KWS and UWA's local insight. All the collared elephants are monitored using the satellite collars, in real time, through EarthRanger technology which provides the KWS and UWA instant access to the data for management purposes. UWA further invited NRT and STE to train UWA staff in Murchison Falls National Park and provide technical expertise in collaring elephants.



### Uganda Project Area



### Cherab Conservancy Saves the Day and Baby Elephant!

When you are a two-month-old baby elephant and you find yourself trapped in a well with no familiar face in sight, the world can seem like a frightening place to be. Fortunately, for this particular elephant calf, help was at hand.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, community members in the newly established Cherab Community Conservancy in Merti Sub-county successfully rescued the baby elephant who was trapped in a shallow well in Raku Bula. The two-month-old male calf was in critical condition, and the community reported that his family was nowhere to be found. After he was rescued, community members watched over him until a Tropic Air helicopter airlifted him to the Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage in Nairobi after the Kenya Wildlife Service approved the trip.

This rescue mission was made possible by the combined efforts of community members as well as the NRT team at the Joint Communications Centre, who coordinated the mission with the relevant authorities.





*The majority of wildlife in Kenya live outside of the protected areas. Therefore safeguarding the biodiversity in these areas must remain a major focus of NRT's work, in addition to the efforts to enhance peoples' livelihoods, build peace and improve the security of the communities living in the conservancies.*



## Spotlight

### The Ruko Giraffe Sanctuary Family is Growing...and Growing!

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, in Ruko Giraffe Sanctuary, located in Ruko Community Conservancy, Awala gave birth to a healthy female giraffe named Naserian, and on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, Nasieku delivered a male baby. With the addition of these two baby giraffes to the family, the Sanctuary now has 11 endangered Rothschild's giraffes.

Recently, Ruko Conservancy earned a spot in the conservation hall of fame by successfully rescuing and translocating nine giraffes from the disappearing Longicharo Island in Lake Baringo to the Ruko Giraffe Sanctuary. All the translocated giraffes are thriving in their new home.



## Sera Rhino Sanctuary

The eastern black rhino population has experienced no poaching so far in 2022, and NRT expects the rhino in Sera conservancy to remain safe for many years to come.

There are currently **20** rhinos in Sera, with a healthy calf delivered in May and more calves expected before the end of the year.



### NRT Coast NRT Coast Conducts Conservation Surveys

NRT Coast undertook a seagrass survey in the Kiunga and Pate Marine Community Conservancies in partnership with the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KEMRFI), to obtain information about the state of seagrass and the presence of dugong species. Both conservancies also conducted a ranger-based coral reef monitoring survey in conservation areas, including LMMAs, to evaluate the status of the habitats and the effectiveness of the locally managed marine areas (LMMAs), for comparison with earlier surveys. During Pate's survey, data on the fish, benthic, and invertebrates found along the reefs of Pate Island was obtained.





## Output 9: Forest and Marine Ecosystem Management Systems

### The Marine Program

The Marine Program is nearly six years old and thriving, thanks to The Nature Conservancy's generous support. The Program aims to protect habitats, reduce fishing pressure on near-shore areas and provide a community-driven approach for reef restoration and additional livelihood options.

#### The milestones the Marine Program achieved during the last six months include:

- **7** sea turtle nestings were recorded and **2** sea turtles were rescued after being entangled in fishing nets.
- The Bahari Moja Ocean Plastic Collection and Recycling Initiative in Kiunga is progressing well. NRT, The Nature Conservancy, Safari Doctors, and Kwayu Safaris are collaboratively involved in the Program's implementation. The Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA) organized beach clean-up exercises and collected **1.607 tons** of plastics waste, **0.335 tons** of which was crashed. KICOWA also raised community awareness in an effort to prevent marine litter from ending up on the area's coastal beaches. Sea turtle nesting has increased as a result of the Program's efforts to keep beaches clean.
- A buyer, Flipflopi, was secured for the hard plastics, bailed and crashed plastics. The crashed plastics will be sold to Flipflopi at **Ksh 30 (USD 0.26)** per kilo and hard plastics at **Ksh 12 (USD 0.1)** per kilo.
- The implementation of the Illegal Beach Seine Nets Gear Exchange Program (GEP Program) in Kiunga Conservancy, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is in progress. The GEP Program will ensure that all beach seine nets in the Kiunga Marine National Reserve (KMNR) have been voluntarily exited by 2023. Earlier this year, consensus was reached on the preferred type of the new gears, quantity for each type of gear and detailed specifications for procurement. In order to replace at least 50% of the beach seine nets operating within KMNR, new gears were selected and suitable suppliers identified, The procurement of the new gears is ongoing and the handover is scheduled for September 2022.
- A meeting was convened with fisheries' beach management units in Pate during which information was shared on the conservancy's progress, impact, challenges, and future plans. The fisher communities were also made aware of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Locally-Managed Marine Area (LMMAs) and the fisheries' co-management zones. Additionally, disputes related to the LMMAs were resolved.



- A marine mammal assessment was carried out in the Kiunga-Pate seascape in collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to obtain scientific data on the mammals.
- The Pate Conservancy and Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA) Board members underwent field-based training to raise their awareness of marine mammals. The training covered several topics including the role of marine mammals in the ecosystem, the importance of monitoring them, and the ways community members can benefit from ecotourism activities involving watching marine mammals. Additionally, rangers from Pate Conservancy and KICOWA were trained on the methods loggers use to detect the presence of marine mammals in the ocean. This knowledge will guide local community members as they perform ecotourism activities linked to marine mammals.

NRT Coast is strengthening community and stakeholder engagements and observing growing recognition of the region and its conservancies.

An increasing number of partners have expressed an interest in visiting NRT Coast, learning more about NRT's Marine Program and the NRT community-led conservation model, and identifying opportunities for further collaboration and support.

During the last six months, NRT Coast had the privilege of hosting over 5 high-level partner visits. Visiting guests included: a delegation from the Danish Embassy and WSTF (WaterFund) led by the Deputy Ambassador, The Nature Conservancy global team, Conservation International, the Fauna & Flora International fundraising team, Basecamp Foundation, the NRT Board of Directors and Oceanic Global.

NRT Coast has also forged a new partnership with WSTF (WaterFund) that will see the region receive support for its programs.

7

sea turtle nestings spotted in the first half of the year





## Forest

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

Overall, the local communities' capacity to protect priority mangrove habitats from unrestricted harvesting, repair degraded mangrove regions, and build relations with Community Forest Associations has been increased.

Mangrove restoration projects are underway and are focused on providing training and refresher trainings, planting mangroves and monitoring planted sites.

### During the first half of the year:

- A field-based ecological mangrove restoration (EMR) refresher training was conducted in Pate Marine Conservancy to upscale planting efforts in degraded areas and establish a 'best restoration practices' demonstration site. **36** local community mangrove participants and key partners attended the training.
- A record **20,476** mangroves seedlings were planted and nurseries holding a total of **11,867** propagules were established. This brings the total number of mangroves planted in Pate, Kiunga and Lower Tana Conservancies since 2018 to **95,494**.
- The average survival rate for the existing planted sites in Pate is **59%** whereas the survival rate for the nurseries is over **98%**.
- The development process of the Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMPs) and Forest Management Agreements (FMAs) for the Lamu Community Forest Association and the PANDAWE (Pate-Ndau-Awer) Community Forest Association has been completed, and their launches are planned for later this year.
- **75** biogas kits were installed in **5** NRT Coast Conservancies (Ishaqbini, Ndera, Hanshak, Lower Tana and Pate) in a bid to reduce forest destruction for charcoal and fuel.





## LOOKING AHEAD

We are performing an organizational review to position NRT for success in tackling future challenges. A comprehensive sustainability plan for NRT and its member community conservancies is also under development, along with a 30-year strategic plan.

As the second half of 2022 continues to unfold, NRT's mission remains the same—to serve our member community conservancies to the best of our ability while enhancing lives, building peace, and conserving the natural environment.

We have made great strides since the beginning of the year and are incredibly proud of the milestones we and our member community conservancies have achieved thus far. However, much more remains to be done to ensure all NRT member community conservancies succeed at the highest level. We are ready to do the work and make each day in the remainder of the year count.

Taking this opportunity to say thank you to all who support us and our work. Everything you do goes a long way in helping our member community conservancies increase their resilience against climate change, and we appreciate you!





# ASANTENI SANA!

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

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## Donors



## Partners









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