1. COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER - CARBON PROJECT

Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) is one of the most successful and impactful local conservation organization based at UNESCO World Heritage Site Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. NRT is a membership organization owned and led by 45 community conservancies in Northern and Coastal Kenya and, more recently, in Uganda. NRT was established in 2004 as a shared resource to help build and support member community conservancies, and, in doing so, enhance people’s lives, build peace, and conserve the natural environment.

The Northern Kenya Carbon Project is the world’s first large-scale grasslands soil carbon project. It is one of few large, landscape-level carbon removal ventures currently on the market. It is anticipated to remove and store 50 million tons of CO2 over 30 years – the equivalent of the annual emissions from over 10,000,000 cars. The sale of this sequestered carbon from community rangelands in northern Kenya will create additional and much needed income for the communities and enhance both community development and conservation efforts.

Job Title: Carbon Project Community Liaison Officer
Department: Program
Location: NRT HQs
Reports to: Rangelands & Carbon Program Governance Lead

Job Purpose:
NRT are the project proponents for the carbon project and are responsible for administering it and representing the carbon rights for several participating conservancies. Accordingly, we are looking for qualified candidates to fill the above positions.

Reporting to the Rangelands and Carbon Program Governance Lead, the Carbon Project Community Liaison Officer will be responsible for the day-to-day liaison & community engagement/communications for the Carbon project in each sphere of responsibility and shall perform, inter alia, the following duties & responsibilities:

Key roles/Responsibilities:
- Manage local stakeholder relationships through regular contact with local communities and their representatives.
- Undertake active community engagement in order to obtain and sustain the social license and enable smooth implementation of operations.
- Facilitate the smooth liaison between staff and contractors, etc., by maintaining regular contact & networking with primary communities & other key stakeholders.
- Develop and maintain close networks with local and county leadership; Liaise with relevant local, and county authorities to ensure good stakeholder relationships.
- Set up & organize meetings with key stakeholders & / or with any other agencies or person if so requested, including organizing meeting spaces.
- Maintain detailed & accurate record of meetings including agendas, meeting minutes, follow up / action points, details of meeting held or cancelled should also be maintained.
- Ensure that communities are kept abreast of the project developments & communication channels remain open with the communities.
- Actively seek feedback from the community and advise the organization on community views on
various issues and any changing trends within the community that may affect operations.

- Respond to community concerns by ensuring that they are brought to the attention of the Rangelands and Carbon Program Governance Leads.
- Assist in the identification of potential implementation problems & bottlenecks about both community & County government relationships.
- Develop and sustain an effective two-way communication network between the Carbon project and Conservancy boards.
- Gather information on social impact of carbon project operations on immediate communities and consult internally and with community leadership on mitigation measures.
- Carry out sensitization campaigns to educate the local communities on the carbon project’s activities on the ground.
- Report to the Carbon Project Governance Lead regularly on community issues & the project's performance in relation to those issues.
- Consult with local stakeholders and Conservancy board members regarding Community Carbon Funds’ Projects and their implementation.
- Forward questions about the project from community leaders & residents to appropriate project and NRT and government authorities.
- Communicate community concerns to the Carbon Project Governance Lead & act as a liaison assistant to ensure that Conservancy leaders & other community leaders communicate agreements on the project to their community constituents.
- Monitor interaction between sub/Contractors, locally employed persons and local communities and report any impropriety or Concern to the Carbon Project Governance Lead.
- Attend project Communities team meetings as required.
- Perform other duties as may be assigned.

Academic & Professional Qualifications:

- Bachelor’s Degree/Diploma/Certificate in Community Development, Social Sciences or any other relevant discipline from a recognized university in Kenya.
- Possession of a valid motor cycle riding license will be an added advantage.

Experience required:

- At least 10 years previous experience working within community relations/development role; management of grievances at community level.
- Prior experience working in the region & strong knowledge of local customs and traditions is critical.
- Experience working with national & county governments and non-state organizations that are contributing to the development of local communities is desirable.
- Experience in the management of grievances and grievance management systems.

Technical & Behavioral competences:

- Ability to develop and implement strategies (including key stakeholder engagement) to secure desired outcomes and support objectives
- Ability to translate complex information into strong, easily delivered messages, including the ability to influence, inspire confidence and build trust at all levels.
- Excellent written and verbal communications skills
- Knowledge of languages spoken locally are essential.
- Ability to establish & maintain excellent contacts with colleagues, County Government officials, Community Conservancy representatives & community members
▪ Strong community liaison, mobilization & negotiation skills required.
▪ Working knowledge of MS Office applications required.
▪ Good report writing and analytical skills.

How to apply:
Interested and qualified candidates are required to submit their application including a cover letter, detailed Curriculum Vitae highlighting relevant experience, academic and professional certificates, testimonials, a daytime telephone contact, email address, and names of three professional referees to reach us by close of business on Friday, 21st June 2024 to: recruit@nrt-kenya.org.

Northern Rangelands is an equal opportunity employer and Women, youth, People living with disability, the marginalized and the minorities are encouraged to apply.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.