



# NRT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022





# NRT Newsletter

## April 2022 Issue

Dear NRT Partners,

It was wonderful to join the rest of the world in marking Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. However, for us at NRT and for our member conservancies, every day is Earth Day.

Each sunrise on this side of the Sahara is a reminder to combat global warming by rehabilitating degraded rangelands, ending plastic pollution and planting more trees. Climate change is adversely affecting indigenous communities, livestock and wildlife, resulting in prolonged droughts and unpredictable rainfall patterns. Therefore, we are doubling down on our conservation efforts to ensure a greener and prosperous future for each of our 43 member conservancies and for everyone.

A good planet is hard to find. Business as usual is not an option on Earth's table. The onus is on all of us to grow responsibly and invest in our planet. Continue reading to learn more about the work NRT and NRT member conservancies are doing to enhance community members' lives, build peace and conserve the natural environment.

## Joy, Excitement as Ujuzi Manyattani Graduates 337 Women and Youth

Excited cheers filled the air, and the joy of 337 women and youth was palpable as they graduated from NRT Trading's Ujuzi Manyattani Program on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April. 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 vocational training program aimed at creating alternative livelihoods for indigenous communities in NRT member conservancies, encouraging entrepreneurship, and breaking poverty and conflict cycles. NRT, through its enterprise arm NRT Trading, implements the Program, which places trainers from partner polytechnics in villages to teach community members marketable skills. Ujuzi Manyattani also provides access to learning to people from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and those who have been unable to undertake formal education.

The April graduation marked the Program's third and was presided over by H.E. Ole Thonke, Danish Ambassador to Kenya, 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.



**546**

Indigenous community members have benefitted from Ujuzi Manyattani since its inception in 2019.



## Ujuzi Manyattani Program Conducts its Second Internal Assessment of Trainees

The NRT Trading Ujuzi Manyattani Team conducted a second internal assessment of 90 USAID-funded Local Works Program trainees in Masol, Ruko, and Ishaqbini Community Conservancies. The assessment data will enable the Program's implementation team to determine the trainees' progress.



## NRT Hosts Delegations from the Danish Embassy in Kenya and USAID

Kalama, Biliqo Bulesa, and Melako Community Conservancies had the pleasure of hosting a delegation from the Danish Embassy in Kenya, led by the Ambassador, H.E. Ole Thonke, and a USAID delegation, led by the USAID Kenya and East Africa Environment Office Director, Aurelia Micko, as they visited various NRT-led projects to learn more about NRT's work.

The NRT Board Chair, Dr. Julius Kipng'etich, Samburu County Deputy Governor, H.E. Julius Leseeto, Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) CEO, Mr. Dickson Kaelo, and various NRT development partners accompanied the delegates and engaged community members including peace ambassadors, beaders, and other beneficiaries of NRT-led programs.

The community conservancies' efforts in improving livelihoods, fostering peace, and conserving the environment inspired the visiting teams.

NRT has a long-term development partnership with USAID and the Embassy of Denmark in Kenya and Somalia, and both support NRT's core operations, infrastructure, and the conservancies' capacity building.



## Ksh 10 Million Education Bursary Launched by Newly-established Conservancies in Isiolo County

1,895 secondary school students stand to benefit from a Ksh 10 million education bursary launched in April by Kinna, Sericho, Garbatulla and Cherab Community Conservancies, new members of NRT. With the generous support of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Rainforest Trust and Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial, each of these conservancies disbursed Ksh 2.5 million through the Conservancy Livelihoods Fund (CLF) to benefit its students.



Since its establishment in 2015, CLF has empowered indigenous communities in identifying, planning and implementing their own development programs and funded 162 projects throughout all NRT member conservancies.

**1,895**

Students to benefit from bursary



## 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, has revolutionized life for northern Kenya communities in 8 NRT member conservancies and reduced the pressure on shrinking 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 ongoing, with the installation of biogas digester units taking place in 20 additional conservancies across northern and coastal Kenya.

Learn more about how local communities and institutions are benefitting from the Clean Energy Project: <https://www.nrt-kenya.org/news-2/2022/4/28/transforming-lives-conserving-forests-one-biogas-unit-at-a-time>



## NRT Trading's BeadWORKS Hosts a Delegation from the Czech Republic

Senator Jitka Seitlová, Deputy Speaker of the Czech Republic's Senate, led a delegation from the Czech Republic, in visiting NRT Trading's headquarters to learn more about the BeadWORKS Program, its bead makers and products.

NRT Trading's biggest supplier is a company based in the Czech Republic, which supplies nearly 99% of BeadWORKS' high-quality glass beads.



## The Northern Rangelands Sacco Holds its Annual Delegates' Meeting

The Northern Rangelands Savings and Credit Cooperative (NR Sacco) held its 2022 annual delegates' meeting, and 60 members who were in attendance elected a new board.

NRT Trading's Community Empowerment Team updated members on the Sacco's financial status, issued a progress report and awarded the best performing members in savings and repayment of loans issued.

The Sacco was founded in 2016 to serve as a financial intermediary, particularly for youth and women in NRT member conservancies, enabling them to access small business loans and other financial services. It is an independent, community-owned and membership-driven institution which receives critical oversight, technical support, and training from NRT Trading. The Sacco works closely with NRT member conservancies to administer savings and micro-credit loans.

## EU Team Visits, Evaluates, Conservancy Tourism Facilities

A team from the European Union (EU) in Kenya visited Lekurruki Community Conservancy's Tassia Lodge to conduct an evaluation exercise and deliberate on improving tourism through capacity building and potential partnership. The team analyzed the existing gaps and ways to address them and looked at co-financing possibilities.



## Meet Ntonila Lelikoo from BeadWORKS

Ntonila Lelikoo is a 24-year-old beader from Westgate Community Conservancy and the mother of two little sons, aged three and one. Having worked with BeadWORKS for over a year, Ntonila is grateful that the Program enables her to generate an income, support her herself and her family and even save.

She spends the bulk of her time tending to her husband's cattle in the fields, and BeadWORKS provides her with the opportunity to work as a beader while herding, diversifying her streams of income.

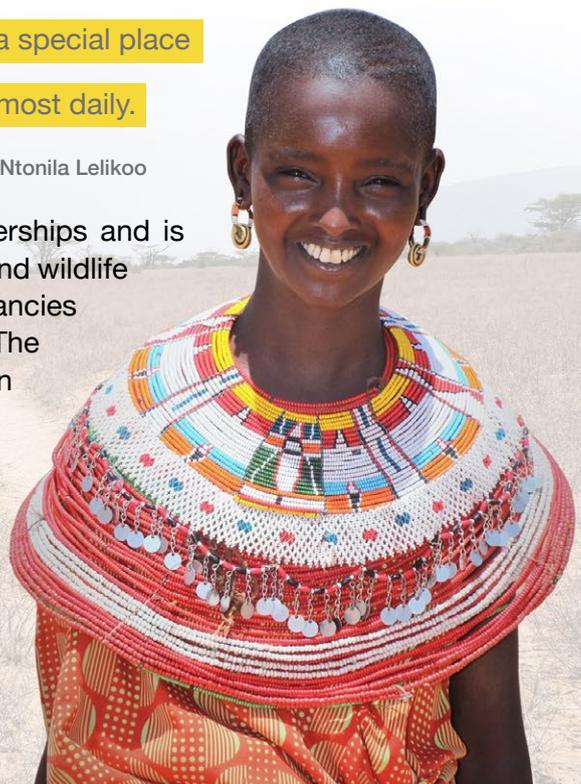


BeadWORKS has taught me the importance of co-existing peacefully with wildlife. Zebras and giraffes in particular hold a special place in my heart as they are beautiful, and I see them almost daily.

Ntonila Lelikoo

BeadWORKS supports peaceful community partnerships and is dedicated to the conservation of natural resources and wildlife through self-governed, community-owned conservancies and sustainable, social, and ethical businesses. The Program creates opportunities for pastoralist women in northern Kenya to translate their traditional skills into much-needed income. Communities and wildlife can thrive together when women have a reliable income that is not dependent on unpredictable rainfall patterns.

Ntonila Lelikoo is one of 1,300 women in NRT conservancies who are supported by and benefit from BeadWORKS.



## Rangelands Coordinators Trained on Holistic Grazing Management

The first group of rangelands coordinators attended a three-day course on holistic grazing management and other rangelands management activities at Mpala Research Centre. The coordinators in attendance came from Melako, Meibae, West Gate, Kalama, Nakuprat-Gotu, Nasuulu, Leparua, Naapu, Il Ngwesi, Lekurruki, and Naibunga Upper Community Conservancies. The workshops are part of a rangelands mentorship program aimed at ensuring planned grazing management so conservancies can earn future carbon credits.



## Nasuulu Holds a 10-day Isiolo-Samburu Sports for Peace Tournament

Nasuulu Community Conservancy organized a 10-day football tournament to build peace, promote conservation talks and nurture talent.

Twelve soccer teams from Nasuulu, Kalama, West Gate and Nakuprat-Gotu Community Conservancies participated in the tournament. Youth from the Isiolo-Samburu border interacted during the matches, promoting peacebuilding across the border.



## EU Kenya-funded RangER Program Convenes Review Meeting

The European Union-funded Kenya Rangelands Ecosystem Services Productivity (RangER) Program was launched on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 and has since been in operation in the 4 AMAYA Triangle Counties of Isiolo, Samburu, Baringo, and Laikipia. The Program’s technical partners include the Northern Rangelands Trust, World Agroforestry (ICRAF), and Community Safety Initiative (CSI) Kenya, with endorsement from the 4 County Governments under the Amaya Triangle Initiative (ATI).

In April, a meeting was held with representatives from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and E4Impact Foundation—technical partners of the Program, in which a review was done of the milestones achieved, accomplishments made, challenges faced during the Program’s implementation and cultural dynamics that have influenced Program activities.

The RangER Program was designed to enable communities to eradicate poverty by increasing the productivity of ecosystem services provided by the rangelands in the 4 AMAYA counties. The Program also seeks to enhance the livelihoods of indigenous communities and promote wildlife conservation and peace and security in the AMAYA region.



### Video of the Month

[Ujuzi Manyattani Graduates  
337 Women and Youth](#)





## In the Media

**NATION**

[Envoy lauds pastoralist women for taking up technical courses](#)

[Camping in the luggas of Kalama](#)



## Newsbytes from the Conservancies



Meibae Community Conservancy Board underwent module 3 of LAMP (Leadership and Management Program) training



Sera Community Conservancy signed a license and concession agreement with Saruni Basecamp.



Kalama and Ltungai Community Conservancies each held an Annual General Meeting to discuss Conservancy progress, achievements, challenges, and 2022 plans.



A coral reef survey was conducted in Pate Marine and Kiunga Community Conservancies.



30 biogas units were installed in Ngare Ndare Community Conservancy.



Kalama Community Conservancy launched an eight-day Kalama Youth Football Tournament.



Ltungai Community Conservancy hosted a team from the Samburu County Conservancy Fund which monitored and evaluated county-supported projects.



Nasuulu Community Conservancy in partnership with ICRAF issued 205 crafted mangoes and other seedlings to community members to help them improve nutrition, earn an income and diversify their livelihoods.

At NRT, conservation at the grassroots level is everything. We highly appreciate all our donors and partners for their unwavering support of our efforts and programs. Your generosity enables us to protect the environment and increase community conservancies' resilience against climate change. Thank you for all that you continue to do!

# ASANTENI SANA

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

