



# NRT NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022





# NRT Newsletter

## May 2022 Issue

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Dear NRT Partners,

We are delighted to have this opportunity to share with you updates from yet another exciting month at NRT. From a remarkable community-led wildlife rescue to BeadWORKS' exhilarating Kenya E-commerce Award win, not to mention thousands of Mangrove trees planted at NRT Coast in a massive reforestation effort, May was filled with conservation accomplishments!

Thanks to your unfailing support, we are making a real and lasting difference in indigenous communities in northern and coastal Kenya, enabling them to increase their resilience against climate change. Follow along to learn more about the progress NRT and NRT member conservancies made in solving some of the world's greatest environmental problems in May.

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### **BeadWORKS Wins the Kenya E-commerce Sustainability Initiative of the Year Award**

It is one thing to know that we have an utterly marvellous team at NRT supporting our member conservancies in achieving their conservation goals. It is another thing to know that the rest of the world also recognizes their brilliant work. We kicked off May roaring with pride as the Kenya E-commerce Awards nominated NRT Trading's BeadWORKS E-commerce website for not just one but three awards!



The BeadWORKS E-commerce website was nominated for the Best Fashion E-commerce Website of the Year, Best B2B E-commerce Website of the Year, and Best Sustainability Initiative of the Year Awards. The Kenya E-commerce Awards seek to recognize Kenya's best e-commerce websites, platforms, innovations, and campaigns. The award winners were announced at a ceremony on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, and BeadWORKS took home the Gold Award for Best Sustainability Initiative of the Year 2022!

We are deeply honored by the nominations and Gold Award win. They will undoubtedly bolster NRT Trading's efforts to establish the BeadWORKS brand as a new entrant in the e-commerce market.

BeadWORKS harnesses northern Kenya's rich beading tradition and creates opportunities for pastoralist women to translate their traditional skills into much-needed income. The Program is committed to conserving natural resources and wildlife through self-governed, community-owned conservancies and sustainable, social, and ethical enterprise.

## Governors Summit: Four AMAYA Counties Sign Peace Charter to Promote Peace During the Electioneering Period

Less than 3 months remain before Kenyans head to the polls, and contestant campaigns across the country are picking up steam.

This May, the political leaders from the four Amaya Triangle Initiative (ATI) Counties of Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo, and Baringo signed a peace charter to promote peace and conduct peace campaigns during the country's upcoming general elections. During a Governors' Summit held in Rumuruti last month, the leaders, led by the Laikipia Governor, Nderitu Muriithi, Deputy Governors Dr. Abdi Issa (Isiolo), Julius Leseeto (Samburu), and Mary Panga, CEC Environment, Natural Resources, Tourism and Wildlife (Baringo County), along with other political leaders, unanimously agreed to spearhead peaceful co-existence in the communities in the four regions.

Peace champions from the four counties were awarded for their efforts in the ceremony, which was also attended by the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) Commissioner, Sam Kona, and representatives from faith-based institutions. The Summit was conducted with support from the European Union Kenya RangER Program.



## Plans Underway to Establish Women in Conservation Caucus, NRT Conservancies Chapter



For decades, Northern and Coastal Kenya's remote, arid landscape and patriarchal society has made it difficult for women to thrive. Conservation policies over the years have also paid little attention to gender issues, preventing women from benefiting from conservation-related action compared to men.

In the fight against climate change, we cannot afford to have women left out of the conversation and left behind. Effective and sustainable conservation can only be achieved when both men and women are engaged in natural resource management and when all parties are involved in conservation and communal management of protected areas decisions. Thanks to the formation of community conservancies and continual sensitization by different stakeholders, and now the creation of a women in conservation caucus, the narrative will soon change across the NRT landscape, and women will be involved in decisions pertaining to conservation.

NRT, in partnership with Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy in Africa, and USAID Kenya, hosted 60 participants from NRT member conservancies at the NRT Coast headquarters in Lamu for the second Women Leadership Summit. The Summit was held to empower women, improve their participation in conservation, promote diversity in leadership and improve gender equality in community conservation.



During the Summit, a proposal was made to establish a women in conservation caucus with a structure customized for NRT member conservancies. The initiative is to be adopted at a regional level to amplify women's voices in leadership and conservation across the NRT landscape.

Regional heads were tasked with implementing the proposed structure and reporting on the progress made in establishing regional women caucuses at the next Summit.

The NRT chapter of the Women in Conservation Caucus will incorporate women from the regional level, NRT Gender Caucus and NRT's Gender Advisory Committee.

Through the structure, women in northern and coastal Kenya will now have opportunities to take up leadership roles and influence decision-making processes concerning local natural resources, community development, and governance.



## Drought Mitigation: 10 Tonnes of Food Supplies Distributed in Kaptuya Conservancy

The Pankaj Foundation and Kaptuya Community Conservancy teamed up to distribute 10 tonnes of food to 1,600 community members in Kaptuya's two wards.

The importance of conservation was underscored to the communities during the distribution exercise, as it opens up opportunities for collaboration with other organizations, such as the Pankaj Foundation, to deliver services to the communities. The conservancy structure provides a link to the communities, making it easier to distribute such benefits.

The food distribution exercise was timely since the region is grappling with a severe drought. The community was grateful for the Pankaj Foundation, NRT, and Kaptuya Conservancy's collaborative actions.



## Two Baby Giraffes Born in Ruko Giraffe Sanctuary

The Ruko Giraffe Sanctuary family is growing! Two giraffes were born in the Sanctuary which is located in Ruko Community Conservancy, bringing the total number of endangered Rothschild's Giraffe species to 11. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, Awala gave birth to a healthy female giraffe named Naserian, and on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, Nasieku gave birth to a male baby who is yet to be named by Ruko Conservancy rangers. Between late 2019 and 2021, Ruko Conservancy successfully rescued and translocated nine giraffes from the disappearing Longicharo Island in Lake Baringo to the Ruko Giraffe Sanctuary. All 11 giraffes are doing well in their new home.



## Innocent Foundation Visits NRT

It is always a wonderfully encouraging time when we have visitors around, and on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, we were delighted to host a delegation from the Innocent Foundation based in England. The visit provided an opportunity for the delegation to learn more about NRT's programs and NRT's community conservation model. The Innocent Foundation is a global organization that uses simple, smart and sometimes radical methods to combat hunger.



## Baby Elephant Rescued in Cherab Conservancy

Life can feel terribly unfair when you are a two-month-old baby elephant and you find yourself stuck in a well with no familiar face in sight. 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 nearly two-month-old male calf was in critical condition, and the community reported that his family was nowhere to be seen.

After the rescue, community members watched over the calf 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 this rescue with relevant authorities.

*Images: Somo Gollo Guyo*



## Sera Conservancy Elders' Blessing Ceremony

Samburu elders performed a purification and blessing ceremony rooted in Samburu traditions in diverse locations and establishments within Sera Rhino Sanctuary in Sera Conservancy to mark a new beginning and community ownership of the Sera Black Rhino Recovery Project.

This ceremony follows a series of meetings attended by morans, women, and elders to discuss various conflict issues, in which the community vowed to address future conflict peacefully.



Carefully selected herbs and a mixture of milk, honey, and fat from slaughtered pure lambs were sprinkled into streams, watering holes, staff quarters, and fence lines as prayers were made.

Sera Rhino Sanctuary, the first and only community-owned black rhino sanctuary in East Africa, is currently home to 19 critically endangered black rhinos.

## Conservancy Rangers to Undertake Basic Ranger Training

At least 230 community rangers from 40 NRT member conservancies began 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 will equip the rangers with knowledge and skills in protecting, conserving and managing wildlife in collaboration with KWS.

NRT's Security Team attended the official opening of the training, that will see the rangers graduate in August 2022.





## NRT Trading Tourism Department Trains Four Chefs in Bid to Increase Banda Revenues

NRT Trading's Tourism Department trained four chefs from NRT member conservancies on bush cooking skills, permaculture and a wide range of recipes so that they are able to prepare a variety of delicious meals, attracting more guests and increasing banda revenue. Permaculture is a type of agriculture that uses natural inspiration to create synergetic farming systems based on crop diversity, resilience, natural productivity, and sustainability. The chefs can use this knowledge to grow essential groceries within the camps, ensuring they are readily available for use. The chefs hailed from Olgaboli bandas in Naibunga Lower, Nkoteiya eco-lodge in Nkoteiya, Tassia Lodge in Lekurruki, and Meibae Conservancy.



## 20 Women Graduate after Completing NRT's Bespoke LAMP Training

It was a joyous occasion as 20 women from Pate Marine Community Conservancy graduated after completing the transformational Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) training which seeks to boost conservancy governance and improve communities' capacity in resource management.

NRT's bespoke LAMP training, based on a four-module syllabus, focuses on providing skills in leadership and management, problem-solving, innovation, communication, time management, stakeholder and investor management, motivation and staff, asset, and financial management.



## Ujuzi Manyattani Conducts Final Internal Assessment

NRT Trading's Ujuzi Manyattani team conducted an 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 and will be the final internal assessment. Ujuzi Manyattani is a vocational training program that provides alternative livelihoods to indigenous communities within NRT member conservancies.



## Mangrove Restoration Exercise Kicks off in 3 NRT Coast Conservancies

In a grand win for the fight against climate change, communities in the NRT Coast Conservancies of Pate Marine, Kiunga, and Lower Tana Delta in Lamu and Tana River Counties planted over 20,000 mangrove seedlings in collaboration with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and USAID to restore mangrove in degraded areas.



## BeadWORKS Trains 20 Women on New Beading Techniques



NRT Trading's BeadWORKS team trained 20 women beadworkers from Sera Community Conservancy on new beading skills. The knowledge the beadworkers gained will enable them to meet and sustain customer orders.

## NRT's Peace Team Attends Meru-Isiolo Border Reconciliation Session

NRT's Peace team participated in a cross-border peace and security meeting between Meru and Isiolo Counties that was convened to deliberate on solutions for the recurring insecurity incidents between two pastoralist communities. Administration officials from seven sub-counties and partner and faith-based organizations led the communities in brokering for lasting co-existence.

## IBU Movement Visits NRT Trading

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, the founder of the IBU Movement, the phenomenal Susan Hull Walker, accompanied by 18 friends, graced NRT Trading's BeadWORKS team and the Program's beneficiaries with a visit whose aim was to gain an understanding of how the BeadWORKS Program works. IBU is a global movement that celebrates the imagination and skill of women and has been supporting BeadWORKS through donations and purchasing beaded products.

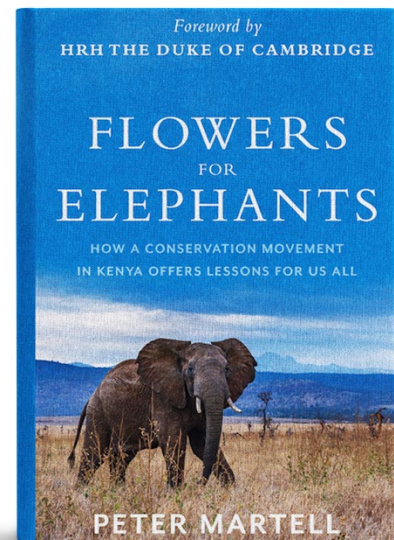


## New Book Featuring NRT Launched

Have you grabbed a copy of the recently released book 'Flowers for Elephants'?

NRT is so proud to be featured in this superb piece of work written by the brilliant Peter Martell. From tracking elephants through the bush to gun battles with bandits and treks through the most wild spots in Kenya, Peter magnificently narrates an account of NRT and communities fighting climate change and poaching.

The book, launched in Nanyuki in May, is a must-have for anyone keen on learning more about the conservation movement in Kenya. Its powerful storytelling will leave you intrigued and inspired. If you have not read it yet, you can get yourself a copy from Amazon [here](#).





## In the Media



**KBC Channel 1:** [My Child Loijipu | Ranger has been attending to abandoned Rhino](#)

**KBC:** [Pastoralist communities trained on how to diversify income](#)



**AA Anadolu Agency:** [Women in Kenya declare war on invasive colonial-era plant species](#)



**VOA Swahili:** [Usimamizi wa Vifaru Katika Hifadhi ya Sera, Samburu, Kenya – 16.28- 21.45 \(USAID mentioned\)](#)

**VOA Swahili:** [Mchakato wa Kusaidia Wanawake wa eneo la Samburu, Kenya](#)



**VOA Africa:** [Reformed Bandits in Kenya Finding Alternative Livelihoods](#)



**AFP Photo:** [Kalama Conservancy Women beading](#)



**Education Journal:** [Ujuzi Manyattani Graduation](#)



**China Daily:** [Vocational Skills up Kenyans](#)



**The Sunday Standard:** [Changing the community one bead at a time](#)

**The Standard:** [Tracking a rhino in the wild of Samburu](#)

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**Newsweek:** [Abandoned Baby Elephant Found Drowning in Muddy Well Rescued](#)



## Newsbytes from the Conservancies



Nasuulu Conservancy hosted 176 elders from Burat and Oldonyiro Wards to discuss better community reconciliation methods for peaceful coexistence.

During a quarterly meeting, Nasuulu Conservancy's Grazing Committee resolved to reseed degraded areas to increase grass cover.



Naibunga Lower Conservancy officially launched the Olgaboli banda and Koiya starbed, paving way for more community ownership of the tourism facilities.



With the support of Lewa Conservancy, Leparua Conservancy held a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a 5-kilometer fence aimed at preventing human-wildlife conflict.



Garbatulla Conservancy held a community awareness meeting about the construction of a headquarters and outpost in Garbatulla, Boji, and Escort.



Kinna Conservancy held a community awareness meeting to deliberate on the construction of the Conservancy's headquarters and an outpost.



Ruko Conservancy organized a Sports for Peace Tournament to promote peaceful coexistence between the Il Chamus and Pokot communities.



New conservancy managers from Garbatulla, Kinna, Sericho, Cherab, Kaptuya, Pellow, and Naibunga Upper, and regional finance officers underwent QuickBooks and payroll training at the NRT East Regional Office.



Community members from Cherab Conservancy approved the construction of conservancy headquarters and outpost construction in Korbesa and Yamicha Borehole respectively.



Ndera Conservancy held its first quarterly board meeting and discussed its progress, achievements, challenges, and Q2 plans.



Ishaqbini Hirola Conservancy successfully held its first quarterly meeting and discussed various issues including conservancy policies, women empowerment projects, and their inclusion in conservancy leadership and rangelands management.

As we endeavor to better our best efforts in serving NRT member conservancies, we remain highly appreciative of our donors and partners, who stand by our side every step of the way and provide much-needed support for our conservation efforts. 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.

