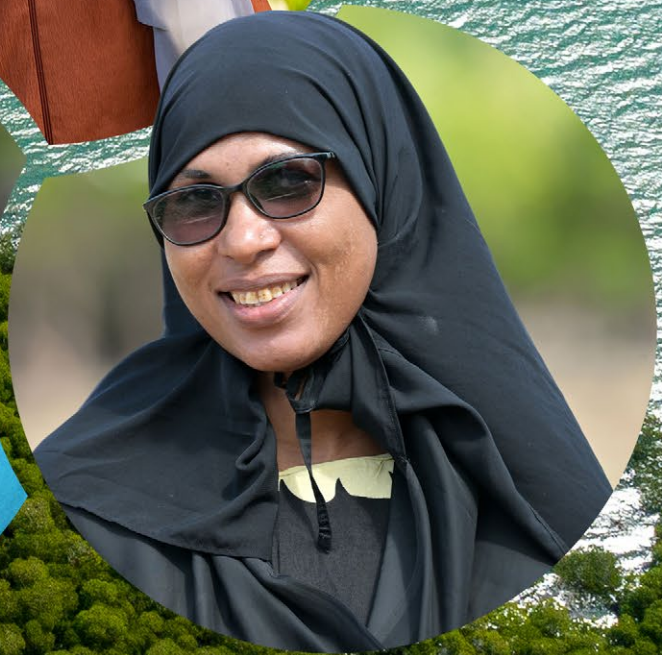




# NRT NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023





# NRT Newsletter

## May 2023 Issue

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Dear NRT Partners,

*Kuteleza sio kuanguka.*

As they faced seemingly insurmountable challenges in their conservation journey, the women of Pate Marine Community Conservancy—trailblazers in mangrove restoration—would draw strength from this Swahili saying, which translates to “a slip is not a fall.”

In this May issue of the NRT newsletter, learn more about this remarkable story and other fresh updates from across the NRT landscape.

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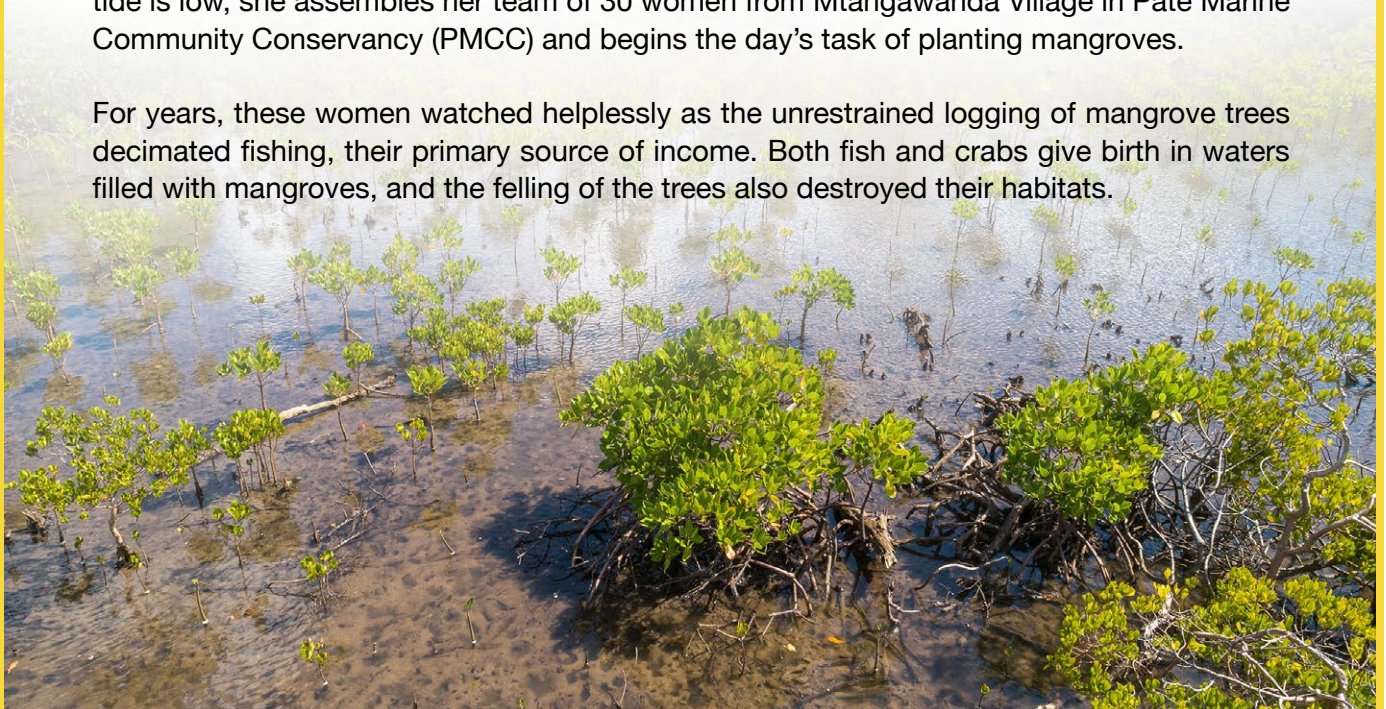
### **NRT Coast Women: Saving the World from Climate Change, One Mangrove at a Time**

The perfect time to experience all the delights the Lamu archipelago has to offer is low tide.

From swimming in turquoise blue waters to soaking in the warm rays of a beautiful sun while lounging on the beach, to enjoying the spectacular panoramic view of the Indian Ocean, low tide is your cue to step outside and engage in a variety of leisure activities.

For 37-year-old Zulfa Hassan, a local mangrove expert, low tide is synonymous with call time for work. Her moniker, ‘*Mama Mikoko*’ (Mother of Mangroves), is befitting of her as when the tide is low, she assembles her team of 30 women from Mtangawanda Village in Pate Marine Community Conservancy (PMCC) and begins the day’s task of planting mangroves.

For years, these women watched helplessly as the unrestrained logging of mangrove trees decimated fishing, their primary source of income. Both fish and crabs give birth in waters filled with mangroves, and the felling of the trees also destroyed their habitats.





We did not know there were nine different mangrove species and that they grew in different places and soils, so our initial attempts at mangrove restoration were unsuccessful as very few survived. The survival rate of mangroves is currently very high because of the training we received.

Zulfa Hassan,  
Chairperson, Mtangawanda  
Women Association Group

Beyond Lamu, globally, thousands of acres of mangroves have been lost as the trees are felled for farming or to provide timber and charcoal, threatening fishers' livelihoods.

While Lamu is still the most densely forested stretch of Kenya's coastal shore, making up 59% of the 61,000 hectares of mangrove ecosystem, roughly 40% of its mangrove areas are degraded.

In 2018, the women unanimously agreed to stop the destruction of mangroves, which are salt-tolerant trees, and voluntarily plant and protect them. To reverse the adverse effects climate change and deforestation had had on mangroves while simultaneously enhancing their livelihoods, the women started planting mangroves every year during the March-July and September-November planting seasons.

Mangrove forests are critical habitats for marine life, contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation, filter pollutants, stabilize the coastline ecosystem, and prevent erosion. Since the women started restoring mangroves, fish and crab populations have increased in the area.



NRT, with the support of partners, including the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KEMFRI), and the Lamu County Government, trained the women on various aspects of mangrove restoration, paving the way for the Mangrove Restoration Program to thrive in three NRT Coast conservancies: PMCC, Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA), and Lower Tana Delta.

“We did not know there were nine different mangrove species and that they grew in different places and soils, so our initial attempts at mangrove restoration were unsuccessful as very few survived. The survival rate of mangroves is currently very high because of the training we received,” adds Zulfa, who also serves on the PMCC board and is the chairperson of the Mtangawanda Women Association Group.

Inexperience was not the women’s only problem. Another challenge they faced was the deposit of ocean sediments onto mangrove roots, which inhibited their breathing. Additionally, after the women planted the mangroves, pest invasions, disease attacks, and unrestricted logging with power saws stunted their growth.

Having honed their expertise in mangrove restoration, the women have so far planted and restored over 95,494 mangroves across 15,000 hectares of forest since 2018. This has increased the number of fisheries and their income. The women practise sustainable harvesting and plan to restore 35,000 hectares of mangroves over the course of five years, with partners’ support.

These women are now benefiting from NRT Trading’s microfinance scheme, which has issued them loans for starting and running small enterprises, allowing them to accumulate savings, educate their children, and provide for their families.

“We used to rely on our spouses to take care of our households’ needs. Now, we are supporting entire families. Mangrove restoration has transformed our lives and enabled us to generate an income from small businesses and crab sales, reducing poverty levels,” Zulfa explains.

The women meet once monthly to plan their mangrove restoration work—focusing on degraded areas, and to discuss loan repayment, so they can double their borrowing limit.



**95,494**

mangroves have been planted in Pate, Kiunga and Lower Tana community conservancies since 2018



The women also monitor illegal logging and mangrove encroachment and raise awareness in the community on the importance of conserving mangrove forests.

The success of the mangrove restoration sites has attracted visitors from all over the world. The women aspire to have a boardwalk constructed from which mangrove site tours can easily take place without destroying any newly planted trees.

The hope is that the boardwalk will become a commercial hub and house businesses such as restaurants, generating income for the women and creating employment opportunities for community members.

“Women have proven to be effective in leading conservation initiatives in coastal community conservancies, such as mangrove restoration, beach cleanup and ocean plastic recycling, coral reef restoration, and sustainable octopus fishing, all of which preserve the marine ecosystem while enhancing their livelihoods,” concludes Hassan Yussuf, the NRT Coast Regional Director.

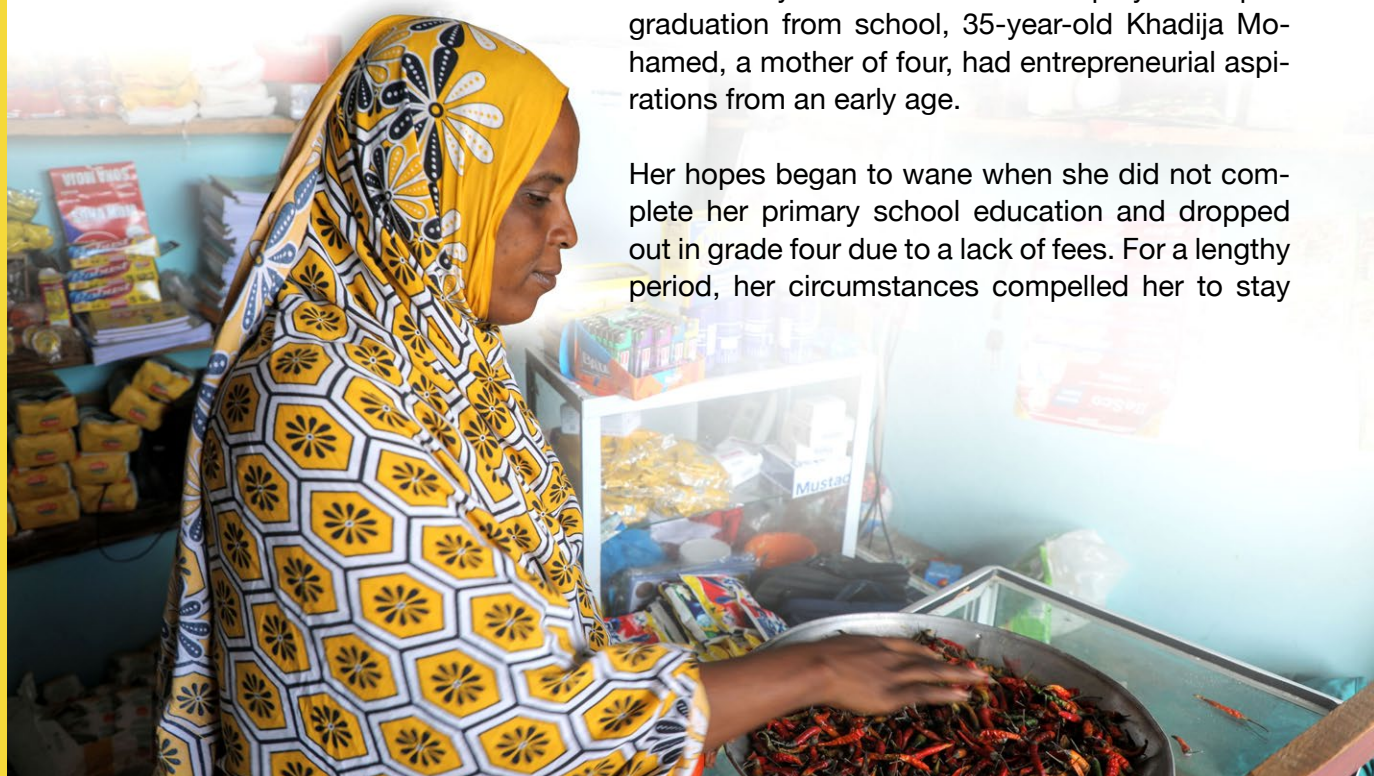
## Rising Against All Odds: Khadija Mohamed’s Journey to Entrepreneurship

On the shores of Mkokoni Village in Kiunga Community Conservancy in Lamu County, the ocean waves gently crash.

Nearby, in a blue house branded ‘Beach Management Unit’, a jovial woman stands behind a glass-top desk piled with household items.

Unlike many who desire to find employment upon graduation from school, 35-year-old Khadija Mohamed, a mother of four, had entrepreneurial aspirations from an early age.

Her hopes began to wane when she did not complete her primary school education and dropped out in grade four due to a lack of fees. For a lengthy period, her circumstances compelled her to stay



at her home in Chundwa Village, performing household chores while her peers went to school. Nonetheless, she never gave up on her dreams.

Instead, she dedicated her time to learning pastry making from her mother.

After she gained experience, Khadija worked for a few months in a bakery and would sail across the ocean to sell bread, cakes, and other pastries to customers on neighbouring islands, such as Pate in Lamu County.

Being a resident of Kenya's north coast region, where fishing is the main source of income, Khadija decided to attempt selling fish.

She performed so well that she was receiving orders from as far away as Lamu Town, but she was unsure how long this would last.

Khadija lacked critical fishing equipment, such as a freezer. Her catch would go bad, resulting in huge losses.

In 2021, NRT Trading's Biashara Mashinani Program threw Khadija and 572 other wom-

en from Kiunga and Pate a lifeline by providing them with a three-day entrepreneurial training and a Ksh 25,000 loan from the Northern Rangelands Sacco.

Without hesitation, Khadija opened a new store and added fresh groceries to her stock.

She particularly valued this business as it is sustainable and eco-friendly, and the products she supplies are essential for community households. On a good day, she earns between Ksh 5,000 and Ksh 8,000.

The knowledge and skills she gained from Biashara Mashinani have enabled Khadija to distinguish herself from other business owners and become a role model to many. She now can educate her children and provide for her family's need, and plans to expand her business.

Biashara mashinani is supported by USAID Local Works, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, The Nature Conservancy, Darwin Initiative, Fauna and Flora International, DANIDA, ICEP and the Government of Sweden through the IMARA Program.

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## Improving Livelihoods in Nasuulu Community Conservancy through Water Supply

The Ewaso Nyiro River, located on the northern border of Nasuulu Community Conservancy, has been a lifeline, providing water to communities, livestock, and now a community livelihood project: the Nasuulu tourism banda (self-catering accommodation facility).

Years of drought and rainfall variation caused by climate change and an increase in harmful human activities such as deforestation, extensive irrigation, overgrazing in catchment areas, and sand harvesting along the riverbanks have damaged the Ewaso Nyiro River. Due to this, the River frequently dries up in seasons when it usually would be flowing.

During these times as well as droughts, the communities, livestock and wildlife in Nasuulu rely on shallow wells to supply water.



Unfortunately, a well built in 2015 that served as the primary water source in Nasuulu was condemned two years ago after its very saline water was declared unsafe for human consumption.

NRT's Senior Water Engineer Odupoi Kuraru explains, "The rocks on the riverbanks and riverbeds were highly mineralized, and every attempt to drill a shallow well along the shores was unsuccessful because the water was saline."



The Conservancy's only alternative at the time was to truck water daily from the Isiolo River, some 21 kilometers away, at a monthly cost of Ksh175,000. This became unsustainable.

"The only way we could solve this problem was to construct a shallow well right in the middle of the river, where we could avoid rocks, and then use a two-stage pumping technique to supply clean and safe water," Odupoi adds.



A 200-meter-long pipeline, installed with support from the Danish International Development Agency (Danida) and NRT's Water Program, draws water straight from the Ewaso Nyiro River and temporarily stores it in a 30 cubic meter concrete tank for 12 hours, where silt and other waste are filtered out.

Using solar power, the clean water is then pumped to the Conservancy's headquarters, covering a 1.5-kilometer distance, and supplying water to the headquarters, outpost, and now the newly constructed banda, which was built to generate tourism revenue for funding community priorities such as the provision of healthcare services and bursaries.



The construction of the banda, whose opening is scheduled for mid-June, was funded by the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project's carbon community fund (CCF). The Conservancy, established in 2010, intends to expand this project and provide water to the neighbouring settlement areas and livestock and wildlife troughs.

“This alternative source of clean water is crucial for the operation of our tourism banda. Without clean and reliable water, we could not run the tourism facility,” explains Ms Sadia Mohammed, the Chairperson of Nasuulu Community Conservancy.

## Increasing Community Resilience to Drought: NRT Revives Simbol Fodder Farm

For the last few years, the residents of Masol Community Conservancy in Pokot Central Sub-County have endured livestock losses due to drought and cattle rustling by neighboring communities, as they sought pasture.

In this region, the migration of livestock, wildlife, and herders to neighbouring countries, such as Uganda and Turkana, in search of pasture, is not uncommon.

Recently, NRT revived Simbol Fodder Farm, to provide fodder and support the community in coping with drought. The 60-acre farm in Masol is planned to produce enough fodder to feed the area's livestock while also

generating enough income for community members to use for ploughing the land in the upcoming season.

In May, NRT purchased grass seeds, provided fuel for a tractor donated by the County Government, and erected a fence around the fodder farm under the European Union (EU)-funded resilience project, Ustahimilivu. NRT is also building a store that fodder farmers can use to store their harvest properly.

Germination is estimated at 60% two months after the farm was ploughed and the fodder planted, and there is anticipation for a huge harvest this season.



We lost hope as the land lay bare for several years. We are grateful NRT heard our plea for support, helped us plough the land and fence it, and gave us seeds. We now expect higher yields, and our livestock won't have to migrate.”

Peter Akorle  
Farmer, Masol Community Conservancy





## World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO) **Certifies** NRT Trading's **BeadWORKS**

In a game-changing moment for NRT Trading, the World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO) certified BeadWORKS as a fair-trade enterprise!

The WFTO is the global community and verifier of social enterprises that fully practice fair trade. Spread across 76 countries, WFTO members all exist to serve marginalized communities.

BeadWORKS, a handicraft business, harnesses northern Kenya's women's rich beading culture, providing opportunities for pastoralist women in eight NRT member community conservancies to translate their traditional skills into much-needed income.



## CoPaD Bloc Leaders Convene for the **3rd Governors' Summit**

Four member counties of the Cooperation on Peace and Development (CoPaD) bloc, represented by their Governors, Hon. Benjamin Cheboi (Baringo), Hon. Joshua Irungu (Laikipia), and Deputy Governors Dr. James Lowasa (Isiolo) and Hon. Gabriel Lenengwesi (Samburu), met for the 3rd Governors' Summit to deliberate on issues affecting the CoPaD landscape across multiple sectors.

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation supported a two-day forum that culminated in the Governors' Summit. The Agency also paved the way for the induction of the four member counties' County Assembly Speakers, County Secretaries, and County Executive Committee (CEC) members to CoPaD and a review of its five-year strategy.



CoPaD is an implementing partner of the Kenya Rangelands Ecosystems Services Productivity (RangER) Program, which is funded by the European Union (EU).

The four county governments and five technical partners, including NRT, E4IMPACT, the International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), Community Safety Initiative (CSI), and the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)—make up the consortium that runs the Program.

## NRT Trading's BeadWORKS Hosts **Women in Business and Conservation Conference**

NRT Trading's BeadWORKS Program hosted the two-day Women in Business and Conservation Conference, bringing together 120 women leaders and entrepreneurs from NRT member community conservancies to deliberate on ways to build resilient, sustainable businesses that can contribute to climate action and promote gender equality.

Gender, climate change, and conflict are all intertwined and have a substantial impact on people's lives, especially women.

Conference participants discussed their experiences and best practices and presented innovative proposals for empowering women to take the lead in climate action and development.





## Newsbytes from the Conservancies

### REGIONAL NEWS

#### NRT Centre

- The regional team hosted Samburu County Assembly's Tourism and Conservation Committee on a learning tour and familiarized committee members with the work of community conservancies around Samburu County.
- The Committee visited Kalama and Westgate Community Conservancies and was delighted to see the positive impact made by the conservancies. The Committee pledged to collaborate with NRT and support its efforts.
- The Samburu Women Peace Council, comprising 41 women drawn from all conservancies in Samburu County, has been formed. The women were trained in conflict resolution, women's role in peacebuilding, and conflict causes, dynamics and levels.

#### NRT East

- A women's caucus comprising 80 women leaders from 16 NRT East community conservancies was formed to amplify the voices of women in conservation and strengthen their leadership.
- The caucus' establishment followed a proposal made at the second Women Leadership Summit organized by Conservation International (CI) and NRT in 2022, at which all five NRT regional teams were tasked with establishing an operational structure (caucus) in their regions for effectively promoting women's views and representations in programs.



## **NRT West**

- Members of Ruko Community Conservancy visited Tanzania Tuungane Project to learn about the role of fish farming in livelihood improvement, linkages to markets, health facilities, and biodiversity conservation within Lake Tanganyika and beyond.

## **NRT Coast:**

- NRT and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) undertook a gender assessment in four NRT Coast community conservancies: Pate, KICOWA, Awer, and Lower Tana Delta, to identify key gender-related conservation and pastoralists' needs, interests, issues, and constraints.
- Other assessment goals included identifying strategic gender-specific game-changers for NRT's conservation efforts and interventions for addressing existing gender needs and gender-based inequalities and disparities.

## **NRT Mountain**

- NRT Mountain successfully completed the process of obtaining free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) from community members, paving the way for the formation of the new Shulmai and Mayianat Community Conservancies. Conservancy Managers for the two conservancies were also recruited.
- This exercise was conducted in partnership with the area chiefs, the County Government (represented by ward administrators), religious leaders, and members of the Laikipia Community Land Management Committee (CLMC).

## **NRT Centre/ NRT East**

- A USAID delegation visited Kalama Community Conservancy, where they interacted with conservancy leaders, community members, and partners of Kalama, Nakuprat Gotu, Westgate, Leparua, and Nasuulu Community Conservancies, and gained valuable insights on the implementation of environmental and social safeguards.
- The visit provided an excellent platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration while highlighting the significance of conserving the environment.



CONSERVANCIES



**Melako**

The NRT Education Department, under the ICEP 2 Program, donated desks to Loglogo Integrated Primary School in Melako Community Conservancy. NRT supports learning in seven schools funded by the Program by providing access to infrastructure and revision materials.



**Songa**

The Grazing Committee underwent training in rangelands management, enabling them to effectively make livestock movement and wet season grazing plans. This training will be followed by a series of herders' awareness meetings held in all the Conservancy's blocks.

**Shurr and Jaldesa**



A delegation of 46 members, comprising grazing committee members, board representatives, managers, rangeland coordinators, and local administration leaders from both conservancies successfully completed a two-day rangelands management training centred on planned grazing, grazing by-laws, and buildings partnership for rangelands management within the two conservancies.

**Melako**



The Conservancy's Board visited Kalama and Westgate Community Conservancies, gaining insights on several topics including revenue and benefit-sharing models, balanced board representation and em-

ployment formulas, and ways to enhance transparent, consensual, and FPIC-driven community decisions.

The Board attended a leadership and governance meeting, in which NRT's Council of Elders' Governance and Oversight Committee Report was analyzed and discussed. Several structural changes were proposed for enhancing service delivery and development in the Conservancy.

The changes, which might lead to amendments in the Conservancy's by-laws, will soon be discussed in zonal awareness meetings and the annual general meeting for community approval.



### Ngilai

In a session held at its headquarters, the Conservancy facilitated a training session for morans, to enhance their knowledge and understanding of rangelands management policies and plans.



### Songa

To upscale fodder production, the Conservancy, in partnership with USAID's Nawiri, Marsabit NRM and Climate Resilience Programs, conducted a fodder production and management training for the Conservancy's Grazing Committee and 30 herders at Karare.



### Il Ngwesi

Women from the Conservancy underwent training in the third module of NRT's Leadership and Management Program (LAMP), to strengthen their participation in leadership and conservation.



### Pellow and Masol

To aid in grazing management and facilitate wet season grazing planning, the NRT West Rangelands Team hosted six zonal awareness meetings.



### Ishaqbini

30 community members were trained in leadership, governance, and management, including 15 board members, nine chiefs and assistant chiefs, conservancy staff, and officials from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and the Garissa County Government.



### Naibunga Upper

The NRT Trading Tourism Team held a Maasai culture demonstration to facilitate the development of a previously proposed Maasai cultural camp within the Conservancy.



### Biliqo-Bulesa and Kalama

The Ufugaji Bora Mashinani Team conducted a training on climate change and rangeland management and held follow-up sessions with 60 herders who had previously been trained.



### Shurr

NRT Trading's Ujuzi Manyattani Program established training sites in the Shurr and Bubisa areas of the Conservancy and enrolled 30 female trainees (15 from each region) for training in tailoring and dressmaking.



### Kiunga

The Ujuzi Manyattani Team launched new training sites in Kiunga Conservancy in Lamu County, in the Kiunga and Mkokoni areas, expanding the Program to include 30 trainees enrolled for a three-month vocational training. 15 females were enrolled for tailoring and dressmaking and 15 males for vessel repair and maintenance courses.



### Ishaqbini

The Conservancy successfully held an election, in which 15 board members were elected, including four women. Sessions were held prior to the election to increase community understanding of good governance. The new board was trained on their roles, good governance, leadership and performance, among other topics.



### Nasuulu, Kalama and Westgate

Community members of these three conservancies bordering Samburu National Reserve and tourism operators undertook a learning exposure visit to the Maasai Mara, Mara Conservancies, and Mara Triangle.



### Nasuulu

The Conservancy organized a meeting to raise awareness of the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCP) and provide Project updates.



## In the Media



NTV: [Laikipia: Wakazi wanakadiri hasara kubwa kutokana na ndovu kuvamia shamba zao](#)



Citizen TV: [Wakazi wa Kijiji cha Naibunga waitaka idara ya KWS kuwadhhibiti ndovu ambao wamekuwa kero eneo hilo](#)

Citizen TV: [Wakazi wa Kijiji cha Naibunga waitaka idara ya KWS kuwadhhibiti ndovu ambao wamekuwa kero eneo hilo](#)

Kenya News Agency



Kenya News Agency: [Naibunga residents get a 40 km electric fence](#)

Kenya News Agency: [Naibunga Residents Benefit With A 40-Km Electric Fence](#)



KNA: [Sacco Benefits Pastoralist Communities](#)

KNA: [Conservancies To Spend Sh78 Million On Vulnerable Children](#)

**NATION**

Daily Nation: [Initiative seeks to close gender gap in peace drives](#)

Daily Nation: [Kenya, EU in support of Carbon Credit firm](#)

Daily Nation: [Human-wildlife conflict on rise as animal space shrinks](#)

**LOOK UP TV**

Look Up Tv: [Isiolo: wanawake na shanga](#)

Look-up TV: [Malonza: kuwalinda Vifaru](#)



The Standard: [Savings group helps women to fight for their place in society](#)

The Press Point: [Improved livelihoods for pastoral women as bead-WORKS program offer them lifeline](#)

**Tukio News**

Tukio News: [We are No Longer the Same, Women in Business Say After Conference in Isiolo](#)



Nomad Times: [Launching Of Nasuulu Tourism Bandas](#)

**KAMACHU TV**

Kamachu Tv: [New Ways To Involve Isiolo & Marsabit Women In Conservation](#)

Kamachu Tv: [Pastoralists Women Making Millions Out Of Beads Works Kenya](#)





## Printed Media



### MyGov:

Women rake millions from beads business. Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 issue, page 33.



## Video of the Month



[Please click on this link to watch a short video on how NRT Trading's Biashara Mashinani Program is transforming lives.](#)

We are grateful for the unwavering support we receive from our partners and donors as we continue to work to transform lives in NRT member community conservancies and increase resilience to climate change.



# 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.

