



Support to the Northern Rangelands Trust



The Northern Rangelands Trust works with over 30 community conservancies that cover nearly 32,000 km² and are home to about 250,000 people. The Trust helps to transform livelihoods and secure peace through community-managed conservation.

Funding Level:

\$7 million (2004-2015)

Proposed \$20 million (2016-2018)

Duration:

December 2004 – June 2018

Activity Goals:

- Improve security for people and wildlife
- Increase trade and tourism
- Preserve and increase biodiversity
- Create opportunities for women and girls

Major Highlights in 2014:

- 43% decline in elephant poaching since 2012
- Three new conservancies created in Marsabit (Songa, Shurr, and Jaldesa), increasing the amount of land under improved management by 573,045 hectares
- 1.8 million hectares placed under improved management by 14 community conservancies
- KSH 126.5 million (\$1.23 million) of revenue generated from improved natural resource management and conservation, including livestock and beadwork businesses
- 756 permanent jobs created through conservancies and related enterprises
- 1,342 people received training in natural resource management and conservation

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

The Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) partners with local communities to build peace and stability through conservation. Formed in 2004 by Lewa Conservancy with support from USAID, it brings together local pastoralist communities with land owners and the Government of Kenya to promote the long-term conservation of wildlife in Kenya's northern rangelands. At present, NRT oversees more than 30 community-owned and managed conservancies covering nearly 32,000 square kilometers. The Trust works to improve the lives and livelihoods of more than 250,000 residents spread over nine counties in one of Kenya's major wildlife migration corridors. Through NRT, communities learn and practice wildlife conservation, natural resources management, and non-violent conflict resolution. They also develop tourism and nature-based enterprises to preserve the northern rangelands and diversify their livelihoods.

ACTIVITY AREAS

The NRT community development model is driven by each community's specific conservation, peacebuilding, and economic needs and aspirations. The model builds capacity in governance, financial management and security, which promotes the stability and long-term sustainability of community conservancies.

Wildlife Management and Conservation

NRT assists participating community conservancies to design and implement conservation programs, rehabilitate degraded rangelands, and establish livestock and water management plans. This includes building community capacity to resolve resource-based conflict through peacebuilding and improved natural resource management. As a result of this holistic approach, NRT is a critical partner to the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in the immense task of conserving and managing Kenya's abundant wildlife, 60% of which exists on community lands outside of protected areas.

Improving Income and Diversifying Livelihoods

NRT promotes the diversification of income bases by encouraging ecotourism and nature-based enterprises which improve livelihoods and generate economic benefits for pastoralist communities. Within the community conservancy model, local communities create governance structures and benefit sharing agreements that ensure that everyone has a stake in protecting wildlife and reducing conflict. This approach has made significant strides in reducing instability across northern Kenya, allowing community conservancies to attract millions of dollars in private sector investment in ecotourism.

Implementing Partner:

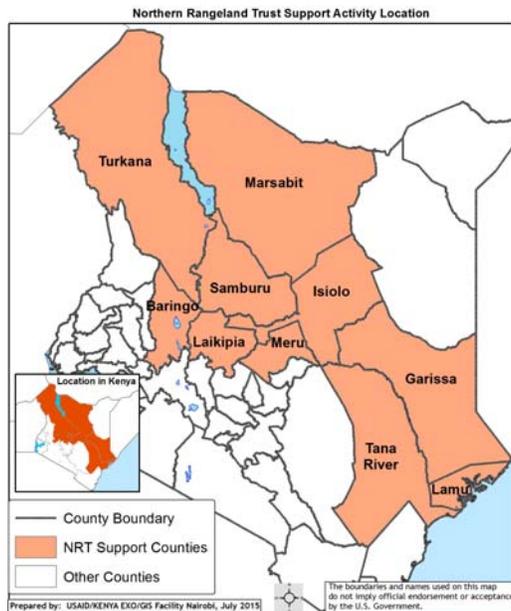
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Key Partners:

Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service

Activity Locations:

Turkana, Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit, Baringo, Meru, Garissa, Lamu, and Tana River Counties



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Increasing Security

NRT has developed a highly sophisticated anti-poaching network that works closely with KWS and the Kenyan police to achieve remarkable results: elephant poaching has been reduced by 43% since 2012 across more than 30 participating communities in northern Kenya. Using advanced communications equipment, teams of highly motivated community rangers, and close ties with local communities, NRT has clamped down on poaching with such success that endangered species such as rhino, hirola, and Grevy's zebra are being reintroduced to community-managed conservancies and sanctuaries.

ACTIVITY IMPACT



Hirola antelope in the Ishaqbini-Hirola sanctuary, Garissa County

The hirola was slipping into extinction due to habitat loss, poaching for game meat and disease. In 2012, elders from the Hara, Korissa, and Kotile communities formed the Ishaqbini-Hirola Community Conservancy. Together, they built a fenced off, predator-free 3,000 hectare enclosure for the rare antelope. This was the first fenced sanctuary on community land in Kenya dedicated to the conservation of a critically endangered species.

There are four community rangers who are responsible for monitoring the hirola in the sanctuary. Over the past year they have built up an incredible knowledge of each individual animal, how the herds are composed, and where they are found. The result has been a clear success: the hirola population within the sanctuary has increased steadily by 22% each year since it was established.