



NRT TRADING 2022 **ANNUAL REPORT**



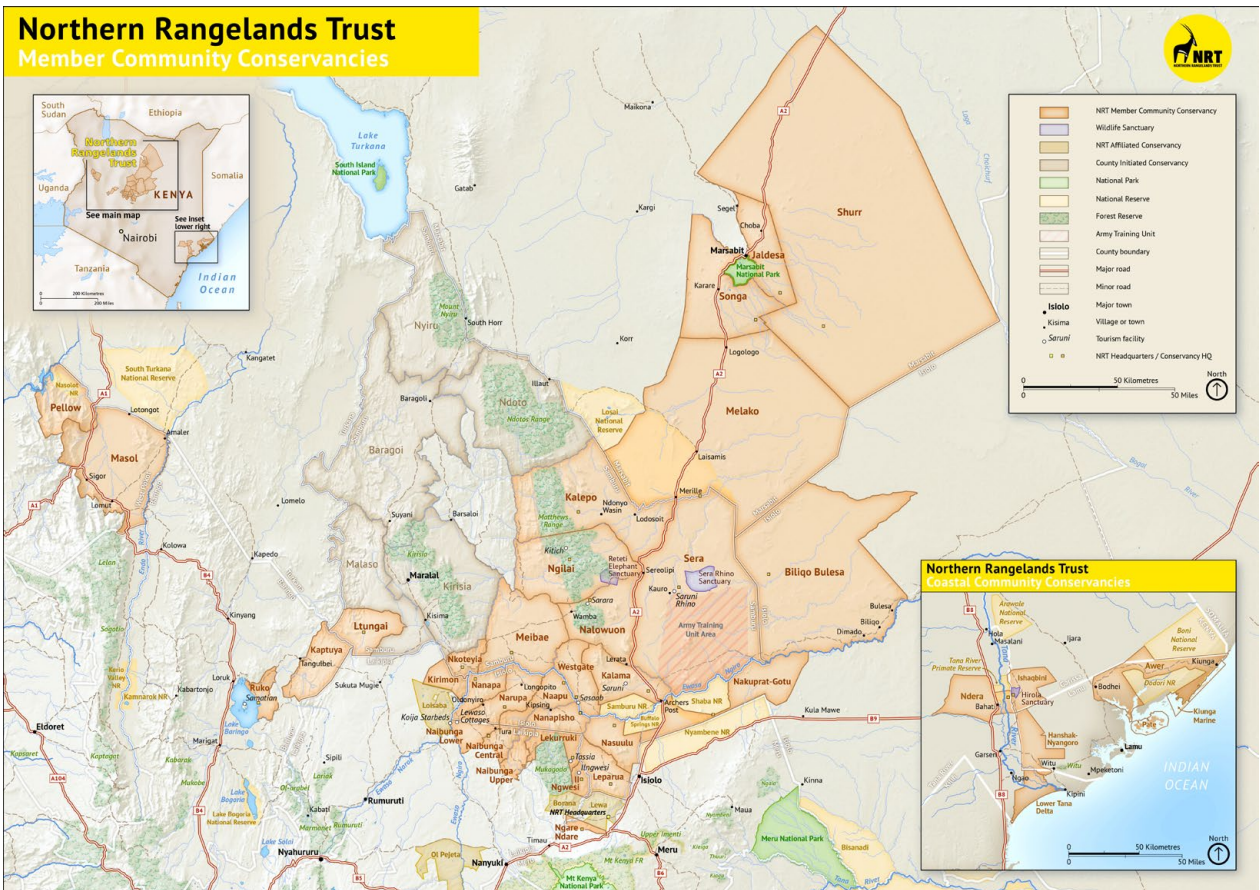


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Where We Work





Who We Are

Northern Rangelands Trust Trading (NRT Trading) was established by the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) as a business accelerator for social and conservation impact enterprises operating in NRT member community conservancies.

Our vision is to accelerate the development of sustainable and resilient commerce across northern and coastal Kenya while empowering indigenous communities, enhancing livelihoods, conserving nature, and fostering peace and stability.

By bridging critical gaps in knowledge, commercial skills, financial resources, and market links, we facilitate the growth of businesses at all levels of the social spectrum—from household businesses run by women and youth to conservancy-based businesses that leverage community assets, to businesses operated by NRT Trading that improve value chain dynamics and connect people to distant markets.

Our work is based on a three-pillar and base model as follows:



Pillar 1: NRT Trading businesses (Ufugaji Bora Mashinani and BeadWORKS)

These are stand-alone, sustainable businesses in key value chains and economic sectors developed, piloted, and run by NRT Trading.



Pillar 2: Conservancy-based businesses (Tourism and Carbon Sequestration)

NRT Trading enables community conservancies to attract investors and operate conservancy-owned businesses.



Pillar 3: Household-based businesses (Vocational Training and Financial Inclusion: Biashara Mashinani, Northern Rangelands Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (NR Sacco), Ujuzi Manyattani).

NRT Trading empowers men, women, and small groups to start and manage enterprises in order to diversify household income and increase economic resilience.

The BASE (Business Advisory and Support Engine):

This critical structure houses the functions that provide the leadership for the three pillars.



Our Impact in 2022 at a Glance

544

youth and women graduated from the Ujuzi Manyattani Program

50

'Star' entrepreneurs from Isiolo and Samburu Counties trained in business planning, improving business, and business expansion

Ksh 37.2 million

(USD 315,254) accrued by Northern Rangelands Sacco members in savings and shares

523

new members joined the Northern Rangelands Sacco

Northern Rangelands Sacco disbursed loans worth

Ksh 12.1 million

(USD 102,542), financing 291 entrepreneurs

2,023

people trained in entrepreneurship in the various NRT member conservancies

Ksh 117.2 million

(USD 993,642) generated by NRT member community conservancies from tourism in 2022, up 34% from Ksh 85 million (USD 720,338) in 2021

36

conservancy board members (27 men and 9 women) from Melako, Naibung'a Lower, and Lekurruki Conservancies trained in governance and tourism operations

1,200

women empowered by BeadWORKS in artisanal production increasing their skillset and income earning potential

Community conservancy bandas (chalets) collectively generated

Ksh 6.7 million

(USD 57,436)

BeadWORKS generated **Ksh 32.4 million**

(USD 275,331) from the sale of beaded products

For this report:
Ksh 118 = US\$ 1



From the CEO's Desk

Transforming Lives through Enterprise



On the 6th of April 2022, life changed forever for 337 women and youth in northern Kenya.

It was a day filled with hope for a better and brighter future as these community members from Nakuprat-Gotu, Ltungai, Nasuulu, Jaldesa, Shur, and Songa Community Conservancies graduated from NRT Trading's Ujuzi Manyattani Program, with valuable vocational skills in motorcycle maintenance and repair, catering, and tailoring and dressmaking among others.

Morans, whose principal source of livelihood is pastoralism, were among the graduates. Ujuzi Manyattani enabled these warriors to acquire new skills, and diversified their sources of income at this challenging time when a historic drought has decimated millions of heads of livestock across the country, preventing cattle raids and building peace in the communities.

NRT Trading's programs were critical in enabling northern Kenya communities to cope with the severe drought that ravaged the Horn of Africa throughout 2022, weakening wildlife and livestock as available pasture and water decreased.

To minimize livestock losses, our Ufugaji Bora Mashinani Program trained herders in animal husbandry in collaboration with county technical subject matter specialists.

Despite the difficulties caused by the drought, it was commendable that community members embraced a savings culture. 523 new members joined the Northern Rangelands Sacco, bringing its membership to 5,563 active members. Members' savings enabled them to capitalize on the economic opportunities that emerged.

In what was another challenging year, tourism revenues funded community priorities, providing powerful incentives for conservation, as community conservancy bandas collectively generated Ksh 6.7 million (USD 57,436) in revenue.

BeadWORKS continued to empower pastoral women, making them self-reliant and enabling them to meet their families' basic needs.

In May, the Kenya E-commerce Awards nominated BeadWORKS' E-commerce website for three awards: 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. It was an exhilarating time as BeadWORKS was declared the winner of the Gold Award for Best Sustainability Initiative of the Year 2022!

Looking ahead, as the world continues to experience unprecedentedly high temperatures, exploring commerce avenues that promote the sustainable growth and development of communities while preserving the environment will remain our top priority.

I now take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff for working tirelessly all year to achieve NRT Trading's vision. Your efforts enhanced livelihoods while conserving nature.

To the communities we serve who enthusiastically embraced our programs, and to our partners and donors who unwaveringly supported us, asante sana. It took all of us working together to make a real difference. Thank you for joining us on this conservation journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vishal Shah', with a small dot at the end.

Vishal Shah,
CEO

Our Programs



Pillar 1: NRT Trading Businesses: Ufugaji Bora Mashinani & BeadWORKS

Ufugaji Bora Mashinani Program

NRT Trading's Livestock Department is implementing a USAID-funded Local Works Program dubbed "Ufugaji Bora Mashinani." This is a practical skill training for select pastoralist groups in 10 community conservancies, delivered using the farmer field school (FFS) approach. The ten conservancies span the northern counties of Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo, and Marsabit. The Program aims to increase herders' livestock production capacity.

Ufugaji Bora Mashinani was recommended and informed by the findings of a baseline survey conducted in August 2021, which revealed that herders' lack of practical skills was inhibiting profitable livestock production.

In the Program, training was delivered through a curriculum and manuals approved by the respective county governments and certified by National Industrial Training Authority (NITA). By the end of 2022, 300 pastoralist herders from NRT member community conservancies in northern Kenya had undergone livestock breeding and feeding, animal health, and marketing training.

To foster partnership, Ufugaji Bora Mashinani collaborated with Partnership and Resilience for Economic Growth (PREG) partners to develop an integrated plan for USAID-funded programs and worked with the Nawiri Program to train field agents on the livestock curriculum. Ufugaji Bora Mashinani also partnered with the northern Kenya branch of the Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA) to conduct a beef cattle fattening and finishing training organized by a private investor—Feedlot Kenya, in Kajiado.

NRT Trading supported the participation of three livestock technical staff and members of KVA in the training which demonstrated simple structural design (as opposed to the conventional structural setup of feedlots), i.e., the use of local materials for holding structures equipped with feed and water troughs.

Enhancing Livestock Production and Livelihoods through Training

Ufugaji Bora Mashinani collaborated with USAID's Nawiri Program to connect livestock farmers to Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) and provided training manuals and technical officers to conduct a training of trainers (ToTs) for 90 field agents recruited by Nawiri.

The field agents were trained in animal selection, animal husbandry, disease control and management, livestock market, and livestock input access so they could train community members, improving animal husbandry practices and increasing livestock production and productivity with the local communities.



BeadWORKS

BeadWORKS is a handicraft business that harnesses the rich beading tradition of the women of northern Kenya, creating opportunities for pastoralist women in northern Kenya to translate their traditional skills into much-needed income.

BeadWORKS is committed to conserving natural resources and wildlife through self-governed, community-owned conservancies and sustainable, social, and ethical enterprise.

In 2022:

- 1,200 women were empowered by BeadWORKS in artisanal production, increasing their skillset and earning potential.
- BeadWORKS generated Ksh 32.4 million (USD 275,331) from the sale of beaded products.
- 200+ women artisans were trained in the bead loom technique.
- 100+ artisans from Kalama, Sera, Il Ngwesi, and Naibunga Community Conservancies were trained in the bead loom technique.
- 100+ artisans from Lekurruki, Leparua, Melako, and Westgate Community Conservancies were trained in leather crafting, increasing their capacity to create high-quality leather goods like belts and bag patches.
- BeadWORKS produced 3,587 keychains for Artisan Fashion, a social enterprise, for a football team in Milan, Italy, through the UN's Ethical Fashion Initiative. Artisan Fashion is a Nairobi-based social enterprise established in 2009.



BeadWORKS Wins the Kenya E-commerce Sustainability Initiative of the Year Award (2022)

We kicked off May 2022 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 3rd of June, and BeadWORKS took home the Gold Award for Best Sustainability Initiative of the Year 2022!



We were deeply honored by the nominations and Gold Award win. They were a testament to NRT Trading's utmost commitment to investing in the future of NRT member community conservancies through sustainable, social, and ethical enterprise.



Spotlight on the 2022 Kenya E-commerce Awards

The BeadWORKS E-commerce Website was nominated in 3 categories:

- Best Fashion E-commerce Website of the Year 2022
- Best B2B E-commerce Website of the Year 2022
- Best Sustainability Initiative of the Year 2022 Award
- The BeadWORKS' e-commerce website WON a Gold Award for the Best Sustainability Initiative of the Year 2022!



BeadWORKS Distributes Production Kits from the IBU Movement

IBU is a global movement providing the resources and the marketplace for women to rise, through the art of their hands, into financial self-sufficiency. IBU has been supporting BeadWORKS through donations and the purchase of beaded products.

The IBU Movement donated 1,000 production toolkits to BeadWORKS which were distributed to women beaders across eight NRT member community conservancies, making the women's beading work easier.

Please consider supporting these amazing women by [purchasing their products here](#).



Meet Meroni Leruso

A Star Bearer from Il Ngwesi Community Conservancy

Sir. Winston Churchill once said, "the nation will find it very hard to look up to the leaders who are keeping their ears to the ground."

Well, Meroni Leruso is the quintessential young leader who has consistently not allowed herself to put her ears to the ground when it comes to issues affecting her and her community in Il Ngwesi Community Conservancy.

She is proof that the voices of marginalized women can change a community, one at a time.

Meroni has been involved with BeadWORKS for more than four years. She is a single mother of 3 who was married off to her former husband when she was only 14 years old.

Meroni joined BeadWORKS to earn additional income to feed her children and pay for household expenses.

The numerous leadership trainings and exposure tours she has participated in through BeadWORKS have honed her leadership skills, making her a great leader among her group of beaders and in her community.



“I am now very confident. I speak at large community meetings and contribute to issues affecting both the community and myself. I’ve participated in peace meetings that have assisted conflicting groups in mending their relationships. My contribution to these meetings even drew the attention of the incumbent President at one point, and I received a call from State House,” explains Meroni. During Kenya’s 2022 general elections, Meroni wanted to run for office in her Ward, Mukogodo East, in Laikipia County.

In Kenya, a ward is the smallest electoral division. Each ward has a county assembly representative who represents the people at the county level.

Unfortunately, due to unavoidable circumstances, this did not materialize.

“I wanted to run for office so that I can change the lives of my people. I know I can lead them to prosperity, and I can make a change,” said Meroni, in a recent interview.

She is respected in the community and is frequently asked to speak to other women in her village. Partner organizations also often request her to instruct other women in beading.

Meroni’s story serves as a reminder to continue supporting women and including them in leadership roles. When women are empowered, the entire community benefits.

BeadWORKS Audited by the World Fair Trade Organization

The World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) audited BeadWORKS in October and November to evaluate its credibility and determine its suitability for formal recognition 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.

To become a WFTO member, an enterprise or organization must demonstrate they put people and the planet first in everything they do.





Pillar 2: Conservancy-based Businesses: Tourism & Carbon Sequestration

Tourism

Creating Financial Sustainability and Conservation Incentives through Tourism

Conservation-based tourism has the potential to generate enough commercial revenue for conservancies to achieve economic sustainability and provide critical services and infrastructure to their communities.

Revenue generated from tourism has been widely distributed by the community conservancies and used to fund community development priorities, including education, health, water, and infrastructure—benefiting the most vulnerable members of the community and providing a lifeline of alternative employment opportunities.

High-end Tourism

The high-end lodges in the landscape (Saruni Samburu at Kalama, Saruni Rhino at Sera, Sasaab Lodge at Westgate, Il Ngwesi Lodge, Kalepo Camp, and Kitich Camp) have experienced an encouraging post-pandemic tourism recovery despite insecurity in the landscape.

In 2022, NRT member community conservancies generated 117.2 million (USD 993,642) from tourism, up 34% from Ksh 85 million (USD 720,338) in 2021.

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Community-run, Self-help Bandas

If Kenyans develop an interest in, enjoy, and care about wildlife, there will be a mass public interest in protecting wildlife.

NRT Trading supports the establishment of self-help bandas (chalets) to open up northern Kenya to the domestic tourism market. The properties are designed to accommodate 8-10 guests at a time (and more with camping options) and operate mostly on a 'self-help' model.

Community members with the appropriate level of education and skills are trained to work in the bandas and supervised by NRT Trading to ensure guests are properly taken care of and competitive services are provided. The hospitality operations training the banda staff undergo covers several topics including hygiene standards, guest etiquette, housekeeping, food and beverage production, catering and camp operations, adventure services, and cultural experiences.

Indigenous communities in the conservancies are enthusiastic about the banda model as it allows them to generate some revenue and learn about tourism while minimizing risk and investment. Currently, there are bandas at Tassia Lodge in Lekkuruki, Olgaboli and Koiya in Naibunga and Nkoteiya Lodge in Samburu. The bandas collectively generated Ksh 6,777,500 (USD 57,436) in 2022.



Banda Management: Conservancy Board Members' Capacity Building

NRT Trading trained 36 conservancy board members (27 men and 9 women) from Melako, Naibung'a Lower, and Lekurruki Conservancies in governance and tourism operations, to equip them with banda management skills and ensure there is a skilled management team to run community-owned bandas sustainably.

Subsequently, three core teams representing the three conservancy boards were formed to actively manage the bandas.

Lodge and Banda Staff Training

Through a partnership with Peaks Hotel, NRT Trading provided 9 youth (4 males and 5 females) from Nkoteiya, Naibung'a Lower, and Lekurruki Conservancies with on-the-job training in hospitality management.

Each of these three conservancies has a community banda and some of the youth who underwent training are now employed in the banda of their respective conservancies.

In 2022, 13 conservancy staff (10 men and 3 women) from Naibung'a Lower, Lekurruki, and Nkoteiya Conservancies underwent training in wilderness first aid, acquiring life-saving skills.

The objective is to augment these staff's skills so they can effectively serve in the hotel industry.



Advancing Conservancy-Based Tourism

The Big North

NRT Trading launched The Big North to facilitate the marketing of conservancy-based tourism operations.

In 2022:

- Four tour operators were taken on a familiarization trip to each of the community-owned bandas. As a result of this trip, tour operations generated Ksh 0.5 million (USD 4,237) in revenue for the community conservancies.
- Tassia Lodge was renovated and expanded, increasing its bed capacity from 10 to 16.
- NRT Trading benefited from the European Union's support in the form of expert consultants who were seconded to train conservancy Board members on tourism operations. The consultants also assisted with the revamp of The Big North website and developed manuals for setting the table for bush breakfasts, bush dinners, and all lodge meals.

Click on this link to learn more about [The Big North](#)





Carbon Sequestration

The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project

The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project is the world's first large-scale grasslands soil carbon project. It is one of the few large, landscape-level carbon removal ventures currently on the market and is anticipated to remove and store 50 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over 30 years—the equivalent of the annual emissions from over 10,000,000 cars.

The sale of this sequestered carbon on global markets will generate sustainable income for member conservancies to use for community-led development projects.

The Project is assisting people in northern Kenya in adapting to the consequences of climate change and acts as a drought buffer, reducing conflict over pasture and building peace in the region.

Click on this link to learn more about the [Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project](#).





Pillar 3: Household-based Businesses: Biashara Mashinani, NR Sacco & Ujuzi Manyattani

Biashara Mashinani Program

Biashara Mashinani is a structured graduation-based Program that encompasses training, business development, business mentorship, the provision of financial literacy tools (such as savings and loan facilities and mobile banking), and access to a savings and credit cooperative organization (sacco).

The Program inculcates skills in individuals and groups in community conservancies, enabling them to start and manage enterprises, catalyzing entrepreneurship. This approach diversifies community members' income generation streams and positions them to capitalize on opportunities in the landscape.

In 2022:

- Biashara Mashinani imparted life skills and provided entrepreneurship and financial literacy training to youth and women across the conservancies, enabling them to gain self-employment or take advantage of formal employment opportunities, increasing their self-reliance.
- 2,301 youth and women were trained in life skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and business management through Biashara Mashinani.
- The severe drought in the region and insecurity in the areas of operation hindered the implementation of Biashara Mashinani activities, particularly the provision of financial services.

The Enterprise Team identified entrepreneurs in the community conservancies whose businesses have the potential to grow and scale so that through the Biashara Mashinani Program, they could be trained in entrepreneurship and business management, increasing the entrepreneurs' income and creating jobs locally.

2,301

Number of youth and women who underwent life skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and business management training through the Biashara Mashinani Program in 2022

Biashara Mashinani's Bespoke 4-Module Curriculum

The Biashara Mashinani Program, with funding from USAID's Local Works Program, created a custom business training curriculum comprising four modules: business idea generation, starting businesses, building businesses, and expanding businesses.

Training on the first module on business idea generation was conducted across the conservancies, and a database of 400 business entrepreneurs was created within 10 community conservancies.

Biashara Mashinani aims at connecting emerging entrepreneurs with business mentors within their community conservancies to ensure their newly-developed businesses are sustainable.



The Northern Rangelands Sacco

The Northern Rangelands Sacco (NR Sacco) is an independent, community-owned, and membership-driven organization that receives oversight, critical technical support, and training from NRT Trading.

The Sacco derives its membership from community conservancies and has become a powerful vehicle for promoting financial inclusion, providing access to financial services through savings and loans, and mobilizing local resources for economic development.

The Sacco was recently restructured to improve its operations and capacity to offer more services, serve a larger clientele base, and manage credit risks.

In 2022:

- 523 new members joined NR Sacco.
- NR Sacco's membership stood at 5,563 active members.
- Ksh 37.2 million (USD 315,254) was accrued by members in savings and shares.
- NR Sacco disbursed loans worth Ksh 12.1 million (USD 102,542) to finance 291 women and youth-run enterprises.

Issuance of loans to support women-owned enterprises in Kiunga and Pate Conservancies. The Lamu County Governor, H.E. Issa Timamy, presided over the event.



NR Sacco Convenes Annual Delegates' Meeting

On the 28th of April, 2022, NR Sacco held its Annual Delegates' Meeting (ADM) at Kalama Conservancy in Samburu County. Despite the region's harsh economic conditions and the effects of the pandemic, the Sacco's assets and member deposits grew by 41%.

Michelina Leparmosijo and Salma Lekomet were elected as the new Chairperson and Secretary, respectively, and several members were recognized for their outstanding savings and loan repayments.

The Sacco also introduced the Akiba Dharura Account, a new product that members could use to save for emergencies rather than dipping into their savings accounts.



NR Sacco aspires to change the narrative on indigenous communities through income diversification and facilitating business growth in remote regions, enabling locals to gain self-reliance and build a prosperous future.

Ture Boru, Chief Economic Programs Officer

Ujuzi Manyattani Program

Ujuzi Manyattani is a vocational training program in which polytechnics place trainers in villages to teach marketable skills to communities, giving people from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds, and those who have not been able to obtain formal education, access to learning. The Program enables pastoralists to acquire practical vocational skills where other training facilities are absent, without disrupting their way of life.

Adult literacy and entrepreneurship skills are also incorporated into this training program in which trainers and tools move across villages, conservancies, and counties to provide equal learning opportunities to all ethnic groups in community conservancies.

The goal is to equip community members with skills that diversify their livelihoods, breaking the ongoing cycles of poverty and conflict.

In 2022, Ujuzi Manyattani scaled up and drew the attention of the national and county governments as well as development partners, as 544 youth and women graduated from the Program. Following the signing of a partnership agreement with the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), NITA's technical team visited Ujuzi Manyattani's training sites and witnessed firsthand the Program's operations.

Ujuzi Manyattani's training model impressed NITA's team, who promised to develop guidelines for incorporating the Program into NITA's policy framework.

544

Number of youth and women who graduated from the Ujuzi Manyattani Program in 2022



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 the Ujuzi Manyattani Program on the 6th of April at a ceremony held in Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy in Isiolo County.

This momentous occasion saw the trainees who hailed from six NRT community conservancies: Nakuprat-Gotu, Ltungai, Nasuulu, Jaldesa, Shur, and Songa, graduate from various courses including tailoring and dressmaking, motorcycle maintenance and repair, hairdressing and beauty therapy, catering and pastry, and mobile repair.



The colorful ceremony was presided over by H.E. Ole Thonke, the Danish Ambassador to Kenya. During his speech, the Ambassador lauded the increase in pastoralist women enrolling in the free vocational training courses offered by NRT Trading to better their lives. Women accounted for 160 of the 337 graduates, up from six in 2021.

Our technical partners, including the Ministry of Education, the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Kiirua Technical Training Institute, and Laikipia North Technical and Vocational College, made the training and graduation possible.

The funding for training and graduation was generously provided by USAID through the Local Works Program, the Embassy of Denmark in Kenya and Somalia, the Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi (through the IMARA Project), IUCN Save Our Species (co-funded by the EU International Partnerships), and The Nature Conservancy in Africa.



Empowering Local Communities, Increasing Participation through Devolution

Conservancy-Based Graduations

NRT Trading devolved graduations to conservancies in the second half of 2022 to increase community awareness and ownership of the Ujuzi Manyattani Program at the grassroots level.

The localization of the graduations has increased the communities' interest in the Program's vocational skills. It has also improved local leadership participation and appreciation of the conservation and economic empowerment agenda.

Conservancy-based graduations were successfully held in Baringo, West Pokot, Laikipia, Isiolo, and Samburu Counties, with 207 young men and women graduating.

The graduates acquired skills in electrical installations and wiring, hairdressing and beauty therapy, tailoring and dressmaking, motorcycle repair and maintenance, catering and pastry making, and mobile phone repair and maintenance.

The graduates were also provided with entrepreneurship and financial literacy training and startup toolkits to enable them to set up their businesses.

The graduates will continue to be coached and mentored in enterprise development to increase community income and employment levels.

Ujuzi Manyattani Graduation Figures (2022)

County	Conservancy	No. of Graduates (2022)
Baringo	Ruko	59
West Pokot	Masol	28
Laikipia	Naibunga Lower	30
Samburu	Ltungai	75
	Meibae	30
Isiolo	Biliqo Bulesa	30
	Nasuulu	44
	Nakuprat	149
Marsabit	Shurr	21
	Jaldesa	41
	Songa	37
Total	N/A	544

Harnessing the Power of Partnerships to Increase Community Impact

NRT Trading and NITA Partnership

In March 2022, the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) and NRT Trading signed a partnership agreement aimed at enhancing and scaling up Ujuzi Manyattani so that it can serve more communities and areas.

The partnership also opened the doors for the training, testing and certification of Ujuzi Manyattani beneficiaries using NITA curricula and the Government Trade Test, upgrading their skills and securing clear paths to career advancement.

A team from NITA, led by the Senior Industrial Training Officer, Peter Njiru, visited six Ujuzi Manyattani training sites across Samburu, Baringo, and Laikipia Counties. The team



sought to observe Ujuzi Manyattani's operations, and training methodologies, and identify ways to integrate the Program into NITA's central industrial training framework.

NRT Trading Supports CRS Nawiri in Apprenticeship Program Implementation

NRT Trading partnered with the USAID Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Nawiri Apprenticeship Program, providing the Program with Ujuzi Manyattani's curriculum and links to the Kiirua Training Institute, a key implementor of the Ujuzi Manyattani Program.

The Nawiri Program, which is implemented by CRS, employed Ujuzi Manyattani graduates and trainers when implementing its Apprenticeship Program, which equips youth and young mothers with vocational skills.

CRS' Nawiri Financial Inclusion Program also worked with NRT Trading to link beneficiaries of their financial services to the Northern Rangelands Sacco for sustainable access to financial resources and business development support.



We are happy to see many graduates from the Ujuzi Manyattani Program giving back to society, using the skills they gained through the Program and earning an income. They have been well equipped and prepared to solve local challenges, and can now provide the services for which they once traveled hundreds of kilometers.

Peter Njiru, Senior Industrial Training Officer, National Industrial Training Authority (NITA)

Ujuzi Manyattani, Imparting Skills, Transforming Lives

Born into a family of six children, 36-year-old Jane Asimit, a mother of six, did not attend school, like many other children in pastoral communities. Her days, instead, were spent grazing her family's livestock.

Jane was married off at a young age and became a stay-at-home mother. She cared for her six children while making no income of her own and relying on her husband for everything.

As fate would have it, in March 2020, at the onset of the pandemic, Jane's husband lost his job. Feeding her family became difficult, so Jane eked out a living by selling fresh vegetables. Her business was not profitable as she lacked the necessary skills to run it.



While wrestling with these challenges, one of Jane's friends from Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy informed her of the free vocational skills training provided by the Ujuzi Manyattani Program, and she duly enrolled.

After three months of training in tailoring and dressmaking, Jane not only learnt how to write, take measurements and draw various cloth designs, but also acquired entrepreneurial knowledge, improving her business management skills and enabling her to make a profit.

Previously, people in Jane's community would travel to Isiolo and other large towns to purchase high-quality clothing. These, however, were costly. Today, they can easily buy from Jane since the clothes she sells are stylish and affordable.

With her increased income, Jane can now afford to pay her children's school fees and their attendance has improved since they are no longer sent home due to fee non-payment. For Jane and the people she serves through her business, the Ujuzi Manyattani Program has made a real difference in their lives.

[Click on this link to read more about Jane's story.](#)

Training for Transformation

Nurturing Entrepreneurship through Vocational Training

Entrepreneurship Training

NRT Trading's Enterprise Team provided entrepreneurship training to the indigenous communities in NRT member conservancies so they could take advantage of the available economic opportunities.

This training initiative, which was implemented with support from USAID's People to People Program (P2P) aimed at inculcating entrepreneurial skills in community members and connecting

them to funding avenues provided by the National Government such as the Uwezo Fund, Women Enterprise Fund, and the Youth Enterprise Development Fund.

The table below shows the number of people who underwent entrepreneurship training in the various NRT member conservancies in 2022.

Entrepreneurship Trainings Conducted in NRT Member Community Conservancies (2022)

County	Conservancy	No. of People Trained
Baringo	Ruko	199
Garissa	Ishaqbini Hirola	40
Isiolo	Biliqo-Bulesa	85
Isiolo	Leparua	15
Isiolo	Naapu	115
	Interns and Staff	24
Isiolo	Nakuprat-Gotu	287
Isiolo	Narupa	94
Isiolo	Nasuulu	225
Isiolo	Oldonyiro	35
Lamu	Pate	40
Laikipia	Nabunga lower	70
Laikipia	Nkoteiya	21
Marsabit	Shurr	61
Samburu	Ltungai	109
Samburu	Meibae	78
Marsabit	Jaldesa	41
Marsabit	Songa	38
West Pokot	Masol	191
West Pokot	Pellow	165
Isiolo and Samburu	Star Entrepreneurs from Kalama, Sera, Meibae, West Gate, Nkoteiya, Ltungai, Leparua, Nakuprat-Gotu, Biliqo-Bulesa, Nanapa, Narupa, and Nasuulu	50
	Community Enterprise Agents	40
Total Number of People Trained		2,023

'Star' Entrepreneurs Training

NRT Trading, with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), conducted a training for 50 'Star' entrepreneurs from Isiolo and Samburu Counties.

The four-day training focused on three modules: business planning, improving business, and business expansion, which were taught using illustrations, stories, videos, and role-play to facilitate learning and understanding.

The 50 'Star' entrepreneurs were drawn from NRT member community conservancies in Isiolo and Samburu Counties, namely, Kalama, Sera, Meibae, West Gate, Nkoteiya, Ltungai, Leparua, Naku-prat-Gotu, Biliqo-Bulesa, Nanapa, Narupa, and Nasuulu.

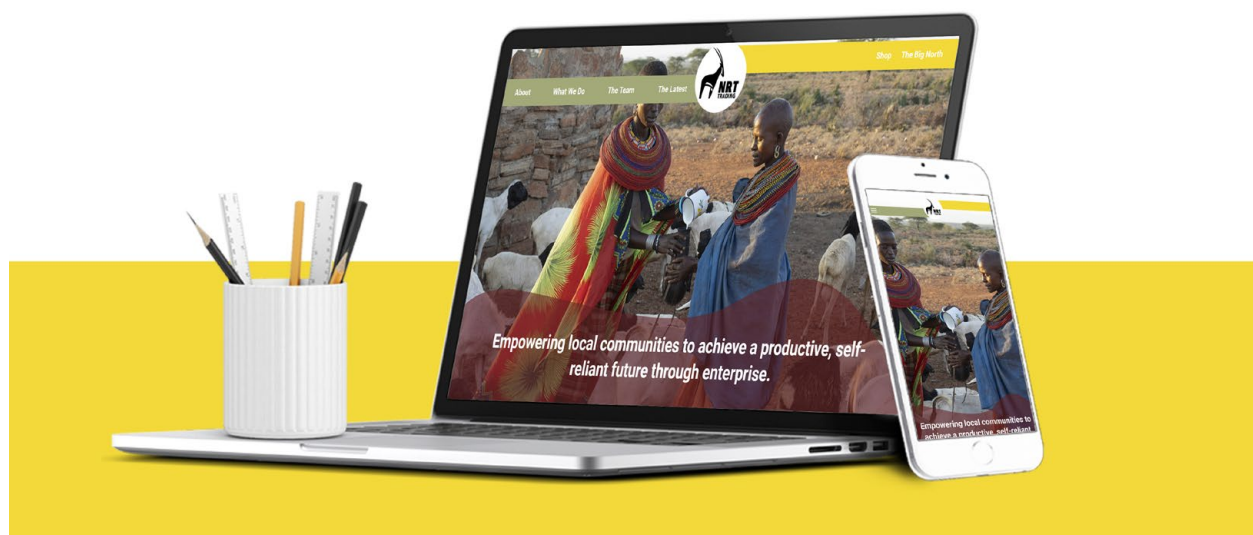
Star entrepreneurs are respected businesspeople in their communities. They serve as role models and have a reputation for being industrious and diligent. Each of them has an inspiring story to tell about their business journey and is expected to coach and mentor young and aspiring entrepreneurs as they start, improve, or expand their small businesses.

NRT Trading Launches New Website

In 2022, NRT Trading unveiled a brand-new website! Now you can access all of the latest information on NRT Trading and ways your purchases empower communities, improve livelihoods and conserve nature in one convenient location.

The new website's development was supported by USAID Kenya and its stories focus on the accelerator's impact. The website also provides details about NRT Trading's enterprises and programs.

Click on this link to take a quick look at the [new website](#).



In their Own Words: How Community Members Survived an Unprecedented Drought

In 2022, a climate-change induced drought reached catastrophic levels, adversely affecting people, wildlife and livestock. As part of its drought mitigation plan, NRT Trading interviewed several community members to obtain insights on how the prolonged drought had affected their livelihood. Watch these 5 videos to learn how they coped in order to survive.

1. https://youtu.be/s_in7wfe6Rw
2. https://youtu.be/-l-KilzKN_E

3. <https://youtu.be/cDzP4LHPdZI>
4. <https://youtu.be/YBegwpojp08>
5. <https://youtu.be/MZHbolb2sps>



NRT Trading Programs

Over the years, northern and coastal Kenya communities have encountered numerous challenges, including a harsh climate, food insecurity, and limited economic activities, resulting in conflict over dwindling resources.

As a result, NRT Trading was formed to catalyze livelihood diversification through business setup, skills development, access to markets, and linkages to opportunities.

Through the support of USAID's Local Works, NRT Trading has embarked on an ambitious three-year program to empower the indigenous communities in NRT member community conservancies to drive their development, sustainably, through enterprise-based programs.

Click on this link to see how NRT Trading's sustainable programs assist communities in creating and diversifying their livelihoods.



<https://youtu.be/EDWaCtEJnxQ>



NRT Trading in the Media

1. KTN News - [Ujuzi Manyattani program aims to help the youth earn a decent living and prevent cattle rustling](#)
2. KBC TV - [Pastoralists vocational skills | Program targets pastoral communities](#)
3. Mutembei TV - [COMBATING CATTLE RUSTLING IN BARINGO!!](#)
4. Utana TV - [Mbeu njithi kuuma kaunti ya Baringo kwanjiriria kwamukira kotho cia moko](#)
5. Lookup TV - [Silencing the gun](#)
6. Standard Newspaper - [Women and youth fight hunger, cattle rustling with work skills](#)
7. Citizen TV - [Mashirika yatoa mafunzo ya ujuzi kwa wakazi katika maeneo kame](#)
8. Kenya News Agency - [Education Shaping Pastoral Community](#)
9. TV 47 News - [Wakenya katika maeneo ya ufugaji wanufaika na elimu ya kiufundi](#)
10. Look UP TV - [Samburu: Elimu kwa wote](#)
11. Kenya News Agency - [Young Entrepreneurs Gain Life-Changing Skills](#)
12. Nation - [Over 700 youth benefit from vocational training](#)
13. Tukio News - [NRT's Ujuzi Manyattani Beneficiaries Graduate at Bulesa, Isiolo](#)
14. Education Newspaper - [28 Youth graduates from the Ujuzi Manyattani Programme](#)
15. Nation - [Reformed warriors graduate after being trained on various skills](#)
16. Radio Mchungaji - [Ujuzi Graduation](#)
17. KTN News - [Ujuzi Manyattani](#)
18. Serian F.M - [Ujuzi Graduation](#)
19. Daily Nation - [Lamu environmental conservationists get Sh8.5 loan](#)

20. KBC - [NRT training programme transforms lives of Isiolo youths](#)
21. Nation - [Lamu environmental conservationists get Sh8.5 loan](#)
22. Lamu Times - [NORTHERN RANGELAND TRUST DISBURSES KSHS 8.3 MILLION TO KIUNGA AND PATE WOMEN GROUPS](#)
23. Citizen TV - [Wanawake 300 wanaohifadhi raslimali za bahari wapewa mikopo](#)

Looking Ahead

Climate change and its devastating consequences are a growing concern, and there is an urgent need to equip communities with the tools they need to cope and adapt.

We remain laser-focused on empowering NRT member conservancies through sustainable commerce to bolster their economic resilience.

We will continue to diversify community members' sources of livelihood through our programs, concurrently driving them toward development and steering them away from activities that may further stress the current drought-ridden environment.

We are confident that if we harness the power of enterprise and nature-based solutions and join forces with different stakeholders to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis, the environment will improve and the indigenous communities we serve in northern and coastal Kenya will prosper and thrive.

Asanteni Sana

Northern Rangelands Trust Trading would like to thank the following principal donors and partners, for their invaluable support.



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Learn More

For more information on our work and programs, please visit our website: www.nrt-trading.com



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