



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Samburu and cattle at an 'olmuget' ceremony in Westgate Conservancy

Photo Credit: Jo O'Brien

KENYA AND EAST AFRICA

RESILIENT COMMUNITY CONSERVANCIES PROGRAM

Northern Rangelands Trust

The Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) partners with local communities to build peace and improve livelihoods through conservation. Formed in 2004 by the Lewa Conservancy with support from USAID, NRT 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 33 community-owned and managed conservancies covering nearly 44,000 square kilometers. NRT works to improve the lives and livelihoods of more than 480,000 residents from 15 different ethnic groups spread over eleven counties in one of Kenya's major wildlife migration corridors.

The Climate Resilient Community Conservancies Program (CRCCP) is a five-year (2015-2019) comprehensive program designed to scale up support to NRT's existing community conservancies in northern and coastal Kenya and strategically support new conservancies.

OUR WORK

CRCCP activities will result in i) landscape-level biodiversity conservation outside Kenya's nationally Protected Areas, (ii) expanded economic opportunities for conservancy communities anchored in biodiversity, (iii) lasting peace, reflected in reduced conflicts over natural resources, (iv) reduced wildlife trafficking across conservancies, and (v) enhanced resilience in the ability of people and landscapes to withstand climate variability and shocks.

ACTIVITY AREAS

Governance and Peace The CRCCP works to strengthen conservancy institutions and develop high standards of governance within community conservancies. The CRCCP builds peace and advances indigenous approaches to averting resource-based conflicts. A key activity under this program is support for each conservancy to develop a participatory Conservancy Management, Adaptation Action Plan and Community Development Plan, which will articulate a long-term development vision for conservation and development.

Resilient Livelihoods CRCCP activities will support conservancies (i) to improve the ability of their communities to mitigate, adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses, and (ii) to improve the ability of rangeland ecosystems to resist and recover from drought and long-term climate stress. The CRCCP extends NRT's Conservancy Livelihoods Fund, which allows conservancies to apply for funding for resilience projects such as building sand dams, developing eco-tourism sites, or starting savings and loan schemes.

Security Working closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Kenya Police, the CRCCP supports NRT's community monitoring program to address the threats from poachers and cattle-rustlers. The program equips conservancy rangers with the skills and equipment to perform wildlife surveillance and security monitoring. In turn, this information provides credible data on poaching that will feed into national and international databases such as the Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Ecosystems Reversing ecosystem degradation and building productive and resilient rangelands through more effective planning, management and monitoring of natural resources is a key component of CRCCP's resilience and biodiversity conservation strategy. To date over 2 million hectares are under rangeland restoration and management.

Wildlife Community conservancies provide considerable gains to wildlife conservation through improved security and increased community awareness of the value and potential benefits of wildlife. The CRCCP supports the establishment of the Shaba and Buffalo Springs National Reserves in Isiolo County through a new public-private partnership between Africa Parks and the Isiolo County government. These reserves will serve as a vital refuge for wildlife in the Ewaso-Samburu landscape.

Enterprise The enterprise component of CRCCP develops new economic opportunities, adding value to the livestock market chain with an average \$500,000 to \$1 million annual revenue generated, empowering over 1,000 women through bead work enterprises, diversifying tourism opportunities which produce an average \$600,000 income annually, and generating market-based conservation financing options for conservancies. The en

Growth and Sustainability Under the CRCCP, NRT will consider expansion into 4 new strategic areas (North Laikipia, North West Samburu, Meru and South Isiolo, and Eastern Isiolo), through approval by the Council of Elders. Growth scenarios could potentially result in NRT conservancies growing from 33 to 49 in the next decade, and county governments supporting up to 37 more community conservancies.

Funding: \$19.9 million

Duration: September 2015 – September 2020

Activity Locations: Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Laikipia, Lamu, Marsabit, Meru, Tana River, Samburu, Turkana, and West Pokot counties

Implementing Partner:
The Northern Rangelands Trust

Key Partners:
County Governments, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Police, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association, Africa Parks, Laikipia Wildlife Forum, Rural Focus and Centre for Humanitarian Change, Grevy's Zebra Trust, Samburu Girls Foundation

USAID KENYA AND EAST AFRICA
Karen Freeman, Mission Director

MISSION CONTACT
Beatrice Wamalwa
Program Management Specialist
Environment Office
Tel: +254 20 862 2000
Email: bwamalwa@usaid.gov

Northern Rangelands Trust:
Elodie Sampere
Head of Conservation Marketing
Tel: + 254 020 203 3244 /
+ 254 (0) 727 341 612
Email: elodie.sampere@nrt-kenya.org

WEBSITE
www.usaid.gov/kenya