

BARINGO STAKEHOLDERS MEETING CONVENED BY NRT ON 18TH JULY 2024 AT CHAMASTER HOTEL

KABARNET

MEMEBERS PRESENT/REPRESENTATIVES

1. Baringo County commissioners representative
2. Hellen juma – Baringo north sub county administrator
3. National disaster management authority officials
4. Isaiah Biwott – Executive director -Citizen Participation Forum CBO
5. Mercy Yatich- Cordinator , Marigat social justice centre
6. James chepyegon –Chief officer ,special programs , Baringo county government
7. Benjamin cheboi – Baringo county governor
8. Dancun Mading – NRT county coordinator
9. Calvin okungu-self help AFRICA
10. Caleb kibet- Red cross
11. Joseph Ngetich –Special programs , Baringo county government
12. Lucy Ntongai- Action Aid
13. Michael seurei –KWS

AGENDA

- 1.Understanding of NRT work in Kenya and East Africa
- 2 .Stakeholders support in Baringo county

The meeting was convened by National drought management Authority but financed by NRT .

NRT did a presentation through Dancun Mading and explained the role of NRT support to other stakeholders in Baringo county .

The following are clustered regions that are managed by NRT in Kenya

- 1.NRT Coast
- 2.NRT central- Samburu and isiolo counties
- 3.NRT Mountain –Meru and Laikipia counties
4. NRT west- Baringo and West Pokot counties

On Baringo , the director explained that they are coming up with community conservancies management plan and that they are helping Kenya wildlife services in the county to come up with wild life conservation policy in private conservancies and ones owned by Baringo county government.

NRT informed the participants of its role in sponsoring Baringo county Assembly in the development of community conservation Bill which they said it is in printing stage.

The NRT director explained its role in conservation that they don't own land in Kenya but work to support other players in mitigating effects of climate change and promoting community

conservancies .He elaborated NRT role in supporting Kenya wildlife services and the local communities to create resilience .

During question and answer time , a participant from Marigat social justice centre asked him to come clean on NRT role in conversion of community land to private conservancies without following due process and he said that NRT is not responsible for the conflicts but they are providing solutions to insecurity through creating of conservancies as security Buffer zones and he gave example of RUKO conservancy which they helped create in 2007/08 after the fighting between Ilchamus and Pokot communities in Baringo south

He said that they have lately encountered resistance from Bartabwa community in Baringo when they wanted to help establish Kaborion community structures and finance its operations.

He elaborated that they have started to vet private land owners who wanted to be members of NRT conservation network after they received public outcry on the grabbing of community land by individuals who never follows due process and uses their influence to convert the community land to private land displacing other members of the community

The director indicated that they are also supporting women groups through the micro finance programs and they are offering technical skills trainings to community members in the already established conservancies

On Kamnarok game reserve, the director indicated that they will support Baringo county government and KWS with the management plan once the conflict about land ownership with the community is sorted.

The indicated that they are the ones who helped in translocating giraffes to Baringo from other conservancies in Kenya.

They indicated that they support private conservancies thrive and they gave example of ones in Laikipia.

NRT representative indicated also that they are helping in reducing poaching through the training of community scouts in the rangelands on the important of community conservation.

COMMENTS FROM MEETING HELD IN MAY IN KORIEMA RESORT

Most participants during the meeting in May had questioned the secrecy of NRT work and questioned why they allow politicians to meddle in their work.

The participants led by two sub county administrators questioned their role in community conflict and one of the administrators from Tiaty had been attacked by armed people after differing with a local politician who was advocating for NRT to take over part of community land which is used as grazing land during drought.

Today , the administrator never attended the meeting for personal reasons and informed me that he cannot come to sanitize illegalities on community land.

The director and the county government informed the meeting that they had called the meeting to explain their role and demystify the accusation against NRT by many human rights organizations including CIPAF that they are responsible for the conflicts and admitted that there are members of Baringo county community conservation Association who are being accused of grabbing community land and converting it to private conservancies and cited their hostile reception in Baringo north , Salmo Soi ward by members of the public . They absolved themselves from the accusation that they are fanning displacement of people to facilitate creation of a new conservancy called Ngaratuko but admitted that they wanted the creation of the conservancy for peace between Pokot and Tugen living in the disputed area just like the Ruko conservancy.