



11 March 2022

**RE: SUSPENSION OF NAMUNAK WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY**

Dear Partners,

I write to inform you on a decision of the Council of Elders of NRT on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to suspend Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust from NRT membership.

NRT has faced significant governance challenges with Namunyak over the past three years, and has attempted on several occasions to work with Namunyak leadership and management to resolve these issues. Despite best efforts to address these issues the situation continued to deteriorate and this culminated in a Ministry of Interior led task force in July 2021 to investigate conflicts affecting Reteti Elephant Sanctuary and came up with specific recommendations.

In November 2021 the Chairman of the Finance Committee of Namunyak-Nalowuon Unit also submitted a request to NRT to assist in an audit process of the Community Funds having revealed discrepancies in use of funds and implementation of projects, which the Namunyak board did not allow.

With the deteriorating situation and the potential liabilities to NRT, the Board of NRT at their meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 instructed the Council of Elders through its Governance & Oversight Committee to urgently intervene and investigate the governance concerns within Namunyak. The Committee undertook a thorough investigation, meeting members of Namunyak management and boards, Kenya Wildlife Service, County Government, representatives of the Ministry of Interior, community and political leadership. The findings of the CoE committee were:

- Lack of community participation in decision making
- Lack of transparent benefit sharing and equity
- Lack of transparency in financial management
- Lack of implementation of the task force recommendations on Reteti
- Poor senior management staff performance
- Low stakeholder engagement
- Unmanaged conflict of interest by partners, investors and board
- Non-compliance of policies and legal requirements
- High reputational risk to partners and loss of donor confidence
- Minimal conservancy security support for wildlife and people

The NRT CoE Governance & Oversight committee having visited Namunyak and assessed the issues recommended to the full NRT CoE to suspend the entire Namunyak (Nalowuon, Ngilai and Kalepo units) until such a time as the concerns have been addressed. The Conservancy will then be able to reapply to the council for the lifting of the suspension. The Council of Elders at it's meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 unanimously endorsed this recommended and as a result NRT will suspend all its operations, funding and support to Namunyak with immediate effect.

On 11 March 2022, the Chairman of the Council of Elders wrote to the Chairman of the Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust informing them of their indefinite suspension from membership in NRT.

The doors of NRT will remain open for reapplication of membership pending resolution of the governance and management issues.

Thank you,



Tom Lalampaa

CEO

Northern Rangelands Trust

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LIST OF COUNTIES

SAMBURU  
BARINGO  
ISIOLO  
LAIKIPIA  
MERU  
MARSABIT

GARISSA  
LAMU  
TANA RIVER  
TURKANA  
WEST POKOT

REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICES

NRT Center  
NRT North Rift  
NRT North East  
NRT Coast

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

NRT Trading

**NORTHERN RANGELANDS TRUST**  
**PRIVATE BAG**  
**ISIOLO 60300**  
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