

TEN Women





Here are ten inspirational women from the community conservancies of northern Kenya - working to build peace, conserve wildlife and reduce inequality. We're calling this #10Women for SDG10 - the tenth UN Sustainable Development Goal that is all about empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of everyone, regardless of gender or ethnicity. Their outstanding work is supported by NRT's many valuable partners, principally USAID, DANIDA and The Nature Conservancy.



“I didn’t think I would manage, but I decided to try and I am glad I did. Now my children, especially my daughters, can look up to me and see that when challenges come, we should not shy away from them.”

– CLEMENTINA

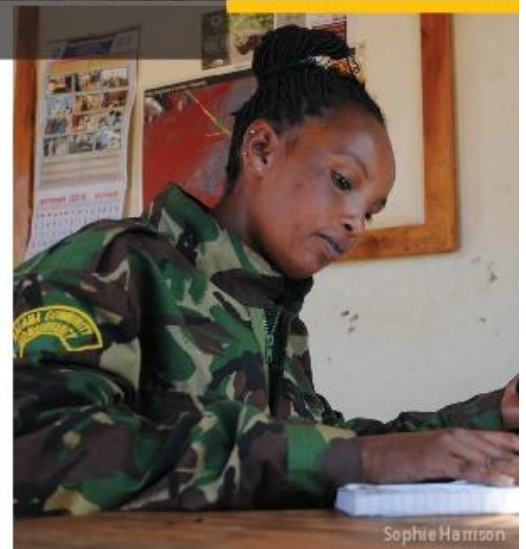
Clementina & Josephine



Rangers, Kalama Community Conservancy

Ami Vitale

In 2015, Clementina's husband, a Kalama Conservancy ranger, tragically lost his life during a stock theft recovery operation. He was the sole breadwinner for their family of five, and his loss left Clementina trying to manage grief alongside the daunting prospect of providing for her children. Keen to try and help, the Kalama management called a community meeting. They wanted to offer the widow a sustainable solution – one that could put food on the table every night and see her kids through school. They decided to offer Clementina a job: the position of a community ranger.



Sophie Hamson

Bravely, Clementina took the job, having never been formally employed in her life. She now works alongside five other female rangers, including Josephine (above), who are her support network as well as her colleagues. Josephine is a radio operator, as much a 'first response' position as the rangers on the ground. "I am at the heart of what is happening in our community" she says, "if anything happens, I am the first to know and record it." She says that like Clementina, her job has also pushed her out of her comfort zone. "There are certain things I can do now that I could not do when I first came. I can operate a radio, relay information and interact freely with people from different places." Josephine commends her friend's courage, stating "our work can be very hard sometimes and it especially hurts when we lose one of our fellow rangers in the field. But we know that it is worth doing, because we can take care of our families and contribute to a better life for our community."

“Our society is now changing and starting to see the value of women’s leadership. At first they would ask - how can a woman lead us? By my second term, I was elected unopposed because my work spoke for itself.”

– PAULINE LONGOJINE



Peace ambassador and former Sera Conservancy Board member

Pauline Longojine

Pauline was elected to the Sera Community Conservancy board in 2011, where she served for the maximum two terms. She ran an unopposed Chair of the Board in her second term, becoming one of the first women in an NRT member conservancy to take that role. It was under her leadership that Sera became the first community-run black rhino sanctuary in east Africa, setting new standards and best practices for endangered species conservation in Kenya. “The introduction of rhino in Sera is something I will always be proud of,” she says. “Our children are employed by the rhino sanctuary, the whole community will continue to grow from tourism revenue.”

Pauline is now a peace ambassador, and has played an instrumental role in launching NRT’s multi-ethnic women’s peace forum - which equips women with skills for building peace and detecting and preventing conflict. “In the beginning, women were afraid to speak to their sons and husbands,” says Pauline, “but we challenged them to think of the future they wanted for their community. Now they come back and tell us that their sons are listening to them and thinking twice before going out to raid.”

Driving her work now is a firm belief that women can and should play a leading role in mitigating ethnic conflict, and this starts by creating safe spaces for dialogue and starting conversations. “There are certain things that the morans (young men) will open up and tell me, that they would not tell the men - when they are with me, they know that they are with a mother, and will not be judged.”