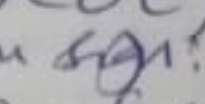
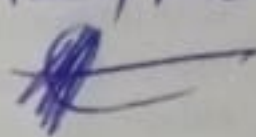
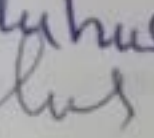
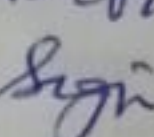
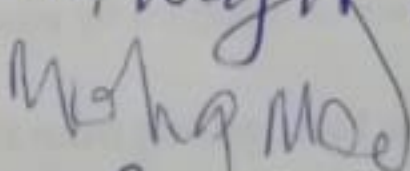
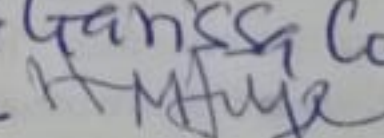
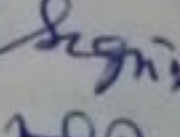


## **Petition on How USAID Funding of the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) Affects Our Communities**

- Funding from USAID to the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) has indirectly contributed to NRT's gross violation of human and resource rights of the communities; has inspired inter-community conflicts, and is behind the disappearance and killing of people especially those who are opposed to NRT operations on their land. This has largely escaped media limelight owing to the fact that with USAID funding, NRT has been able to roll out an elaborate media campaign. At the same time, the vast northern region of Kenya is, to a large extent, neglected by the media. It is also important to consider that Northern Kenya is a region characterised by proliferation of small arms due to its proximity to Somalia, Ethiopia and Southern Sudan.
- The funding from USAID has frustrated any attempt by communities to wriggle themselves away from control and domination by the NRT as it has helped the organization to entrench itself within the security and administrative mechanisms of the national and relevant county governments in the North. Consequently, this has left relevant communities weak and vulnerable to the wishes of an organization which has added many other activities (i.e. livestock trade through NRT Trading Company, maintaining security and anti-cattle rustling patrols) to its initial conservation mandate.
- USAID funding has encouraged the NRT to ignore age-old and largely sustainable traditional resource use and management systems used by communities in the North and to replace them with parallel elders' councils that have proved to be inappropriate especially when climate change and attendant flux of weather patterns are considered. For instance, NRT has ignored the Dedha Resource Management system of the Borana Community and hardly involved Dedha Elders who are mandated by the community to be in-charge of how resources and especially grasslands are used during wet, dry and very dry periods. NRT has also largely ignored registered elders councils of Samburu and other communities and started its own parallel elders' committees
- USAID funding has encouraged NRT to operate undemocratically. Indeed, the agreements or Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) signed between NRT and communities in the North have remained secretive documents. Although much of the land in question is held jointly by communities, most members of our communities are not involved in the processes of enacting and signing the MOUs. As a result, the contents of the MOUs are hardly known by most people; they are merely known and signed by elites within the communities;
- The finances NRT has been getting from USAID has, to some extent, contributed to the disinheritance of local communities, who are forced to surrender portions of their land for the exclusive use by tourism investors. This is because NRT often coaxes communities to set aside what it calls CORE areas that are usually resource-rich areas with year-round pastures and water resources. NRT uses USAID's financing to finance specialized training of its rangers and to secure arms to police such areas. On paper, such portions of community lands are held by communities, but in actual fact communities do not have access. USAID has therefore contributed to worsening the situation in a region characterised by official neglect and occasional inter-community conflicts that are mainly driven by competition for resources and which worsen whenever there are droughts.

JOINT PETITION SAMBURU COUNTY,  
ISIOLO COUNTY, WEST POKOT COUNTY, MARSAKIT  
COUNTY, TURKANA COUNTY, TANA RIVER  
COUNTY, WAJIR COUNTY, GARISA COUNTY  
~~REPRESENTED~~ BY THE FOLLOWING, SIGNED ON 8/6/21:

1. Richard Leiyabullteel Rtd), Patron, The Samburu Council of Elders (TSCOE) - Tel: +254, 718 442 672, Email: samburuelders@gmail.com sign: 
2. ABDINOOR DIMA JILLO - IsioLO Professionals and Security expert, IsioLO County. Tel: +254 726 083 533 Email: amiajillo@gmail.com sign:   
P.O. Box 40-60300 IsioLO
3. Adan Hussein, Secretary General, IsioLO Human Rights Defender, Tel: 0712 393 028, Email: chuluhssein@gmail.com sign:   
chuluhssein75@gmail.com
4. Said Dabaso Wabera, Kepaja Trust, Marsabit County Tel: +254 722 851 456 & +254 733 264 078 sign: 
5. Mohammed Dahije, Chair, Wajir Council of Elders Tel: +254 725 227, 175 sign: 
6. Hussein Mohammed Jihaye, Garissa County Elder, +254 712 817 118 sign: 
7. Paulina Eragai, Chairlady, Turkana County Human Rights Caucus, Tel: +254 723 957 913 sign: 
8. Imani Marani, Tana River Community representatives, Tana River County sign: 