



**GARBA TULLA COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY, KINNA WARD COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY, SERICHO COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY AND CHERAB COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY OF ISIOLO COUNTY IN THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA.**

**30<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**TO: Carbon Project supporters**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: REPLY TO WASO PARA LEGAL NETWORK ON CARBON PROJECT**

The above subject refers.

On behalf of the four community conservancies in Isiolo South and North namely Garba Tulla, Cherab, Kinna and Sericho Community Conservancies, we wish to draw your attention to the fact that the so called Waso Para legal network - a purported organization under the umbrella of Boran Council of Elders have written a letter purporting to speak on behalf of the pastoralist community in Isiolo, making wild allegations against NRT and by extension the conservancies. We are in possession of this letter and we wish to categorically state that they have no authority to speak on behalf of the community in these conservancies.

We wish to state the following facts in response to the said letter:-

1. That both in the document by Survival International and the purported Waso Paralegals, have talked of killings and forced disappearance perpetrated by NRT as false and wild allegation that they cannot prove in fact it's a very dangerous statement even in the eyes of the law because they have no proof. We as the community would have known and taken actions if such incidence had occurred in our area. The fact that they have also hidden their telephone numbers points to the fact that they are not genuine mouthpiece of the Waso pastoralist community.
2. That the purported involvement of Borana Council of Elders is also a blatant lie because at no time did the Borana Council of elders held a meeting to condemn the involvement of NRT in conservancy and taking away of community land since two of us who are signatory to this letter today are members of the Boran Council of elders representing Garba Tulla in Garba Tulla Community Conservancy and Iresaboru in Sericho Community Conservancy.

3. That at Ward level which is the current boundary of the Conservancies, we have engaged all structures of the community including the Dheeda committees (traditional resource management committee), the Borana Council of Elders, the elected leaders, Ward Development Committee members among others and we do not have any issue and have worked comfortably with all of them.
4. That the authors of this letter (Waso Para Legals) are not residents of the areas that have benefited from the carbon funds and that they have no mandate to speak on behalf of the entire pastoralist community or carbon project.
5. That we from the four conservancies did approach NRT to support us in conservancy work and the conservancies is one of the land use systems in our community and we are doing so with free, prior and informed consent because we did carry out public awareness in our respective conservancies. This is supported by the fact that the Board members of these conservancies are from the local/indigenous community.
6. That we categorically refute the allegations made on the carbon project because NRT has made sure that there is a carbon project oversight committee drawn from 14 carbon participating conservancies that ensures conservancy compliance(s) with community engagement guidelines and the process of dispensing and utilizing funds from the carbon project solely lies with the community from the conservancies that have received the carbon funds.
7. NRT is an umbrella organization whose role is very clear as it provides technical support, fundraise for the conservancies and because of their vast experience in conservation they give guidance to the Board of Management to run the conservancies.

In fact we the four new conservancies are looking forward to benefit from the carbon project in future as the funding from the carbon project will support the conservancies to enhance future sustainability.

8. That NRT does not own any piece of land in the entire Waso or any other area since the land belongs to the community and that in all these conservancies the process of community land registration is at an advanced stage and that NRT has never been a block to community land registration. In fact, NRT has committed its willingness to fully support community land registration. The process of community land registration lagged behind due to lack of political

good will in the past, however, the current County leadership has committed to spearhead the process of community land registration.

In fact in our neighboring Biliqo/Bulesa community conservancy which one of the beneficiaries of the carbon funds will be the first community land to be registered since they have almost completed the process. We in the four community conservancies have also started the process of community land registration and we are at advanced stages of the registration process as the community land management committees have been elected and some have already completed the register of community members in some of these conservancies.

9. In the light of the aforementioned facts, we wish to state that the support by NRT through the community conservancies have majorly benefited the local community especially in the sectors of emergency response, health, education through bursaries, water through support to livestock water supply (provision and equipping of boreholes), community peace initiatives, employment and transport logistics support.
10. Finally we wish to take this opportunity to invite all our partners including our carbon project supporters and critics to physically visit all these areas to ascertain what we have expressed as our views in this letter to get first-hand information from the communities in these conservancies.
11. We therefore, on behalf of our local communities in this four community conservancies, wish to reiterate that the carbon funds has had numerous positive impact on the communities in the conservancies that have benefitted and that we also hope to benefit in the near future because it will enhance future sustainability.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed by,

1. Adan Denge Guracha, Chairman Garba Tulla Community Conservancy .....

Phone number 0724991909

2. Hersi Halake Chairman Sericho Community Conservancy .....

Phone number 0723310730

3. Hassan Halake Chairman Kinna ward Community Conservancy .....

Phone number 0720106077

4. Abdi Jarso Chairperson Cherab Community Conservancy ..... *Jarso*  
Phone number 0724370507