

## Project Update: February 2006

We are pleased to report that Dr. Frank Kasiya, Mr. Albert Nthenda, Mr. Edward Chisi and Dr. Thengere Nyirenda carried out a field visit to Nyika National Park in the northern region of Malawi where many plant species are critically threatened as a result of indiscriminate harvest for traditional medicine, fuelwood and/or charcoal, poles and timber. During the same visit, the project team also held sensitization meetings with traditional leaders, traditional healers, local communities, and stakeholders in the project area. The project team held in-depth discussions with the groups of the local community on how the national park could be effectively rehabilitated and its biodiversity protected from becoming extinct and/or rare. At the end of the discussions, the project team and the local community agreed to fully engage local communities and all stakeholders in the area in the implementation of the project. The team also assured of full and active support from local communities and all stakeholders including all traditional leaders.

