

Project Update: September 2006

September 18 to 30, 2006 then October 16 to 30, 2006

The project team trained about 210 people comprised of 56 traditional healers (25 men and 31 women), 17 park wardens, 24 forestry technicians (16 men and 8 women), 113 local communities (42 women, 35 school pupils and 36 men) living around Nyika National Park on biodiversity management and conservation, medicinal and other socio-economic plant nursery site selection, establishment, seed collection, seed treatment and storage, seed propagation and seedling management. These people also were trained special skills on habitat rehabilitation whereby the degraded sites are supposed to be thoroughly cleared, pits dug where seedlings are to be planted and each pit should be at an interval of 1 m. Further, they were trained on sustainable harvesting of socio-economic plant species where they are supposed to harvest plant barks during wet/rainy season only to minimise the deaths of plants during dry season. They were also taught to harvest old leaves of the plant only and they should harvest only one root per plant as this helps to minimise the deaths of the plants. They were also taught that the all tools used must be cleaned thoroughly to avoid transferring of germs from one plant to another.