

Project Update: July 2015

From January 15th to March 15th 2015 two community tree nurseries were established at Mulooni and Kivale hilltops. The Community Forests Association (CFA) group members propagated seeds which they had collected from five commercially valuable indigenous trees including *Croton megalocarpus*, *Acacia abyssinica*, *Makhamia lutea*, *Melia volkensii* and *Acacia xanthophloea*. They were also supplied with seeds of commercially valuable exotic trees which included *Cypress lusitanica*, *Eucalyptus saligna*, and *Grevillia robusta*. Overall, 1080 seedlings have been produced in both sites. Being a dry area, water is a scarce resource hence a limiting factor as to the number of seedlings produced. During this period, group members were trained on how to make briquettes from charcoal dust and energy saving stoves.

During the long rains from April 17th to April 30th 5200 tree seedlings were planted in Mbooni hilltop forests out of which 1200 were indigenous species. The activity was carried out by Mbooni Community Forest Association group members and the Kenya Forests staff. Seedlings were purchased from the local community and Kenya Forests Service. The CFA group members were charged with the responsibility of taking care of the seedlings to ensure their survival.



Left: CFAs group members watering tree nurseries. Right: Collected *Acacia* spp. Seeds.