

## Project Update: December 2015

So far we have trained two local community groups to set up orchid nature trails and home gardens that currently serve as source of planting materials. The research team further rescued representative orchid germplasm from the forest. These collections were donated to the orchid house based at the National Museums of Kenya. Setting up community nature trails and home gardens elicited interest from different conservation stakeholders in area including local schools, county conservation managers and civil society. Two scientists (Fanuel Kawaka, Technical University of Mombasa and Benson Obwanga, Laikipia University) attended the Kenya Orchid Society Annual Show in Nairobi, Kenya. During the show our project was highlighted as one of the best community conservation initiatives. The organisers thanked Rufford Foundation for supporting orchid conservation in Kenya. Several primary and secondary schools have made requests to the project team to visit their schools to initiate similar projects and give conservation talks.



Left: Orchids anchored on an indigenous host plant. Right: Rescued and potted orchid



Left: Rescued orchids anchored on the fence. Right: Project Team with forest guards