

Project Update: June 2015

The project team in collaboration with the Kenya forest service (KFS) conducted a field survey to map distribution of orchids in Kericho forest. During this survey, we gathered information on distribution and diversity of the orchid species in the forest. The team managed to rescue some orchids from fallen and dead plant hosts. These orchids are being used to establish community nature trails and home gardens while others were taken to the National Museums of Kenya for the *ex-situ* conservation trials. Two community conservation groups consisting of six members each were formed. The groups accompanied the research team to the forest and were taken through a field based demonstration and training on identification of orchids. The two groups were given conservation skills on rescuing orchids and using the same to establish home gardens. Community sensitisation and the establishment of nature trails and home gardens are ongoing.



Left to Right: Community sensitization; Field Identification of orchid; Rescued orchid; Research team examining orchids on a fallen tree; Scientist examining *Polystachya tessellata* on a dead host plant.