

## Project Update: March 2016

I have just returned from 5 months of intensive fieldwork which was very successful. I worked with members of the Agikuyu Community living on the eastern and western sides of the Aberdare Forest ecosystem in central Kenya. The community members were very receptive and generous with information and were very engaged in the whole process. We discussed a wide range of topics; forests as water catchment areas, forests and biodiversity conservation, use of non-timber forest products (honey, firewood, medicines etc.), forests and landscape governance, agro-biodiversity, food and seed sovereignty and historical values of the forest and associated landscapes. I recorded all the interviews and will now be moving to the next phase of the project i.e. video and booklet production. Deliberate effort was made to uplift the communities to the role of co-researchers and this was greatly appreciated at the community level. I remain sincerely grateful for your support.



Left: Community group discussion. Right: Discussing medicinal plants.