

## **Project Update: February 2004**

The project team members have continued to provide environmental education both in schools and to the villagers around the Kimboza forest reserve. Kibangile, Changa, Mwarazi and Uponda villages, under their Village Executive Officers respectively, have an environmental day every three months. The team members and Community Committee for Conservation together with forest field officers are using these environmental days in each village with specific focuses such as emphasizing preparation of nurseries for seedlings preparation, transplanting seedlings, or alternatives to income generation such as beekeeping

The Kimboza Conservation project team members, together with beekeeping field extension officers, have been working hard in disseminating the knowledge of beekeeping to villages surrounding the forest reserve, because this initiative was warmly welcomed by the villagers as a source of income. Efforts are under way to increase the number of beehives available to well-organized groups of villagers. Nurseries for seedlings rising have been initiated in each village and in village schools, ranging from 5,000 to 9,000 seedlings, they will be ready for transplanting in April or May during the rainy season. The community has continued to be involved in safeguarding of the forest. As the project continues it hopes to achieve more in environmental education for conservation awareness rising, reforestation of indigenous plants and beekeeping as a source of income to villagers.