

Project Update: April 2010

Members of my project team are pleased to report that 20 permanent biodiversity monitoring plots (quadrats) have been constructed in Nyika National Park. Ten plots have been constructed in areas that were previously infested with Invasive Alien Plants (IAPs) and another 10 have been constructed in areas which have intact plant cover.

The plots will significantly help monitor future occurrences of IAPs in areas that are cleared of these invasive plants so that further action to eliminate them should be undertaken. The plots will also help monitor indigenous plants and animals that can resurface naturally in these plots. This will help to know if natural plant regeneration and animal restocking is taking place in disturbed areas. In addition, plots constructed in areas with intact vegetation cover will help researchers monitor if there is forest degradation taking place in Nyika National Park.

