

Project Update: June 2009

From 28th-29th May 2009, the team undertook a field reconnaissance survey to the project site. The aim of the survey was to make other project team members aware of the project site and see the ecology of national park.

Then from 1st-12th June 2009, the project team visited the project site again. The main of this visit was to carry out systematic vegetation surveys in various plant communities (Fig.1) to identify all invasive alien plants that occur in Nyika National Park. The initial survey has revealed that *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken fern) (Fig.2), *Rubus allepticus*, *Pinus patula* are responsible for massive loss of indigenous biodiversity in Nyika National Park. It is believed that more invasive alien plants will be discovered as the survey continues.

