

Project Update: April 2018

So far we have successfully trained the local community on forest identification of wild orchids, rescue and establishing nature trails and home gardens. In the last 4 months, the team has trained the local community on propagating and potting orchid plants.

Kenya Forestry Service (KFS) who are partners in this project have been very supportive and freely allowed us to put our potted orchids alongside their tree seedlings. During training on orchid propagation, the local community was excited and most of them freely interacted and shared their local experiences and challenges with conservation experts. In return, the team of conservation experts helped in building the capacity of the local community on the best practices in orchid and forest conservation. The training involved showing the community the steps in collecting and mixing the right soil with forest humus for growing and potting orchids. Propagation and potting strictly relied on the rescued orchids as a strategy to minimize their forest loss and extraction.

Due to the growing interest in the project, two local community leaders volunteered to serve as Wild Orchid Conservation Ambassadors (WOCAs). The WOCAs volunteered to accompany forest warders during regular forest patrol to scout and rescue orchids to be used for propagation and potting. The potted orchids will be donated to the local community and schools to be used for setting up nature trails, home gardens and land-naturescaping.

