

Project Update: November 2017

Scientists from the Technical University of Mombasa (TUM), National Museums of Kenya (NMK), Laikipia University (LU) and Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) paid a courtesy call to the Kericho County Ecosystem Conservator to explain the purpose of the project. After the courtesy call, we carried out forest surveys to determine the conservation status of wild orchids. Community orchid conservation awareness was also promoted through training and sensitisation. The forest surveys were conducted in collaboration with community leaders that had previously been trained on orchid conservation. Different community groups were trained on identification of wild orchids, rescue and establishing community nature trails and home gardens. During the survey, threatened epiphytic orchids on cut trees were rescued to be used for setting up flower pots and beds. Local community landscaping activities and establishment of home gardens and nature trails are currently ongoing. However, we were not able to carry out school based activities concurrently due to the ongoing national examinations in schools. We therefore plan to start the school activities at the beginning of the first term in January 2018.

