

Project Update: January 2009

The project team is pleased to report that following the series of meetings that were undertaken in 20 villages surrounding Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve (MMFR) in the months of November and December 2008, 15 village natural resource management committees (VNRMCs) have been formed in the project area. Each committee has about 30 members and 60% of these members are women. In total, there are about 450 active members who have committed themselves to preserve biodiversity in and around MMFR.

To date, almost all members have acquired new knowledge and skills in tree nursery bed establishment, seed collection and propagation, seedling management, land preparation, pitting and replanting through short training courses that the project team had conducted for them (See photo). It is believed that the new knowledge and skills acquired will go a long way in promoting nature conservation as having the right knowledge is a fundamental key to success.



Left: Members of the VNRMCs learning on how to propagate tree seedlings in polythene tubes and nursery bed. Right: Mr. Thomson Yona teaching some members of VNRMC in nursery establishment.



Left: One of the meetings organised with traditional chiefs on conservation of Mulanje cedar in Mulanje Mountain. Right: One of VNRMCs established around MMFR.