

## Project Update: October 2008

From 4th August to 15th August 2008, the project team organised ten meetings with traditional leaders and local communities in twenty-four villages surrounding Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve. The meetings were patronised by group village headmen Mabuka, Nkumba and other influential leaders from various government departs (see photo). The aim of the meetings was to sensitise traditional leaders, local communities and other stakeholders about the project and the objectives of the project. Traditional leaders, government officials and local communities who attended the meetings assured the project team of their support towards the implementation of the project.

Environmental education and awareness was also conducted in twenty villages surrounding MMFR in order to impart knowledge on local communities and traditional leaders so that they should fully understand and appreciate the importance of nature and why it is important to take a leading role in nature conservation in the area. These activities were marked by drama, traditional dances and public lectures.



Left: Public lectures on the importance of nature by M. Abudu. Right: Meeting with traditional leaders and community groups in villages around Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve.



Left: Drama as a tool for disseminating environmental awareness messages by Kwathu Drama Group. Right: Traditional dance by Mbenjere group taking environmental messages to local communities in T.A. Nkumba, Mulanje.

