

Project Update: October 2008

The Mobile Education Unit (MEU) spent 42 field days in September and October visiting schools in far flung areas of Central and North Rift Valley regions of Kenya respectively, thanks to the RSG support. A total of 71 schools, 282 teachers and 13,699 school children benefited from the MEU program as well as local communities. The wildlife films shown and discussion talks conducted made the sessions educational and interesting to all participants. Various conservation activities were also initiated among them indigenous tree seeds collection and tree nurseries. At Wajee Nature Park near Mt Kenya a total of 400 seedlings of *Prunus africana*, 1000 seedlings of *Croton megalocarpus*, 5000 Seedlings of *Croton macrostachyus*, 10,000 seedling of *Newtonia buchanii* and 1000 seedling of *Cordia africana* were collected and set in the tree nursery. The seedlings would be planted in identified school compounds and degraded forest patches with the onset of rains in April 09.

Conservation educational materials were also issued at a free cost. They included 3,000 copies of the Komba and Swara magazines, among others. The program also helped to create peace and understanding among communities as they converged in schools for the MEU presentations. Our communities enjoyed watching the films and discussing conservation issues. We have learnt a lot on wildlife and how to use our natural resources wisely, said the Marakwet -Yatoi area chief. The MEU Program will visit schools in other areas of the country and initiate conservation activities after the November and December 2008 school holidays.

