

Project Update: September 2021

Activities:

1. Collection of ethnobotanical data.

Ethnobotanical data on 87 medicinal plants was collected through participant observation, questionnaire administration and semi-structured and systematic interviews with the local community (Annex 1 and 3) and key informants (Annex 2). These data included the names (local and scientific), habitats, part(s) used, diseases they cure, mode of preparation and administration of the wild medicinal plants.



Interviewing the elderly in collaboration with selected members of JAPEL farmers' conservation group in Ngutwa, Makueni county ©Kaniaru



Interviewing key informants in Ngutwa, Makueni county ©Kaniaru



Interview with an elder in Ngutwa, Makueni county, on the use of medicinal plants.
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Administration of a questionnaires to an herbalist in Ngutwa, Makueni county.
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2. Field survey

We conducted a field survey in collaboration with selected JAPEL farmers' conservation group and other integrated community members to identify areas where the medicinal plants are collected and the specific medicinal plants utilised (Annex 5). This is crucial in identifying habitat sites for restoration and identification of medicinal plant species documented in vernacular language. Voucher specimens were collected for safekeeping and taxonomic identification in the East African Herbarium, National Museums of Kenya (Annex 4).



A JAPEL Farmers Conservation group member collecting *Ziziphus mucronata*, a medicinal plant. ©Kaniaru



An herbalist describing the medicinal plants used to treat various diseases to the project team. ©Kaniaru