

PROJECT UPDATE: April 2022

Conservation /population status:

Local community representatives, Kenya Forestry Service officers and the research team from different institutions conducted a forest survey to determine the population/conservation status of IUCN red listed wild orchids. During the survey, the growth and survival of orchids that had previously been repatriated back to the forest and anchored on the back of indigenous host plants were monitored. It was noted that these orchids had germinated well and most of them were either flowing or fruiting.

Similarly, orchids on fallen, dead and cut trees, or those damaged during quarrying, road construction and clearing of forests for agriculture including tubers that remain in the ground after forest fires were rescued for *ex situ* conservation.

The survey provided critical information that will be used to evaluate the impact of integrating the local community in the conservation of the IUCN red listed orchids. The biophysical/biodiversity data from this assessment will be linked with social survey to help in understanding the effectiveness of community efforts in the conservation of wild orchids in this project.



Researchers assessing damage on orchids and their host trees.



Orchid anchored on the bark of a host tree in the natural forest.



Top: Researchers confirming the identity of a terrestrial orchid. Bottom: Researchers rescuing damaged epiphytic orchids.

