

## **UVARIAN PUGUENSIS TREE NURSERIES FOR PROPAGATION AND RESTORATION PROGRAMMES**

Areas adjacent to the forest reserve were identified as suitable sites for establishing tree nurseries for *U. puguensis* and other indigenous tree species that are ecologically compatible and well adapted to coexist with this endemic plant. Consultative meetings were held with village leaders to identify appropriate locations for tree planting, particularly in areas that offer both ecological and social benefits. Selected sites include school compounds and village government offices, where the trees can serve recreational, educational, and conservation purposes.

Capacity-building sessions and training were conducted to enhance community awareness and skills in conserving indigenous plant species, especially *U. puguensis*. These efforts aim to improve the survival and management of planted seedlings while reducing pressure on the forest reserve. The established nurseries are now functional and play a key role in supporting restoration initiatives, facilitating the reintroduction of native species, and promoting habitat recovery in degraded areas surrounding the reserve.



**Figure A**

**Figure B**

Figure A: Established tree nursery at PFR area near village office. Figure B: *U. puguensis* seedling at the Primary school found near PFR.

The forest reserve hosts several identified plant species that are endemic and of high conservation value. In collaboration with the reserve authorities, additional measures have been discussed to strengthen their protection and long-term sustainability. These include the collection of seeds from priority species and the establishment of tree nurseries to propagate seedlings. The propagated plants will be used to restore degraded areas within and around the reserve, thereby enhancing habitat quality and ecological resilience. Furthermore, selected seedlings will be distributed to nearby schools to support environmental education, promote awareness of native biodiversity, and encourage conservation stewardship among students.



Figure C: Other native plant species found at PFR *Millettia puguensis*



**Nancy visiting the Pugu Forest Reserve to talk about the project activities including: tree nurseries and other tourist attractions found at the reserve**

**Other project activities to be implemented at PFR and surrounding communities:**

- Build capacity in the use of bamboo as a sustainable alternative to timber and fuelwood for various livelihood activities.
- Raise awareness among local communities living around the reserve on the benefits and opportunities associated with active participation in conservation initiatives.
- Support schoolchildren from nearby communities to visit the reserve and learn about conservation issues, fostering positive attitudes and environmental stewardship among the next generation.