

Project Update: August 2005

The Wild African Violet Project has been developed and is renamed the Saintpaulia Project. This has been made possible by grants from the Rufford Small Grant for Nature Conservation, the Linnean Society, the Simpson Trust and the Watkins family which will allow the project a second phase which will lead to formalisation and an application for substantial funding from a major development agencies such as the Darwin Initiative.

The Saintpaulia Project aims to support conservation and to provide skills and income for Tanzanians by:

- equipping and assisting Tanzanians to compile local area wild flower guides;
- providing formal botanical illustration training for Tanzanian artists.
- collecting and identifying wild flowers particularly the Gesneriaceae endemic to the Eastern Arc Mountains.

The continuing development of the Saintpaulia project has been made possible by the unstinting support of in-country conservation NGOs, the University of Dar es Salaam and Government Agencies such as the Commission on Science and Technology and the National Herbarium of Tanzania.