

## Project Update: February 2017

After successfully selecting the local schools to take part in the project, the learners were introduced to wild orchids and informed on the need for their conservation. During the training the students and pupils together with their teachers were shown how to identify wild orchids, their physiology, seed storage and host plants. Due to the bad weather resulting from heavy rains, the learners were not able to survey the forests however the research team visited the forests and collected wild orchid species that were used for demonstrations during the training. The learners were excited as they freely interacted with conservation experts who answered their questions, gave talks and presentations on the importance of orchid conservation. During the forest survey, wild orchids on fallen, dead and cut trees, those damaged during quarrying, road construction and clearing of forests including tubers that remain in the ground after forest fires were rescued. The rescued plants were later used to set up school-based nature trails, gardens and seed banks.



Left: School Training Session. Right: Training Session at Chagaik Mixed Secondary School.



Left: Training Session at Moit Tea Girls Secondary School. Right: Research Scientist displaying a rescued Orchid Plant.