

## PROJECT UPDATE: December 2019

The following activities have successfully been carried out:

### **a) TRAINING, SENSITISATION AND AWARENESS CREATION:**

A stakeholders' sensitisation workshop on the conservation needs and status of wild orchids in the Mau Forest Complex was organised at the Brook Hotel, Kericho County, Kenya. The workshop was attended by the local schools, community representatives, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kericho County Commissioner, Kericho County Director of Education, Kenya Forestry Service and the Kericho County Ecosystem Conservator. The workshop facilitators comprised scientists from the Technical University of Mombasa, National Museums of Kenya, Laikipia University and Kenya Forestry Research Institute.

The meeting provided a platform where local community leaders, forest managers, learners, teachers and the invited stakeholders discussed and shared their local environmental issues/challenges. The workshop participants freely interacted with the facilitators (conservation professionals and experts) from the universities and research institutions. During the workshop, training materials, brochures, technical manuals, reports and short video clips were shared with all the participants to enhance conservation awareness. The local schools were also encouraged to form School Orchid Conservation Groups and Clubs and design posters, calendars and newsletters to be used in the conservation awareness campaigns.



Left: Group photo during the stakeholders' workshop at the Brook hotel, Kericho County, Kenya. Right: A researcher giving a talk during the stakeholders' workshop.

### **b) LANDSCAPING AND NATURESCAPING**

The propagated wild orchids were planted in pots, vessels and flower beds along school streets, classrooms and offices to form lawns. These lawns are expected to promote eco-tourism and also to be used for social events such as weddings and cultural ceremonies.



Left: Anchoring a rescued orchid on the bark an indigenous host plant. Right: Researchers admiring a rescued wild orchid in the forest.