

## **Project Update: October 2011**

The site around the museum is well prepared, exotic plants and some unwanted plant materials removed by hired work force. Walkways and 69 plant holes positions dug; while cow manure was added in the holes awaiting the arrival of the indigenous plant species from the field.

We acquired a list of expected species and locations through literature review produced specifically for guidance during collection. Some discussions were made with the team (Mangalu - grant recipient, the botanist and the ecologist) which led to agreed right approach for collection. The main categories of collected plant was based on endemism, threat and of economic importance (threatened or rare). Due to the site location collected plants shall aim at life forms of mainly shrubs and middle side's tree forms; recommended to allow good visibility.

The long drought spell affected field visits for collection though one trip to the Usambara ranges (Lushoto) where most of the endemic species are located was made. From late September 2011 to now the area experienced some short rains. A visit to Simanjiro District - Mererani area enabled collection of several species. From mid-October to early November, collection was made around Mbulu (Nou Forest Edge Forest), Ngorongoro and Karatu districts - Arusha region.

There had been several encounters that held back the speed of the implementation of the project; it included the long dry spell weather that forced delay in collection of plants to avoid spoiling / uncertainty of safe keep of the collected species.



