

PROJECTS: KENYA, UGANDA, TANZANIA

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION THROUGH PROMOTION OF MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANT-BASED SMALL SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES



Project

Many farming families are forced to use wood, plants and grass from protected forests in an unsustainable way. In order to combat this trend whilst still enabling vital additional income to be made by the farmers, Biovision and its partner organisation *icipe* demonstrate how local **aromatic and medicinal plants** can be planted on their farms and then sold for a fair price. Local co-operatives work closely with *icipe* to monitor cultivation, secure a stable selling price and process the raw materials (e.g. at environmentally-friendly distillation facilities). The extracts from the aromatic and medicinal plants are used for various health and healing purposes, and are sold at local and national markets in Kenya and Tanzania.

As additional activity in this new phase traditional healers from Uganda are working closely with *icipe*: the goal is to investigate the effectiveness of **healing plant products from traditional medicine**, and to manufacture selected high quality medicinal plant products.

All income-generating activities are combined with targeted **environmental education**: the local population, particularly farmers'-and youth groups and school classes are sensitised to the worth of the forests.

Relevance

Many of East Africa's protected forests are not only important for reducing CO₂ levels in the climate; they are also home to many rare plant and animal species. Due to deforestation unchecked for years and use of the forest driven by individual needs, these vital and unique ecosystems are threatened with extinction. Biovision supports the creation of **new sources of income independent of the forest**, conservation of local knowledge of traditional medicine; and promotes sensitisation of the local population to the value of the forest.

Beneficiaries

Village communities that live close to the species-rich forests in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania (**Kenya**: 500 people in Kakamega, 500 people in the Shimba Hills, **Tanzania**: 150 people in East Usambara, **Uganda**: 200 traditional healers in the Mpigi District).

Project number:
BV EH-03/05

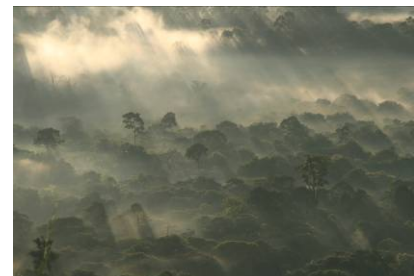
Project active since:
2005

Project duration:
until December 2011

Budget for 2010:
70'000 USD

Project coordinator:
Wilber Lwande, Head of bio-prospection group at *icipe*

Program responsibility:
Verena Albertin



Creation of forest-independent income helps to reduce pressure on the biodiversity-rich forests



*Kilimanjaro-Basilicum (*Ocimum kilimadscharicum*) grown on home farms is distilled at a facility. The plant extracts are further processed into medicinal products.*

Development Goal

To conserve the biodiversity in East Africa through targeted support and knowledge dissemination; and to improve the health and income of the people in need who live close to the forests.

Goals

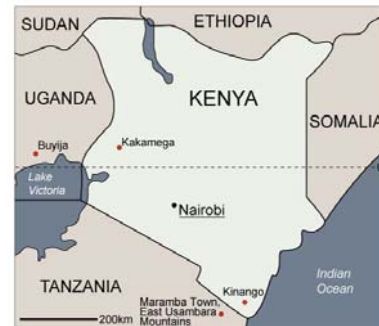
1. **Support of the co-operatives and farming families** to optimise processing of the aromatic and medicinal plants and the sale of the medicinal products (marketing).
2. Establishment of 4 new **information centres (community libraries)** to promote environmental awareness among the village communities with books, films and information material on environmental conservation and to provide the local population with practical, local teaching materials to carry out environmental protection training.
3. Effective improvement of the quality and conservation of **knowledge on useful traditional plant medicine** in Uganda: Traditional healers in collaboration with *icipe* test and determine 3 medicinal plant extracts that can be produced for the market (inc. the construction of a facility for high-quality processing of the plants).

Partner Organisations

International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology *icipe* www.icipe.org; Tanzania Forest Conservation Group TFCG www.tfcg.org; PROMETRA Uganda www.prometra.org; WWF Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office; Kenya Forest Services KFS www.kfs.go.ke; Kenya Wildlife Service KWS www.kws.org

Sustainability

Sustainability calls for a holistic vision: healthy people, animals and plants in a healthy environment. (4x Health, 4-H Strategy). Every project supported by Biovision effects considerable improvements in at least one of the four health areas. The key to effectively replicating the success of the project is the availability of specific information on the methods applied and the results achieved. With this approach and its 'helix of effects', living conditions are improved and the poverty of the people is gradually overcome while the environment is protected.



Project areas in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

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