

# PROJECTS: KENYA, UGANDA, TANZANIA

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



### Project

Many farming families are forced to use wood, plants and grass from protected forests in an unsustainable way. In order to counteract this trend whilst still enabling vital additional income to be made by the farmers, Biovision and its partner organisation *icip*e 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 *icip*e 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 *icip*e: the goal is to investigate the effectiveness and safety 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 communities, 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 local climate regulation; 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 communities to the value of the forest.

### Beneficiaries

Village communities that live close to the biodiversity-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).

### Development Goal

To improve the health and income of the people who live close to the forests conserve the biodiversity in these forests.

#### Project number:

BV EH-03/05

#### Project active since:

2005

#### Project duration:

until December 2011

#### Budget for 2011:

70'000 USD

#### Project coordinator:

Wilber Lwande, Head of bio-prospection group at *icip*e

#### Program responsibility:

Verena Albertin, Biovision



*People are informed on the efficacy of various aromatic and medicinal plants and are thereby sensitised to the value of the forests.*



*The efficacy of medicinal plant products from traditional medicine are researched. Traditional healers are trained to produce selected herbal medicines of high quality locally, thereby generating income.*

## Achieved so far

13 community libraries have been established and equipped with reading materials on nature conservation and organic farming. 270 members of the community were informed and trained on protecting the environment while at the same time generating income for their families. Furthermore, the sale of products made from aromatic and medicinal plants has grown by 500%.

## 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.
3. Conservation of knowledge on **traditional plant medicine** in Uganda: Training of traditional healers in improving the quality of medicinal plant products (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](http://www.icipe.org); Tanzania Forest Conservation Group TFCG [www.tfcg.org](http://www.tfcg.org); PROMETRA Uganda [www.prometra.org](http://www.prometra.org); WWF Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office; Kenya Forest Services KFS [www.kfs.go.ke](http://www.kfs.go.ke); Kenya Wildlife Service KWS [www.kws.org](http://www.kws.org)

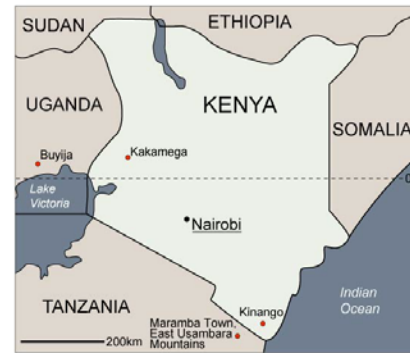
## Sustainability

Sustainability calls for a holistic vision: healthy people, animals and plants in a healthy environment. 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.

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A future for all, naturally



Project areas in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

