

# KENYA

## UP-SCALING SUSTAINABLE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS BY COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION GROUPS AT KAKAMEGA FOREST IN KENYA

### BACKGROUND

The Kakamega Forest Reserve is the only surviving rainforest in Kenya. The forest provides a unique sanctuary for a remarkable diversity of endemic plants, birds and insects not found anywhere else in Kenya. Over 380 species of plants have been identified to date in Kakamega Forest. It is also an important watershed for some of the rivers that flow into Lake Victoria. Due to the high levels of poverty, the community living adjacent to Kakamega forest has depended to a great extent on forest resources for daily needs and income that is derived from various forest products such as timber, fuel wood, herbal medicines and building materials. It has also depended on the forest for new land for settlement and cultivation. Over the years, the exploitation of the forest for resources and encroachment on forestland has taken place in a haphazard, excessive, wasteful and uncontrollable manner. This has led to destruction of the forest and biodiversity therein. The local community is constrained largely due to lack of eco-friendly alternatives for income generation and livelihoods improvement. A majority of community members also lack adequate awareness about the value of a healthy environment and the importance of forest conservation.

### THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF INSECT PHYSIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY (ICIPE)

#### PARTNER:

Muliro Farmers Conservation Group (MFCG)

#### LOCATION:

Kakamega County

#### Budget



\$ 250,000.00

#### Timeline



36 Months

### OBJECTIVES

The project aims to transform the on-going community-based commercial production of medicinal plants and derived products at Kakamega forest in Kenya into small and medium-sized green social enterprises so as to enhance livelihood improvement and environmental conservation. Specifically to promote improved processes for sustainable commercial production of medicinal plants and derived products by the community enterprises.

### ACTIONS

- » Capacity building of the community and the enterprises in improved management, sustainable production and marketing;
- » Development and commercialization of additional products and facilitation of public private community partnerships [PPCP];
- » Improvement of the processes for sustainable commercial production of medicinal plants and derived products by the community enterprise;
- » Promotion of increased participation of community members in on-going community-based environmental conservation activities.