

Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme (CHERP)- Muguga



The Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme (CHERP), is mandated to undertake forestry research mainly within Mt. Kenya forest and Aberdare forest ecosystems. The programme develops forestry technologies for; forest productivity and improvement, biodiversity and environment management and forest products and undertakes socio-economics, policy and governance studies in; forestry. The programme also provides technical support services on forestry.

Location

CHERP headquarters is situated in Muguga 23 km North West of Nairobi, off the Nairobi Nakuru Highway. CHERP has a sub-centre in Nyeri at Muringato, 4 km along Nyeri-Nyahururu road.

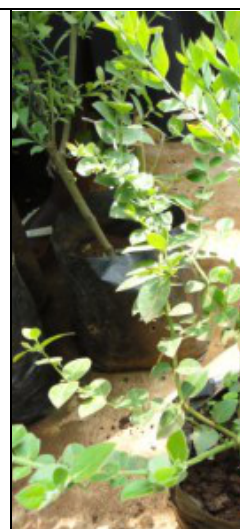
Geographical Coverage

CHERP covers ten counties namely; Kiambu, Nairobi, Murang'a, Nyeri, Nyandarua, Kirinyaga, Embu, Tharaka-Nithi, Meru, and Laikipia. The eco-region also partially covers; eastern Nakuru, lower Samburu, northern Kajiado and upper Machakos.

Forest Productivity and Improvement

Research	Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversification and domestication of selected high value tree species on-farm. • Genetic improvement of selected tree species. • Development of technologies for predicting and managing tree pests and diseases. • Development of micro-propagation techniques for popular tree species. • Bamboo propagation and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed technologies for bamboo propagation and establishment • Developed propagation and management guidelines for both indigenous and exotic tree species eg. <i>Vitex keniensis</i> • Released bio-control agents for tree pests e.g. cypress aphid • Developed protocols for management of tree diseases and pests • Developed technologies for soil fertility improvement including KEFRIFIX, a bio-fertilizer • Developed protocols for tree seed handling, germination and storage • Improved varieties of <i>Pinus patula</i>, <i>Cupressus lusitanica</i> and <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> • Established seed orchards and seed stands for seed production • Supplied high quality seeds of various tree species

- Developed protocols for propagation of *Osyris Lanceolata* (Sandalwood)



Pinus Patula seed stand in Nyeri

Seedlings of *Osyris lanceolata* (Sandalwood) raised through layering

Biodiversity and Environment Management


Research	Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of technologies for rehabilitation and management of degraded natural forests. • Development of technologies for management of invasive plant species in forest eco-systems. • Development of technologies for sustainable management of natural forests and woodlands. • Development of technologies for conservation and management of water catchment areas and wetlands • Studies on hydrological cycles and status of forests and wetlands • Soil and water management for forestry development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed technologies and management guidelines for rehabilitation of degraded natural forests, rangelands and woodlands • Developed technologies for conservation, propagation and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants • Identified drought tolerant tree species and provenances for semi-arid areas

Socio-economics, Policy and Governance

Research	Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest resource valuation including Payment for Environmental Services (PES). • Development of policy guidelines on forest benefit sharing, through Participatory Forest Management. • Studies on institutional arrangements in management of forests and allied natural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed Participatory Forest Management (PFM) guidelines • Developed a model for Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)

Technical Support Services

Services	Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soils, plant, microbes and molecular analyses • Consultancy in; various aspects of forestry management and rehabilitation, landscaping, and Environmental Impact Assessment and Audit • Advisory services in management of tree pests and diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminated various technologies and information on forestry through open and field days, agricultural shows, conferences and workshops, print and electronic media • Trained stakeholders in various aspects of forestry such as: rehabilitation of degraded natural forests, rangelands and woodlands; nursery management; and Participatory Forest Management (PFM) • Established demonstration plots of medicinal plants.

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