

# 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.

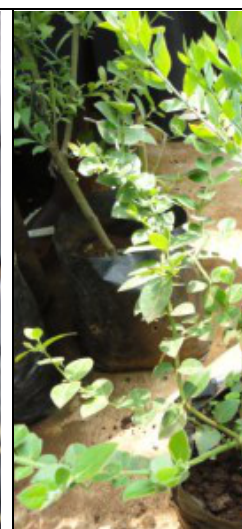
## Geographical Coverage

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

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

## Socio-economics, Policy and Governance

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

## Technical Support Services

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

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