

## EU Partner

Community  
Development Trust Fund

## Facts and Figures

- EC contribution:  
€ 160 000 (80% of total cost)
- Duration: 2006 - 2010
- €1 400 for 4 500 litres of aloe sap paid to farmers at €0.3 per litre
- 5 000 pieces of aloe-based herbal soap produced, sold at € 0.4 each
- 22 000 acres of land planted with aloe; 140 farmers trained



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

## Rural development

### Promoting the use of the Aloe plant in Kenya

Improving communities and livelihoods among the rural poor and enhancing biodiversity conservation

*"As a community we have used the wild growing aloe plant on a very small scale mainly for traditional medicinal purposes. It was not until this project started that we realised the huge commercial potential of the resource. What we saw as non economic resource has become the black gold of Baringo."*

Wilson Chebugei, an aloe farmer



### Context

Despite its rich biodiversity Baringo District is one of the poorest districts in Kenya. Being an Arid and Semi-arid district, livestock production is the only significant source of livelihood. The rural population relies on the scarce natural resources; poverty is on the rise as a result of rapid population growth and the impact of climate variability on agriculture. Commercial and sustainable exploitation of the naturally growing and on-farm grown aloe is a viable alternative source of livelihood. The two aloe species - Aloe secundiflora and Aloe turkanensis - which grow abundantly in the district, were previously seen as a waste plant. Aloe is important for biodiversity and today can be exploited commercially. The project has empowered the communities to promote its use - they have been trained on propagation of the plant for on-farm multiplication and subsequent marketing to the local factory for processing.

### Objectives

- To empower communities to exploit the naturally existing aloe and to produce it on-farm on a commercial scale;
- To develop high value marketable products and enhance communities' entrepreneurship skills;
- To enhance biodiversity conservation and rangeland rehabilitation.

### Impact

- Over 2 000 farmers have adopted commercial growing of aloe with about 850 households benefiting from the sale of aloe products.
- Increased awareness amongst the community on the need to conserve the environment.
- Aloe harvesting licence issued by the Government.