



Rwenzori Sustainable Trade Centre  
**BIRD FRIENDLY CERTIFICATION  
INITIATIVE – EAST AFRICA**  
International Discussion Forum  
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## Uganda's First Steps

Coffee and Cocoa Cooperatives in  
Bundibudgyo, Western Uganda, work on  
Organic and Bird Friendly Certification

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# The Cooperatives and Communities Targeted

## 1. Bundikakemba Cocoa Growers' Cooperative Society

Membership: 317 Female=175, Male=142

Fairtrade Certified since: March,2015

Fairtrade Cocoa sold: 93 tonnes since 2018

Organic Certified since: May,2020

Organic Certified cocoa sold: 25 tonnes



## 2. Buka Bughendera Farmers Cooperative Society

Membership: 301 Female=62, Male=159

Organic Certification: preparation underway

BF Certification: feasibility done, remote assessment underway

Came in 6<sup>th</sup> position during 2018 - 2019 Uganda Taste of Harvest competition scoring [84.5625] with undernotes of Tropical Fruits, Cocoa, Tea, Rose flavours



# The Context: Why Bird Friendly Makes Sense!

The two cooperatives are located in the middle of two protected areas of

- 1. Semuliki National park** with 441 recorded species, representing 40% of Uganda's total bird species and 66% (216) of the country's forest bird species.)
- 2. Rwenzori Mountain National parks;** With 217 bird species including several Albertine Rift valley endemic species (Uganda Wildlife Authority, 2020 ([https://rwenzorisustainable.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Feasibility-Study\\_Final-version-31.08.18.pdf](https://rwenzorisustainable.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Feasibility-Study_Final-version-31.08.18.pdf)))
- 3. There are over 46 million Americans birdwatchers and half of the population drink coffee** this presents a huge market potential, J. Thomas 2016.

# RSTC Progress on Bird friendly Certification

- Initial Introduction to Bird Friendly Scoping Study J. Thomas 2016
- Local Feasibility Study 2018, Mountains of the Moon University
- BF work starts as part of targeted Bundibudgyo Project 2019: Diversifying Livelihoods through Access to Premium Markets, Eco-Tourism and Eco-Technology in Bundibugyo.
- Baseline study 2019 shows 90.1% (173) of the respondents had knowledge about preservation of nature,
- 73% (140) of respondents practice intercropping among their coffee and cocoa farms using various indigenous shade tree species.

# Activities Building Readiness for BF Certification



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- RSTC has supported two cooperatives (Buka and Bundikakemba) to undergo organic certification process for Coffee and cocoa respectively and so far Bundikakemba is currently organic certified.
- 04 Community nursery beds have been established targeting to produce 250,000 tree seedlings.
- RSTC is already working with SMBC on a pre –audit exercise, in addition, RSTC has already contacted Control Union to conduct a combined organic and BF external audit on the coffee cooperative.
- Community sensitisation on the BF standard and Agro forestry is currently ongoing using two local radio stations.

# RSTC: Vision and Challenges

- COVID-19 interrupted the organic certification for the Buka Cooperative as a result of time lapse an additional cost will be incurred in achieving Organic Certification
- Lining up first BF, Organic and FT Clients prepared to partner
- Finalising Cocoa standard for Bundikakemba on Bird friendly cocoa
- COVID-19 has delayed community tourism roll out!
- RSTC is looking forward Creating meaningful partnerships and raising funds to rolling out the lessons, approaches and practices to other farmers in the Rwenzoris and build a sustainable region!
- Once BF certified the cooperatives will be in position to self-sustain through premiums earned on coffee and cocoa sales and incomes from bird watchers.



Thank you for Listening