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 6th 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.


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