



Rwenzori Sustainable Trade
Centre

**BIRD FRIENDLY
CERTIFICATION INITIATIVE –
EAST AFRICA**

International Discussion
Forum

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Flora, Fauna and Protection of Habitats for Birds of Semuliki, Western Uganda

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Part 3. The importance of
Embracing Bird Friendly
Certification for the Rwenzoris

Flora and fauna in and around Semuliki

- Semuliki and Rwenzori areas are some of the richest areas of floral and faunal diversity in Africa, with bird and butterfly species being especially diverse.
- Semuliki: *Cynometra alexandria*, some endemic *Euphorbia* spp, *Chrysophyllum begui*, *Newtonia buchananii*, etc while the mountain is renown for giant lobelias
- Their destruction can cause an ecological imbalance (erosion, effect on rainfall, pollination, tourism, etc)

Bird friendly trees good for cocoa and coffee growing

- *Newtonia buchananii* (soil fertility, shade)
- *Ficus spp* (habitat and food for birds, shade)
- *Maesopsis eminii* (food for birds, light shade)
- *Alangium chinense* (fast, habitat, shade)
- *Prunus africana* (medicine, multipurpose)
- *Khaya anthotheca* (threatened, shade, parrots)
- *Eriobotrya japonica* (food for humans, birds)
- *Myrianthus arboreus* (food for humans, birds)
- *Lovoa swynnertonii* (threatened, habitat)
- All these provide other ecosystem services

Examples of bird-friendly trees to grow with coffee and cocoa



Newtonia buchananii



Eriobotrya japonica



Myrianthus arboreus

Examples of birds of the Rwenzori good for tourism



Lyre tailed honeyguide



The Great Blue Turaco



The huge hammerkop nest

The harm agriculture has inflicted on Birds

- Deforestation poses a threat to birds which are forest specialists e.g. Greybacked camaropteras, green hylas, tikerbirds, forest francolins, the Rwenzori turaco etc
- Research identifies agricultural intensification as the most damaging to farmland bird numbers.
- For instance, degradation of wetland and grassland habitats pose the greatest threats to all crane species. (Pomeroy, 1987)

Likely benefits of bird-friendly cocoa and coffee growing

- Better ecosystem management resulting in better livelihoods
- More valuable and remunerative global markets with reliable, trusted buyers who also care about the people and environment
- Sustainable environment, food security, and income
- Conservation areas of flora and fauna upstream reduces vulnerability to natural hazards and disasters

Take home message

- Bird friendly cocoa and coffee growing can improve the socio-economic status of the people in the Rwenzori region while conserving their fragile and valuable ecosystems.