

VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK COFFEES

**SPECIALITY ARABICAS FROM
NORTH KIVU ON THE BORDERS
OF THE VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK
IN DR CONGO**



 **FARM AFRICA**


WELCOME TO EASTERN CONGO

AFRICA'S NEWEST
MAJOR ORIGIN FOR
FINEST QUALITY
ARABICA

Unknown until a decade ago, Kivu Arabicas are starting to become established on the global speciality coffee map, with stunning cup profiles.

Now, there is an opportunity to discover these coffees through a partnership between coffee farmers, Farm Africa and the Virunga National Park.



 Kawa Kanzururu
Cooperative

 Coopade
Cooperative

THE VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK COFFEES

The borders of the Virunga National Park, including the slopes of the Rwenzori Mountains and the uplands to the north-west of Lake Edward, contain some of the finest Arabica coffee growing land in the world.

The climate is temperate with plentiful rainfall, sunshine and volcanic soils, as well as altitudes rising to over 2,000 metres. Smallholder farmers here have long grown heirloom bourbon varieties of coffee, but until very recently post-harvest processing was very basic and the only buyers were informal traders, mainly coming from neighbouring Uganda.

Through the Virunga National Park coffee programme farmers are starting to realise the full potential of their coffees. The farmers are organised around small-scale coffee washing stations. They are affiliated to two vibrant young cooperatives, Kawa Kanzururu on the western flanks of the Rwenzori mountains, and Coopade on the highlands to the north west of Lake Edward.

Today these cooperatives are producing extraordinary coffees, as testified by Kyle Tush, a Coffee Quality Specialist with leading US speciality coffee roaster Counter Culture Coffee.



"Coffees we've tasted from the Virunga National Park project in North Kivu have impressed us greatly, to say the least. Not only do they have the potential to stand with the best Arabicas produced in the DRC, but also some of the best produced in East Africa."

Kyle Tush, Counter Culture Coffee

THE PARK AND NORTH KIVU COMMUNITIES

Virunga is Africa's oldest National Park. Established in 1925, it's one of the last refuges of the mountain gorilla, and is also home to highly endangered lowland gorillas as well as savannah elephants, chimpanzees, lions, leopards and antelopes. It has the largest diversity of birdlife in the world.

Due to its situation in eastern Congo, the park faces many existential challenges, as chronicled in the 2014 film *Virunga* (available on Netflix). Here, the conservation of its extraordinary wildlife, and the promotion of the social and economic well-being of the people of North Kivu who live around the park, go hand in hand.

Through the Virunga Alliance, which is supported by the provincial authorities, civil society and the private sector, the National Park is investing in a number of initiatives to promote economic regeneration, most notably a major hydro-electric generation and distribution venture. This is already bringing employment opportunities as well as access to electricity for thousands of households.

Virunga National Park is running a major agriculture programme, aimed at boosting the livelihoods of smallholder farmers who live around the park by investing in the production and marketing of their crops, including coffee. In this way, the pressures on farmers to encroach on the park will be reduced, and farmers will experience positive benefits from the park's presence.



PHOTO: VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK

VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK'S COFFEE PROJECT

WITH FARM AFRICA

The programme is designed to boost the livelihoods of more than 7,000 coffee farming families living on the border of Virunga National Park. The project, which is financed by the European Union, involves strengthening the business of the cooperatives and their members at each level, from farm management to processing and business systems, while building a strong profile and presence in international markets.

The project approach is based on implementing a holistic and sustainable farming model, including crop diversification, establishing a balance between food security and cash generation. The programme includes training on good agricultural practices and the establishment of nurseries for coffee as well as other trees.

Significant investments are being made to increase the quantity and quality

of the fully washed Arabica. Washing station infrastructure is being upgraded, accompanied by rigorous training in coffee processing.

In 2020, cupping labs will be installed and cuppers trained. Internal control systems are being strengthened to ensure complete traceability and that the requirements for Fairtrade and Organic certifications are met. There is a strong emphasis on financial management capacities, including the governance issues entailed in operating a complex business. The cooperatives are being supported to secure working capital and to understand and operate successfully in international markets. Long-term marketing partnerships are now being developed, through which the cooperatives are able to build relationships with importers, roasters, brands and retailers.



FARM AFRICA

Farm Africa is an innovative charity that reduces poverty by unleashing African farmers' abilities to grow their incomes in an environmentally sustainable way.

Farm Africa helps smallholders to not only boost yields, but also gain access to markets, while protecting the environment for generations to come.

From forest communities in Ethiopia to commercial smallholders in western Uganda, Farm Africa has deep and diverse experience in helping communities harness coffee's income-generating potential.

Farm Africa provides tools and training in improving coffee quality, productivity, business practices and market integration to help farmers lift themselves out of poverty.

COFFEE PRODUCED BY WOMEN

Coopade and Kawa Kanzururu each have strong women's sections, who organise leadership training and run some of the cooperatives' coffee washing stations.

For the first time in 2020 it is possible to buy coffee grown and processed by female coffee farmers.

KAWA KANZURURU COOPERATIVE

Founded:
June 2014

Location:
Farms are located on the slopes of the Rwenzori Mountains, bordering Virunga National Park

Headquarters:
Quartier Mwangaza, Commune Rurale Lume, Territoire de Beni, Province du Nord-Kivu

Altitude:
1,000m to 2,000m

Membership:
1,848 producers (231 women and 1,617 men)

Varieties:
Blue Mountain, Rumangabo

Certification:
Organic and Fairtrade for 2020

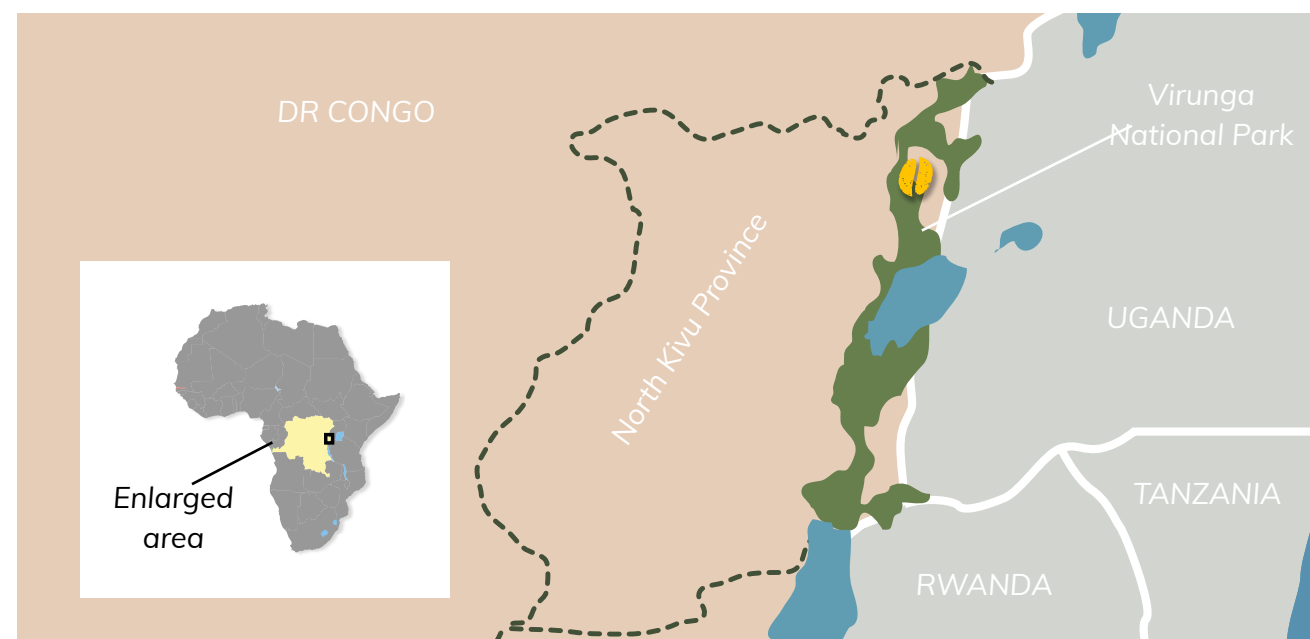
Average size of land per farmer:
0.37 hectares

Infrastructure:
24 mini washing stations. Two washing stations are run by the women's section.

Main harvest period:
September to December

Export period:
December to March

Projected volumes for 2019-20:
115 MT Fully Washed Kivu 3



COOPAIDE COOPERATIVE

Founded:
June 2014

Location:
Farms are located in the Lubero area,
bordering Virunga National Park

Headquarters:
Commune MUSUSA, Ville de Butembo,
Province du Nord-Kivu

Altitude:
1,300m to 2,100m

Membership:
4,518 producers (1,732 women
and 2,786 men)

Varieties:
Blue Mountain (mainly), Katwai, Rumangaboo

Certification:
UTZ, organic and Fairtrade for 2020

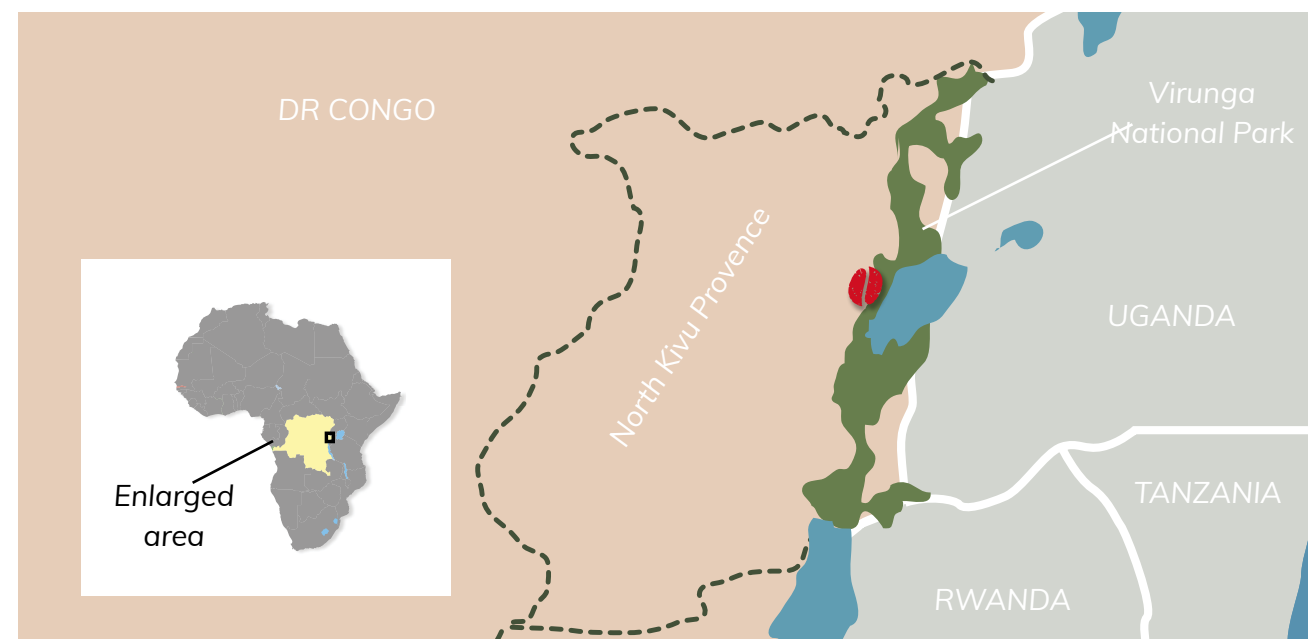
Average size of land per farmer:
0.37 hectares

Infrastructure:
16 mini washing stations. Six washing
stations are run by the women's section.

Main harvest period:
September to December

Export period:
December to March

Projected volumes for 2019-20:
115 MT Fully Washed Kivu 3



GET IN TOUCH

To learn more about opportunities to source these fine coffees, and so to become a partner in this exciting initiative, please contact us.

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Crispin Muse is the Managing Director of COOPADE. He holds a degree in Rural Development.

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Richard Hide

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Richard Hide is a coffee specialist with 30 years' experience, mainly in the African coffee industry. For 25 years, Richard was the Head of African Coffee and Head of Trading and Marketing at the British coffee specialist NGO Twin.

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Adelard Palata

(French only)

Adelard Palata has worked with most of the local coffee sector's key players. Between 2001 and 2005, Adelard managed a coffee plantation in Dunda for Copratex. And from 2010 to 2012, he represented Schluter's Northern Kivu operations. Since then, he has worked with cooperatives to develop high quality coffees.

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