

# Uganda Kaweri Coffee Plantation

InterAmerican  
**COFFEE**

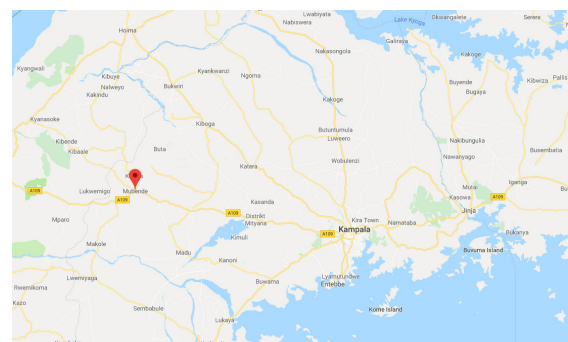


## NKG´s contribution to Bio Diversity

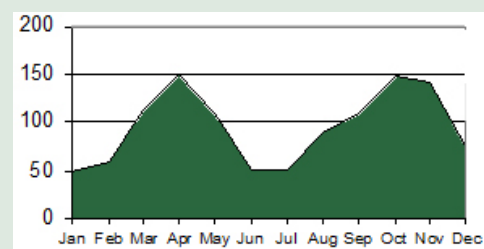
The Kaweri Coffee Plantation is located 160 km west of Kampala, near the town of Mubende at an altitude of 1300 meters above sea level. Kaweri is accessible over largely good all-weather tar road. Their land title is registered as block 99 (2512ha) in respective land office since 1915. Over the recent decades, part of the land was used for a vegetable plantation, army camp and smallholder cultivation. However, considerable sections of the land, especially in the various valleys and along very large swamps, forests remained untouched and contain the full, original biodiversity. In 2001, Kaweri Coffee Plantation acquired a 2 x 99-year lease of block 99 and started development of the land. Thereby a masterplan was developed, which defined areas for coffee planting, infrastructure and biosphere before the project start. The farm employs about 600 people daily plus up to 2500 pickers during harvest and is largely a manual operation with only transports and processing requiring mechanization.

## Climate and biosphere

The farm lies very close the equator (0.5° north) with a typical bi-modal, tropical climate with uniform warm temperatures throughout the year. There are two rainy seasons, but occasional showers fall also during dry seasons. Roughly 600ha of the farm are covered by fully-stocked, evergreen highland rainforest, which contains the original, hugely diverse flora and fauna. Eastern and western borders are partly marked by giant papyrus swamps of up to 200m width. Coffee grows in "cells", which are always surrounded by forests, bio-corridors or swamps. Given the perennial character of coffee, with a permanent stand of plants, animals migrate easily through coffee fields from one forest section to another, hence the entire farm can be considered migratory area for animals, especially during night time. Due to fast growth of the Ugandan population in past decades, wide parts of the country have been severely deforested. This counts also for most of the Mubende district in which Kaweri is located. In consequence of this, a major immigration of mammals, such as colobus monkeys, antelopes and various predator cats was noticed into Kaweri farm. Forests of Kaweri are home to wild coffee trees, hence it is part of the very origin of *Coffea Canephora* (Robusta) and possibly other coffee species.

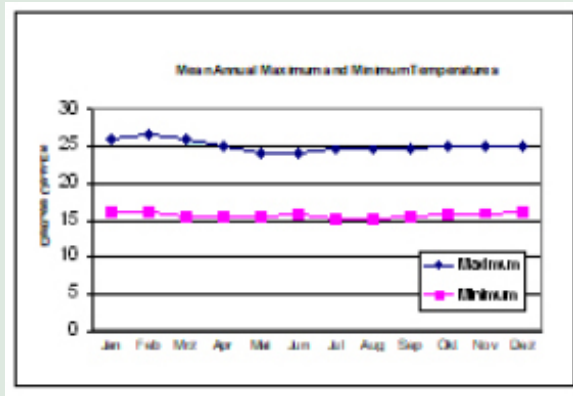


### Rainfall



### Farm land structure

Definition	Hectares	Percentage
Gross Area	2512	100
Coffee Area	1728	68,8
Woodlots	60	2,4
Eco Zone, Rivers, Swamps, etc.	592	23,6
Roads, Buildings	132	5,2



## Special environmental work and collaborations

Makerere University (Kampala, Uganda) conducted a social and environmental impact study in 2002, containing long, detailed lists of plants and birds that occur. The Ghana Butterfly Society, under the leadership of Safian Szabolcs and in collaboration with butterfly specialists Peter Ward & Mike Barnett, compiled a large list of butterflies. This list contains very rare species and it is expected that apart from yet unrecorded species also 6000 – 8000 species of night-active moth live in the farm's forests. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, this work was so far not continued. The Ohio University under the leadership of Prof. Nancy Stephens, visited Kaweri on 3 occasions, with teams of US-american and Ugandan PhD Students. The visits served the analysis of flora and fauna and a preliminary list of birds, mammals and plants is attached. There is no doubt that this list will be extended by numerous species if further research is conducted.

## Outlook and challenges

Considerable parts of the Kaweri biosphere consist of primary forests, which in most of the region have largely disappeared due to deforestation. As such it is undoubtedly a unique regional sanctuary of indigenous flora and fauna. The farm protects the forests, bio-corridors and swamps as part of its usual security concept of the farm but due to the size of the plantation and the many entry points, there are now increasing signs of intrusion and poaching of trees and animals. One of the prime objectives of this farm is therefore protection and preservation of its most exceptional biodiversity in a dedicated and focused fashion through appropriate measures. Furthermore, additional research and recording should be done of plants, mammals, birds, butterflies, other insects, reptiles and amphibians in various areas of the farm. Kaweri wants to invest in education about environmental protection and flora and fauna preservation in surrounding schools in collaboration with a specialized organization or NGO and additionally Establish an educational path for schools and other interested groups.

### Tropical Farm Management



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