



THE RAINFOREST ALLIANCE'S WORK IN EAST AFRICA



Rising temperatures, changes in precipitation, and other effects of climate change are undeniably affecting the ecosystems, biodiversity, and local communities in East Africa. The region has been subject to more frequent and intense rainfall events, floods, and droughts in recent decades, impacting the livelihoods of millions of people. With almost 70 percent of the economy in East Africa relying on agriculture, climate change effects have the potential to undermine or even reverse progress made toward improving the socio-economic well-being of the region's inhabitants.

The Rainforest Alliance has been working with coffee and tea farmers in East Africa for more than 30 years to advance sustainable agriculture practices across vulnerable landscapes and watersheds. Our vision for the region is to build and reinforce connections among farming communities, commodity companies, civil society organizations, and governments, and to promote sustainable production practices to benefit people and nature through an integrated landscape management approach.

RAINFOREST ALLIANCE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Rainforest Alliance Certification Program fosters climate resilience in East Africa by helping coffee and tea farmers adopt climate-smart farming techniques, which not only provide environmental benefits such as improved soil health but also result in increased yields. Businesses that participate in our certification program promote responsible supply chains, which provide farmers with opportunities for increased market access and price premiums.

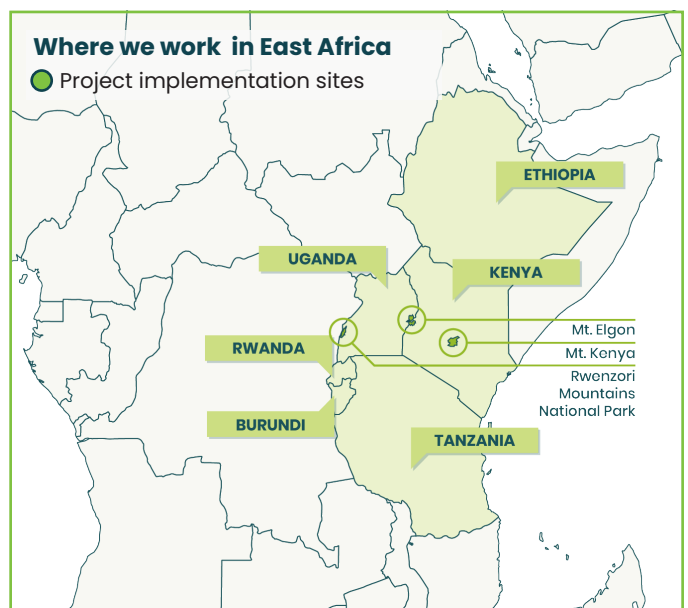


Communal gender equality training among farmers in Uganda

CONTACT

JULIUS NGANGA -jnganga@ra.org

Senior Director East and Southern Africa



| | Number of farmers Under Rainforest Alliance certification* | Certified land - all crops (Hectares) |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Burundi | 63,764 | 220,030 |
| Ethiopia | 33,674 | 83,518 |
| Kenya | 774,546 | 682,395 |
| Rwanda | 64,339 | 102,221 |
| Tanzania | 20,878 | 71,315 |
| Uganda | 40,451 | 123,023 |
| Total East Africa | 1,113,367 | 1,084,502 |

*UTZ and the Rainforest Alliance merged in 2018. The UTZ and Rainforest Alliance certification programs run in parallel until the transition to the Rainforest Alliance's new single certification program, a process which began in July 2021.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN EAST AFRICA

- 5 Rainforest Alliance Certified crops in 6 countries
- 1.1+ million certified farmers
- 10+ partnerships with leading companies to create responsible supply chains, including Volcafe, Neumann, Sucafina, Ecom, James Finlays, Williamson Tea, and the Kenya Tea Development Authority
- 9,000+ households with improved energy technologies

INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT (ILM)

The widespread impacts of climate change, deforestation, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and overall rural development cannot be addressed by focusing on the farm level alone. Through ILM, we are bringing all stakeholders in the landscape together to discuss common interests and determine collective actions to address these challenges. Our ILM programs are designed and driven by the very people who inhabit the landscapes we are committed to protecting. The Rainforest Alliance Mount Kenya Sustainable Landscapes and Livelihoods Program follows this approach by aiming to improve resilience at both farm and household level while also mainstreaming nature based solutions to mitigate against social and environmental issues. With a strong focus on inclusive decision-making, ILM will also engage the public and private sectors creating resilience through diversification. Piloted in Kirinyaga and Embu Counties, the program is expected to diversify rural livelihoods and increase youth participation and women's influence over household resources in the local economy, strengthening stakeholder capacity to manage assets in a more socially inclusive manner. By developing more inclusive supply chains that benefit low-income communities, and better aligning public and private interests and investments, program impacts are expected to extend to other counties in the Mount Kenya region.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO FIGHT CHILD LABOR

Poverty, low yields and income, and remote public schooling in East Africa make child labor a persistent issue in the tea and coffee sectors. In Ruwenzori and the West Nile areas of Uganda, the quality of education is low, child labor is culturally acceptable, women have low decision-making power, and law enforcement for child protection is weak. Children as young

as six find themselves working long days on farms, instead of attending school. Our certification program plays a major role in identifying such high-risk situations and recommending appropriate remedial interventions. Through Promoting Child Education in Uganda's Coffee Sector Using Community Approaches project, we are making significant efforts to tackle child labor in coffee-growing households. In partnership with local coffee purveyors, our integrated approach aims to increase farmers' income and access to finance and quality education, while also improving gender equity and preventing child labor. As a result, we are seeing increased school retention levels, increased employment opportunities for youth, and decreased child labor within coffee farms in Ruwenzori and West Nile.

ADVANCING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR THE TEA INDUSTRY

Renewable energy sources play an important role in mitigating deforestation and the effects of climate change. The tea industry in Kenya is heavily dependent on firewood in the manufacturing process, contributing to environmental degradation. Farmers in the tea landscapes also rely heavily on firewood as a source of household fuel. In Central and Western Kenya, the Rainforest Alliance is working to reduce deforestation by catalyzing a renewable energy transition from firewood use to manufactured smoke-free biomass briquettes and pellets. We are working directly with tea factories and household energy centers that produce and distribute these fuel alternatives, in addition to improved cookstoves and solar home systems. Positive impacts from these efforts include improved human and environmental health, reduced energy costs, reduced deforestation, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and enhanced social entrepreneurship.



A tea worker is watering young tea plants in a nursery. Photo: Caroline Irby