The Karawa Coffee Project
REDUCE EXTREME POVERTY | ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY | BUILD THE ECONOMY
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The Karawa Coffee Project

Paul Carlson Partnership, Café Africa, and the Covenant Church of Congo engage in a three-way partnership to work with small-scale coffee producers, with the goal to reduce extreme poverty, enhance food security, and build the local economy, through the revitalization of Robusta coffee production and export in northwest DR Congo. By training and equipping people to grow and sell coffee, the local economy can be revitalized, increasing the livelihoods of thousands of families in the area.

- **Paul Carlson Partnership** (PCP) has funded the initial 4 years of the project, and will continue funding on a sliding scale as the coffee cooperative grows. From seed to cup, the first 4 years included purchasing disease resistant seeds and proper agricultural equipment, and providing training for coffee producers.

- **Café Africa**, a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in DR Congo, is training the producers in Karawa how to successfully plant, nurture, harvest, and export coffee.

- **The Covenant Church of Congo** (CEUM) is our long-term partner and coffee producers are members of the church.

Why Revitalize Coffee in DR Congo?
To understand why PCP would engage in the revitalization of coffee in DR Congo, you must begin with its history.

Coffee Collapse and Comeback
In the Ubangi region where the Covenant Church of Congo (CEUM) ministers, cultivation of Robusta coffee ("black gold") was the main source of income in the 1980s. Coffee growing is passed down through generations, and families remember the success of growing coffee before the wars of the 1990s wiped out the region’s economy. Fungal disease affecting the coffee crops also impacted the amount of production and export. The quick collapse of the coffee sector plunged the population of Ubangi into disarray and affected rural areas, making it difficult for residents to access education, healthcare, water, and sanitation. Since then, the market has resumed and the prospects, notably for Robusta coffee, appear favorable.

Karawa Coffee is Robusta Coffee
Robusta coffee (Coffea canephora) is grown in lower altitudes, and can withstand warmer temperatures than Arabica. It is more resistant to disease, and easier to grow. Robusta has a distinctive taste and contains 50-60% more caffeine than Arabica.

Local Ownership
The Karawa Coffee Project is designed to be 100% owned by the coffee producers. This will be achieved through training in good agricultural and business practices, and by organizing the producers into a cooperative in order to provide long-term support for export and other services, and to safeguard producer interests in the marketing of their crops.

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Gaspy Zongalinga
Karawa coffee producer

“Coffee is the only resource that helped develop our province effectively. But when there was no longer a coffee business around, our local economy went down. Even during difficult times, coffee helps me stabilize my family finances, healthcare, and get my kids the needed education. Because of coffee, I cannot stay penniless for long.”

2022 Facts at a Glance

2,188 producers
2039 men; 149 women

1,190,000 seedlings

88 associations

1,729 hectares planted
647 restored, 1,082 new

From Seed to Cup

Collect
Producers from four axis aggregate their coffee to sell locally and for global export.

Ship
Coffee is loaded onto a truck, then shipped by boat to the capital, Kinshasa.

Export
Coffee is exported in large shipping containers around the world.

Import
Roasters receive the coffee, and sell roasted coffee to retailers.

Enjoy
Consumers enjoy Karawa coffee!

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The Karawa Coffee Project was launched on December 15, 2017, in partnership with PCP, Café Africa, and the Covenant Church of Congo.

**Nurturing Fields & Transferring Plants**
- producers continued to nurture coffee plants, prepared the fields, and planted intercrops
- business training for producers
- coffee plants transferred to the fields
- first harvest of pre-existing rejuvenated coffee trees

**Establish Cooperative**
- Karawa Coffee is available for purchase in the U.S.
- FUPROCAF (Fédération des Unions des Producteurs du Café de l’Ubangi (the Ubangi Federation of Coffee Producers) is established
- fall 2021 harvest, 200-300 metric tons

**Congo Market**
- 600-700 metric tons expected
- strengthening regional and national sales

**Training & Cultivating**
- 1,400 producers received agriculture and business training and organized into associations in 4 areas near Karawa
- approximately 900,000 seeds germinated, planted, and cultivated in shaded nurseries

**First Harvest**
- producers maintained and cultivated their new coffee fields for first harvest to sell, fall 2020
- producers legally established their associations toward forming a coffee cooperative
- producers trained to build governance capacity for the cooperative

**Commercial Growth**
- local, regional, national, and international sales
- FUPROCAF advisory board established
- 300-500 metric tons of coffee expected for fall 2022 harvest

**Global Strategy**
- 800-1,000 metric tons expected
- expansion of international sales

**Outcomes**

**In the short term**
- Improve productivity and increase the production of coffee and associated food crops through training in good agricultural practices for local, national, and international markets.

**In the long term**
- Improve the incomes of small farmholders and their livelihoods through their consolidation in a cooperative or union of associations.