

BURUNDI KARYENDA

DIRECT TRADE PARTNER Greenco and Butegana Coffee Washing Station	ELEVATION 1750 m
REGION Kayanza	HARVEST May 2018
CULTIVAR Bourbon	LOOK FOR Tangerine, black plum, sugar cane



We have sourced coffee for Karyenda from Greenco since it was founded in 2015. This year's offering comes from Greenco's Butegana coffee washing station (CWS), nestled in the northern corner of Burundi in the Kayanza Commune of Kayanza Province. This lush agricultural area is the source of the Nile river and arguably the heart of the country's specialty coffee sector.

Originally owned by the government, Butegana was the first CWS built in Burundi. It also happens to be the first one that Greenco purchased when it established its operations in the region. Fortunately for Greenco, Ernest Nzohabonaya stayed on at Butegana when it purchased the plant. Ernest had been managing operations at Butegana for decades before Greenco purchased it and has played no small part in its continuous success over the years. Today, Ernest oversees all of Greenco's 13 coffee washing stations, but a newly reconstructed Butegana remains the model on which all the other Greenco CWS are based.

Greenco's focus on experimentation and continuous improvement in wet milling and the subsequent drying process is instantly evident upon visiting its washing stations, and has been the engine that has driven its continuous success. More importantly, Greenco is committed to improving the lives of

the many farmers and families that live in the areas surrounding its washing stations. On average, some 3,500 growers deliver cherry to each of Greenco's 13 washing stations. Many of these growers come from large families, some with as many as eight to 10 children, and see coffee as their best bet to overcome the poverty that is so widespread in Burundi.

In this context, Intelligentsia is seeking opportunities to help make coffee an agent of change and partnering with the Kahawatu Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps farmers throughout the Great Lakes region of Africa. It takes a holistic approach to helping communities with everything from delivering financial education and creating savings and loan associations, to providing seedlings and fertilizer.

For every per pound of coffee we purchased from Greenco this year we made a contribution to Kahawatu, working directly with the farmers from whom we have sourced our Karyenda offering in the past to set priorities for reinvesting that contribution so it can contribute to a better life for them and future generations.

J Mlodzinski
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Green Coffee Buyer for Burundi

