



Wild Bees – the Way out of Poverty



About Uganda

The Republic of Uganda is a landlocked state in East Africa, with a population of approximately 50 million. Its landscape and fauna are fascinating for their beauty, and the country has a wealth of mineral resources.



And yet Uganda suffers from widespread poverty. The low level of industrialization and a weak infrastructure inhibit its development. The average age is an alarmingly low 15.7 years. In the rural areas, mothers have 6 to 7 children. There is a lack of education and job opportunities. Poverty and sickness often result in child labour, which robs young people of any chance of a better life.



Our commitment in Uganda

For years we have been active in various humanitarian sectors in the Butiru region of Eastern Uganda – for instance with our well-known cow project *“MoreMilk for Children in Uganda”*. Our partner on the spot is the German nurse Elisabeth Mwaka from the organization *“Freundeskreis christliche Sozialarbeit in Uganda e.V.”* in Hankensbüttel, near Gifhorn. “Mama” Elisabeth, as she is called, has been living in Uganda for 30 years, during

which she has brought about remarkable development by building schools, hospitals and homes for widows and orphans. In recognition of her achievements, she has been presented with the Bundesverdienstkreuz, the German Federal Award of Merit.

With our initiative *“Wild Bees – the Way out of Poverty”* we encourage people to make use of existing natural resources in order to generate sustainable profits. We aim to tap what is offered by nature to create new fields of activity that themselves benefit nature – and function as help towards self-help.



The project

The country has a rich diversity of flora. So it seemed logical to use honey as a source of income in the mountains of Butiru, too. But there was a lack of knowledge, practical experience, and above all start-up financing for modern equipment. As a first step we organized training courses to awaken people's interest in beekeeping and dispel their fear of wild bees. We invited Project Manager John Walyaula to Hamburg, where he was able to gain important, practical experience from working with a professional bee-keeper.



We were quick to realize that bee-keeping in Uganda works best in company with others – as a kind of cooperative model. In the meantime, we have distributed over 500 hives to 10 sites in a range of more than 30 kilometres and set them up as honey farms with 40-60 hives each. These are managed by a local Caretaker, appointed by the group. He is responsible for regular inspection of the site, checking of the hives and careful harvesting of the honey.



How are the groups organized?

Early in her work, Elisabeth Mwaka set up small self-help groups for women. This proved to be a very effective means of mobilizing people and sharing knowledge. Numerous topics are discussed; they include microfinancing for establishing small street shops, sustainable agriculture, health, nutrition, and of course family planning.

There are now about 165 of these microfinance groups, with a total of some 2,800 women in the region in and around Butiru. And it is precisely these women who inspire their menfolk to produce honey in order to generate additional income for the family.

Flora

The flora of Eastern Uganda is extremely diverse and offers excellent conditions for bee-keeping. The region comprises tropical rain forests, savannas, wetlands and agricultural land. Trees and shrubs are sources of nectar all the year round, with eucalyptus (that flowers several times), mango, avocado, shea trees and acacias. Other rich sources are agricultural trees and plants such as coffee, bananas, sugar cane, sunflowers and sesame. Wild flowers and herbs provide valuable nectar, too. They include basil, various sweet herbs, lavender, myrtle, wild hibiscus varieties and many more.



High-quality honey

Because of the mixed flora, the honey from Eastern Uganda has a great diversity of flavours, often with fruity or flowery notes. The photo (left) shows a jar of honey from our first honey farm, "Masabaland".



What does a honey farm cost?

The modern beehives are made locally according to our plans. A hive costs € 100, including the steel post to support it above the ground and prevent destruction by termites. Each future honey farm is equipped with about 50 beehives (€ 5,000). It also needs a small tool shed made of clay and protective clothing, a honey extractor, tools, and a fence to enclose the site. The overall cost for each farm is about € 10,000. We will be pleased to send you a detailed cost plan if you are interested.



Honey harvest and proceeds

In Uganda, honey is measured in litres. Thanks to the tropical climate, beekeepers can harvest between 10 and 15 litres per colony twice or three times a year. There is a great demand for honey. In the local markets, a litre costs about € 6, which means an average income of about € 60 can be achieved with each hive. In the mountainous region of Butiru, that is a large sum of money that can make a valuable contribution to improving the living conditions of the poor population.

The people of Butiru understand that beekeeping does not only generate income; it also benefits agriculture by improving pollination and helps to maintain biodiversity.



Right:
"Mama" Elisabeth Mwaka

Donations



We are grateful for every donation.

- A beehive costs € 100
- The total cost of a honey farm is € 10,000 (50 colonies, including a tool shed, equipment and fencing of the site)

Every donor receives a tax-deductible donation receipt from Butiru Freundeskreis.

Volksbank Hankensbüttel

IBAN: DE07 2579 1635 0061 8870 00

BIC: GENODEF1HMN

Purpose of transfer: "Honey Farm"

All the hives will be stamped with your name.

Please state your email and postal address for photos and the donation receipt.

Kind regards,

Volkmar Wywiol

Founder of the Hamburg enterprise Stern-Wywiol Gruppe (vwywiol@stern-wywiol-gruppe.de) and initiator of the humanitarian aid projects "MoreMilk and MoreHoney for Children in Uganda" in cooperation with "Freundeskreis christliche Sozialarbeit in Uganda e. V.", Hankensbüttel.

www.stern-wywiol-gruppe.de

www.butiru-freundeskreis.net

