

KENYA



WHERE Kirinyaga County, Mount Kenya, East of Nyeri County
NAME Long Miles Thunguri **ALTITUDE** 1725 masl
NUMBER OF FARMERS IN YEAR ONE 30

In partnership with Haron Wachira from Akili Holdings Ltd., we have refurbished Thunguri Coffee Factory in Kirinyaga County, Mount Kenya (just east of Nyeri County). In the past, this coffee factory existed to serve the Wachira family and a few of their neighbors who grow coffee in the region. While the Akili Group is not solely focused on coffee, we share the same vision of working with small-scale farmers to improve their coffee production, access to markets, and the price paid for the coffee they produce. Our partnership with the Wachira family and the coffee growers of the Mount Kenya region is just the beginning of Long Miles Kenya. We also hope to plant a farm in the not-to-distant future.

During 2020, a year in which travel was seemingly impossible; our founders, head of quality control, managing director, and story team were able to visit and connect with a community of coffee growers in Kirinyaga County who are committed to producing high quality Kenyan coffee. We've sown the seeds for our **Coffee Scout program**, and will soon start building a team of young agronomists whose mission will be to work alongside our partner coffee growers, empowering them with best farming practices and any support that they might need to produce quality coffee.

During this year's coffee season (a low harvest year for coffee growers around the country), we collected and processed a small volume of cherry from thirty partner coffee farmers living around Thunguri Coffee Factory, modelling how we produce micro-lots in Burundi. While our inaugural harvest season in Kenya may seem low, building trust within a new community takes time. We are committed to listening, learning from, and getting to know the communities of coffee farming families in the region.

Our team also visited and worked on quality control measures with other farmer-owned coffee washing stations as well as private estates in the region, and cupped through the coffees that they produced this season. Our intention is always to produce our own coffee, but in these early days of establishing Long Miles Kenya we will also be sharing the coffees produced by other coffee washing stations that we enjoyed tasting on the cupping table.

We've been dreaming about starting a Long Miles Coffee Farm in Western Kenya for a while. After looking for over a year, we've found a piece of land at 2200masl, close to the edges of a national forest park in Western Kenya. It's here that we'll soon be planting our first SL-28 coffee trees, pursuing regenerative farming practices. We'll continue the works of our reforestation project, **Trees For Kibira**, in this region, planting out green belts of trees, and encouraging the practice of shade-grown coffee.