Ghana: The Steering Committee established at the time of our first visit to Ghana in February 2008 has been meeting over the last 6 months, though progress has not been as fast as had been hoped. Nevertheless, a concerted effort is being made to move the industry forward, produce the planting material which will be needed early in 2009, and to enhance the work of the research being done on coffee at CRIG (Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana).

UGANDA: The 4th Annual Stakeholder took place at the Research Centre at Kituza in Mukono on 8th December, and brought together nearly 450 people from all across the coffee sector. There was very good representation of the farmers. The work of the last year was reviewed, and objectives agreed for the new coffee year 2010/11.

D.R.CONGO: Since the national stakeholder meeting held in Kinshasa in January 2010, a National Coffee Strategy document has been completed and was formally handed over to the Government on 13th April 2011 in Kinshasa. This had been validated by the Provincial platforms, who will largely be responsible to follow up the implementation of the strategy. We have developed a pilot project proposal for small coffee washing stations in Bas-Congo, where the unique "petit kivu" variety gives an almost completely neutral cup when wet processed. We are hoping this will be approved and financed by the EU in Kinshasa. This will aim not only to improve quality of the coffee, but also help farmers improve productivity of their holdings, to make coffee again a profitable crop. In January 2011 we held a stakeholder meeting for the coffee sector in South Kivu, to agree a plan of action for this potential important producing province. This also included a workshop for women in the coffee sector, aimed at finding ways to support their work where they face particular challenges.

In addition, it is likely that the CFC will fund a programme in Eastern Congo from late 2011 for production and quality improvement.

TANZANIA: The National Coffee Conference took place in May 2011 in Morogoro, bringing together over 200 stakeholders from all the production regions. The national coffee strategy has been drafted, and this was presented at the Conference.

D.R. CONGO: Since the national stakeholder meeting held in Kinshasa in January 2010, a National Coffee Strategy document has been completed and was formally handed over to the Government on 13th April 2011 in Kinshasa. This had been validated by the Provincial platforms, who will largely be responsible to follow up the implementation of the strategy. We have developed a pilot project proposal for small coffee washing stations in Bas-Congo, where the unique "petit kivu" variety gives an almost completely neutral cup when wet processed. We are hoping this will be approved and financed by the EU in Kinshasa. This will aim not only to improve quality of the coffee, but also help farmers improve productivity of their holdings, to make coffee again a profitable crop. In January 2011 we held a stakeholder meeting for the coffee sector in South Kivu, to agree a plan of action for this potential important producing province. This also included a workshop for women in the coffee sector, aimed at finding ways to support their work where they face particular challenges.

In addition, it is likely that the CFC will fund a programme in Eastern Congo from late 2011 for production and quality improvement.

ECCAS: We have recently worked with the Economic Community of Central Africa, based in Libreville to prepare a strategy for the coffee sector, in order to develop its capacity for involvement in the economic sectors in the Community. Of the 10 member countries, 9 are coffee producers, though some have at present a very small production. It is expected that through this initiative, coffee will come up the agenda in terms of these countries’ economic priorities, and we will start to see more investment and emphasis on coffee from this region, which is considered the origin of the robusta coffee variety.

WEB-SITE: We have recently updated and improved our web-site – www.cafeafrica.org – and aim to update this regularly with information about our activities in our different areas of operation.

FUNDING: Café Africa is a non-profit association under Swiss law. We have an independent organisation in each country where we work. Our funding comes from grants and from consultancy work for international organisations working in the coffee sector. We have much appreciated the help received from some Foundations, Trusts and private donations which have enabled us to initiate the work in Tanzania and D.R. Congo this year. It is always a particular challenge, especially starting off in a new country.