DRWakefield
EST.1970

Papua New Guinea

SIGRI COFFEE ESTATE

This coffee estate embraces shade-grown coffee using native trees, fostering diverse fauna and protecting wildlife species.

Papua New Guinea

SIGRI COFFEE ESTATE

Farm	Sigri Coffee Estate
Owner	Carpenter Estates
Location	Waghi Valley
Altitude	1299 - 1350 masl
Size	128 ha
Varietals	Typica, Arusha, Caribbean Blue, Catimor, Maragogype
Processes	Washed
Harvest	April - September

Sigri Coffee was founded in the 1950's and forms part of the larger Carpenters Estates, an alliance of 6 estates all located within Jiwaka Province. This highland province is still diversely forested, and Carpenters have long been advocates of shade grown coffee. They see the practise not only as beneficial from an agricultural point of view, but also the medium density shade encourages fauna which assists in pest control. Two types of native shade trees are interplanted amongst the crops, providing habitat for over 90 species of birds.

In a country that is rich in its own unique wildlife, there are species under pressure in areas of heavier population and development, in the Valley. Strict rules on fauna protection create a sanctuary for many species under threat.

Eighty four percent of the farm is taken with Typica, Arusha and Caribbean Blue (Blue Mountain). This traces its roots back to Jamaica Blue Mountain and tends to grow only in very specific conditions. The rest is split between the Catimor and Maragogype which has the local name Big Red, and was discovered growing on the estate in 2014.

Each of the estates have their own wet milling facility, and Sigri is no different. The tanks are lined with ceramic tiles for easy cleaning and maintenance, and good practises shared amongst the larger estate to benefit the whole. The dry milling facilities where the coffee is conditioned and hulled are centralised for the group, helping manage overheads associated with processing. This includes colour sorting machines first and foremost, with hand sorting and final inspection carried out by the experienced workers.