



## GREAT AFRICA **CYCLING** SAFARI



**ONE -TEAM ONE -DREAM**

# A two-wheel Journey to the EAC Integration.



The Great African Cycling Safari (GACS) is an annual 55-day cycling event that has played a vital role in promoting East African Community (EAC) integration while addressing critical regional issues. With a unique blend of cycling and social engagement, GACS brings together cyclists from across East Africa and beyond, who traverse multiple countries while participating in community outreach activities. These include school engagements, public-private dialogues, tree planting, environmental conservation efforts, peace-building initiatives, and awareness campaigns.

***GACS, a 55-day, 6,000-kilometer bicycle tour throughout East Africa, is the longest endurance event in Africa. It seeks to fast-track the EAC integration process and raise awareness about issues affecting the people of East Africa.***





## Background & Evolution

**Inception:** The Great African Cycling Safari (GACS) began in 2016 as the East African Bicycle Tour, popularly known as Tour De EAC. In 2021, it was rebranded to better reflect its expanded vision—"Great African" embodies the aspiration of uniting Africa through cycling, while "Safari" reflects the continent's identity and spirit of adventure.

**Rotating Hosts:** Each year, GACS is hosted by a different EAC Partner State, showcasing the diverse cultures and strengths of each nation.

**Broadening Focus:** Originally centered on regional cooperation, GACS has expanded its focus to include contemporary issues such as climate change, food security, and peace-building.

**Route Coverage:** The event traditionally passes through multiple EAC partner states, including Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania, with future expansion planned to include South Sudan, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as conditions permit.

**Diverse Participation:** Cyclists from all EAC partner states, as well as participants from other African and European regions, take part in the expedition. A core team completes the full journey, while others join for specific segments.



*A two wheel journey to the eac integration*





# GACS Impact to Date



## **65,000+ kilometers cycled**

Spanning the East African region since the inception of GACS.

## Reached 100s of communities

Across 6 East African Community (EAC) partner states

## **280,000+ trees planted**

Through GACS-led and affiliated environmental campaigns

## 6 Community Forests Established

Promoting grassroots reforestation and environmental education

## **17 EAC Integration Clubs in Schools**

Empowering youth to champion regional cooperation and unity

## 6 Tourism & Climate Change Clubs Launched

Fostering eco-conscious travel and environmental stewardship

## **Institutional Engagement**

Collaborated with EAC Secretariat, EAC partner states through relevant Ministries, the National security organs and the Pan African Movement

## **Youth & Policy Influence**

Inspired regional youth movements and shaped discussions on climate action and EAC integration



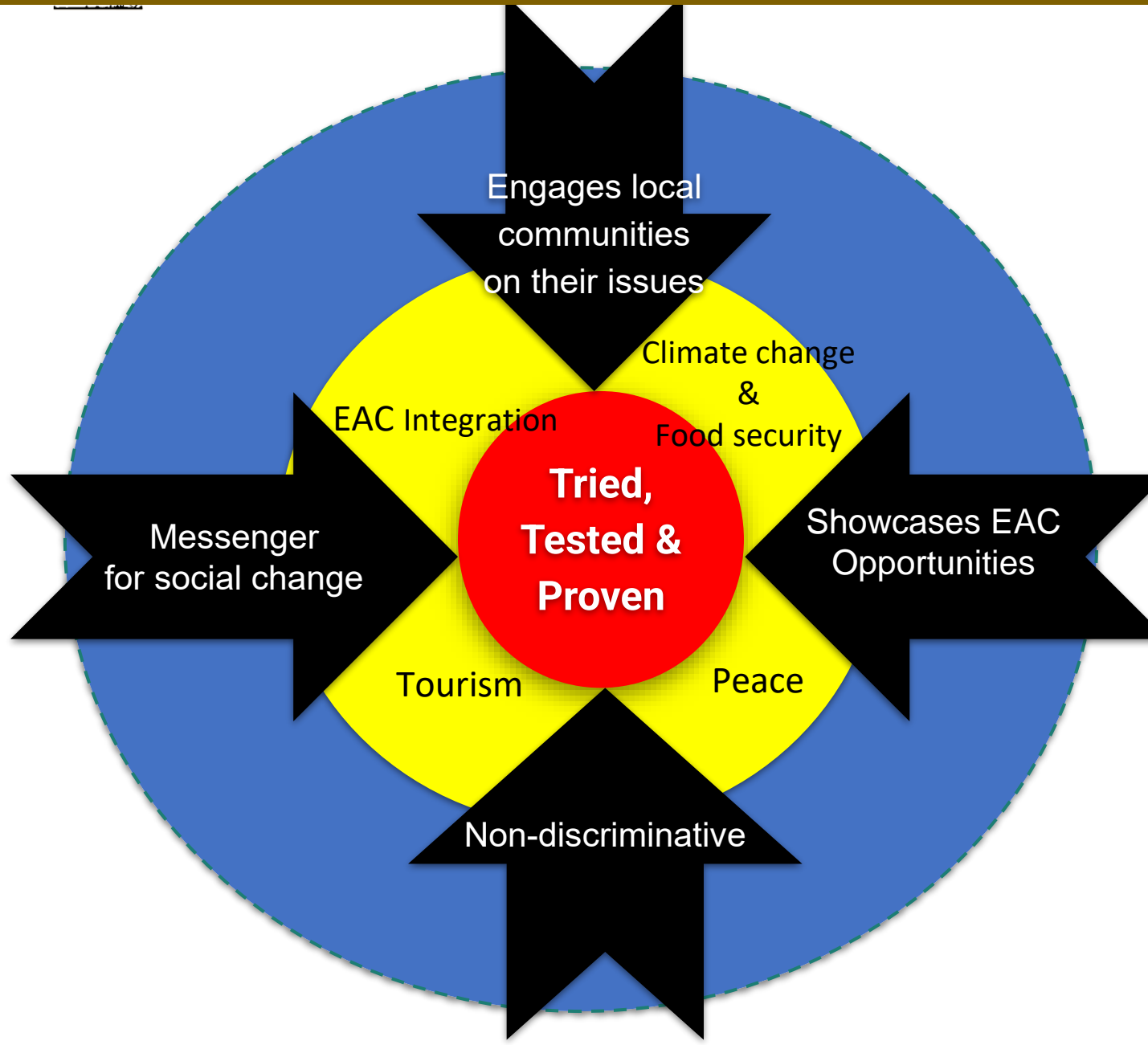
## GACS and EAC Integration:

GACS aligns closely with the strategic goals of the EAC, facilitating integration through Bicycle tourism and community engagement. Key areas of impact include:

- a) **Regional Integration & Fast-Tracking EAC Integration:** GACS plays a vital role in advancing EAC integration by actively demonstrating the free movement of goods, persons, and services. Through its cross-border engagements, the event brings to life the principles of the EAC Common Market Protocol, fostering seamless regional connectivity and cooperation.
- b) **Regional Peace & Security:** GACS fosters dialogue and interaction among diverse East African communities, promoting mutual understanding and unity through PPDs (**Public-Private Dialogues**), **peace-building workshops, and cross-border engagements.**
- c) **Food Security & Safety:** GACS conducts surveys, educational programs, and strategic partnerships to improve food production, nutrition, and sustainability across East Africa.
- d) **Tourism:** GACS seeks to establish East Africa as the leading bicycle tourism destination by highlighting its non-traditional tourist destinations, pristine landscapes, vibrant cultures, and rich traditions. It offers adventurers authentic experiences beyond mainstream tourist trails.
- e) **Environmental Sustainability:** Leading initiatives in tree planting, eco-tourism, and climate resilience to address environmental challenges



# Why the *GACS* Concept Works



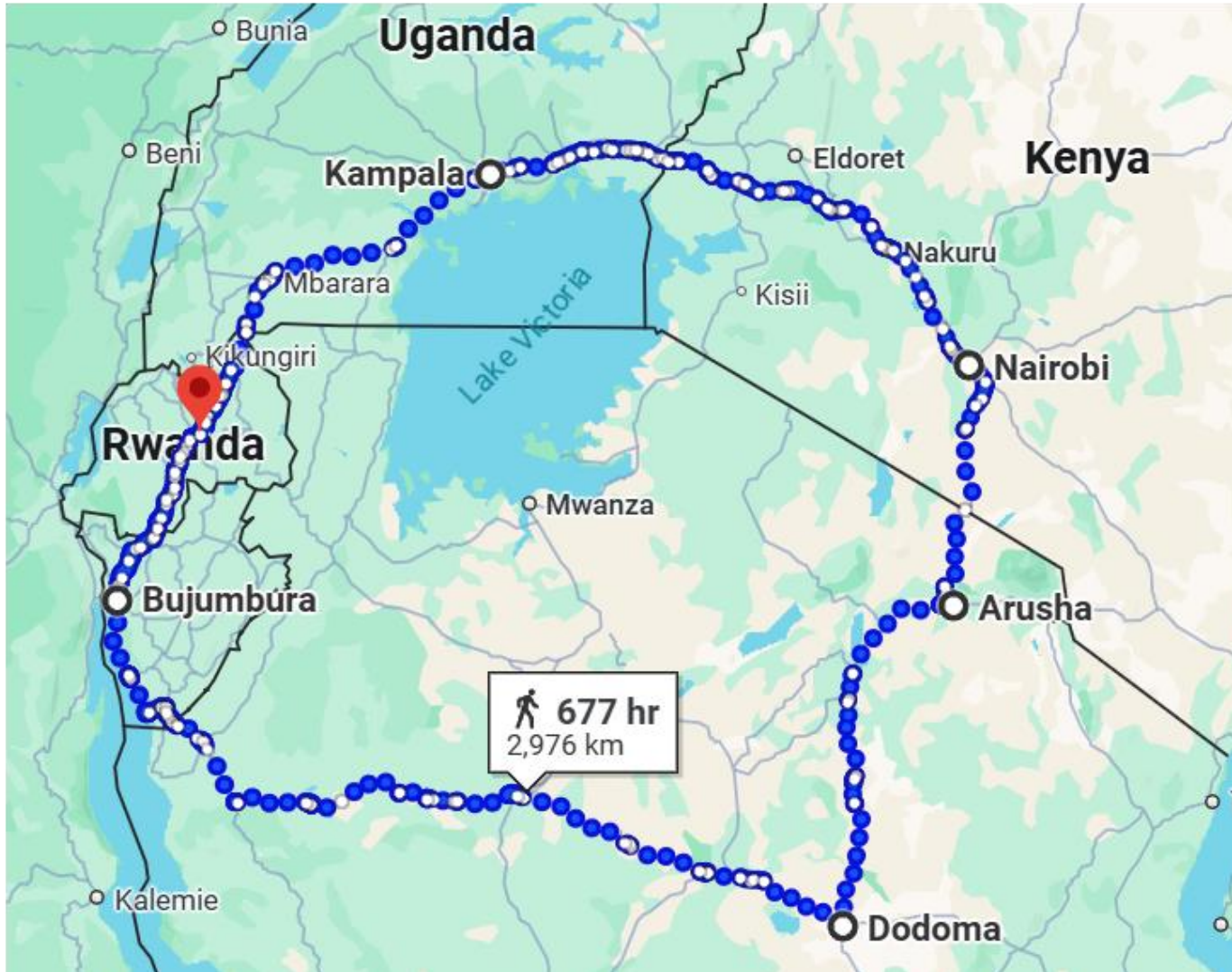




Over the years, we have achieved meaningful progress through our initiatives across East Africa. These accomplishments have not only affirmed the relevance of our mission but also inspired us to aim for even greater heights. Our impact is reflected in the communities we've served, the partnerships we've cultivated, and the lives we've positively influenced.



# Operations - 2025 Preliminary Route & Goals



## Theme: Climate Change, PEACE & FOOD SECURITY.

- 5 Countries, 55 Days
- Start and Finish in Kigali
- 49 Riding Stages, ~6430 km
- Ensure route passes locations that support/reinforce the theme areas
  - Start Aug 1
  - Finish Sept 25
- Non-cycling Events & activities held in >50% of overnight locations
- Goal of 40 Riders to complete the full tour with 30% female.
- Plant 13 Community forests, hold 2 PPDs, 30 workshops.





**GREAT AFFICA CYCLING SAFARI(GACS)**

*Organized by GACS Cycling Africa, a registered Not – for Profit  
with Head offices in Kampala Uganda and Coordinating offices in  
all EAC partner states.*

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