



A TWO WHEEL JOURNEY TO THE EAC INTEGRATION



GACS – EAC 2026:

**Strengthening Health Security, Water
Access, Sustainable Mobility**

&

Europe–Africa Cooperation



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1. Executive Summary

The Great African Cycling Safari (GACS) and the East African Community (EAC) share a common mission: strengthening regional resilience, unity, and sustainable development. GACS 2026 represents an unprecedented cross-continental model that unites African leadership, community empowerment, and regional integration with European innovation, research excellence, and sustainable technologies. Through this partnership, the Great African Cycling Safari (GACS) becomes a moving platform that showcases real African challenges and real European solutions, tested and demonstrated in the very communities that need them.

GACS 2026 proposes a 55-day 6000km cycling engagement tour across 6 Partner States, accompanied by European partners, experts, innovators, and investors. It combines community engagement, technology showcases, mobile health awareness, sustainable solutions, and cross-continental cooperation.

Evolution of the GACS Approach;

While the initial tours were primarily cycling-based, it became clear to the GACS leadership that the event's growing visibility locally, nationally, and regionally positions it uniquely to spotlight the challenges and opportunities within the rural communities it passes through.

Since 2023, the GACS Tour has therefore adopted a dual-focus model:

1) **Cycling and Eco-Tourism:** It remains a long-distance cycling expedition that appeals to regional and global cycling communities, promoting eco-tourism, East African integration, and cross-border tourism.

2) **Community and Sustainability Action:** This second focus uses the uniqueness of the Tour to implement non-cycling community programs and awareness activities in host locations, including public-private dialogues (PPDs), community surveys, food security actions, peace-building workshops, school and community engagements, environmental restoration, health awareness, Water and WASH and youth empowerment. These initiatives strengthen regional cooperation and contribute directly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2026, this second focus will stand equal in scope to the cycling component, marking GACS's transformation into a sustainable cycling movement where the ride becomes the link connecting people, ideas, and actions for a more peaceful, water secure, food-secure, and resilient East Africa. These efforts align with the objectives of the East African Community (EAC) and complement the national development strategies of Partner States.

THE THEME: "RIDING FOR WATER, HEALTH, & RESILIENCE ACROSS EAST AFRICA."



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The initiative will engage governments, private sector actors, schools, border posts, women and youth groups while simultaneously providing a powerful platform for European companies, innovators, and global development partners to present scalable solutions.

2. Background & Problem Statement.

- a) **The EAC Health & Resilience Context;** The East African region continues to face recurrent challenges such as infectious disease outbreaks, water scarcity, climate shocks, limited access to diagnostic tools, and uneven access to clean drinking water. The EAC Mobile Laboratory Network established for rapid cross-border disease detection remains one of the most advanced regional health security assets, yet public awareness remains low.
- b) **The GACS Platform & Regional Impact;** the GACS Tour is a 55-day cross-border cycling expedition that unites riders, communities, and governments to champion East African integration, peace, and sustainable development. Through its powerful grassroots visibility and community engagement, the tour mobilizes action in health, water, food security, renewable energy, and environmental sustainability while symbolizing unity and regional cooperation across the EAC.

GACS has evolved into:

- a continental storytelling platform,
 - a regional community engagement mechanism,
 - a bridge between Africa and Europe, and
 - a promoter of eco-tourism and sustainability ventures.
- c) **The Opportunity:** Combining the strengths of EAC institutions, GACS Africa, and GACS Europe creates a strategic entry point where: safe water access, food security, health security, sustainable mobility, R&D cooperation, innovation transfer, and public-private partnerships

can converge into one powerful, community-centered initiative.

This combined approach converts policy into practice, technology into experience, and regional integration into lived reality.

3. Purpose:

The concept aims to:

1. **Strengthen regional health resilience** by promoting EAC's Mobile Laboratory Network, emergency preparedness, and community health awareness.
2. **Promote sustainable water and sanitation solutions**, aligned with SDG 6, through demonstrations, technology showcases, and community pilots.



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3. **Enhance Europe–Africa cooperation** by involving European companies and research institutions in practical field engagements.
4. **Amplify EAC’s visibility** through a 55-day high-impact regional tour.
5. **Foster people-centered integration** through storytelling, youth engagement, women’s inclusion, and cultural diplomacy.
6. **Convening policymakers and innovators** through dialogues, workshops, and SDG impact events.

4. Core Strategic Pillars of the Integrated Initiative:

<p>Pillar 1 – Regional Health Security & Community Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visibility and demonstration of the EAC Mobile Laboratory Network. • Community health dialogues and school engagements. • Promotion of epidemic preparedness, disease surveillance & crisis communication. • Integration of mobile health booths and EAC Village Health Teams (EVHTs). 	<p>Pillar 2 – Sustainable Water Solutions (GACS Europe Framework: “A Ride for Water”)</p> <p>European innovators and African partners will showcase and pilot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hand filters for households, • mobile water stations, • ultrafiltration and osmosis systems, • solar-powered water kiosks, • wastewater treatment solutions, • cashless water-dispensing technologies, • water-saving devices (e.g., shower loop), water cooling and solar-ice systems. <p><i>Solutions will be curated to match local conditions and affordability, ensuring lasting impact.</i></p>
<p>Pillar 3 – Sustainable Mobility & Innovation (Electric Cargo Bikes)</p> <p>GACS Europe introduces sustainable mobility innovations such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electric cargo bikes (for goods, medical deliveries, & water transportation), • solar-powered charging stations, • maintenance-light belt-drive systems, 	<p>Pillar 4 – Youth, Women & Community Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women-led dialogues and savings groups partnerships. • Youth innovation forums and skills workshops. • School and university engagements. <p><i>Leadership training for cyclists and community ambassadors</i></p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • driver training and safety certification, • last-mile medical supply solutions. <p><i>GACS Europe—headquartered in Münster, Germany, connects European innovators with East African realities, ensuring solutions are adapted to local affordability, local climate, and local needs.</i></p>	
<p>Pillar 5 – Public–Private Partnerships & Investment Linkages</p> <p>The initiative will host:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • business-to-business (B2B) exchanges, • investment showcases, • public–private dialogues (PPDs), • international cooperation workshops. <p><i>European and regional companies get direct engagement with East African markets.</i></p>	<p>Pillar 6 – Storytelling, Visibility & Media Amplification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 days of cross-border engagement documented in real time. • Mini-series: “<i>Stories from the Road</i>”. • A full documentary film. • National and international press conferences. <p><i>Joint branding for EAC, GACS Africa, and GACS Europe.</i></p>

5. Key Engagement Components:

<p>Leadership Orientation & Capacity Building</p> <p>A 5-day leadership camp for GACS and EAC ambassadors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media training, crisis communication, and public engagement techniques. • Gender inclusion and community mobilization skills. 	<p>GACS Night Shows & Community Festivals</p> <p>Each evening becomes a cultural and educational festival featuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local music and art performances, • mobile lab presentations, • sustainability demos, • screenings of promotional videos, • community Q&A, • youth and women spotlights.
<p>Impact Zones (“GACS Impact Stops”)</p> <p>These structured community hubs include:</p>	<p>European Innovation & R&D Integration:</p> <p>GACS Europe coordinates:</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health booths, • water solution demos, • electric cargo bike showcases, • youth innovation corners, • partner product activations, • live community surveys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European partner onboarding, • expert missions, • R&D collaborations, • pilots for affordable solutions, <p>multi-country exhibition of sustainable technologies</p>
<p>Documentation and Legacy Creation</p> <p>professional photography,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • daily updates, • impact assessments, • partner reports, <p>a final regional showcase event</p>	

6. Geographic Scope, Timeline & Participation

Rider Categories for the 2026 Tour: The 2026 GACS Tour will feature two distinct cycling groups to enhance both inclusivity and sustainability of the event.

The first is a dedicated team of cyclists who will complete the entire 55-day journey from start to finish. These elite riders will be recognized as **“The GACS Heroes”**, symbolizing endurance, resilience, and commitment to the mission of regional integration and community empowerment.

The second category comprises **the “GACS Lux Riders”**, a flexible group of participants who may choose specific sections of the tour to ride. These riders will enjoy premium experiences such as lodge accommodation, hot showers, and additional comfort at a participation fee. This model opens the tour to a wider audience, generates revenue to support program activities, and promotes eco-tourism by engaging regional and international adventure travelers.

Countries Covered (Cycling Route): Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya.

Participants from Non-Cycling Countries: South Sudan and Somalia send delegations, cyclists & technical staff.

Duration: 10 months, including a 55-day cycling expedition.



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Target Audiences: Government ministries, Local governments and district leadership, European and African companies, Development partners & donors, Youth, women groups & schools, Media houses, Universities and innovation hubs, Border post authorities

7. Why this model is unmatched:

- High-visibility mobile platform reaching thousands daily.
- Cross-border symbolism—unity in motion.
- 24-hour engagement cycle (day rides + night shows).
- Showcase for European technologies in real communities.
- High trust and emotional connection created through face-to-face interactions.
- Cost-efficient awareness compared to static advertising.

This initiative becomes a moving, human-centered regional observatory, blending:

- health preparedness,
- water innovation,
- sustainable mobility,
- entrepreneurship,
- and cultural diplomacy.

8. Budget Summary (Indicative)

9. Expected Outcomes:

<p>Health & Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher public trust in EAC health systems. • Increased understanding of disease prevention. • Empowered community health volunteers through EVHTs. 	<p>Water & Environmental Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration and piloting of affordable water solutions. <p>Strengthened local–European technology partnerships</p>
<p>Youth & Women Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thousands engaged in leadership, innovation, and dialogue. <p>Increased visibility of women cyclists and entrepreneurs</p>	<p>Integration & Diplomacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened East African identity. • Cross-border cooperation in real-time.



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<p>Economic & Private Sector Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New investment partnerships. • Technology transfers. • Market linkages across the region. 	
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Europe–Africa Exchange Framework

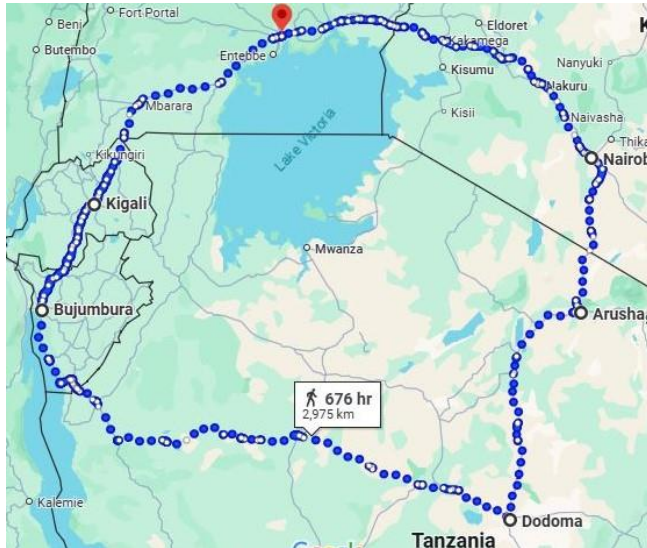
<p>European Partners Will Contribute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology and innovation • Research and development collaboration • Private-sector partnerships • Exhibitions and demonstrations • Training and capacity building 	<p>African Partners Will Contribute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and community mobilization • Policy coordination through EAC • Local adaptation and implementation • Regional visibility and diplomacy • Market insights and long-term adoption <p><i>This model ensures mutual benefit, not one-sided development aid.</i></p>
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Proposed Implementation Plan:

PHASE	PERIOD	KEY ACTIVITIES
Phase 1. Preparatory & Coordination Phase	Nov - Jan	Official endorsements, partnerships secured, detailed route design, workplans
Phase 2: preparation and partnership activation	Jan – Feb 2025	Formalize partnership, leadership training, develop communication materials, pre-tour briefings, tour planning meetings etc.
Phase 3: Community Mobilization & Awareness	Feb – Apr 2025	Media campaign, route mapping, stakeholder meetings, school outreach planning
Phase 4:	April – July	Assemble equipment, recruitment, confirmation of everything
Phase 5: GACS Tour Implementation (55 Days)	Aug 1 – Sept 27, 2025	Actual cycling, (beginning of trail) Daily community engagements, night shows, impact stops, storytelling, and live updates
Phase 6: Post-Tour Documentation & Reporting	Oct – Nov 2025	Evaluation, documentary production, final report submission, and visibility dissemination



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Theme: Strengthening Health Security, Water Access, Sustainable Mobility & Europe–Africa Cooperation

6 Countries, 55 Days

- Start and finish in Uganda
- 49 Riding Stages, ~5972 km
- Ensure route passes locations that support/reinforce the theme areas
 1. Start Aug 1
 2. Finish Sept 26
- Non-cycling Events & activities held in 50% of overnight locations
- Goal of 40 Riders to complete the full tour with 40% female.

10. Call to Action

We respectfully invite:

the EAC Secretariat, Partner State governments, European institutions, development partners, research organizations, companies, donors and sponsors

to join us in implementing this unprecedented Africa–Europe collaborative initiative.

Together,

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