

GREAT AFRICA CYCLING SAFARI (GACS) 2026

A Cross-Border Bicycling Initiative for Health, Water, Food & Climate Resilience in East Africa:

Slogan: *One Team, One Dream*

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

Duration: 1 August – 27 September 2026

Format: Fully Loaded Cross-Border Bikepacking Expedition

Region: East Africa

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Great Africa Cycling Safari (GACS) 2026 is a landmark cross-border endurance expedition traversing five East African nations in a 5-week journey designed

- a) **Health Security**
- b) **Water Access**
- c) **Sustainable Mobility**
- d) **Food Security**
- e) **Youth & Women Empowerment**
- f) **Regional Integration**

Covering approximately 6000 kilometers and climbing over 28,000 – 36,000 meters in elevation, GACS 2026 represents one of the most ambitious cycling expeditions in the region. Riders will operate in a fully loaded bikepacking format, symbolizing resilience, environmental responsibility, and African-led endurance.

The expedition is not merely a physical challenge, it is a moving platform for dialogue, advocacy, and transformation across borders.

ROUTE OVERVIEW

The 2026 route connects Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, and Rwanda, linking capital cities, rural communities, highland corridors, and food-producing regions across East Africa.

LEG ONE: KAMPALA → NAIROBI

Terrain: Highlands and Rift Valley climbs

This opening leg transitions from the Lake Victoria basin into the Kenyan highlands. Riders navigate rolling terrain, escarpments, and endurance climbs across Uganda and Kenya.

Strategic engagement points include:

Kampala, Jinja, Mbale, Sipi Falls, Kapchorwa, Suam, Eldoret, Timboroa, Nakuru, Naivasha

Activities include youth climate forums, school/community engagements, and local government dialogues, Clean Water Dialogue · Food Systems Education

LEG TWO: Nairobi → Arusha

Terrain: Semi-arid plains and savannah corridor

This heat-intensive section highlights cross-border mobility within the East African Community framework. It transitions from Kenya's southern corridor into northern Tanzania.

Strategic engagement points include:

Nairobi, Machakos, Emali, Loitokitok, Amboseli National Park, Longido

Activities include, Climate-Smart Agriculture · Sustainable Transport Corridors

The border crossing symbolizes East African cooperation in mobility and economic resilience.

LEG THREE: Arusha → Dodoma

Terrain: Central plateau endurance corridor

Riders cross Tanzania's central plateau with sustained rolling terrain and long-distance endurance stages.

Strategic engagement points include: *Arusha, Mjingu, Babati, Kondo,*

Across Tanzania's central plateau, GACS 2026 will engage:

- *Youth leaders*
- *Policy stakeholders*
- *Agricultural communities*

Engagements include regional youth leadership platforms Institutional Engagement - Public Health & Rural Water Systems, and institutional dialogues.

LEG FOUR: Dodoma → Bujumbura

Terrain: Remote corridors, escarpments, Lake Tanganyika basin

This demanding segment demonstrates resilience and cross-border diplomacy. Riders traverse rural corridors and approach the Lake Tanganyika basin before entering Burundi.

Strategic engagement points include: *Dodoma, Kwamtoro, Singida, Iguguno, Nzega, Tabora, Kalua, Kazuramimba, Kigoma, Nyanza lac.*

The leg emphasizes outreach to underserved communities and regional peacebuilding narratives.

LEG FIVE: Bujumbura → Kigali

Terrain: Mountainous Great Lakes highlands

This high-intensity climbing section passes through one of Africa's most mountainous regions. It culminates in Rwanda, widely known for its dramatic highland landscapes and regional leadership in sustainability.

Strategic engagement points include: *Bujumbura, Ngozi, Kabanga, Rusomo,*

High-visibility engagements and media activations are expected during this stage.

LEG SIX: Kigali → Kampala

Terrain: Highlands, forest corridors, western Uganda

The final leg is technically demanding, featuring sustained climbs through the Great Lakes highlands before descending into central Uganda for the Grand Finale in Kampala.

Strategic engagement points include:

Kigali, Kabale, Ruhija, Katunguru, Ibanda, Fortportal, Mubende, Mityana

This closing segment reinforces unity, endurance, and regional solidarity.

STRATEGIC VALUE FOR SPONSORS & PARTNERS:

1. Health Security Alignment

GACS 2026 supports:

- Community health awareness campaigns
- Active mobility for disease prevention
- Strengthening rural health dialogue platforms

Partners in pharmaceuticals, medical insurance, hospitals, and public health programs gain authentic grassroots visibility.

2. Water Access Advocacy

The expedition crosses major water basins and vulnerable dry zones, reinforcing:

- Water conservation awareness
- Community water access advocacy
- Basin protection dialogue

Water sector stakeholders gain multi-country exposure aligned with SDG 6.

3. Sustainable Mobility Leadership

GACS promotes:

- Low-carbon transportation
- Regional connectivity
- Climate-conscious mobility systems

Transport, energy, and green technology partners align with a visible climate-action initiative.

4. Food Security & Agricultural Resilience

The route passes through major agricultural corridors in East Africa. Engagements will highlight:

- Nutrition awareness
- Climate-smart agriculture
- Cross-border food systems
- Youth agribusiness innovation

Agribusiness, food brands, and development partners gain direct access to farming communities and regional food dialogue platforms.

1. Regional Brand Visibility

- Presence across five nations
- Engagement in multiple capital cities
- High-traffic highways and rural community corridors
- Cross-border institutional recognition

2. High-Impact Storytelling

GACS 2026 offers a powerful narrative platform:

- Human endurance and resilience
- Climate-conscious mobility
- Youth empowerment across borders
- African-led sustainability leadership
- Peace and regional cooperation

This multi-country journey provides authentic, long-form storytelling potential for brand partners.

3. Direct Community Engagement

The expedition includes structured engagement with:

- Schools and universities
- Youth groups and community leaders
- Local government institutions
- Climate and peace dialogue platforms

Sponsors align directly with real grassroots impact rather than passive brand exposure.

4. Media & Digital Reach

- Daily digital updates and social storytelling
- Documentary content production
- Press conferences in major cities
- Cross-border media coverage
- Institutional and diplomatic visibility

GACS 2026 creates sustained visibility over eight weeks, rather than a single-day event spike.

WHY GACS 2026 MATTERS

The Great Africa Cycling Safari is more than a ride — it is a continental statement.

It demonstrates that African-led initiatives can:

- Champion sustainable mobility
- Inspire youth transformation
- Promote environmental responsibility
- Strengthen regional integration
- Advance peaceful cross-border collaboration

By partnering with GACS 2026, sponsors do not merely support an event, they align with a movement that reflects resilience, unity, and forward-looking African leadership.