



# THE COMMUNITY

ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EAC

Issue 35 | December 2022

## IN FOCUS

The Democratic Republic of Congo: 7th member of the EAC bloc

## INTEGRATION AGENDA

"We are ready to join the Community" - Somalia President says

## ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change: East Africa's glaciers to disappear by 2040s

## COMMENTARY

Protection of Expressions of Folklore: An Appraisal of EAC Law

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# Region remains committed to forging new horizons



*EAC Secretary General, Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki*

The year 2022 leaves an indelible mark in the regional integration's history.

It is the year that demonstrated the agility of the Community to expand beyond its socio-cultural boundaries to new people and trade-centered partnerships and collaboration, thus increasing trade and investment opportunities for the citizens.

It is the year that the Community attained coast to coast coverage.

The admission of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as the region's seventh Partner State has seen the EAC span from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean.

The new addition expanded the region's population to close to 300 million people and increased the bloc's GDP to over US\$ 300 billion.

The task ahead now lies in integrating DRC into the Community, for all to enjoy the benefits of its inclusion into the Community. Free movement of persons and goods is eagerly awaited. Now with a larger market, we also anticipate that Intra-EAC trade will increase as EAC's trade infrastructure, intermodal connectivity, One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) and trade systems are enhanced; thus reducing trade time and costs of doing business.

Just like other Partner States who have integrated into the Community, the Secretariat reiterates its commitment to support DRC assert its rightful place in the Community.

In September, I lead a delegation comprising of the Heads of EAC Organs and Institutions to Kinshasa, to enhance awareness among DRC government officials on the existing EAC instruments.

The EAC's maiden mission provided a platform for all EAC's organs and institutions to engage with the DRC government officials on the EAC integration instruments such as protocols, laws, policies and strategies.

We also came along with eminent regional business leaders and private sector groups who utilized the opportunity to create trade synergies, explore and build business partnerships and linkages for business associations.

With great opportunities, comes great challenges. With the addition of DRC, the EAC gained the onus of working on a new mission; that of restoring peace and stability in Eastern DRC. A mission that has united us to a new fete.

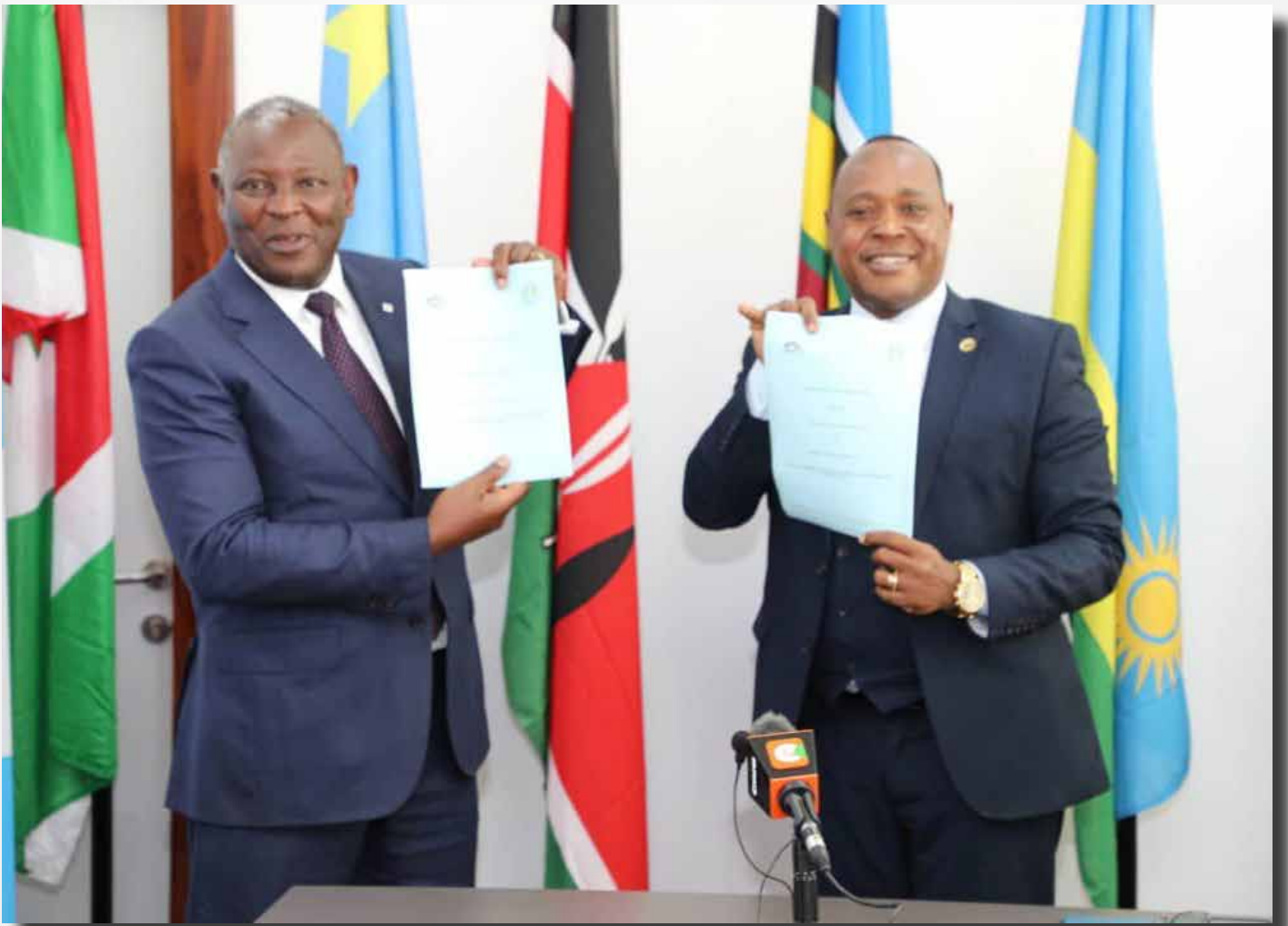
EAC Heads of States have trailed the blaze by demonstrating great political goodwill and commitment to ensuring the protracted security situation comes to an end and peace reigns in Eastern DRC.

Under the stewardship of H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, the Facilitator of the EAC-Led Nairobi Process, the quest for peace in the Eastern DRC has gained momentum as one of the region's top priorities. His clarion call to warring factions to lay down their arms and embrace peace, continues to gain momentum. With the political track being energised towards a comprehensive solution to the security situation, a positive outcome is inevitably near.

The Community stands united to forge new horizons. God bless the East African Community! 🇸🇰

*Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki*

*Secretary General  
East African Community*



## **EAC and Equity Group sign Partnership Agreement to deepen regional economic integration**

BY THE COMMUNITY TEAM

The East African Community (EAC) and Equity Group have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deepen the economic and social integration of the East African region and to accelerate the implementation of Equity Group's *'Africa Recovery and Resilience Plan'*.

The partnership seeks to support the East African Community focus area of creating a Common Market as per the EAC's 6th Development Strategy and EAC Vision 2050 strategy and the *'Africa Recovery and Resilience Plan'*, which focuses on the economic recovery and resilience in Africa, in a post-COVID 19 environment.

The initiative is a framework for socio-economic transformation for the people of the African continent based on 6 integrated pillars aimed at catalyzing a natural resources-led transformation of Africa, enhancing agriculture output, formalizing extractive value chains, and connecting these primary sectors to global supply chains that are broken and require diversification and secured sourcing.

The two institutions have partnered to work on the private sector economic recovery and resilience stimulus plan which Equity Group has seeded with a USD 6 Billion fund focusing on the primary sectors of food and agriculture, extractives, manufacturing and logistics, trade and investments, social impact, health, and environmental investments, and creating a technology enabled economy for Africa.

The partnership will among others, support the creation of 50 million jobs by 2025, with 5 million SMEs being able to receive loans to upscale and grow, utilizing tools of the East African Community Agreement and creating additional private sector lending with an envisaged loan book to be directed to agriculture (30%), manufacturing (15%), and Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) (65%).

During the signing of the MOU, Hon (Dr.) Peter Mathuki, Secretary General of the East African Community noted that the EAC is committed to increasing public-private partnership to scale-up intra-EAC trade as well as cross-border investment. "The EAC is people-centered, market-driven, and private sector led. This partnership is timely and will help to accelerate the

resolution of the bottlenecks and to promote cross-border trade which was \$583 Million in 2021. With such private-sector partnership, we are optimistic that we will fast-track this growth," he said.

Dr. James Mwangi, Equity Group Managing Director and CEO said, "The partnership between Equity Group Holdings and the East African Community brings together the EAC's convening power and Equity's commitment to champion the social economic prosperity of the people of Africa. Success only occurs when opportunity meets preparedness. This partnership is to serve our people to seize the opportunity at hand," said Dr. Mwangi.

He added that, "Equity has put at the disposal of the business community USD 6 Billion to support productivity enhancement, mechanization and industrialization of key economic sectors including agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and trade."

The East African bloc is the most integrated and interconnected in Africa and has a 300 million people market that holds great promise for cross border trade. Dr. Mwangi noted, "The region can aim for a 70% cross border trade level, which is a world class standard held by global blocs such as the EU". He said the partnership will also support formalization of MSMEs to enable them to play a bigger role in building the economy back better.

Equity Group Holdings Plc. is a Pan-African financial services holding company listed at the Nairobi Securities Exchange, Uganda Securities Exchange, and Rwanda Stock Exchange with banking subsidiaries in Kenya, DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan, and a Commercial Representative office in Ethiopia.

It has other subsidiaries in investment banking, insurance, telecom, fintech and social impact investments. Equity Group is the largest financial services institution in the region with assets of Kshs 1.35 trillion (USD 13.5 billion). It is also the biggest bank in deposits, market capitalization of USD 2 Billion and with a customer base of over 16.4 million customers. 



# Increased trade and integration are the pathways to socio-economic transformation in Africa

BY THE COMMUNITY TEAM

Increased intra-regional and inter-continental trade and integration are the pathways to socio-economic transformation and economic prosperity in East Africa and the African continent, Uganda President Yoweri Museveni has said.

President Museveni has singled out universal education and a business mindset as the factors that will stimulate rapid economic transformation within the East African Community (EAC) and the rest of the African continent.

President Museveni said that universal education from public primary and secondary schools through to state technical and vocational training institutions was the key to equipping the youth with the appropriate skill-sets for job creation and enterprise.

On business, President Museveni urged East Africans to develop a culture of producing goods and services for sale with the consciousness of maximizing profits and minimizing costs, adding that this would transform the region from a net importer to a key export of goods and services.

The Head of State said that the region must undergo socio-economic transformation through universal education and full monetization of the economy if it was to make full use of its vast human and natural resources. President Museveni said that the low levels of the Gross Domestic Product in Africa was evidence of the low level of existing resources and urged African intellectuals to come up with local solutions for local problems as opposed to seeking well paying jobs and consultancies.

"Our economics professors should diagnose our problems and recommend solutions. The national market in our countries is not enough and we need to decide whether or not we want to be like Latin America which has lots of resources but is disorganized economically and politically," said the Head of State.

"Integration is meant to give our business people access to bigger markets within the region and beyond. We are integrating in order to bring prosperity through increased production of goods and services" he added.



President Museveni was speaking in Kampala when he officially presided over closing ceremony of the 2nd Annual East African Court of Justice (EACJ) Judicial Conference that was held from 26th – 28th October, 2022 in the Ugandan capital.

The President said that the security challenges facing the EAC could be easily solved if the Partner States and the African Union developed and integrated approach to tackling insecurity, adding that lack of coordination and synchronized thinking was hurting Africa.

Saying that the law and jurisprudence will prosper once African society is transformed, President Museveni said that regional integration could backfire if it is mishandled. He challenged judicial officers in national and regional judiciaries to distinguish what issues should be handled at the regional level and which ones should be left for the national and lower levels in the Partner States.

The President said that he personally believes that issues of land should not be handled at the regional level but at the national and even lower levels such as districts and counties.

On his part, the Chief Justice of Uganda, Justice Alfonse Chigamoyi Owiny-Dollo, urged leaders in the region to ensure that there are robust and efficient judiciaries at the national and regional level to sustain the rule of law in East Africa.

Justice Owiny-Dollo called for the strengthening of the EACJ so that it can effectively exercise its mandate of interpreting the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC and ensure that justice prevails in the region.


Speaking at the ceremony, Uganda's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, hailed the decision by the Summit of EAC Heads of State to expand the mandate of the EAJC to arbitrate on issues surrounding the EAC Customs Union and Common Market protocols, which she described as the core of the integration process in the region.

Hon. Kadaga urged Partner States to address the issue of protectionism of certain professions at national level to ensure the free movement of services as enshrined in the Common Market Protocol.

The Judge President of the East African Court of Justice, Justice Nestor Kayobera, urged the EAC Council of Ministers and the East African Legislative Assembly to expedite the passage of a Bill to grant administrative and financial autonomy to the regional court as had been directed the Summit of EAC Heads of State.

Justice Kayobera further called for enhancement of the budget of the Court to enable it deliver justice efficiently to EAC Citizens.

In his remarks, EAC Secretary General Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki, said that the rotational annual EACJ Judicial Conferences was in line with previous directives of the Summit to take the Community to the people at the grassroots who are the actual owners of the integration process.

Dr. Mathuki further said that the Secretariat will work closely with the Council of Ministers and the East African Legislative Assembly to expedite the passage of a Bill that would grant administrative and financial autonomy to the EACJ, adding that this would guarantee the independence of the regional court as it executes its mandate of interpreting the Treaty. 



# A Sustainable Funding Mechanism critical for the realisation of the EAC integration agenda

BY CHARLES KADONYA

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) First Meeting of the Fifth Session of the Fourth Assembly concluded on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2022, at the Parliament of Rwanda Chamber of Deputies in Kigali, Rwanda. The meeting had a robust yet achievable agenda which kept the Members engaged for two weeks.

During its tour of duty in Kigali, the Assembly was graced by the presence of His Excellency, President Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda at a Special Sitting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2022.

The President articulated the need for the EAC Partner States to work together to adopt a sustainable financing mechanism while decrying the current state of underfunding affecting the Community causing a delay in the implementation of projects and programs.

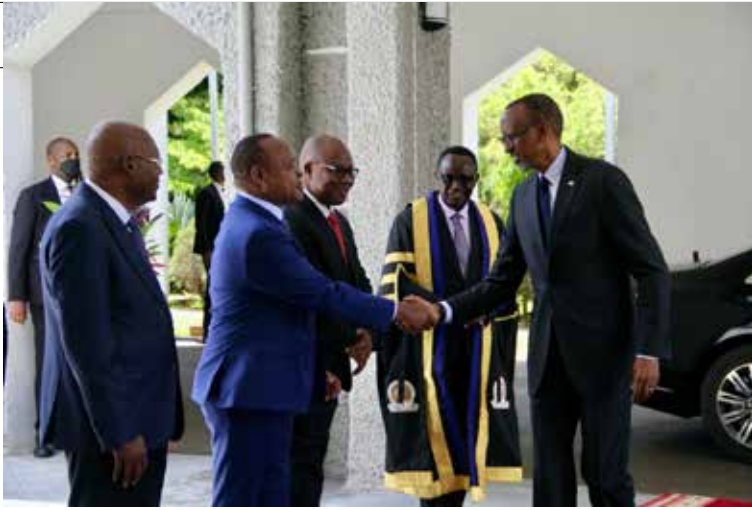
The sentiments on the alternative funding were echoed by Members of EALA during a debate on the Report of the Committee on Accounts on the EAC Audited Financial Statement for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

They urged the EAC Council of Ministers to actualize this alternative funding mechanism and to take full control of the development programmes that will steer the Community to full realization of its integration agenda.

While encouraging the Community to fast track the implementation of goals set out to attain the four pillars of integration, His Excellency the President singled out the establishment of the East African Monetary Institute which is years behind schedule.

In response to this call, the EALA moved swiftly to pass ***EAC Surveillance, Compliance and Enforcement Commission Bill, 2022.***

The Bill establishes the EAC Surveillance, Compliance and Enforcement Commission pursuant to Article 21(b) of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Monetary Union. The Bill also provides for the functions, powers and governance structures for the EAC Surveillance, Compliance and Enforcement Commission.



It is worth noting that this Commission will among other things, promote the attainment of the macroeconomic convergence criteria for all Partner States during the transition to the Monetary Union. The attainment of a single currency for the Community is not a mirage but a reality that the Assembly will ensure is realized.

In compliance to its statutory role of ensuring accountability in expenditure of the Community's resources, the EALA has continuously scrutinised the Audited Financial Reports of the Community.

During this plenary the Assembly scrutinized, debated and adopted the Report of the Accounts Committee on "The Audited EAC Financial Statements for the Financial Year ended 30th June, 2020," Report of the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges on "Assessment of the Status of Ratifications and Implementation of EAC Protocols". This report gave an overview on the status of the EAC Protocols and laws that have so far been ratified by Partner States and gave recommendations on the same.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Summit, of the EAC Heads of State held on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2017, declared EAC a Common Higher Education Area in order to harmonise and enhance the quality of education in the region. It is on this account that the Committee on General Purpose undertook an oversight Activity to assess the Progress made by the Inter-University Council of East Africa in the Harmonization of Education Systems in EAC.

This harmonization is aimed at enhancing the free movement of human resource in the EAC Partner States by recognizing academic qualifications of all professionals educated within the region.

The Assembly also adopted a Motion to support the ongoing East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project (EACOP). Through this Motion, the august House sought to express its support for the implementation of the EACOP project which is intended to benefit the Partner States. It also encourages any aggrieved persons or communities by the EACOP project to always channel their complaints to their legitimate representatives in the National Assemblies or petition the EALA.

The Assembly concluded its sittings by adopting the Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolutions on "Assessing the Measures instituted by the Partner States for the Safety and Security of Movement of People and Goods on Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika."

In the report, the Committee observed that among other issues, there were existing gaps such as absence of updated navigation charts, rescue services on a 24-hour basis and a comprehensive maritime security strategy that needs to be addressed to enhance effective communication and minimize accidents on Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika.

Members of EALA also had the privilege of witnessing the *Umuganda* Initiative that is carried out by the local communities in an effort to clean the City of Kigali.

The Fourth Assembly will have its final plenary sitting at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, after which it will pass over the baton to the Fifth Assembly which will have its first sitting on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2022. 🇷🇺



# EAC DAY - 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER MARKED WITH POMP AND COLOUR IN ARUSHA

BY SIMON PETER OWAKA

The East African Community (EAC) marked the day it was founded, 30<sup>th</sup> November, with a series of corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities in Arusha city and an exhibition and open day at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The theme of this year's EAC Day Commemoration was '*Towards an Integrated East Africa: Mitigating the Effects of Climate Change and Promoting Maternal Health.*'

Staff of EAC Organs and Institutions started the day with a cleaning exercise at the Kilombero Bus Park in Arusha, the second largest bus park in the city that hosts several international organisations and is the hub of the tourism industry in north-western Tanzania.

EAC Secretary General Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki later led the EAC staff in donating maternity delivery kits to the Levulosi Health Centre, a public health facility that neighbours the bustling Kilombero Municipal Market and has a maternity wing.

Each of the maternity delivery kits, which consists of, among other things, cotton wool, mackintosh sheet, surgical gloves, syringes and baby cloth is meant to enhance safe delivery and maternal health.

Speaking before he officially opened the EAC Day Exhibition and Open Day at the EAC Headquarters, the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and Burundi's Minister for EAC Affairs, Youth, Sport and Culture, Hon. Ezechiel Nibigira, hailed tree planting efforts in the region saying that an increased forest cover would mitigate the effects of climate change, a phenomenon on which the very existence of the human race is premised.

"There is a biting drought in the region due to failed rains over the past three years. The drought has brought untold suffering on our people with pastoralist communities losing millions of heads of livestock due to lack of water and pasture," said Hon. Nibigira.

"Tree planting is an exercise that should not be left to government and NGOs along, rather it should be an initiative of each and everyone of us, our children included," added the Minister.

The Minister later presented 500 trees seedlings donated by GiZ, the German International Cooperation Agency, to the Pastoral Women Council of Tanzania, an NGO that plants trees in Monduli, Longido and Ngorongoro districts in Northern Tanzania.

Speaking at the event, EAC Secretary General Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki, said that the main aspiration of the Community was creating markets for its business people and producing a surplus for export.

Dr. Mathuki urged Partner States and other stakeholders to mount activities each year to commemorate EAC Day, adding that this would enhance a sense of integration among EAC Citizens.


The Secretary General said that infrastructure development and strengthening of financial markets was meant to promote intra-regional trade and investment, adding that intra-regional trade has increased significantly especially over the past one and half years.

"Tanzania has surpassed Kenya in terms of exports and has also increased its exports to Uganda. Tanzania exported goods worth US\$510 million to Kenya and imported US\$450 million from Kenya," said Dr. Mathuki, noting that opening up of Partner States borders had witnessed increased trade volumes.

In his remarks, Arumeru District Commissioner, Hon. Eng. Richard Ruyango, disclosed that Arusha city has plans to plant 1.5 million trees this year, adding that the city had already planted 225,000 new trees.

Eng. Ruyango, who represented Arusha Regional Commissioner, Mr. John Mongella, thanked the EAC for the CSR programmes mounted in the city mitigate climate change and improve maternal health as it commemorated EAC Day.

On his part, Dr. Burkhard Kömm, the Project Manager of the Support to Pandemic Preparedness III, GIZ Project, said that the integration process among nations is not a sprint but a long distance race, alluding to the challenges that integration initiatives face the world over.

Dr. Kömm recalled Europe had arrived that coming together and forming one union reduces the risk of war and promotes peace and stability, adding that integration promotes trade and prosperity. 



## THE BIG PICTURE

*H.E. William Ruto displays the special sword representing his instruments of power and authority as the President of the Republic of Kenya that he received from his predecessor Uhuru Kenyatta (L) during the official swearing-in ceremony at the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani in Nairobi on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.*







The background consists of horizontal wooden planks. A diagonal stripe of yellow and red paint runs from the top right towards the bottom left, crossing the planks. The text is centered at the bottom of the image.

THE DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF CONGO



# **DRC Becomes 7<sup>th</sup> Member of the East Africa Trading Bloc: What's in it for Everyone**



BY JONATHAN ANG'ANI OMUCHESI

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) became the seventh member of the East African Community (EAC) on 11 July 2022 after depositing the instruments of ratification on the accession of the EAC Treaty. Thanks to the DRC's membership, the East African Community now extends from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. The expansion of the EAC will have repercussions for both the bloc and the DRC.

### **What's the state of East African Community integration?**

East African Community is one of the most vibrant and best performing blocs in Africa. This is according to the African Regional Integration Index which ranks blocs on five aspects of integration - trade, productive, macroeconomic, infrastructural and movement of people.

With the joining of DRC, the EAC now has seven members: Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

East Africa's integration is envisioned under four pillars. These are the customs union, the common market, the monetary union, and the political federation. So far, the bloc has been implementing protocols on a customs union and a common market. These have helped improve trade and investments in the region since 2006 and boosted country relations.

Under the customs union protocol taxes on goods produced within the region have been eliminated. East Africa is also applying a common external tariff on imports from outside the region.

In the long run, an operational customs union should open up the regional economy so that small economies are able to gain access to industries that would otherwise be out of their reach.

For its part, the purpose of a common market is to ease cross-border movement of goods, persons and workers. It's implementation has seen the east African governments harmonise immigration procedures and order border posts to operate for 24 hours. Some of the governments in the region, notably Rwanda and Kenya, have also waived the work permit fee for citizens from the region.

The bloc is now preparing the ground for its third pillar, the monetary union. This began with the adoption and signing of the East African Monetary Union Protocol on 30 November 2013. The protocol set a timeline of 10 years within which the partner states need to have a common currency. That's in 2023, a deadline that's unlikely to be met. There has been mixed progress in the implementation of agreed action on this front.

### **How do countries get admitted?**

The criteria for admission into the bloc is provided under Article 3 of the East African Community Treaty signed in 1999. The regional law provides the following grounds for admission of a new member:

- acceptance of the Community as set out in the East African Community Treaty;
- adherence to universally acceptable principles of good governance, democracy, the rule of law, observance of human rights and social justice;
- potential contribution to the strengthening of integration within the East African region;
- geographical proximity to and interdependence between it and the partner states;
- establishment and maintenance of a market driven economy; and
- social and economic policies being compatible with those of the Community.

So far, the body has had four admissions: Rwanda and Burundi in 2007, South Sudan in 2016, and DRC in 2022. The DRC shares borders with Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan.

### **What does the East African Community gain?**

The DRC's admission gives the bloc its first port on the Atlantic coast. In the past, the region relied on Indian Ocean-based seaports of Kenya and Tanzania for trade with the rest of the world. The challenge of intermittent piracy off the Somalia coast has exposed the need for an alternative trade route.

The DRC has also significantly expanded the regional trading bloc's size. The DRC's geographical area is far much larger than all the six East African states put together. The DRC has a geographical area of 2.4 million sq km while the bloc, with six members, was about 1.8 million sq km. The additional geographical area - known uniquely for its copper, coltan, cobalt, tin and other minerals - is set to boost East Africa's profile as an investment destination.

On a world stage, the East African Community gains a bigger clout with the DRC's huge population (consumer base) of about 90 million people and an economy of nearly US\$50 billion. It is estimated that with DRC onboard, the bloc now has a population of 284 million people and an economy of US\$305 billion.

### What's in it for the DRC?

The DRC was already doing substantial trade with the East African Community bloc which could now benefit from lower or eliminated tariffs. Goods produced in the DRC will no longer be subjected to customs taxes at any of the region's border points.

It already has established trade relations with Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda. For imports, parts of the DRC rely on the trade corridor that runs from Mombasa port via Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. These connections are set to firm up as national agencies of the East African governments ease tariffs and administrative barriers on the new bloc member.


### Does it matter that this is the third bloc the DRC is joining?

Generally, membership in more than one customs union is technically impossible. Firstly, one country cannot apply different common external tariffs. Secondly, integration agenda differs from one bloc to the next meaning overlapping membership may lead a country to conflicting obligations. According to the World Trade Organisation, the practice hurts global trade liberalisation, especially when affected traders have to meet multiple sets of rules.

But analysis of the treaties of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) shows they do not preclude members from maintaining prior trade arrangements or entering into new ones.

The DRC is already a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). But it won't be the only East African Community country with overlapping membership of regional blocs. Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi are members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa while Tanzania is a member of Southern African Development Community.

The East African Community, for instance, has not been able to establish a full customs union since it had to allow Tanzania to grant preferences to its southern Africa partners.

The three blocs are currently harmonising their agenda and laws with the aim of integrating their economies and markets. This fits into the broader objective of the African Union, of accelerating economic integration of the continent. 

*Jonathan Ang'ani Omuchesi is a Lecturer in Governance and Regional Integration, Catholic University of Eastern Africa.*





# THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

## FACT SHEET


The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is located in central sub-Saharan Africa, bordered to the northwest by the Republic of the Congo, to the north by the Central African Republic, to the northeast by South Sudan, to the east by Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, and by Tanzania (across Lake Tanganyika), to the south and southeast by Zambia, to the southwest by Angola, and to the west by the South Atlantic Ocean and the Cabinda Province exclave of Angola. The country lies between latitudes 6°N and 14°S, and longitudes 12°E and 32°E. It straddles the Equator, with one-third to the North and two-thirds to the South.



 **Joined EAC:**  
April 2022

 **Country code:**  
+243;

 **Population:**  
92.9 million

 **Internet domain:**  
'cd'.

 **GDP (nominal):**  
US\$ 50 Billion


### Geography

 **Public Holidays:**

 **Official language:**  
French

 **Area:**  
2,345,000 sq. km


New Year's Day, Martyrs' Day (4 January), Heroes' Day - Laurent Kabila (16 January), Heroes' Day - Patrice Lumumba (17 January), Labour Day (1 May), Liberation Day (17 May), Independence Day (30 June), Parents' Day (1 August), Christmas Day (25 December) and Boxing Day (26 December).

 **Timezone:**  
GMT + 1 to + 2  
(WAT and CAT)

 **Coastline:**  
40 km (Atlantic Ocean)

 **Capital city:**  
Kinshasa

 **Currency:**  
Congolese franc (CDF)

 **Population density  
(per sq. km):**  
37

Religious festivals whose dates vary from year to year include Good Friday, Easter Monday, Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan) and Eid al-Adha.



### Topography:

The country's major topographical features include a large river basin, a major valley, high plateaus, three mountain ranges, and a low coastal plain. Most of the country is composed of the central Congo basin, a vast rolling plain with an average elevation of about 1,700 feet (520 metres) above sea level. The lowest point of 1,109 feet (338 metres) occurs at Lake Mai-Ndombe (formerly Lake Leopold II), and the highest point of 2,296 feet (700 metres) is reached in the hills of Mobayi-Mbongo and Zongo in the north.



**Vegetation:**

The DRC has 80 million hectares of arable land. The vegetation is dense and diverse. The equatorial half of the country is covered with forests, while near the tropics, the other half is dominated by the savannah.

The country is divided into three agro-ecological zones including a vast alluvial basin in the center, whose altitude is between 300 and 500 m, that covers one third of the territory. Its vegetation consists of equatorial forests and marshes. It is fairly sparsely populated; tiered savannah plateaus border this basin to the north and south (700- 1200 m above the sea level), and are more densely populated; the northeast (1500 - 5000 m) (in the Kivu region) have a very high population density. This chain separates the Congo River basin from that of the Nile.



**Infrastructure:**

The DRC has a road network of 153,000 km of which 58,000 km are of General interest (national roads), 88,000 km are rural roads while 7000 km are urban roads. Out of this only 3,500 km, representing about 6% are tarmacked.

The DRC also has a total of 4,000 km of railways

The DRC has 13,450 km navigable waterways (1,734 km is between Kisangani and Kinshasa); 40 river and lake ports; 3 Maritime ports (Matadi, Banana and Boma);

There are 4 international airports (Goma, Kisangani, Kinshasa and Lubumbashi) and more than 500 airstrips. Because of the size of the country and scattered population, air services have become the most significant form of internal transport for official and business travel.



**Climate & Environment:**

The DRC is located along the equator. Thus, the country experiences a tropical equatorial climate with high precipitation and tropical thunderstorms. Its climate is equatorial, hot, humid in the center, and progressively more tropical towards the South and the North. The rainy season, which lasts on average eight months out of 12, alternates with a dry season. High humidity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and high temperatures provide pleasant weather at times.

Major environmental issues in DRC are deforestation, occasioned by clearing of lands for agriculture and economic development; poaching, which threatens wildlife populations; water pollution; and mining.



**Wildlife:**

The rainforests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo contain great biodiversity, including many rare and endemic species, such as the common chimpanzee and the bonobo, the African forest elephant, the mountain gorilla, the okapi and the white rhino.

Five of the country's national parks are listed as World Heritage Sites: the Garumba, Kahuzi-Biega, Salonga and Virunga National Parks, and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve.

The Congo is inhabited by several great ape species including the common chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*), the bonobo (*Pan paniscus*), the eastern gorilla (*Gorilla beringei*), and possibly the western gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*). It is the only country in the world in which bonobos are found in the wild.

BY AILEEN MALLYA



# Democratic Republic of Congo: Market Opportunities

BY TRADE.GOV & AILEEN MALLYA

The Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) rich endowment of natural resources, large population, and strategic location in Central Africa make it a potentially rewarding market for investment.

The DRC economy is largely reliant on commodity prices, particularly prices for copper, cobalt, tin, tungsten, and tantalum. Favorable commodity prices facilitated robust economic growth from 2001 to 2014. A drop in mineral prices caused an economic downturn in 2016-2017. Growth rebounded to 5.9% in 2018 but fell to 4.5% in 2019 and fell further to -2.2%, as the COVID-19 pandemic caused a worldwide slowdown in demand for Congolese raw materials.

However, the DRC showed resilience with Economic growth is estimated at 6.1% in 2022, keeping the strong momentum from 2021 (6.2%). Further, the global downturn did not devastate the commodities-dependent economy as deeply as many economists had predicted.

While the World Bank said the pandemic turned forecasted GDP growth of 3.5 percent negative for the first time since 2001, the Central Bank of Congo (BCC) more optimistically estimated that the economy grew 0.8 percent in 2020 because of the "dynamism of extractive activity."

Inflation, which averaged 1.4% from 2012 to 2015, soared to 54.7% in 2016 and fluctuated around 10% before increasing to 15% in 2020 due to COVID-19-induced limitations on imports. The Congolese Franc (CDF) depreciated sharply by 25% in 2020 due to the high price of imports, bringing the exchange rate to 2000 CDF to the US dollar.

The accession of Felix Tshisekedi as President in 2019 represented the first peaceful transition of power in the country's history.

The DRC is a member of the African Union, Southern African Development Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community, Economic Community of Central African

States, Organization for the Harmonization of African Business Law, and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries. The DRC is in the process of ratifying the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

Most investors find five primary advantages in exporting to the DRC. These include the fact the DRC is the fourth most populous country in Africa with a small but growing middle class.

The DRC is undertaking multimillion dollar programs to rehabilitate various sectors including agriculture, energy, construction, basic infrastructure, and transportation.

The DRC Government has created a working group to improve the business climate and is actively seeking to increase foreign trade and investment.

Exporting to the DRC can offer high profit margins as the market is not yet saturated with competition.

There are opportunities large and small in the DRC. The DRC's enormous mining wealth attracts top mining companies from around the world. The boom in demand for electric car batteries and electronics has multiplied the demand for cobalt and coltan.

Energy is another sector with tremendous potential for hydroelectricity and renewable solar and biomass energy.

Telecommunications is a largely privatized and still growing industry. Agriculture is an explored sector as the DRC has large tracts of underexploited land.

The need for roads and buildings means numerous contracting opportunities. The need for transport creates an enormous market for vehicles, boats, and engines. 🇷🇺

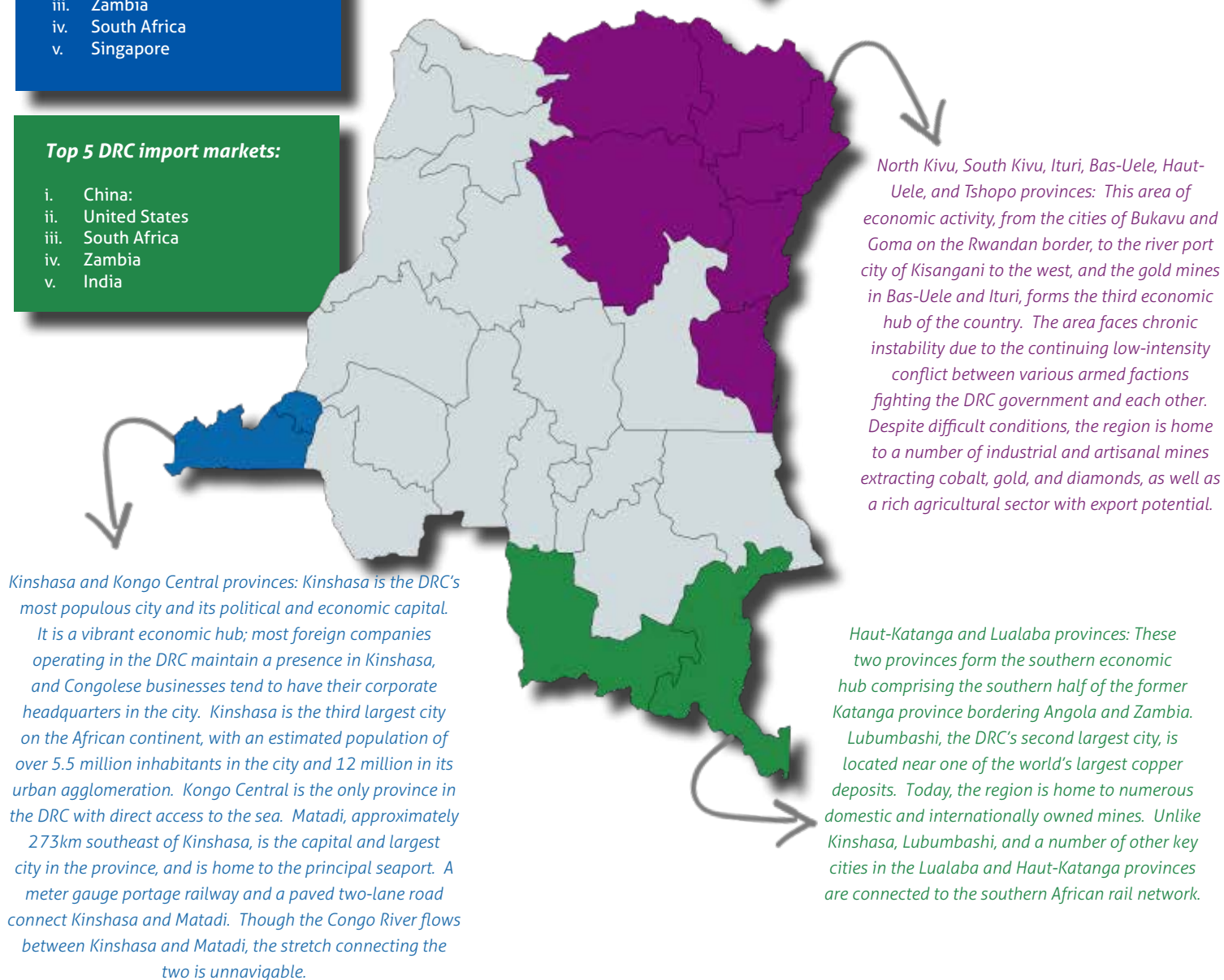
**Top 5 DRC export markets:**

- i. China
- ii. Tanzania
- iii. Zambia
- iv. South Africa
- v. Singapore

**Top 5 DRC import markets:**

- i. China:
- ii. United States
- iii. South Africa
- iv. Zambia
- v. India

The DRC has three main economic hubs centered on large population centers with significant commercial or industrial bases. These are:



# KINSHASA

## 10 EXPERIENCES IN KINSHASA

BY AILEEN MALLYA

### MUSÉE DE KINSHASA

Discover the history and significance of the art at Musée de Kinshasa & Académie des Beaux-Arts.

### LOLA YA BONOBO

Play with pygmy chimps at Lola ya Bonobo, a sanctuary for rescued animals.

### SYMPHONIE DES ARTS

Nestled within a lush tropical garden, Symphonie des Arts features works by over 300 Congolese artists.

### OKAPI WILDLIFE RESERVE

The reserve contains threatened species of primates and birds and about 5,000 of the estimated 30,000 okapi surviving in the wild.

### THE CONGO RIVER

The second most extensive river system in the world, and the deepest river in the world.





## CONGOLESE MUSIC

The Congolese style of Music ranges from Ndombolo, Congolese rumba and soukous.

## CONGOLESE FOOD

Congolese food is heavily influenced by French and their Belgium colonizers. Mayonnaise is a favorite of the locals in the urban centers.

## JARDIN BOTANIQUE DE KISANTU

Perfect getaway from Kinshasa for nature's lovers, the botanical garden is very well conserved and presents several varieties of plants and flowers

## LAC DE MA VALLEE

In a privileged universe of adventure activities, experience sensational entertainment in a setting filled with greenery.

## MARCHÉ CENTRAL

Visiting the market provides numerous opportunities to observe the local people doing business and going about with their daily lives.



# "The soul of the Congolese"

## **RUMBA AN INTANGIBLE HERITAGE**

BY VIRGINIA PIETROMARCHI

In December 2021, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) added Congolese rumba to its intangible heritage list, sparking enthusiasm among music and dance fans in both the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Republic of the Congo.

The recognition of the musical genre and dance—often referred to as the soundtrack of Congolese history, used for both celebration and mourning—came after a joint application to the United Nations' cultural agency by the neighbouring countries.

The rumba "allows the transmission of social and cultural values of the region, but also the promotion of social, intergenerational and united cohesion", read a statement published by UNESCO.

In a Twitter post, the office of the DRC's President Felix Tshisekedi expressed "joy and pride" at the inscription of Congolese rumba on the list.

"This cultural gem specific to the two Congos (Kinshasa & Brazzaville) is recognised for its universal value," it added.

Congolese rumba has now joined the same list as the Cuban rumba, Jamaica's reggae music and Zaouli – the popular music and dance of the Guro communities in Ivory Coast – among others.

Intangible heritages are traditions or living expressions inherited from ancestors and passed on to descendants. Their importance "is not the cultural manifestation itself, but rather the wealth of knowledge and skills that is transmitted through it from one generation to the next," according to UNESCO.

"The rumba for Congolese represents their whole life and the history of Congo, as all its biggest historical developments were accompanied by this music," said Paul Le Perc Ngoie, a percussionist and artist based in the DRC's capital, Kinshasa.

"There have been various changes, but there is always an inner element that remains and keeps in custody the soul of the Congolese," Ngoie said.

### **Common origins**

Rumba's origins can be traced in central Africa, but it was brought across the Atlantic Ocean during the slave trade from the 16th to the 19th century. It was there where slaves from the region, seeking to connect and keep their traditions alive, used to gather among themselves dancing to the NKumba, the word for navel.

"Thanks to this oral tradition, they were able to preserve their history," said Maika Munan, a celebrated Congolese composer and a rumba expert.

With the passage of time, the NKumba became a major influence on Cuban music, which was introduced in Africa in the late 1930s with the spread of radio and phonograph records – what would later be known as vinyl disc records. Congolese musicians recognised their own beat in the Cuban melodies and began mixing them with their local traditional music, leading to the creation of the modern Congolese rumba.

A new thriving scene had been formed by the early 1940s, with Paul Kamba in Brazzaville, in the Republic of the Congo, founding Victoria Brazza, a pioneer rumba group, while in Kinshasa, musicians such as Wendo Kolosoy and Henri Bowane were among the early heroes. But it was the following decades that represented "the consecration" of Congolese rumba, said Munan.



As the DRC moved towards independence from Belgian rule in 1960, the music of African Jazz, a popular Congolese rumba band founded by Joseph Kabasele, who was also known as Le Grand Kallé, became an expression of national self awareness.

The band's epitome came with Indépendance Cha Cha, which was first performed in 1960 in Brussels.

"It was the hymn of Africa," Munan said of the song, noting that it was a smash hit across the continent commemorating the "Year of Africa" when 17 nations gained independence.

The theme of love is central to rumba music, but it is often used as a metaphor to discuss political and social issues. Today, modern versions of rumba are sung and danced in bars across Congolese cities. And despite each generation making its own version of it, Munan explained, its rhythmic basic pattern – known as clave – remains the same.

"The fact that it is recognised by the world as an intangible cultural heritage, it's good news, as the recognition will enable this music to be maintained, but mostly transmitted to future generations," he added. 🇷🇵





*La Sape*, an abbreviation based on the phrase *Société des Ambianceurs et des Personnes Élégantes* (French; literally “Society of Ambiance-Makers and Elegant People”) and hinting to the French slang word *sape* which means “clothes” or *sapé*, which means “dressed up”, is a subculture centered on the cities of Kinshasa and Brazzaville in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of Congo respectively. An adherent of La Sape is known as a *sapeur* or, if female, as a *sapeuse*. The movement embodies the elegance in style and manners of colonial predecessor dandies.



# The incredible fashion of the ladies and gentlemen of Congo

BY TARIQ ZAIDI

*Tariq Zaidi, explores the self-expression through fashion, style and art in the streets of Kinshasa and Brazzaville*

*Tariq Zaidi's book Sapeurs: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Congo gives us a fascinating inside look into Sapeurs. If you haven't heard the term before, Sapeurs are those who are followers of a fashion culture in Brazzaville and Kinshasa, and are part of La Sape, 'Société des Ambianceurs et des Personnes Élégantes' (Society of Ambiance-Makers and Elegant People). Most are day labourers, taxi drivers or gardeners, but as Sapeurs they wear dapper designer suits and take great pride in their appearance.*

Traditionally most Sapeurs have been men, but recently women and children have also adopted the lifestyle. These flamboyant personalities are treated like rock stars in their communities for the joy and colour that they bring. For this project, photographs were purposely taken in the Sapeurs' own low-income communities, highlighting the juxtaposition between the Sapeurs' environment and their aspirations.

## How the Sapeur concept came to be

The movement has its roots in the 1920s, when Congolese men started to wear European attire as a means of social mobility and for greater respect under colonialism. Many men would forego other necessities to dress above their class, and proto-Sapeurs were created.

The movement as seen today only came about after independence in 1960, when both Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Brazzaville in the Republic of the Congo became centres for a new African Francophone elite. Many Congolese travelled to Paris and London and returned with designer clothes.

Congolese people are known for taking pride in their appearance - and La Sape takes the art of looking good to the next level. The Late Papa Wemba, the famously



dapper Congolese Rumba singer credited with popularising the Sapeur look, is noted to have said that inspiration for La Sape came from his parents who in the 1960s were, 'Always well put together, always looking very smart'

I saw my first Sapeur when I was travelling by land from Morocco to South Africa in 2013. I was fascinated by how he looked given his surroundings – I promised myself I would come back and find out more about him and other Sapeurs.

I went back again in 2017 to start my work on Sapeurs and have been working on them since. At first, I only knew about male Sapeurs in Brazzaville, but later learned about women 'Sapeuses', who are about 15 per cent of Sapeurs and children Sapeurs, who are very hard to find, as well, and also about the different Sapeur culture in Kinshasa, which is more experimental and unique.

What fascinated me about the Sapeurs was the contrast between how they look and their environment, and also the joy they bring to their communities.

By photographing them I wanted to help spread the joy - anytime I showed my photographs to family or friends, they were amazed and full of wonderment at the aesthetic. I hope that as more people look at my images and learn about the Sapeurs I can spread that further.

### What it means to be a Sapeur

Being a Sapeur is about clothes, but it's also about an attitude and a way of being in the world. It's telling the world that no matter what my environmental condition is, I am still human, and I still have dreams and aspirations. And I can still look amazing if I want to.

Sapeurs are treated as rock stars in their community because they defy their material circumstances, so a lot of the thrill for them is the 'celebrity' aspect of it. But mainly it's about asserting yourself boldly into the world.

Their ideas come from themselves. Of course they are aware of what the latest styles and trends are in Vogue, GQ and Esquire and global fashion in general, but as Papa Wemba (a Congolese singer and fashion icon who popularised Sape) once said, 'White people invented the clothes, but we make an art of it'.

### The motivations to dress this way

It is true that it is like a religion for many. I heard from some Sapeurs also that it's a lifestyle: some people like football, others like SAPE. There are Sapeur specific bars and clubs in each district, and there are groupings of Sapeurs in neighborhoods. There is also a friendly competitiveness to it, which pushes Sapeurs to come up with even more interesting and unique designs.

### Becoming a 'member'

Though the Sapeur culture is traditionally passed down through the male line, many Congolese women have recently begun donning designer suits and becoming sapeuses. By challenging Congolese patriarchal society in this way, they are returning to La Sape's origins by reversing the power dynamic. La Sape is a movement that is constantly evolving, as disenfranchised youths use fashion as a way of navigating their nations' journeys from developing countries into a more hopeful cosmopolitan future.

### Financing the \$2,000 suits

Generally, it is not considered good practice among the Sapeurs to have any fake labels. Most have day jobs and earn very little. They try to save a little here and there and it may take them years before they have enough to buy a suit. They would prefer to spend US\$100 to 200 on a shirt rather than save money to buy a house or a car or motorcycle. Their priority is to look amazing at any cost!

Perhaps due to a mixture of passion, addiction and special 'rock star' status that Sapeurs are given by their local community. Sapeurs also swap clothes, so if one has a Chanel tie and the other a Dior shirt they may swap or borrow clothes between each other for free. 🇪🇵

*Tariq Zaidi is a freelance photographer based out of London, UK. He has won many major international photography awards, and his work has been exhibited internationally, He has worked on projects and assignments in 19 countries across 4 continents.*



DRC

# It's time to change the paradox of sitting by the river and remaining thirsty

BY ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA



In December 2021, the DRC Africa Business Forum promised the development of a robust battery industry and a huge contribution to the electrification of transport systems, which will enable Africa to add more value to its endowments in minerals.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo supplies about 70% of the world's cobalt used in the production of batteries, an essential component to power electric vehicles, yet the country captures only 3% of the global battery and electrical value chain. The scenario which policymakers and experts say must change.

According to Ms Vera Songwe, the Executive Secretary of UN Economic Commission for Africa, the rhetoric of saying that the DRC can electrify the whole continent and that the country has 70% of the world's reserve of cobalt and that DRC can feed everyone in Africa must be translated into actions. "In 15 years, the world will produce about 50 million electric vehicles. The DRC and Africa as a whole have to play an important role in this global supply chain by taking advantage of their abundant natural resources," she said.

According to a study entitled: "The Cost of Producing Battery Precursors in the DRC", by BloombergNEF, Electric vehicles represent a US\$7 trillion market opportunity between today and 2030 and US\$46 trillion between today and 2050.

Mr Alain Foca, a journalist at Radio France International said that the transformation of minerals such cobalt, copper, lithium, manganese, nickel and graphite into a battery plant in Africa would "change the paradox of sitting by the river yet the people of the continent remain thirsty".

The demand for electric vehicles and investment in battery-powered storage systems will require skills development and the necessity of an education that would not only improve employability but also provide the youth with the tools needed to be successful in entrepreneurship endeavours. Experts stress that DRC would need to invest in skills development to grow a qualified workforce capable of implementing this industrialization project.

"For the first five years, the DRC might need to depend on international expertise", a statement was made during the panel "Skills for the development of batteries in the DRC", organized by the Rawbank as part of the DRC Africa Forum 2021.

Mr Jean-Marc Kilolo, ECA Economic Affairs Officer said that some companies are now looking at skills and know-how, not just the diplomas obtained. He stressed that training and internship opportunities for the students and graduates as well as placement opportunities with leading companies to acquire the necessary practice are crucial.

Mr Mustapha Rawji, Managing Director of Rawbank in DRC said that the bank will invest in this area in collaboration with higher training institutions.

According to ECA, Africa has about 55,000 women and men in engineering, yet the African Union's Agenda 2063 targets to achieve about 4.3 million people in the field. The biggest challenge in implementing Africa's Agenda 2063 remains the inadequacy of the critical technical skills, as Africa has to produce at least 300,000 engineers per year until 2063.

Prof Jean Marie Kanda, Dean of Polytechnic Faculty at the University of Lubumbashi affirms that the generation of the necessary skills will play a central role in making DRC successful in the production of lithium-ion battery cathode precursor materials.

The theme of the DRC Africa Business Forum was "fostering the development of a battery, electric vehicle and renewable energy industry value chain and market in Africa." At the opening, the DRC President Félix Tshisekedi referenced the author Frantz Fanon when he said, "Africa is shaped like a gun and Congo is the trigger." 🇷🇺



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## EAC-Led Nairobi Process on Resrotation of Peace in Eastern DRC



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1. (L-R): EAC Secretary General, Hon (Dr.) Peter Mathuki; Facilitator of the EAC-Led Nairobi Process, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta; Special Envoy to the DRC President, Prof. Serge Tshibangu; and DRC President, H.E Félix Antoine Tshisekedi in Kinshasa, DRC during a mission to deliberate on the restoration of peace in Eastern DRC.

2. (L-R): President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Dr. William Ruto; President of the Republic of Burundi & Chairperson of the Summit of EAC Heads of State, H.E Évariste Ndayishimiye; President of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E Paul Kagame; and Prime Minister of DRC, H.E Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde, during the high-level consultative meeting in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on the sidelines of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27).

3. Facilitator of the EAC-Led Nairobi Process, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta and President of the Republic of Burundi & Chairperson of the Summit of EAC Heads of State, H.E Évariste Ndayishimiye in a meeting on restoration of peace in Eastern DRC in Bujumbura, Burundi.

4. EAC Secretary General, Hon (Dr.) Peter Mathuki conferring with President of the Republic of Burundi & Chairperson of the Summit of EAC Heads of State, H.E Évariste Ndayishimiye during the high-level consultative meeting in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on the sidelines of COP27.

5. (L-R): President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Dr. William Ruto; President of the Republic of Burundi & Chairperson of the Summit of EAC Heads of State, H.E Évariste Ndayishimiye and the President of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E Paul Kagame in a holding room prior to the high-level consultative meeting in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on the sidelines of COP27.

6. (Top L-R): President of the Republic of Burundi & Chairperson of the Summit of EAC Heads of State, H.E Évariste Ndayishimiye; President of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E Paul Kagame; President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Dr. William Ruto; President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E Samia Suluhu Hassan; Prime Minister of DRC, H.E Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde and EAC Secretary General Hon (Dr.) Peter Mathuki during the high-level consultative meeting in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on the sidelines of COP27.

7. (L-R): President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Dr. William Ruto; President of the Republic of Burundi & Chairperson of the Summit of EAC Heads of State, H.E Évariste Ndayishimiye; and Facilitator of the EAC-Led Nairobi Process, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta. Back row: Special envoy to the President of the DRC, Professor Serge Tshibangu; EAC Secretary General Hon (Dr.) Peter Mathuki; Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General to the Great Lakes Region, H.E Huang Xia; and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kenya, Amb. Macharia Kamau.



7



*"We are ready to join the Community"*

**- Somalia President says**

BY FLORIAN MUTABAZI

The President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud urged the East African Community to fast-track his country's admission into the Community.

The president said Somalia joining the Community has been a delayed dream for the people and the Government of Somalia and urged the Secretary General, Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki, to expedite the process of admission so that his country can be the 8th member of the EAC.

The President made the call during the maiden visit of Dr. Mathuki to Mogadishu. Dr. Mathuki formally delivered the 22nd EAC Ordinary Summit's directive to the Council to expeditiously fast-track the verification exercise for Somalia in accordance with the EAC procedures of admission of new countries into the Community.

"Somalia belongs to the East African Community. There is no country among the EAC Partners States that is not linked by business with Somalia and existing historical linkages include language and culture," said President Mohamud.



The Federal Republic of Somalia made its application to join the East African Community in 2012. Since its application the matter has been pending due to various reasons.

The Secretariat wrote to the Federal Republic of Somalia on 12th November, 2018 proposing a working visit on the 20th November, 2018 by a team from the Secretariat to Somalia. The purpose of the working visit was for the Secretariat to meet the relevant authorities from Somalia and agree on, among other things, the way forward towards holding of a verification exercise.

The Federal Republic of Somalia on its part communicated back on 17th November, 2018, informing the Secretariat that the timing for the working visit was not conducive then and that an alternative date was to be agreed upon by the parties.

The 22nd Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State observed that the Verification Exercise for the Admission of the Federal Republic of Somalia into the Community had not been undertaken and directed the Council to expeditiously fast-track the verification exercise in accordance with the EAC Procedures for admission of New Members into the EAC and report to the 23rd Ordinary Meeting of the Summit.

President Mohamud told the Secretary General that his country was working tirelessly to remove all the security challenges with the support of some of the EAC member states.

“We are counting on you Secretary General to send the verification team here in Mogadishu to start the process,” he added.


The president reiterated the strategic position of Somalia saying that the Community will benefit significantly through increased movement of goods, services and people across the bloc in addition to expanding intra-regional trade the already established Somali businesses in the region.

President Mohamud said that the Somalia’s long Indian Ocea Red Sea route that link Africa to the Arabian Peninsula was a vibrant economic zone, adding that the exploitation of Somalia’s blue economy resources such as fish and the expansive coastline would boost the regional economy.

On his part, Dr. Mathuki commended the desire of the Federal Republic of Somalia to join the EAC and assured the president that the EAC Secretariat would do it’s part to make sure that Somalia admission process is expeditiously fast-tracked in accordance with the EAC Procedure for Admission of New Members into the EAC.

The Secretary General told the president that after his maiden visit, the EAC Secretariat would write to Partner States to request for nominations for members to constitute the EAC Verification Team. The Team will comprise 3 experts from each Partner States and officials from the Secretariat.

In addition, upon the receipt of the names from the Partner States, the Secretariat will submit the names to the Council for approval to conduct the exercise.

Dr. Mathuki assured the President of his total commitment in leading the process of admission of Somalia Into the Community as directed by the Summit. 



# How AgTech is changing East African economies

BY AARTI KRISHNAN

Food production is critical in East Africa, where over 80% of exports depend on agriculture. The future holds both opportunity, with global food demand expected to increase by up to 98% by 2050, and risk, with increasing use of robotics, automation and precision agriculture threatening the loss of over 20 million livelihoods. Over 70% of the population works in agriculture, including many women who work in low-income roles.

But while agriculture is still often referred to as an 'old person's job', the growth of mechanisation, bio-technology, nanotech and digitalisation are changing agricultural production, with greater interactions than ever before with manufacturing and services. Agriculture is no longer a 'traditional' sector.

The evidence shows that 'AgTech' – the digital technologies transforming the agriculture industry – is already having wider impacts across East Africa. Instead of governments and multinationals funding farmers to produce food to established standards, private equity is now financing new innovative agricultural products and services targeting young people, who are pioneering AgTech development.

However, the position of women – already often marginalised in terms of access to basic services, credit and markets – in the sector has not improved overall. In fact, the evidence points to new forms of exclusion. What AgTech looks like in East Africa

'AgTech' refers to digital technologies providing the agricultural industry with innovative products and data to improve productivity and sustainability. There are six key areas.

The first is ag-marketplaces connecting farmers with sellers. Uganda's AgroMarketDay app, for example, allows farmers to upload pictures of their produce, which is then auctioned to the highest bidder.

This is currently the biggest area for East Africa – my current research shows that 45-65% of AgTech firms in the region fall into this category. Second is data-connected agriculture. For example, Uganda's Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation is piloting data-capturing devices (sensors, video imaging) with the National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises and IGARA Tea. These collect geo-spatial data to create customised farmer profiles.

Another example is the African Open Data Initiative, which collates, matches and stores big data. This can then be analysed to optimise decision making and create reliable insurance and climate risk management products.

There is also a range of farming apps that ease access to farm inputs and provide best practice advice for crop growth, such as Farm Africa in Tanzania and Precision Agriculture for Development in Kenya.

Third are mid-stream technologies, where we see blockchains growing in importance. In Rwanda, blockchains are used to secure farmers' land titles, while in Tanzania they are used to protect the country against counterfeit food.

These two categories account for the rest of the AgTech sector in East Africa. Less relevant are other, more complex areas: farm robotics and automation; innovative food and farming systems (like indoor farms or plant-based meats); and ag biotech and biochemistry (like new chemicals, crops and seeds).

## **New investors, young entrepreneurs – but same old gender divide**

So what impact is AgTech having in East Africa? The good news is that it's bringing new money and new (younger) faces to the agriculture sector; the bad news is that it doesn't seem to be having a similarly transformational effect on gender inequality.

AgTech is attracting investment from non-traditional sources like wealthy individuals and private equity firms, who have invested more than US\$425 million in East Africa (up from almost zero in 2001-2002). Of this, 62% was seed capital for new ventures, with the remainder for early start-ups.

Investors have largely focused on Kenya, which received 64% of the funding, followed by Uganda (26%), Tanzania (6%) and Rwanda (3%). South Sudan and Burundi make up less than 1%. If other East African countries want to remain competitive, they need to 'learn' from Kenya, which has begun to establish itself as a leader in the AgTech space.

The demographics of agricultural production in East Africa are also seeing a fundamental shift. The average age of AgTech company owners ranges between 29 and 32, suggesting enterprising and innovative youth are creating new tech-savvy value chains.

But the position of women has not fundamentally changed. The data shows that in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda fewer than 30% of AgTech firm owners are women. In Tanzania, South Sudan and Burundi, none are women. Recent work by the FAO and IT4Change highlights that women do not have full digital citizenship due to exclusions from digitalised service delivery systems. For all the new opportunities it offers, AgTech is also creating new barriers for women.

East African governments and policymakers therefore need to strike a balance: making the most of AgTech to improve regional competitiveness, while finding ways to make the transition more inclusive and sustainable. 🌍

*Aarti Krishnan is a Senior Research Officer Economics and Trade & investment at the International Economic Development Group*

## EAC DIGITAL PIONEER

# CENIT@EA Young Professional Develops Automated Drip Irrigation Monitoring System to Save Water and Time for Farmers



Joseph Ngigi Wangere is a young Kenyan who grew up inspired by how technology is used to solve problems in real-time. Hence, he always wanted to utilize his knowledge of physics and electronic devices to unravel solutions which tackle everyday challenges.

Pursuant to this, he enrolled for the East African Community Master's Programme in Embedded and Mobile Systems at the Centre of Excellence for ICT in East Africa (CENIT@EA), hosted by the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology in Arusha, Tanzania (NM-AIST) and funded by German Development Cooperation. The Centre of Excellence through the Digital Skills for an Innovative East African Industry Project (dSkills@EA) equips and provides young professionals like Joseph with digital skills needed for digital transformation in the EAC region.

In efforts to strengthen academia-industry collaboration, CENIT@EA works with industry partners to identify the needs for digital solutions, so Young Professionals, trained in digital skills by the Centre, can apply research and create innovations on the ground during an internship.

Joseph, who has just completed his six-months internship at the World Vegetable Center (AVRDC) in Arusha, was eager to extend his applied research on an automated monitoring system for farm irrigation and its mechanization. Meanwhile, AVRDC was seeking for a solution to a seamless mechanization of farm irrigation processes as well as quality management of farm operations. With Joseph's expertise, he has successfully managed to identify and recommend the automation of manual irrigation processes to minimize human interventions in the process chain, incorporating the use of wireless sensors at irrigation zones and electric gate valves to control electricity usage.

At the start of his internship, Joseph thoroughly analysed how AVRDC operates on a daily basis to discover the underlying pain points and bottlenecks. Joseph identified the need to automate the farm operation and irrigation system, with a foreseeable opportunity to reduce usage of water, costs and time spent at the farm.

Six months later, a prototype has been finalized with wireless sensors currently in place and able to provide real-time information regarding soil moisture and weather status. Now, Joseph is finalizing on the communication of the sensor nodes with the gateway that triggers irrigation operations.

"This is a step towards fully automating all our farm operations. In the future we will incorporate drone technology to monitor crop via aerial imagery", notes Dr Gabriel Rugalema, Regional Director, World Vegetable Center. The farm process has been simplified with wireless sensors able to read soil moisture and temperature data while sending information to the nodes that trigger the pumps for irrigation process to be activated.

Omary Mbwambo, Farm Manager at World Vegetable Center highlights that, "this system will help economize the usage of water, reducing operational costs which in turn saves time and labour requirements."

Further to this, Joseph also identified a gap in the integration of ICT and current digital tools in AVRDC's overall operations. During his time at AVRDC, while interacting with the team at the farm, terms like sensors, micro controllers, and use of Internet of Things (IoT) were new to most staff. It was an opportunity to bring all the knowledge from the class to the field. "I am open to support AVRDC in the future, to maintain and further develop the system even after my Master's Degree.

I am thankful to the worthwhile investment in the timely programme that has equipped me with knowledge to create innovative solutions", Joseph points out.

While working on his Master's Thesis, Joseph is now well equipped to succeed with his research whose outcomes can be replicated as a sustainable solution for the agriculture farming systems and ultimately improve food production in East Africa with the adoption of technology.

"Digital Skills for an Innovative East African Industry" (dSkills@EA) is a regional innovation hub that offers digital skills and capacity building relevant for the digital transformation of industries and society through academia and industry collaboration. The project aims at strengthening the employment and innovation-related digital skills of youth in the EAC and supports the industry's digital transformation.

The project is part of the EAC-German technical development cooperation and implemented by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the East African-German academic consortium that forms part of the Centre of Excellence for ICT in East Africa (CENIT@EA), led by the Nelson Mandela African Institution for Science and Technology (NM-AIST) and the University of Oldenburg.

*Find more information on the dSkills@EA project under Education & Training ([eacgermany.org](http://eacgermany.org))*

*Find more information on the Master's Programme and the possibility to apply under [www.cenit-ea.org](http://www.cenit-ea.org)*



## FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Women are granted fewer and smaller loans than men

Women in forestry, fishing and agriculture receive just **7%** of total agriculture investment



## LAND & WATER

In developing countries **10% - 20%** of all land holders are women

Farms managed by female-headed households are between half to **2/3** the size of farms run by male-headed households



## PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES

Women make up **43%** of the agriculture workforce in developing countries

If women had equal access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by as much as **20% - 30%**



## ACCESS TO DECISION-MAKING FORAS

Women hold **14%** of management positions in the agricultural sector

At the UN Climate Change Summits between 2000-2010, only **30%** of registered country delegates were women



## KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY

**2/3** of the world's illiterate adults are women

One study showed that women's education contributes to **43%** reduction in child malnutrition



## SERVICES & MARKET

Agriculture extension services are accessible to only **5%** of women that make up the agriculture workforce in developing countries

Energy services in West Africa have:  
- reduced women's daily work by **2-4** hours  
- increased women's incomes  
- improved education and school enrolment

# EQUAL ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND POWER

for



## FOOD SECURITY

AVAILABILITY | STABILITY | UTILIZATION | ACCESS

in the face of

## CLIMATE CHANGE

ADAPTATION | MITIGATION



[www.fao.org/climatechange/micca/gender](http://www.fao.org/climatechange/micca/gender)  
[www.fao.org/gender](http://www.fao.org/gender)

# JAMAFEST 2022

BY BAKAYE B. LUBEGA

It was jubilation and excitement as East Africans celebrated their cultural diversity in Bujumbura, during season five of the EAC Arts and Culture Festival, dubbed JAMAFEST 2022. The Cultural extravaganza, conducted under the theme **"Harnessing the cultural resources to mitigate the impacts of COVID 19 in the EAC"**, flaunted the different cultural expressions from East Africa.

The week-long celebrations aim to promote regional socio-cultural integration through arts and culture, by providing a platform to showcase culture as a primary driver of regional integration. From a street carnival, to art exhibitions, a symposium, live performances, films, literary works, a fashion show, traditional East African eats, music and traditional games; the festival features everything that one could ask for.

As performers exhibited the region's cultural diversity, thousands watched and cheered during the opening ceremony, mesmerized.

The President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye officiated the opening ceremony noting "culture and creative industries is one of the sectors that the East African Community region is looking at in creating more employment opportunities especially for the youth."

The colorful event was not the only trail the Festival would be blazing. Arts and culture intellectuals from across the region were also in Bujumbura, to breed new thinking on the position of Cultural Diversity in fostering regional integration and promoting the regional tourism industry discourse.

Over at the *Intwari Stadium* - Main Festival venue - the Jamafest Cultural Village of Countries Exhibition, provided a thoroughly captivating day-time break ahead of the entrancing evening performances. Over the eight days that the festival was running, 70,000 people are estimated to have visited the Village, where East African countries showcased the best their culture and art.

Showtime at the main stage every evening attracted capacity crowds. The festival is estimated to have hosted 100,000 show-goers, working out an average of 12,500 per day. There was always so much to see. JAMAFEST successfully brought together the people of East Africa and indeed from other parts of the world to

Bujumbura, who celebrated their cultural identity and diversity as East Africans. The festival promoted regional socio-cultural integration through arts and culture by providing a regional platform to showcase culture as a prime driver of EAC integration and economic recover in a post COVID 19 era.

Indeed this is a good beginning for East Africa and the vision is to make this regional festival programme a tourist circuit in the near future. 🇷🇺

## FESTIVAL THEME

Harnessing the cultural resources to mitigate the impacts of COVID 19 in the EAC

## JAMAFEST in figures

100,000

Total number of estimated Festival-goers

2,000

Number of participants from the seven Partner States

100,000

Estimated number of visitors to the JAMAFEST Exhibition Village of Countries

8

Hours of performances daily







## EAC to setup **DIASPORA DESK**

BY LILLIAN KIARIE

The East African Community (EAC) is setting up a Diaspora desk that will focus on facilitating East Africans living in the diaspora to invest and trade in the region.

EAC Secretary General Hon (Dr.) Peter Mathuki has revealed that the Secretariat is also currently developing a Diaspora Engagement Strategy, providing a framework for interacting with the diaspora community.

The Secretary General was speaking during the East Africa 17th Annual Trade and Investment Conference, organized by the East Africa Chamber of Commerce in Irving, Texas – USA. The meeting saw hundreds of East Africans residing across the USA and East African-focused investors, converge to explore areas of investment and deliberate on solutions to overcome investment and trade challenges.

The diaspora community highlighted a lack of trust in local financial institutions as one of the challenges deterring investment in East Africa. Dr. Mathuki responded by urging them to establish financial institutions such as an EAC diaspora bank, located in one EAC's Partner States, where they can access credit and transact business.

Dr. Mathuki shared that the diaspora community will also be incorporated in EAC signature events, such as Pre-Summit retreats, offering them an opportunity to engage with EAC Heads of State, Ministers and the regional business community.

The Secretary General urged the diaspora community to take advantage of EAC's online investment guide portal (<https://www.eac.int/investment-guide>), which highlights investment procedures, incentives and opportunities; and increases transparency on access to relevant information required by investors.

"The EAC Trade Information Portal available on our website also provides a step-by-step guide on licenses, pre-clearance permits and clearance formalities for the most traded goods within, to, and from the East African Community," he added.

Dr. Mathuki noted that the diaspora community has a huge role to play, "The EAC recognizes the role of diaspora remittance, which continue to outpace Foreign Direct Investment (FDIs) to become the largest source of external financing."



The inflow of funds from the diaspora has been on an upward trajectory in recent years. For instance; in 2021, the Kenyan diaspora remittance stood at \$3.718 billion, while remittances from Uganda stood at \$599.3M. The inflow of funds from the Tanzania diaspora stood at \$569.5 while Rwanda diaspora remitted \$246 million.

“The inflow of funds from the diaspora contributed largely to the EAC’s Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) which stood at \$8.2 billion- a 35% growth; and helped the region’s economy withstand the devastating economic impact of Covid-19 and the trickle-down effect of the Russia-Ukraine conflict,” the Secretary General added.

Dr. Mathuki noted that the time taken to register a business had reduced significantly and the establishment of One Stop Centres for business registration had further eased the process.

The Secretary General highlighted investment opportunities in the region such as agribusiness, which is the backbone of the EAC economy, employing more than 80% of its labor force.

“The investment opportunities include; large-scale commercial farming, agro-processing, value addition in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry products,” he shared.

He further explored investment opportunities in the energy, mining, oil and gas industry and manufacturing sectors.

“EAC has developed a master plan for the development of infrastructure, creating linkages for Intra EAC road and railway networks as well in Airports and Port projects. It is thus opportune to tap into the Public-Private Partnerships to invest into this infrastructure in the region,” Dr. Mathuki added.

The opportunities in advisory and facilitatory areas to access finances and technology, ICT, health, particularly in Physical and Mental Health were also highlighted as potential areas of investment.

In her remarks, the East Africa Chamber of Commerce (EACC) Chair, Ms. Elsa Joko McDowell noted that the diaspora community is ready to invest in the region and keen on collaborating with the EAC governments.

“We are committed to continuing collaborating in supporting the USA - East Africa trade relations, promoting trade missions and cooperation and marketing East Africa as a trade and investment destination,” she added. 🇰🇪

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

# CLIMATE CHANGE:

## East Africa's glaciers to disappear by 2040s



BY JACOB KNUTSON & PATRICK HUGHES

**G**laciers capping three of Africa's iconic mountains — Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Mount Kenya in Kenya, and the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda — will likely disappear over the next two decades because of human-induced climate change.

The loss of the glaciers — icy holdouts high above the steamy tropics that have long been objects of wonder and fascination — is a physical manifestation of the change in Earth's climate.

Various reports by institutions such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, international and regional scientific organizations and other United Nations agencies warn that glacier loss is just one effect climate change will have on the continent, as rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, rising sea levels and more extreme weather will also likely exacerbate food insecurity, economic and political instability and population displacement.

It is a harsh reminder that though African countries account for less than 4% of the world's annual greenhouse gas emissions, they may face some of the most severe repercussions of climate change.

The three East African glaciers are too small to serve as major water reservoirs for the countries, they are key tourist attractions and scientific subjects. The glaciers have been decreasing in size since around 1880 because of altered sea-surface temperatures and reduced snowfall amounts and frequency.

In 2020, The WMO estimated that the glaciers will be gone by the 2040s, with the glacier atop Mount Kenya disappearing a decade earlier than the others — possibly becoming the first mountain range to lose glaciers from climate change.

In 2020, flooding extensively affected parts of East Africa, where 285 deaths were reported in Kenya, and 155 deaths were reported in Sudan.

A 2022 report by the UN stated that local communities and indigenous people will bear the brunt of the flooding caused by glacier loss.

The report said that glacier loss may have caused up to 4.5% of the observed global sea level rise between 2000 and 2020. These glaciers lose 58 billion tonnes of ice every year - equivalent to the total annual volume of water used in France and Spain put together.

Many people also depend on glaciers as their water source for domestic use and agriculture, and their loss could lead to a scarcity of fresh water during the dry seasons, said Prof Duncan Quincey, a glaciology expert at the University of Leeds.

"That leads to food security issues because they were using that water to irrigate their crops," said Quincey.

Local communities and indigenous people will bear the brunt of the flooding caused by glacier loss, say the report's authors, urging that early-warning and risk-reduction disaster systems be put in place.

However the most obvious thing we need to do is limit global warming.

"There's a message of hope here," said Tales Carvalho Resende, UNESCO Project Officer. "If we can manage to drastically cut emissions, we will be able to save most of these glaciers."

"This is really a call to take action at every level - not only at the political level, but at our level as human beings," he added. 🇺🇳

TIME FOR  
ACTION!

# AFRICAN FOOD SYSTEMS: THE IMPORTANCE OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION

## Food security in Africa needs urgent and serious attention.



In 2020, more than one in five people in Africa faced hunger - more than double in any other region.

**282M**  
people were  
undernourished  
in 2021, due to a  
combination of:



Projected food  
assistance needs  
by Oct. 2022:

**East & Southern  
Africa**  
**63.5M**  
**West Africa**  
**28.5M**

Food security declines by 5-20% with each flood or drought.

Africa remains a net food importer, and the food import bill will continue to rise without action.

**\$43B** → **\$110B**  
2019 → 2025

## Progress towards international commitments are off-track.



- **7 countries** are on track to reduce childhood stunting
- **12 countries** have met the commitment to invest 1% of GDP to agricultural research and development



**Malabo  
Declaration**

- **4 countries** in the AU are on track to achieve Malabo Declaration by 2025
- **8 countries** are on track for women's empowerment through agriculture

## Climate change impacts are stalling progress towards food security.

A 3°C scenario by 2030 will be catastrophic.



Income for the poorest 40% of Africans will be **reduced by 8%**



**350M** Africans will be undernourished by 2050

Adapting Africa's food system to climate change is **NOT** a choice.

A 1.5°C scenario provides better options, but frequent shocks are still expected:



- Extreme droughts will double

• More heavy rainfall and intense flooding will continue



- Leading to unavoidable effects on productivity

## Leading adaptation options for food systems are cost effective, well defined, and build on evidence and experience.

Priorities for public sector investment for food value chain and livelihood solutions:



Water Management

- Increase water-use efficiency in conveying and distributing irrigation water in the field
- Improve water harvesting and water storage during the rainy season

Adaptation cost:

**\$6.1B**

Inaction cost:

**\$90.7B**



Research & Extension

- Create robust research functionalities
- Design agile research services to rapidly respond to emerging risks
- Gain better understanding of impacts from climatic extremes

Adaptation cost:

**\$3.9B**

Inaction cost:

**\$71.2B**



Land Restoration

- Scale up sustainable soil, land, and forest management practices to deliver climate co-benefits
- Reduce degraded landscapes
- Implement long-term land use planning

Adaptation cost:

**\$3.4B**

Inaction cost:

**\$26.8B**



Infrastructure

- Design practical logistics and infrastructure for food storage to prevent spoilage
- Develop cold storage facilities
- Build transport routes to enable rural connectivity and facilitate market access

Adaptation cost:

**\$2.1B**

Inaction cost:

**\$12.6B**



Climate Information Services

- Develop early warning systems and seasonal weather forecasts to anticipate and manage natural disasters, pest outbreaks and yield failures
- Scale up investments in institutional and technical capacity

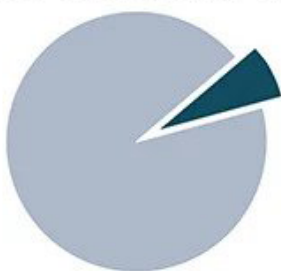
Adaptation cost:

**\$0.1B**

Inaction cost:

**\$0.5B**

Investing in climate adaptation costs less than a tenth of doing nothing.



**\$15B**  
adaptation costs

**\$201B**  
inaction costs

Trade between African nations in agricultural products improves food security and facilitates more efficient allocation of resources in agricultural production.



Creating One African Market

Given the unpredictability of climate change, investments should build on ongoing adaptive capacity over one-off investments.



# EAC & Arcadia University Set to Revive NYERERE CENTRE FOR PEACE RESEARCH

The East African Community (EAC) Secretary General, Dr. Peter Mathuki and the Provost of the Arcadia University, USA, Dr. Jeff Rutenbeck have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate in the re-launch of the Nyerere Center for Peace Research to be based at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The center is set to build capacity in programmes on peace and security, political affairs and international relations and will support the development of EAC policies, concepts and strategies.

The MoU signed at the Arcadia University, Pennsylvania, USA, establishes the framework for operations of the Nyerere Center for Peace Research and the terms of the operational partnership between the EAC, the International Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) program at Arcadia University, and the American Graduate School for International Relations and Diplomacy.

"East African students are also set to benefit from scholarships and exchange programs in the USA," Dr. Mathuki noted.

"Peace and security are prerequisites for regional integration and therefore crucial to build capacities in order to secure an environment that is stable and peaceful for enhanced human security, regional development and integration," Dr. Mathuki noted.

Dr. Rutenbeck lauded the partnership that is set to provide a platform for engaging local, regional and international experts on a diverse range of subjects.

"We are ready to support in mobilizing resources that will aid in strengthening this great centre that will provide a unique interface between policymakers and regional and national opinion leaders and provide a forum for informal discussion that impact on the globe," he noted.

The operationalization of the Nyerere Centre will also provide the EAC with a policy focused think tank, consolidate strategic expertise and safeguard the Community's common values.

Nyerere Centre for Peace Research (NCPR) was established in 2007 through a partnership with Arcadia University whose objectives were complementary with the vision and overall mission of the EAC. The Centre was founded on the ideals of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere for Peace and Unity.

The Center was used as a ground for project-based student research program congruent with EAC initiatives. The partnership with Arcadia University came to an end in 2013. 🇺🇸

For more information about the Centre, visit: [www.eac.int/ncpr](http://www.eac.int/ncpr)



# 10<sup>TH</sup> EAST AFRICAN PETROLEUM CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2023 (EAPCE'23)



## THEME:

**East Africa as a hub for Investment in Exploration and Exploitation of Petroleum Resources for Sustainable Energy and Socioeconomic Development**



9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2023  
Serena Hotel | Kampala, Uganda





# Protection of Expressions of Folklore: An Appraisal of EAC Law

BY JOVINE BISHANGA

*Protection of Expressions of Folklore in East Africa gained impetus following the operationalisation of the East African Common Market Protocol. The Protocol came into existence to reinforce the objectives of the East African Community articulated under the Treaty establishing the East African Community. Both the Treaty and the Protocol clearly indicate that East African member States agreed to harmonise the national laws for effective protection of expressions of folklore against misappropriation. Despite such efforts there are disparities existing in the national laws for protecting expressions of folklore against unlawful exploitation or misappropriation in East African Community.*

The EAC Treaty sets out, among other things, a vision for the eventual economic integration of the EAC Partner States. The operationalisation of the economic integration under the Treaty has been provided for in the Customs Union and the Protocol establishing the East African Community Common Market.

The Common Market Protocol provides for four freedoms, namely; free movement of goods; free movement of persons and labour; free movement of services; and free movement of capital and the rights of establishment and residence. The establishment of the EAC Common Market intends to significantly boost trade and investments and make the region more productive and prosperous.

Indeed, the EAC common market is essentially an arrangement whereby Member or Partner countries of a regional economic community operate as a single market for goods, services, capital and labour, having common revenue and trade laws. Despite the EAC Common market, each EAC Partner State has a primary responsibility for regulating its matters within its jurisdiction and thus each Partner State has its own laws. The laws include laws on the protection of expressions of folklore.

Based on the factor that, each EAC Partner State has its own laws and, in a bid, to operationalise the protocol on the Common Market, the EAC Member States aspired for harmonisation of laws on the protection of expressions of folklore in accordance with international standards.

In line with the objective of the Community and pursuant to Article 103 (1) (c) of the Treaty, East African Member States agreed to use and develop indigenous science and technologies. It is further reflected in the same treaty that the East African Member States agreed to harmonise laws on commercialisation of technologies, promotion and protection of intellectual property rights and expressions of folklore.

Again, through the East African Common Market Protocol; East African Members States agreed to harmonise their respective national laws with the view to effectively and adequately protect expressions of folklore within the region.

From the above, it is important to note that despite such initiatives or measures, there is no comprehensive East African regional legal framework for protecting expressions of folklore. This state of affairs causes disparities or differences in the municipal laws of each East African Member States for protecting expressions of folklore. Indeed, there is un-uniformity in the national legislation of the Member States as far as promotion and protection of expressions of folklore is concerned. For instance, Rwanda has a specific law for protecting expressions of folklore while Tanzania protects expressions of folklore by using copyright law.

In comparison, the Pacific Community has a specific comprehensive regional legal framework for protecting expressions of folklore while in East African Community there is no any model law developed by East African Community supplementing the East African Community treaty and the East African Common Market Protocol. Lack of the said model law and presence of disparities in the national legislation of East African Community Member States is a legal gap in promotion and protection of expressions of folklore or traditional cultural expressions in the region.

### **The Concept of Expressions of folklore**

There are abundant literature and legal framework on the concept of expressions of folklore both at regional and international level. However, there is no internationally accepted definition of expressions of folklore. The expressions of folklore can be described as the forms in which traditional culture and knowledge are embodied or expressed and may be tangible, intangible or a combination of the two.

The expressions of folklore are widely diverse and include dances, songs, music, stories, art, handicrafts, musical instruments, words, names, performances, textiles, carpets and jewelry designs and forms of architecture. Examples of combined works are a piece of textile depicting a legend in stylised designs; a dance in which traditional costumes and masks are used linked to the performance; and the recitation of tales using representative paintings.

Expressions of folklore have their own characteristics, namely: are the products of creative intellectual activity; are handed down from one generation to another, orally or by imitation; reflect a community's cultural and social identity; consist of characteristic elements of a community's heritage; are made by authors unknown and/or by individuals communally recognised as having the right or responsibility to do so; are often created for spiritual and religious purposes; often make use of natural resources; and are constantly evolving within a community.

Expressions of folklore play an important role in the economic and social life of developing and least developed countries. Placing value on such knowledge helps strengthen cultural identity and can lead to the achievement of valuable social and developmental goals, such as sustainable agriculture, affordable and appropriate public health and conservation of biodiversity.

In recent years, indigenous peoples, local communities and their governments, mainly, in developing countries including East African Member States have been seeking IP protection for traditional forms of creativity and innovation, which are not adequately protected by existing IP. This is based on the fact that the accelerating development of technology, especially in the field of sound and audiovisual recording, broadcasting, cable television and cinematography has led to improper exploitation of the cultural heritage of these nations.

According to section 2 of the Kenya Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions Act, 2016 exploitation means the employment of the greatest possible advantage of traditional knowledge and cultural expressions for selfish purposes, taking advantage of unwary traditional knowledge and cultural expressions holders and advertising or a publicity program. It also includes manufacturing, importing, exporting, offering for sale and using cultural expressions beyond the traditional context.

### **Legal Instruments for Protection of Expressions of Folklore in EAC**

There are two important EAC legal instruments relevant for protecting expressions of folklore in East African Community. These are East African Treaty and the EAC common market Protocol. In that regard, the legal basis for harmonisation of EAC Partner States laws is reflected in the objectives of the Community underpinned under article 5 (1) of the Treaty. The article aims at widening and deepening cooperation among the Partner States in political, economic, social and cultural fields, research and technology, defence, security and legal and judicial affairs, for their mutual benefit. Article 5 (2) of the Treaty is about establishment of a Customs Union, a Common Market, Monetary Union and ultimately a Political Federation.

Article 126 (1) of the Treaty provides that in order to promote the achievement of the objectives of the Community as set out in article 5 of the Treaty, the Partner States shall take steps to harmonise their legal training and certification; and shall encourage the standardisation of the judgments of courts within the Community. In order to achieve the objectives underpinned in article 126 (1), article 126 (2) (b) of the Treaty requires Partner States through their appropriate national institutions, to take all necessary steps to harmonise all their national laws pertaining to the Community.

From the above and in line with the objective of this article, it is vital to reveal that under article 43 (4) of the EAC Common Market Protocol, the EAC Partner States agreed to establish mechanisms to ensure: (a) the legal protection of the traditional cultural expressions,

traditional knowledge, genetic resources and national heritage; (b) the protection and promotion of cultural industries; (c) the use of protected works for the benefits of the communities in the Partner States; and (d) the cooperation in public health, food security, research and technological development.

Further to that, article 43 (5) of the protocol mandates the Council of EAC to issue directives for: (a) co-operation in the administration, management and enforcement of intellectual property rights; (b) the elimination of discriminatory practices in the administration of intellectual property rights amongst Partner States.

It is also reflected under article 43 (6) of the protocol that the Partner States shall honour their commitments in respect of international agreements which relate to intellectual property rights. More so, under article 47 (1) and (2) of the protocol EAC States undertook for Approximation and Harmonisation of Policies, Laws and Systems. The Partner States undertake to approximate their national laws and to harmonise their policies and systems, for purposes of implementing this Protocol. It is also disclosed that the Council is mandated to issue directives for the purposes of implementing this Article.

This is equally demonstrated by Ezekiel who elaborates that the third source of authority that provides the basis for harmonisation are Community regulations issued by the Council and contained in annexes to the Common Market Protocol that provide for the free movement of persons, free movement of workers, free movement of goods, services and capital, rights of establishment, rights of residence. The Council directives, regulations, guidelines and decisions may also provide guidance by setting standards for harmonisation. He also adds that article 16 of the EAC Treaty provides that the effects of regulations, directives, decisions and recommendations of the Council taken or given in pursuance of the provisions of the Treaty are binding on the Partner States, on all organs and institutions of the Community other than the Summit, the Court and the Assembly within their jurisdictions, and on those to whom they may under the Treaty be addressed.

From the above, the Treaty, the Protocol, regulations and directives are sources or foundation for harmonisation municipal laws for protection of expressions of folklore across the EAC region. However, to date such regulations or directives for harmonisation of national laws for protecting expressions of folklore in East Africa has not been issued. In that respect, it is author's observation that the East African Community Members States have not complied with the principles set in the Treaty and the EAC Common market Protocol to set threshold for protecting expressions among East African Member States.

Nevertheless, the Community has no comprehensive regional legal framework for protecting expressions of folklore in the Community. This is contrary on what is going on around the world in protecting expressions of folklore. Actually, there are several distinct sui generis systems in the world on the protection of expressions of folklore. Such systems have been developed at global level and regional level.

Indeed, one of the Regional Framework for protection of expressions of folklore is the Pacific Regional Framework for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture, 2002. Under the Pacific Regional Framework for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture, 2002, 'traditional owners' have the right to authorise or prevent, amongst others, the adaptation, transformation and modification of the protected traditional cultural expressions. An external user must receive consent to make new derivative works. These are works based upon traditional cultural expressions. Any IP rights in derivative works vested in the author's works. However, if the work is used for commercial purposes, the rights-holder must share benefits with the traditional owners, acknowledge the source of the TCEs and respect moral rights in the traditional cultural expressions.

## Best Practices from Pacific Community

The Pacific Community is endowed with diversity of cultural expressions. Such expressions of folklore can be used to bring social economic development. Unlike in East African Community, Pacific Community has a comprehensive regional legal framework for protecting traditional knowledge and expressions of folklore. The Pacific Regional Framework comprises a Model Law and Explanatory Memorandum developed to assist Pacific Island countries and territories wishing to legally protect its traditional knowledge and expressions of culture. The framework is developed in response to calls from the region, in the face of increasing exploitation and inappropriate use.

Worth noting is that, the Pacific Model Law for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture establishes a new range of statutory rights for traditional owners of traditional knowledge and expressions of culture. The model law provides a basis for Pacific Island countries wishing to enact legislation for the protection of traditional knowledge and expressions of culture.


If an individual country wishes to enact the model law, it is free to adopt and/or adapt the provisions as it sees fit in accordance with national needs, the wishes of its traditional communities, legal drafting traditions and so on. Matters of detail or implementation are left to be determined by national laws and systems. For instance, the rights created in the model law are termed 'traditional cultural rights' but enacting countries may choose another term to describe the rights, as they consider appropriate. The model law also elaborates other legal and policy issues an enacting country might want to consider if enacting the model law.

## The Need for a Regional Framework

The East African Community can bench mark from the Pacific Community and design a comprehensive regional legal framework to guide member States in developing their national laws for protecting expressions of folklore. This regional framework will assist the member States to have common standards and hence eliminate disparities in protecting expressions of folklore.

Again, the regional framework will provide more effective protection than a national system. This is because a framework approach, such as the Pacific Regional Framework for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture, can achieve harmonisation across national systems through the use of minimum substantive standards while providing flexibility for countries to modify and adapt matters of detail to suit their particular circumstances.

Regional harmonisation is a necessary corollary to the overall aim to promote trade and investment and increase economic growth. In order to make the process of regional integration meaningful, traders and investors must be given the opportunity to avoid the doldrums of legal diversity, they must be allowed to rely on laws which are in line with the realities of business practice and which are up to date with international standards. This should involve the harmonisation of domestic substantive legal provisions. What remains for East African states is to find the most appropriate method by which such harmonisation would take place.

A vital point to note here is that, under the harmonisation process, national laws of Partner States are aligned to those of the Community. The aim is to create consistency of laws, regulations, standards and practices hence a fair play environment for all stakeholders. In that regard, harmonisation efficiently facilitates economic activities between Partner States. It reduces compliance and regulatory burdens for national or trans-national businesses. It further supports the implementation of the objectives of the Community. What is more important, it eliminates differences in legal regimes. Also, it provides an environment that supports effective operation and smooth management and development of the Community. 

# What is Online Violence Against Children?



**Violence against children online, also called technology-facilitated violence,** is the use of computers, mobile phones or other forms of digital communication to access, threaten and/or harm children. It can result in short- and long-term physical, sexual or emotional suffering and takes many forms:

**Live-streaming sexual abuse of children**

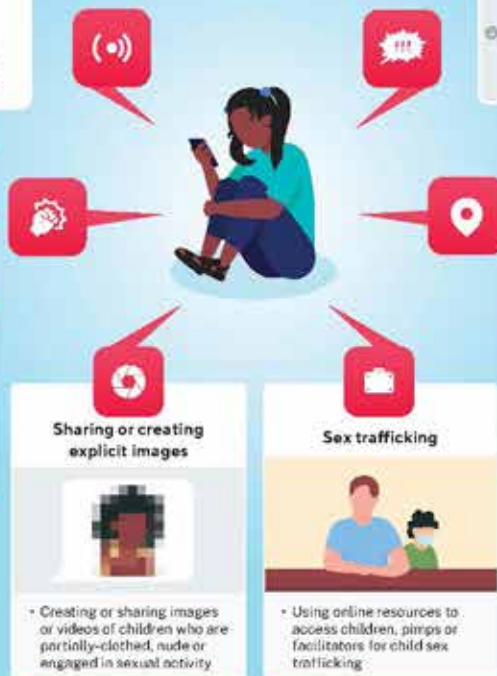
- Using online video applications to view or share live video of children being sexually abused

**Unsolicited sexting and sexual extortion**

- Sending unwanted sexual messages or images to children
- Pressuring children to send explicit messages or images — or using these images without consent

**Cyberbullying**

- Online threats or hate speech (including racist, homophobic and sexist messages)
- Posting defamatory messages



**Solicitation and grooming**

- Asking a child to provide sexual images
- Luring a child into meeting in person for sexual contact

**Sharing or creating explicit images**

- Creating or sharing images or videos of children who are partially-clothed, nude or engaged in sexual activity

**Sex trafficking**

- Using online resources to access children, pimps or facilitators for child sex trafficking

## Violence against children online often extends into the physical world and the other way around.

Sometimes children meet future perpetrators for the first time online. In other instances, bullying in school continues through social media at home. Sexual abuse happening in the physical world can be filmed and shared online. Technology is a part of children's lives. Separating violence online from violence offline can be misleading.



# Partner States urged to collaborate in packaging and promoting tourism investment opportunities

By SIMON PETER OWAKA

East African Community (EAC) Partner States have been called upon to cooperate in packaging and promoting tourism investment opportunities and incentives in the region through different fora.

It has further been agreed that Regional Tourism Value Chains should be strengthened in order to spread tourism benefits to the local communities and EAC citizens in general.

These were part of the resolutions arrived at during the 2nd EAC Tourism Expo that was hosted in Bujumbura by the Republic of Burundi.

Partner States also agreed to organize regular EXPOs at the national level in a bid to enhance their visibility as tourism destinations and market their tourism attractions.

Noting that all the seven EAC Partner States are rich in tourism resources and attractions which are mainly complementary in nature, it was agreed that there is a need to create synergies and collaborate in promotion of the region as a single tourism destination.

It was further resolved that Partner States should be innovative and develop tourism products that protect natural ecosystems and biodiversity while simultaneously addressing challenges such as environmental pollution and climate change.

It was agreed that there is a need for deliberate efforts by the EAC Secretariat in conjunction with the Partner States in involving women and youth in tourism as part of creating income generating opportunities through tourism for marginalised segments in the region.

To increase participation by both tour operators, exhibitors, respective public and private sector organisations at the annual Expo, it was agreed to brand and position the EXPO as a premier event in the region and internationally.

There is also need to work closely with the national Tourism Boards and private sector players especially the East African Tourism Platform towards developing a database of buyers and trade partners for EAC as a bloc.

To boost the profile of the regional expo, it was agreed that there is need for a budget at the Regional level to facilitate preparations and organization of the EXPO.

Seminars should be better structured and virtual links created to enhance and enrich engagement on topical issues being discussed.


Partner States were further called upon to fast-track the process of liberalizing their airspaces and open up the skies to promote the tourism industry in the region.

Speaking when she officially closed the expo on behalf of the President of Burundi, Burundi's Minister of Commerce, Transport, Industry and Tourism, Madam Marie Chantal Nijimbere, urged Partner States to take advantage of the expo to market tourism attractions in the region jointly.

On his part, South Sudan's Minister for Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, Hon. Lt. Gen. Rizik Zackaria Hassan, said that the country was at an advanced stage in integrating all armed forces into the national army to ensure peace and security, which will in turn boost tourism in the country.

The United Republic of Tanzania hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> EXPO in October 2021 in Arusha. The overarching objective of the EXPO is to provide a platform for tourism service providers and trade partners to come together and re-ignite tourism. It also provides an opportunity for the EAC Partner States to create awareness on tourism investment opportunities and address the challenges affecting the tourism and wildlife sectors in the region.

EAC in collaboration with the East African Tourism Platform and with support from GIZ initiated a Regional and Domestic Tourism Campaign dubbed Tembea Nyumbani. This involved use of digital platform and influencers in the region to reach out to the EAC Citizens with a call to travel within their region.

In addition, EAC in collaboration with the National Tourism Boards in the region, recently concluded working on a regional Tourism Promotional Video. Regional Tourism promotion is based on the premise that the intra-regional tourism market is ripe and provides the best backstopping in case of future shocks. 





# EAC YOULEAD SUMMIT *Is Back!*

BY FRANKLIN MIRERI

Since 2017, the East African Community in collaboration with MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation through their youth engagement initiatives, YouLead Africa and EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform have jointly hosted Africa's largest and most diverse youth convening, the YouLead Summit! As of 2021, the East African Business Council joined the partnership to strengthen the youth in business focus of the summit. Every year, these core conveners are joined by a wide network of partners in East Africa and beyond to bring the Summit to life!

*"The Treaty establishing the East African Community is people-driven and the youth form not only part of the population but constitute the largest number. That is to say, the community belongs to the youth. Therefore, as the EAC, we feel it is important to hold this youth summit. We want the youth to know the community belongs to them, encourage them to take responsibility, and let them know that now is the time to do so. We are hosting the YouLead Summit 2022 and call upon all youth on the continent to attend."* - Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki, Secretary General, East African Community



The YouLead Summit is an annual climax event that brings together continental, regional and national policymakers, youth leaders, private sector, and NGO stakeholders with the aim of revitalising political ambition, and action on the most pressing youth development issues to craft responses to the continent's rapidly growing youth population, their challenges, and opportunities.

*"Young people form the largest percentage of Africa's population. They are an asset but a population that is unskilled, and unemployed can be a demographic curse, so this is the challenge, but the opportunity is in us trying to convert this demographic dividend into opportunities, hence youth becoming a demographic blessing."* - Mr. Ivan Atuyambe, YouLead Africa Director, Head of Leadership and Governance Academy MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation.

This year, the hybrid summit convenes under the theme '**Digital Access and Future of Work**'. Taking stock of the transformational role of Digital Access on the Future of Work in Africa's development agenda and re-positioning Africa's digitalisation agenda as a pre-eminent public good, examining efforts to recover from pandemic-related employment and income losses, renewing policy and business leaders' collective

commitment to improving young peoples' digital access and bridging the digital opportunities gap given its effects on society in the political, economic and social spheres of life today and tomorrow.

Last year, for the first time ever, the YouLead Summit, thanks to continental collaborating entities across the continent, was able to reach beyond the region and GO AFRICA! The summit brought together 300 delegates in Arusha, Tanzania and over 5000 virtual delegates from all over Africa under the theme "*The Future of Africa: Creating Jobs, Feeding, and Housing the World's Youngest Continent*".

Delivering as one, EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform and YouLead Africa have worked to build capacity among youth in two focus areas; *Youth in Politics* (with peace and security as a component) and *Youth in Business* with Gender Equality being duly mainstreamed and integrated within and across all our work cognizant of the pressing challenges faced by young women, as well as their vital role in development and growth processes.

For more information on how you can participate or partner with us for this year's summit, visit our website [www.youlead.africa](http://www.youlead.africa), and join us.



## EAC, EABC and MSTCDC Hosts 2nd Continental AfCFTA Youth Bootcamp

Prior to the Summit, EAC and partners host several activities leading up to the main event week. On the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, with support from UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and in collaboration with UNECA, the AfCFTA Secretariat, East African Business Council and Youth Connekt Africa Hub organised a Continental Bootcamp Training on AfCFTA in Kigali Rwanda, leading up to the Youth Connekt Africa Summit hosted by the government of Rwanda.

The Bootcamp brought together 60 young business owners and business leaders across the Continent including faculty members from the collaborating entities to Kigali, Rwanda. Delegates later proceeded to participate in the Youth Connekt Summit the same week from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

The Continental Bootcamp training on AfCFTA was intended to build the awareness and capacity of African young entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 35 years to position themselves as key stakeholders and contributors in accelerating implementation of the AfCFTA.

The three (3)-day specialized short program was developed by facilitators with expertise in international trade policy and law, and Regional and Continental Integration, who unpacked and simplified the AfCFTA Agreement. The Bootcamp also equipped participants with basic skills and knowledge in order to take advantage of AfCFTA numerous opportunities.

The Bootcamp was graced by Hon. Minister of Trade, Republic of Rwanda, Mr. Prudence Sebahizi, Chief Technical Advisor at the AfCFTA Secretariat, and Gonaya Monei E.Sethora, Gender and Youth Advisor at the AfCFTA Secretariat. Others who participated include UNDP Resident Representative and the Deputy Representative, Mr. Denis Karera, Vice Chairperson, East African Business Council, Mr. John-Bosco Kalisa, CEO East African Business Council, Youth Connekt Hub Director, Director General of Trade, Republic of Rwanda among other dignitaries.



# YouLead Summit 2022

## Young Africa Digital Access & Future of Work

12TH-16TH  
DECEMBER 2022

EAC HEADQUARTERS  
ARUSHA TANZANIA

[www.youlead.africa](http://www.youlead.africa)

[www.eacyap.org](http://www.eacyap.org)



SOUTHERN AFRICA  
YOUTH FORUM  
(SAVoF)



### EAC Youth Ambassadors lead Regional Kenya Ya Amani Campaign

*"The East African Community Youth Ambassadors Platform has filled the gap of representation of young people in the absence of the EALA Youth Representatives, towards the understanding of the EAC in their member states, serving to drive the integration agenda." - Rt. Hon. Martin Ngoga, Speaker, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) - 2022.*

EAC Youth Ambassadors embedded as part of the EAC Elections Observation Mission to the Republic of Kenya.

In the years since its inception at the first EAC University Debates in 2012, the East African Youth Ambassadors Platform has modelled the process of youth inclusion for meaningful participation in providing home-grown solutions to communities in the context of regional integration under the department of Political Affairs at the EAC Secretariat and leadership of Principal Political Affairs Officer, David Oken.

This was evident during the just-concluded Kenyan General Elections, where the EAC Youth Ambassadors and YouLead Africa led the regional Kenya Ya Amani Peace Campaign. Launched in May 2022, the campaign was a one of a kind and unprecedented effort for peace in elections, with youth from across the East African region and Africa, standing

united with youth in Kenya to call for peaceful election processes and committing to do their part to ensure peaceful elections.

Activities in the campaign included running an online campaign which delivered almost a million impressions with messages of peace across all major social media platforms, recording and launching the Kenya Ya Amani peace song, and media outreach initiatives across several radio and television stations.

The support of the EAC Secretariat and Ministries of EAC Affairs in the EAC Member States has been instrumental in the domestication of the different programs across the region, providing institutional shelter, guidance and facilitation at the country level.

The EAC Youth Ambassadors' mandate and promise to the youth of East Africa is to work inclusively towards the achievement of meaningful participation of young people within the institutional structures of the East African Community, to build capacity as forerunners for good governance and economic transformation through trade. 🇰🇪

For more information, please visit: [www.eacyap.org](http://www.eacyap.org)

# Can ed-tech solve Africa's education gap?

BY OLUWATOSIN OGUNJUYIGBE

Nelson Mandela, one of Africa's most iconic figures, once said, "education is one of the most important weapons in a country. And the standard to which black education is neglected is something very difficult to put in words." Mandela had to scale several hurdles to go to school. So his education ought to be a trophy for him. But this speech shows that was not how he felt. Instead, it shows the dire situation of Africa's education gap.

Before the colonial era, Africa's education system was primarily informal. Teachings were either centred on culture or crafts. It was a system of decentralised apprenticeship and generational value transfer. This system led to many discoveries and innovations in ancient Africa, including breakthroughs in architecture, metallurgy, art and even mathematics. The strength of this system was that it focused on practical education rather than a continuous assessment system. It was great, though far from perfect. The absence of structure, coupled with the vast differences in cultures and languages, created bottlenecks in knowledge transmission. One would think introducing formal education would only make the continent stronger. With structured institutions and uniform languages, it should have become unstoppable. However, that is not the case today.

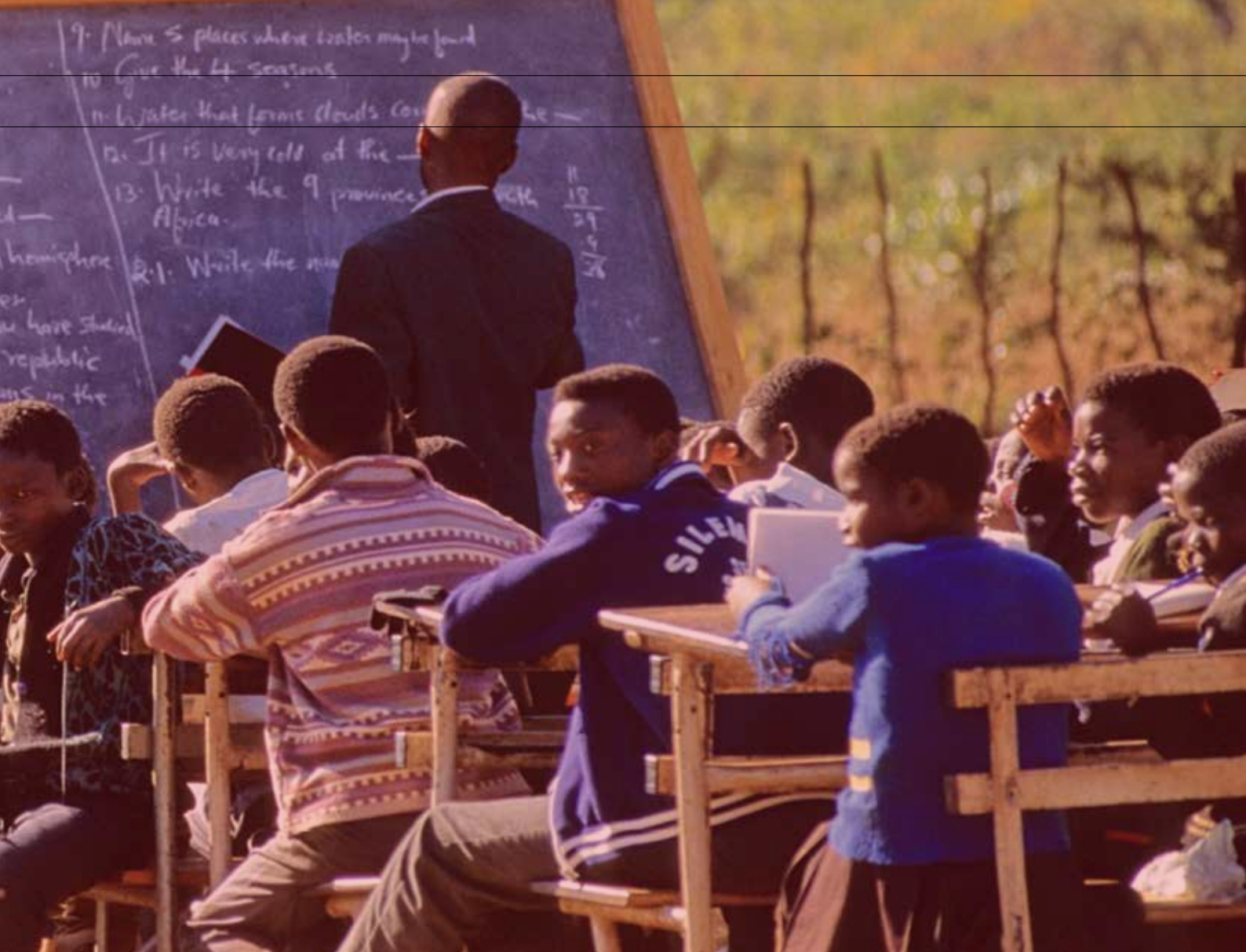
Africa's adoption of formal education started weakly. Since it came through colonial masters, it was not a priority. And even then, they (colonial masters) ensured they gained more from educating Africans. Consequently, this new form of education completely substituted the old form of education rather than improving it.

Africa's educational landscape then began to dwindle from this inefficient adoption. Low access, awareness and inefficient learning methods became the bane of Africa's educational sector. Schools suffer from overcrowded classrooms, a low number of teachers, obsolete curriculums, poor compensation, and support for teachers.

Today, the poor conditions of most schools leave teachers frustrated. A 2020 report on the drivers of teacher absenteeism in sub-Saharan Africa released by the United Nations (UN) revealed that, on average, 15.5% to 17.8% of the 3,498 teachers surveyed reported inability to work due to delayed salaries. This problem directly contributed to them being absent from work. A United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) report predicted that sub-Saharan Africa will need about 17 million additional teachers to achieve universal primary and secondary school education by 2030 because of a severe shortage of teachers.

The educational sector is, without a doubt, in need of a makeover. Africa doesn't simply need more schools; it needs both improvements in the learning conditions for students and working conditions for teachers. This is where ed-tech comes in. Startups are innovating ways to improve learning experiences for students and teachers. Thanks to increased internet penetration and overall tech adoption in Africa, e-learning is poised to become a trend.

More people already spend their time learning on platforms such as YouTube and e-learning sites like Coursera. So it only makes sense that



African startups are partakers. A notable player in this field is uLesson, which produced over 3,000 colourfully-illustrated short video lessons delivered by human tutors, covering math and physical science subjects for senior high students in Nigeria. Foondamate, a South African ed-tech startup, uses WhatsApp APIs to deliver lessons to students.

However, ed-tech innovations in Africa are not so straightforward. While there is undoubtedly a huge addressable market, systemic issues make it hard to progress in the ed-tech space. uLesson, for instance, has changed its work model twice since 2020. At first, instead of making the lessons accessible through a website – as edX, Coursera, Udacity, and others do – uLesson distributed using 32- and 64-gigabyte memory devices. But as Covid-19 locked children at home towards the middle of 2020, uLesson stopped selling the memory devices. Instead, it invited users to access lessons directly on its website and mobile app. Now, beyond making pre-recorded lessons watchable online, uLesson is pivoting to live-streaming lessons to pupils and students. These continuous tweaks exemplify the difficulty in adapting to the ecosystem.

Africa's infrastructural problems make it tasking to reach students through e-learning. Low broadband penetration and expensive internet plans are still major challenges to ed-tech growth. Also, e-learning requires the use of devices such as mobile phones and computers, which many cannot afford.

In 2019, the cheapest internet mobile device accounted for 30% of monthly GDP per capita (equivalent to the share Americans pay on rent

every month). If these problems persist, the growth of ed-tech will only lead to more segregation in the education sector instead of closing the gaps to access.

Beyond dissemination models, Africa needs systems to make learning more practical. We have shown how practical learning used to be an essential part of education on the continent. Today, the United Nations says that only 25% of children in developing countries were leaving secondary school with basic skills. In PwC's annual CEO survey, 87% of African CEOs reported being "extremely concerned" about the availability of key skills among their workforce. For ed-tech to revamp the education sector, it needs to fill the teaching quality gap. A way to achieve this is to create platforms for teachers to learn what to teach students. For instance, Meghshala, an ed-tech startup in India, is building teach-kits to make it easier for teachers to learn what to teach, plan their lessons, and deliver them in class.

Just like e-commerce and telemedicine, ed-tech is still in its early years in Africa. Social media is still the most-used medium for e-learning in Africa. There is a growing informal economy involving the use of social platforms such as WhatsApp and Telegram to host e-learning, with the majority focusing on skill acquisition. Consequently, people no longer need to enrol in expensive skill acquisition institutes. The participation of ed-techs in this sector can cause a major disruption in Africa's education sector. History shows that Africa's strength came through informal learning, and technology can help to redeem that strength. 🇳🇬

# 9

# MOTIVATING QUOTES ABOUT STRESS



**"The greatest weapon against stress is our ability to choose one thought over another."**



**WILLIAM  
JAMES**

"What you're supposed to do if you don't like a thing is change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it. Don't complain."

**MAYA  
ANGELOU**

"Being in control of your life and having realistic expectations about your day-to-day challenges are the keys to stress management, which is perhaps the most important ingredient to living a happy, healthy and rewarding life."

**MARILU  
HENNER**



"Inaction breeds doubt and fear. Action breeds confidence and courage. If you want to conquer fear, do not sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy."

**DALE  
CARNEGIE**

**"To be a champion, you have to learn to handle stress and pressure. But if you've prepared mentally and physically, you don't have to worry."**



**HARVEY  
MACKAY**

"Don't underestimate the value of Doing Nothing, of just going along, listening to all the things you can't hear, and not bothering."

**WINNIE  
THE POOH**

**"It's not stress that kills us, it is our reaction to it."**

**HANS  
SELYE**

"By being aware of our priorities, we are able to ensure adequate time for them, and decrease the stress we feel because of them."



**BEVERLY  
BEUERMANN-KING**



"It is not a daily increase, but a daily decrease. Hack away at the inessentials."

**BRUCE  
LEE**

# HOW TO ACHIEVE WORK LIFE BALANCE



## Manage your time.

Keep a strong focus on work at work, leave on time and use those extra hours to enjoy life.

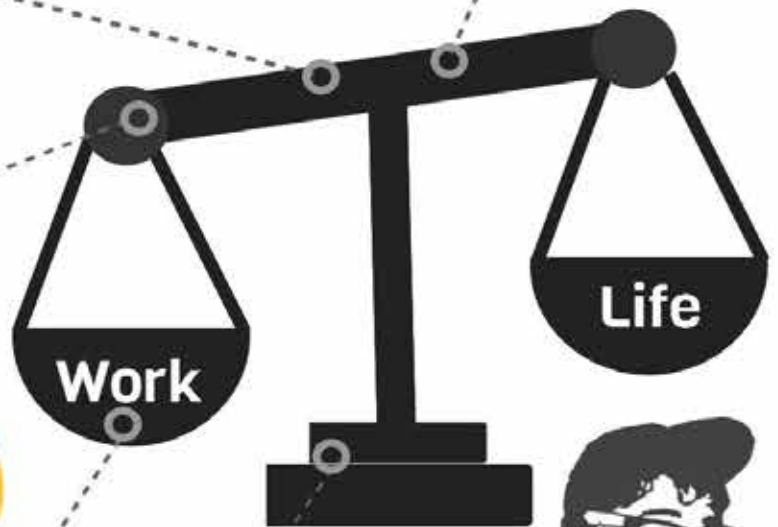


## Set your priorities.

Figure out what you want your priorities to be, not what you think they should be. What would you focus on second? Third? Fourth? Fifth? You've now identified your top five priorities.

## Say no with a smile.

There's no point volunteering for every project if the quality of your work is going to suffer. Saying no firmly but politely shows you've got a clear understanding of your priorities. When you stop doing things out of guilt, you'll find more time to focus on the activities that truly bring you joy.



## Make your job your friend.

Seek out tasks and projects that you particularly enjoy doing. If you let your managers know that you're good at something and enjoy doing it, they're likely to give you more of the same.



## Schedule in fun.

Sticking to a schedule will help to ensure that your work doesn't eat into your personal life. One of the main benefits of working is to have enough money to enjoy life. Work at getting the balance right.

Hellow Kinshasa! Series -  
Sunset over Lake Tanganyika  
by jeremiebe.rdc



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**ONE PEOPLE ONE DESTINY**