

Triangular Cooperation for Digital Innovation “Made in Africa”

African-driven digital solutions and drone innovation can drive impactful and sustainable development in agriculture and climate action across the continent!

Context

The African continent has begun to play a pioneering role in the development of data-centric solutions to address socio-ecological and economic challenges, with digital tools such as civil drones increasingly used across a wide range of sectors. While digital innovation offers promising opportunities for transformative impact, the field remains dominated by non-African entities, raising concerns about new economic dependencies and the relevance of imported solutions to African contexts.

The project aims to empower African-led digital innovations by strengthening the development and application of “**Made in Africa**” solutions. Triangular cooperation can foster cross-border innovation transfer and accelerate the development of drone and data technologies in the field of biodiversity and climate.

Project name	Triangular Cooperation for Digital Innovation “Made in Africa”
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Rwanda, Côte d’Ivoire, Germany
Duration	01.2024 – 12.2026



Approach

The project is structured around four core pillars:

- 1. User Centred Design of Drone use cases for Sustainable Development in Partner countries:** The project embraces a “Made in Africa” approach, designing impactful drone use cases tailored to local priorities in Côte d’Ivoire and Rwanda. In Rwanda, **drones are used for larviciding to combat malaria** linked to climate change and **for precision agriculture in the coffee and tea sectors** through high-resolution mapping, enabling targeted pest management and yield forecasting. In Côte d’Ivoire, **drones and satellite data monitor forests for carbon storage and support wildlife monitoring in protected areas**. By collaborating with public and private stakeholders, the project develops actionable, scalable, open-data solutions that promote resilience, sustainability, and improved living conditions in rural Africa.
- 2. Fostering Inclusive Cross-Border Cooperation for Digital Innovation Made in Africa:** Advancing digital innovation in Africa involves strengthening partnerships across borders, connecting key actors, and promoting equitable regulatory frameworks. Key initiatives include the **Wakanda Beyond Peer Action Group (PAG)**, which collaborates with the **Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority (RCAA)** and Côte d’Ivoire’s **Agence Nationale de l’Avion Civile (ANAC)** to implement a Risk Assessment Toolbox and No-Flight Zone App for safe drone use.

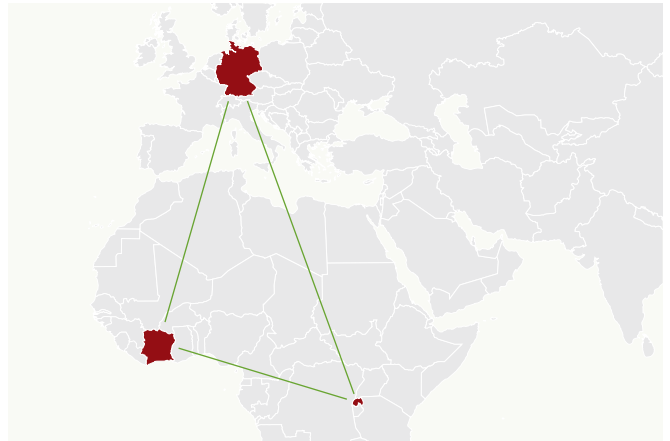


Co-creation with stakeholders' tailors use-case specifications to local needs. Additionally, the project, in partnership with **SMART Africa**, aims to develop a Drone in Africa Blueprint to harmonize regulations, foster innovation, and drive sustainable growth across the continent.

3. **Building Digital Skills in Drone Technology:** The project aims to enhance digital and geospatial skills in participating countries through initiatives like **drone pilot training, geospatial analysis programs, and sector-specific training** in agriculture, climate monitoring, and biodiversity. Innovative initiatives like the Africa Drone Business Innovation Challenge will support start-ups with mentorship, training, funding, and technical resources to build scalable, sustainable drone-driven businesses. In Côte d'Ivoire, the project will support the **Centre Universitaire de Recherche et d'Application en Télédétection (CURAT)** in establishing a drone training program focused on agriculture and climate. Additionally, **study trips** and **Training of Trainers** programs will be organized to foster international collaboration, equip professionals with the skills to safely and effectively leverage drones for development.
4. **Building a Multi-Level Ecosystem for Digital Innovation in Africa:** A comprehensive ecosystem for drones and data innovation is being fostered through collaborations at Pan-African, regional, and international levels. Knowledge hubs, including those planned with **Smart Africa** and **Rwanda's Drone Operation Center (RDOC)**, promote knowledge transfer, technical exchange, and collaboration among African countries. Multi-level partnerships and triangular cooperation strengthen local expertise, enhance market access, and refine structural conditions, enabling African stakeholders to confidently shape their digital future and drive sustainable, inclusive growth.

Benefits of Triangular Cooperation

Triangular cooperation strengthens projects and partnerships through equal collaboration, where all parties contribute and share ownership.



It fosters impactful, sustainable development by linking national and international strategies, driving ecosystem building, cross-border innovation, and investment. Germany's role as a learning partner helps realign development strategies, enhancing relevance and global acceptance while laying the foundation for long-term growth.

Partners



Published by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Triangular Cooperation for Digital Innovations
"Made in Africa"

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65760 Eschborn, Germany
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As at December, 2024

Design EYES-OPEN K15 GmbH, Berlin

Photo credits Photographer GIZ/Triangular Cooperation Project

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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)