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TOP AFRICA IMPACT REVIEW

WHERE AFRICAN IMPACT MEETS GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY



From Rwanda to the World

**REDEFINING GLOBAL
HEALTH LEADERSHIP**

Featuring the **University of Global Health Equity** and organizations shaping Africa's future through innovation, inclusion, and impact.

\$14.99 USD



EDITORIAL

ISSUE 01 • GLOBAL VISIBILITY

In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, Africa's development story is no longer defined solely by the work being done on the ground.

Increasingly, it is defined by how that work is communicated, understood, and positioned within broader global conversations.

Across the continent, governments, organizations, and businesses are driving meaningful change — from strengthening health systems and advancing education to building resilient economies and promoting environmental sustainability. Yet, despite this progress, many of these efforts remain underrepresented in the spaces where decisions, partnerships, and investments are shaped.

This magazine is born out of that gap.

Top Africa Impact Review is not simply a publication. It is a strategic platform designed to bridge local impact with global visibility — ensuring that the stories shaping Africa's future are not only told, but understood, valued, and connected to opportunity.

"Because in today's world, the difference between impact and influence lies in how clearly that impact is positioned."

At Top Africa News, we have consistently observed that impactful work alone is no longer sufficient. In a world where attention is competitive and resources are strategic, the ability to clearly position that work has become essential. Organizations that communicate effectively are better placed to attract partnerships, mobilize support, and scale their impact.

This first edition reflects that reality.

The stories featured here have been selected not only for their relevance, but for what they represent — a shift toward more structured, scalable, and forward-looking approaches to development. From global health leadership and inclusive growth to workforce transformation and environmental innovation, these narratives highlight the depth and diversity of Africa's progress.

They also point to a broader transition.

Africa is no longer simply responding to global challenges. It is increasingly contributing to the solutions — shaping new models, redefining priorities, and positioning itself within global systems in new and meaningful ways.

As this evolution continues, the role of communication becomes even more critical.

Dusabemungu Ange de la Victoire

EDITOR

TOP AFRICA NEWS

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From Rwanda to the World: How the University of Global Health Equity Is *Redefining Global Health*



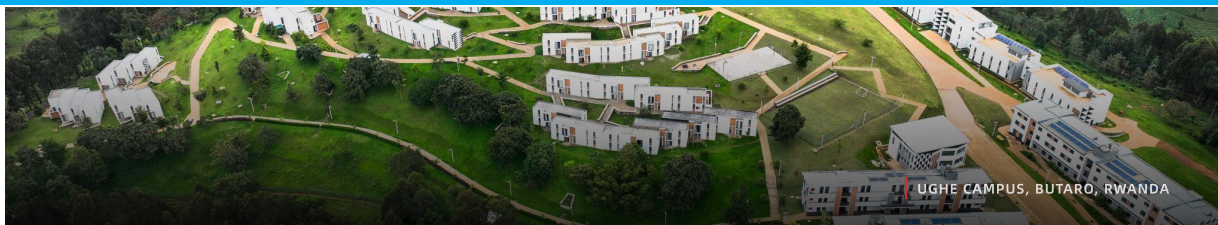
In a rapidly shifting global health landscape, where inequality continues to shape access to care and outcomes, a new model of leadership is emerging — and it is being built in Rwanda.

At the center of this transformation is the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE), an institution that is not only educating future health professionals, but redefining how global health challenges are understood and addressed.

"A patient is not viewed simply as a case, but as a whole human being."

UGHE was founded with a clear mission: to train a new generation of leaders who place equity, humanity, and strong health systems at the core of healthcare delivery. This approach challenges traditional models that treat diseases in isolation, instead emphasizing the broader social and economic conditions that shape health outcomes.

At UGHE, a patient is not viewed simply as a case, but as a whole human being — influenced by access to care, financial capacity, environment, and community context. This philosophy is central to the institution's teaching and reflects a growing recognition that sustainable healthcare solutions must go beyond clinical intervention.



GLOBAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

This perspective was reinforced during recent graduation reflections, where global voices highlighted the importance of human-centered care. Graduates are trained not only to treat illness, but to understand the realities patients face — from accessing services to sustaining their wellbeing beyond the clinic.

UGHE's model is also grounded in real-world experience. Through training at facilities such as Butaro District Hospital and the Cancer Center of Excellence, students are exposed to the intersection of disease, poverty, geography, and policy. This practical approach ensures that learning is not theoretical, but directly linked to the challenges shaping health systems across Africa.

The institution's emphasis on systems thinking further distinguishes its approach. Students are equipped with skills in policy, management, and implementation — enabling them to design solutions that are scalable, sustainable, and relevant to diverse contexts.

This aligns closely with Rwanda's broader ambition to strengthen its role in global health leadership. As the continent faces complex challenges, from emerging diseases to workforce shortages, the need for locally grounded, globally relevant solutions has never been greater.

"UGHE represents a response to this need."

It is not only preparing professionals — it is contributing to a shift in how global health is defined and who leads it. Its graduates are entering the field with a clear mandate: to build resilient systems, advance equity, and ensure that healthcare is treated as a fundamental human right.

"In this sense, UGHE is more than a university."

It is part of a broader movement positioning Africa as a source of solutions to global challenges — demonstrating that leadership in global health can be shaped from within the continent, for the world.

From Resilience to Results: How Peace and Hope Academy Is Shaping the Future of Education in Rwanda



Leadership at the Peace and Hope Academy, driving transformation through community trust and educational excellence.

"In Kigali's Kinyinya Sector, a quiet transformation is taking place — one that reflects the power of resilience, community trust, and a clear vision for the future."

At the heart of this transformation is the Peace and Hope Academy, an education initiative that has grown from humble beginnings into a recognized model of quality, impact-driven learning.

What began as a small effort to support vulnerable children has evolved into a thriving institution serving hundreds of students, while demonstrating that community-based education

can deliver measurable and consistent results.

The growth of the academy tells a compelling story.

From just 97 students in its early years, the school has expanded to over 380 learners today — a progression that reflects not only increased access, but growing confidence from parents and the wider community.

THE EDUCATIVE TEAM



” **This trust has been built on one defining factor: results.**

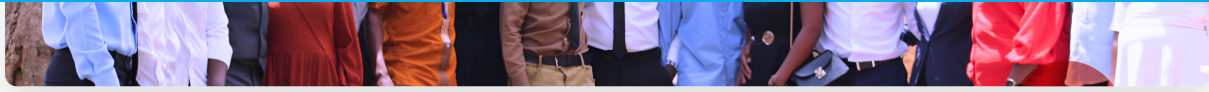
Across multiple graduating classes, the academy has achieved a 100 percent pass rate in national examinations — a level of performance that sets it apart and reinforces its credibility as a center of excellence.

Beyond academic achievement, the institution places strong emphasis on holistic development.

With a dedicated team of qualified teachers, the academy supports students from early childhood through primary education, focusing not only on knowledge acquisition, but also on discipline, confidence, and personal growth.

” **A key pillar of this success is the strong partnership between the school and parents.**

This collaboration ensures that learning extends beyond the classroom, creating an environment where children are supported both academically and socially.



"The vision driving Peace and Hope Academy is rooted in lived experience."

"Founded by a genocide survivor who transformed personal adversity into a mission for community upliftment, the initiative reflects a deeper commitment to ensuring that vulnerable children are given the opportunity to succeed."

"This foundation of purpose continues to guide the institution's growth and impact."

"Looking ahead, the academy is entering a new phase of expansion."

"Plans are underway to construct a modern, multi-story school facility that will include essential resources such as a library and a computer laboratory."

"This development is not only about infrastructure — it is about capacity."

"With growing demand and increasing enrollment, the expansion aims to accommodate more learners while maintaining the quality of education that defines the institution."

"The broader implication of this work is clear."

"Peace and Hope Academy is not only educating children — it is contributing to a model of scalable, community-driven development."

"It demonstrates that with the right vision, leadership, and support, local initiatives can generate outcomes that are both impactful and sustainable."

"As Rwanda continues to invest in its future, initiatives like Peace and Hope Academy highlight the importance of education as a foundation for long-term development."

"They also reinforce a critical message:"

"that investing in a child's education is not only a personal commitment — it is an investment in the future of an entire nation."

Recognizing Skills, Restoring Dignity: How Rwanda Is Professionalizing Its Mining Workforce



Certification through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program

“As Rwanda's mining sector continues its rapid growth — generating \$1.75 billion in 2024 and targeting even greater expansion — a critical transformation is taking place at the workforce level.

At the center of this shift is the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU), driving efforts to formalize skills, improve working conditions, and strengthen the dignity of over 92,000 workers across the sector.

A major milestone in this transformation was reached in December 2025, when 2,150 mineworkers were certified through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program during Rwanda Mining Week.

This cohort — the largest since the program's inception — represents a growing national effort to address one of the sector's longstanding challenges: the gap between experience and formal recognition.

For decades, many miners entered the industry through hands-on practice rather than formal education. While skilled, they lacked certification, limiting their mobility, safety,



RPL is changing that.

By evaluating real-world competencies acquired on the job, the program validates skills without requiring traditional classroom training.

Since 2022, more than 4,850 mineworkers have been certified through this approach, marking a significant step toward workforce formalization.

This shift is not only technical — it is transformational.

For workers, certification provides recognition, confidence, and the ability to move across employers with verified expertise. For the sector, it strengthens productivity, safety standards, and overall competitiveness.

The initiative is built on strong collaboration.

Led by REWU, the program brings together the Rwanda TVET Board (RTB), Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB), government institutions, universities, and development partners including the European Union and the World Bank.



"This multi-stakeholder approach reflects a broader understanding: that workforce development is not an isolated effort, but a shared responsibility across public and private actors."

Beyond certification, the impact extends into economic empowerment and labor protection. With formal recognition, workers are better positioned to:

- secure employment contracts
- access pension schemes
- negotiate fair wages
- work under safer and regulated conditions

As REWU leadership has emphasized, this transition is essential not only for sector growth, but for reducing vulnerability and poverty among workers.

Importantly, the program also reflects a shift in how development is approached. As highlighted by international partners, initiatives like RPL go beyond skills training — they contribute to stronger communities, greater inclusion, and long-term resilience.

Looking ahead, Rwanda's ambition is clear. With plans to expand skills recognition across multiple sectors, the RPL model is becoming a national tool for workforce transformation — extending beyond mining into construction, hospitality, and other industries.

"It is about redefining the value of work itself."

In this context, the evolution of Rwanda's mining workforce is not only about meeting production targets. Recognizing skills, formalizing labor, and strengthening protections are all part of a broader shift toward a more inclusive and modern economy.

For the thousands of workers receiving certification, this transformation is deeply personal. It represents more than a qualification.

It is recognition, dignity, and a pathway toward greater opportunity.

Breaking Barriers: Advancing Inclusion and Leadership for Women with Visual Impairment in Rwanda



As Rwanda continues to advance its inclusive development agenda, a critical transformation is unfolding — one that is redefining the role of women with visual impairment in society.

At the center of this shift is the [Rwanda Union of the Blind \(RUB\)](#), working to ensure that inclusion is not only a policy commitment, but a lived reality.

“**Empowerment through
Inclusion and Navigating
Challenges Together**”

In December 2025, visually impaired women representing [64 associations](#) from across the country gathered at the Masaka Resource Centre for the Blind in a landmark national forum.

Held under the theme 'Breaking Barriers: Empowerment through Inclusion and Navigating Challenges Together,' the forum provided a platform to reflect on progress while identifying persistent structural challenges.

The gathering underscored the resilience of these women and their determination to shape a more equitable future.

Progress & Inclusion

Over the past decade, Rwanda has made notable strides in promoting **gender equality and disability inclusion**.

Women with visual impairment – once among the most marginalized – are increasingly accessing education, employment, and leadership opportunities.

This progress is reflected in the growing number of women taking on professional and academic roles, demonstrating that disability is **no longer a barrier** to participation, but a dimension of diversity within society.

However, discussions at the forum highlighted that significant gaps

remain.

Participants pointed to systemic barriers, particularly in political participation, where women with visual impairment are often limited to competing within disability-specific categories rather than fully participating in broader leadership structures.

This reflects a wider challenge: the gap between **policy commitments and implementation**.

Bridging this gap requires sustained advocacy, institutional alignment, and a shift in perception – from inclusion as accommodation to **inclusion as equal participation**.



Mugisha Jaques, Executive Director, Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB)

Another critical issue raised was Gender-Based Violence (GBV), which continues to disproportionately affect women with disabilities. Testimonies revealed that perpetrators often target visually impaired women, assuming they are less able to identify or report abuse.

In response, stakeholders emphasized the importance of:

- strengthening reporting mechanisms
- improving communication systems within organizations
- increasing nationwide awareness and protection measures

Institutions such as the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB), in collaboration with RUB, continue to play a key role in addressing these challenges and supporting survivors.

Looking ahead, collaboration emerged as a central priority.

The forum called for stronger coordination between RUB, national institutions, and development partners to ensure that progress is sustained and scaled.

The decision to institutionalize the forum as an annual platform reflects a growing recognition that inclusion requires continuous dialogue, monitoring, and accountability.

Ultimately, the transformation underway is not only about expanding access. It is about redefining participation. Ensuring that women with visual impairment can contribute fully — as leaders, professionals, and decision-makers — is essential to building a more inclusive and resilient society.

In this context, the work of RUB represents more than advocacy. It represents a broader shift toward a development model where no one is left behind — and where inclusion is recognized not as a privilege, but as a fundamental right.

FIVE WAYS TO INVEST IN RWANDA'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Rwanda is actively transitioning from a traditional linear economy—characterized by an unsustainable 'take, make, and dispose' model—to a **regenerative circular economy**. This shift is not merely an environmental imperative to mitigate climate change and resource depletion, but a strategic economic move championed by the Rwandan government. The circular economy is embedded in

the country's Vision 2050, the Green Growth and Climate Resiliency Strategy, and the recently launched 2022 Circular Economy Roadmap.

For investors, entrepreneurs, and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), treating '**waste as a resource**' presents significant opportunities to drive profitability, foster innovation, and create green jobs. Here are five expert ways to invest in Rwanda's multi-sectoral circular economy:

1. Transforming Food Systems and Upcycling Organic Waste

With approximately 60% of Rwanda's population employed in the agricultural and food sector, addressing food loss is a massive investment avenue. Currently, around **30% of food produced in Rwanda is lost or wasted** along the supply chain. Investors can finance SMEs focused on post-harvest preservation, such as processing, drying, and

grinding fish to increase shelf life and retain nutritional value.

Furthermore, there is a highly profitable market in upcycling organic waste; innovative businesses are already turning residues like chicken bones and fish remains into valuable animal feed.

2. Agroecology and Commercial Organic Fertilizer Production

While conventional inorganic fertilizers can temporarily boost production, they often act as 'silent killers' that destroy long-term soil health and biodiversity. **Investing in agroecological practices is a proven profit-making process** because it minimizes the need for expensive chemical inputs. There is a high demand for locally produced, organic agricultural inputs.

Lucrative investment opportunities include scaling up heap composting and vermicomposting (raising worms fed on crop residues and animal waste). These systems produce high-quality solid compost and 'worm tea'—a liquid byproduct that serves as both a powerful fertilizer and a natural pesticide.

SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION



3. Renewable Energy Generation from Waste Biomass

Energy production through circular practices offers a robust return on investment while simultaneously mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, particularly methane released from decomposing organic waste. **Investors can fund the infrastructure needed to produce biogas from animal manure and organic residues**, transforming farm waste into a reliable source of renewable energy. Additionally, agricultural byproducts can be monetized as fuel; for example, technologies that convert coffee processing waste (like coffee husks) into fuel pellets provide a sustainable, high-demand alternative to traditional wood charcoal.

4. Sustainable Packaging and Biodegradable Materials

Rwanda made a highly successful, bold move to ban single-use plastics starting in 2008. As a result, there is a burgeoning, policy-supported market for alternative packaging. **Investors can capitalize on the demand for producing biodegradable or reusable materials.** Furthermore, local food processors are actively seeking sustainable packaging solutions—such as vacuum packing—to preserve product quality with minimal environmental impact and low energy usage. There are also opportunities to invest in infrastructure that manages legally produced plastics, ensuring waste collection points effectively separate decomposable and reusable materials.

5. Sustainable Fashion and Textile Recovery

The fashion and textile industry presents an untapped frontier for circular investments. Opportunities in this sector include establishing and scaling up clothing repair services, supporting sustainable fabric production, and developing infrastructure for textile waste recovery. **Building on the long-standing Rwandan cultural practice of reusing and passing down clothes through families**, innovative business models can formalize and commercialize textile circularity for a modern market.

© *The Knowledge provided through this article was gained from the recent Training from World Resources Institute Rwanda.*

Scaling Nature-Based Solutions: How ARCOS Is Advancing Climate Resilience Across Africa

As climate change continues to reshape ecosystems, economies, and livelihoods across Africa, the need for solutions that are both sustainable and scalable has become increasingly urgent.

Among the approaches gaining global recognition are **Nature-Based Solutions (Nbs)** — strategies that work with ecosystems to address environmental challenges while supporting human wellbeing.



| Implementing sustainable farming practices for climate resilience.



| Leadership driving innovative conservation approaches.

At the forefront of advancing these solutions in the region is **Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)**, a regional organization driving innovative, community-centered approaches to conservation and climate resilience.

"ARCOS operates across the Albertine Rift, one of Africa's most biodiverse regions, where environmental pressures such as deforestation, land degradation, and climate variability directly affect millions of people."

Ecosystem Restoration & Community Development

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO CONSERVATION AND RESILIENCE

Recognizing that conservation cannot be separated from livelihoods, the organization has adopted an integrated approach — linking ecosystem restoration with economic opportunity and community development.

A key pillar of ARCOS' work is the promotion of Nature-Based Solutions as a practical response to climate challenges.

Rather than relying solely on engineered interventions, NbS leverage natural systems — forests, wetlands, and landscapes — to enhance resilience, improve food security, and reduce environmental risks.

This approach allows communities to benefit directly from conservation efforts, making sustainability both viable and locally relevant.

In Rwanda and across the region, ARCOS has been actively involved in partnerships that demonstrate the effectiveness of this model.

Collaborations with government institutions, international organizations, and private sector actors have enabled the implementation of initiatives such as watershed restoration, sustainable agriculture, and ecosystem-based adaptation projects.

04 Connecting Local Action with Global Frameworks

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

These efforts contribute not only to environmental protection, but also to improved livelihoods and long-term economic stability.

One of the defining strengths of ARCOS lies in its ability to connect local action with global frameworks.

By aligning its initiatives with international climate and biodiversity agendas, the organization ensures that grassroots solutions are positioned within broader development priorities.

This creates opportunities for scaling impact through funding, policy integration, and cross-border collaboration.

Beyond implementation, ARCOS also plays a critical role in knowledge generation and advocacy.

Through research, training, and regional dialogue, the organization supports the adoption of best practices and strengthens the capacity of communities and institutions to respond to environmental challenges.

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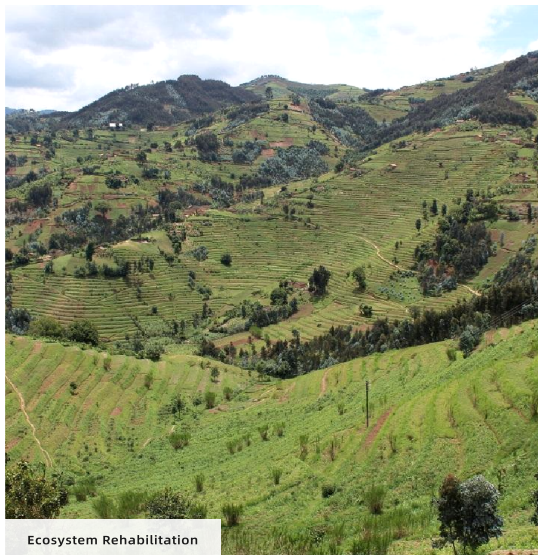
GLOBAL CONSERVATION REPORT

The Power of Narrative in Conservation

Why the International Union for Conservation of Nature Sets the Standard



Restoration in Eastern Rwanda



Ecosystem Rehabilitation

In the global response to climate change and biodiversity loss, action alone is no longer enough.

Across Africa and beyond, conservation initiatives are expanding – restoring ecosystems, protecting biodiversity, and supporting communities. Yet many of these efforts struggle to achieve the scale they require.

The missing link is often not action, but communication.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has consistently demonstrated how strategic narrative can elevate conservation from localized intervention to global priority.

Connecting Conservation to Global Frameworks

Rather than presenting environmental work as isolated projects, IUCN connects these efforts to broader frameworks — linking conservation to development, finance, and policy.

This approach transforms conservation from a **technical issue into a strategic one.**

A defining strength of IUCN lies in its ability to translate complexity into clarity.

“Through initiatives such as the Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions, the organization frames environmental action in ways that are accessible to governments, investors, and communities alike.

This ensures that conservation is not seen as a niche concern, but as a practical pathway toward **economic resilience, climate adaptation, and sustainable development.**

Equally important is the organization's emphasis on linking global dialogue with local impact.

From international congresses to community-based initiatives, IUCN consistently highlights how policy frameworks translate into real-world solutions — whether through ecosystem restoration, sustainable land management, or climate adaptation strategies.

“This connection reinforces a critical message:

➔ **conservation is actionable, measurable, and scalable**

As environmental challenges become increasingly interconnected, the importance of narrative continues to grow. Organizations that succeed are not only those implementing strong programs, but those able to clearly communicate their relevance across sectors and stakeholders.

The lesson is clear. Impact alone does not drive change. Visibility, positioning, and strategic communication are equally essential.

"For media platforms, this presents both a responsibility and an opportunity."

By translating complex environmental work into compelling, accessible narratives, media can play a critical role in accelerating awareness, attracting investment, and scaling solutions.

In this evolving landscape, the future of conservation will depend not only on what is done, but on how effectively it is communicated.

The model set by IUCN demonstrates that when expertise and narrative align, conservation can move beyond isolated success stories to become a driving force in global development.

PARTNER WITH US

Transform Your Impact Into Strategic Visibility

Position Your Impact.
Reach the Right Audience.
Unlock Opportunity.

Across Africa, organizations are driving meaningful change — but too often, their work remains unseen by the audiences that matter most.

At **Top Africa News**, we bridge that gap.

We help organizations transform their impact into strategic visibility, connecting them with a global network of partners, donors, and decision-makers.

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- ✓ Strategic article placement
- ✓ Professional storytelling and positioning
- ✓ Visibility to international audiences
- ✓ Multi-channel distribution (web, social, direct networks)

| Who We Work With

- 🏢 NGOs and development partners
- 👤 Companies and startups
- 🌐 Institutions and initiatives driving impact

| Why It Matters

In today's landscape, impact alone is not enough.

- 🕒 **Visibility** drives partnerships
- 🎯 **Positioning** attracts funding
- 📈 **Communication** unlocks growth

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