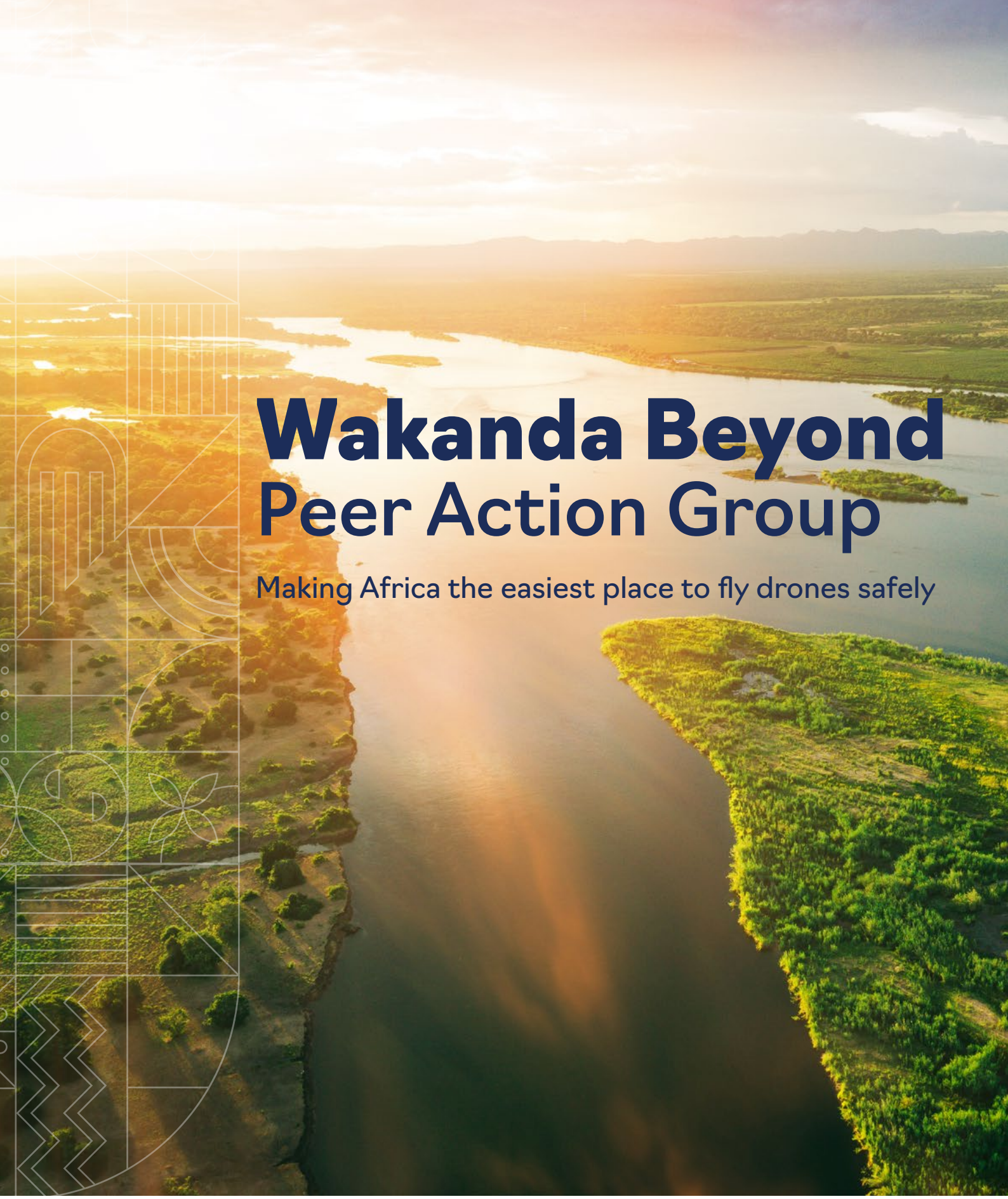

Wakanda Beyond
Peer Action Group

Making Africa the easiest place to fly drones safely

A collaborative initiative of

DRONES DOING GOOD ALLIANCE

UKaid from the British people

sada

smart africa

FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES

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The challenge

Civil Aviation Authorities (CAAs) in Africa, like those around the world, are under significant pressure to balance the major impact and economic opportunities presented by drones with potential challenges and risks associated with their use. This is further complicated by the fact that the technology is rapidly evolving.

Having the right regulations is vital. Safety is paramount but overly strict and or complex regulations, with high-cost barriers can unintentionally increase unregulated activities, stifle business, prevent lives from being saved and significantly reduce the positive impact of the technology.

Simply cutting and pasting regulations from western countries is not the solution. Unconducive regulations in these countries is precisely what has driven many foreign companies to Africa. For example, it is much easier for a company to safely gain experience flying beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) in Malawi than in most European countries, due to the existence of one of the world's first drone corridors in Malawi.

The challenge today is for African CAAs to continue to be pioneers in this space, developing, testing and refining regulations that allow the benefit of drones to be reaped while maintaining a high degree of safety and security.

Who is this process for?

This is for African governments e.g. CAAs or Ministries interested in drone operations who;

- Are leaders who want to enable drone regulations but also want to ensure a high degree of safety and security.
- See the need to improve their drone regulations and regulatory processes.
- Want to develop better and smarter regulations in collaboration with other pioneers.

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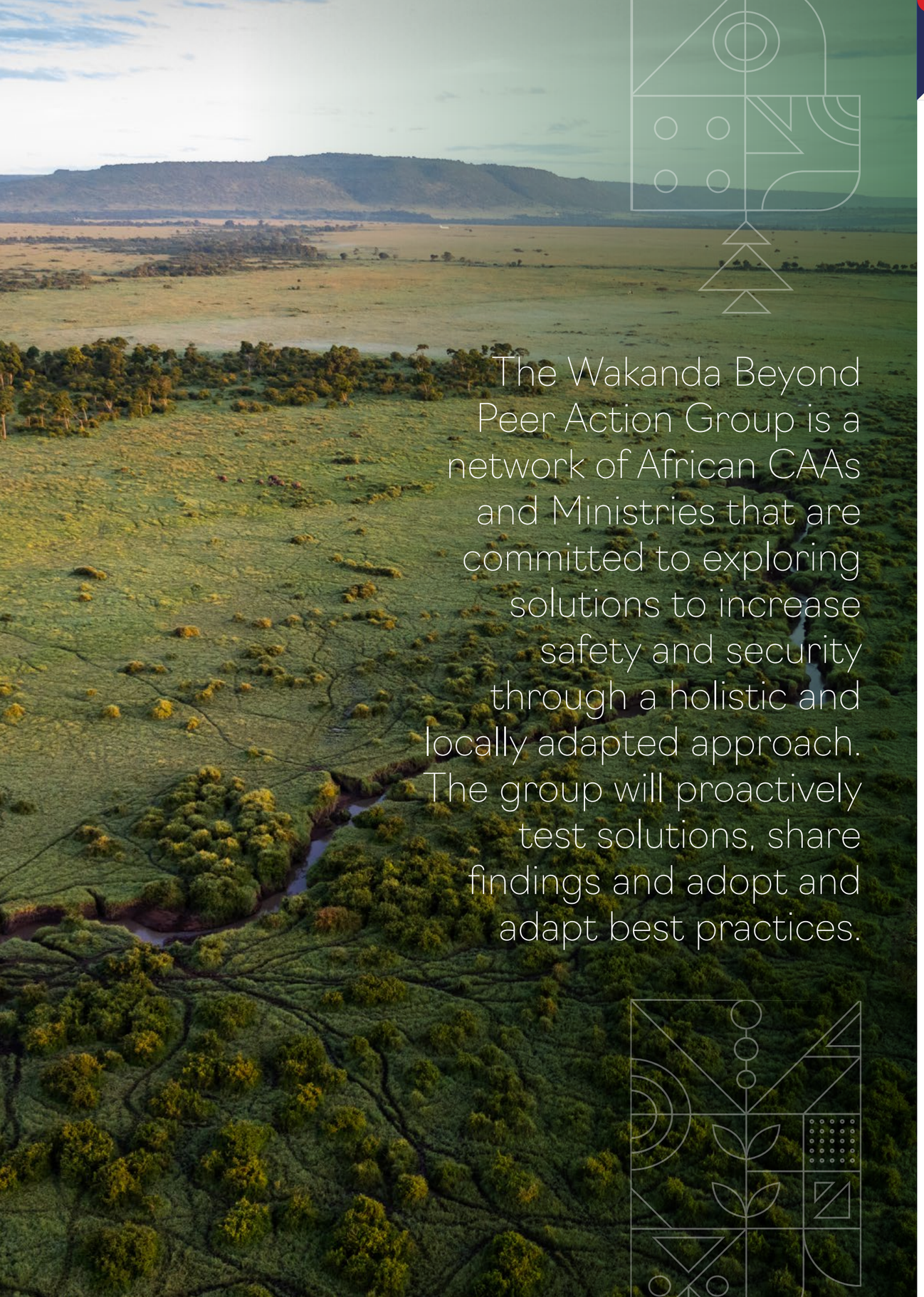

What is the Wakanda Beyond Peer Action Group (PAG)

A discussion paper has been written by the Drones Doing Good Alliance in collaboration with Endeva e.V., and the UKaid funded Frontier Technologies Hub on this topic. It provides guidance and concrete recommendations and solutions on how policymakers can navigate safety, security and ethical questions related to the sustainable growth and scaling of drone operations in health-care logistics in Africa.

The Wakanda Beyond Peer Action Group builds on the paper and, in the spirit of supporting agile regulations, brings together African governments to adapt, test and apply some of the recommended solutions. Wakanda is a reference to the aspiration for the group to influence the development of new and future-fit regulations and approval processes that go beyond what exists today and enables Africa to be a world leader in smart regulations for BVLOS operations.

The group will proactively test solutions, share findings and adopt and adapt best practices. Through practical experimentation, peer learning and exchange, the group will increase understanding amongst regulators on the risks and challenges for policymakers, the possible solutions and the repercussions of the regulations from a business and impact perspective. It will give regulators the opportunity to develop solutions suitable for their contexts now while providing exposure to approaches they can utilise when developing drone (or other) policy and regulations in the future.

What is involved in joining the Group?

The initiative will take place over 12 months and is composed of 3 in-person events as well as remote coaching and technical assistance (TA). Each event will include a demonstration or immersive learning opportunity as well as training and exchange. Between events participants will take concrete actions towards testing, reviewing or adapting solutions with the support of TA. The solutions developed and the learning generated along the way will be shared amongst the Group and with others facing similar challenges. **The first in person event will be in Germany on the 30th to the 31st of March 2023.**

2023 TIMELINE

Registration process — 3-17 February
Government agencies can sign up to attend the firstmeeting.

7 March — **Pre-event Webinar**
Ahead of the event in Germany we will be offering a webinar on the key findings of the publication. The webinar will focus on concrete solutions to increase safety and security. We will also explore the limitations of approaches taken up by countries with limited drone activity. This event is open to all participants. It is of value to those joining the Group as well as for those participants that decide to only join this webinar.

Event #1: Kick-off (Germany) — 30- 31 March
In addition to a demo showcasing advancements in the sector, participants will identify priority areas, explore relevant solutions from the publication and identify the solutions they wish to test. Following the meeting each country will commit to an experiment they wish to conduct and these will be announced in April. Throughout the experimentation phase countries will receive coaching, with opportunities for further TA.

April — **Announce experiments**
Governments and partners select which problems they would like to tackle, receive feedback and support

Implement experiments — April - November
Solutions tested over 8-12weeks.

July — **Event #2: Progress Presentation** (Rwanda)
This event will be an opportunity to see the progress that has been made in implementing experiments. It will provide additional training support and the opportunity for groups working on different solutions to connect and exchange ideas. Countries that are making progress can also unlock additional TA support.

Event #3: Experiment results review meeting, (Senegal) — November
Following the completion of the experiments countries will re-group to share the outcome of experiments and learnings. These learnings will be the basis of guidance notes on the application of solutions. The event will be held in one of the participating countries for participants to learn more specific solutions.

January/February, 2024 — **Guidance Notes Released**
The findings from the experiments will be consolidated and developed into guidance notes on various solutions. In a final workshop participants will focus on the results and next steps for adapting and adopting solutions into their regulations or test them on a larger basis.

Why governments can't afford to miss this

- ✓ Join a group of peers leading the way in enabling safe UAV use across Africa;
- ✓ Receive expert TA support to develop policies, regulations or regulatory processes; and
- ✓ Obtain guidance on how to test solutions in a small and safe way before integrating them into your regulations
- ✓ Save time and avoid repeating other's mistakes

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Questions and Answers

Who is the Peer Action Group for?
The initiative will benefit African regulators e.g. CAAs or Government Ministries interested in drone operations who are leaders who want to enable drone regulations but also want to ensure a high degree of safety and security; have identified a need to improve their drone regulations and regulatory processes; and want to develop better and smarter regulations in collaboration with other pioneers. Specifically, we expect this offer to be of interest to CAA Heads and drone operation leads.

We are interested, but we are not an African government. Where do we fit in?
While the in-person events are focused on regulators rather than operators and manufacturers there will be opportunities to participate and contribute to the designing and testing of solutions during the experiments. Indeed, operators and manufacturers can play an important role at this stage. In addition we will be conducting surveys with operators and manufacturers to understand their key challenges and get their input on solutions. If you are not a government representative and are interested in being involved, please register and we will notify you about opportunities to engage.

Will travel costs and accommodation be covered?
We are pleased to confirm that accommodation costs will be covered for a limited number of participants. Those that need this support are encouraged to register early. Kindly note we are unable to cover travel.

We have limited resources; how can we manage to attend?
Neither travel nor accommodation costs will be covered. However, all the support and training provided is at no additional cost to participants.

How can we be sure that this process will be effective?
The initiative will begin by understanding the priority areas for participating regulators. Then, together we'll identify problem areas and solutions to focus on over the next 12 months, informed by research undertaken to develop the discussion paper. Participants will receive TA support to design solutions and test them at a small scale, enabling learning and iteration before scaling, thus reducing the risk of failure or unintended consequences.

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