

By Charles Ndushabandi;

In a move set to transform the landscape of Rwanda's tourism industry, Zipline, a global leader in autonomous drone delivery, has forged a pioneering partnership with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB). The collaboration aims to introduce seamless delivery of high-quality 'Made in Rwanda' products to resorts and lodges across the country, while simultaneously contributing to conservation efforts and economic development.

The announcement marks a significant expansion of Zipline's services beyond its renowned medical supply deliveries, illustrating the company's commitment to leveraging cutting-edge technology for multifaceted societal benefits.

Central to the partnership is the promotion of 'Made in Rwanda' products, with Zipline and RDB teaming up to deliver locally crafted fashion and souvenir items directly to hospitality establishments. This initiative not only bolsters local businesses but also amplifies the visibility of Rwandan products on the global stage, fostering growth in the nation's creative economy.

Moreover, a portion of the proceeds from every delivery within Rwanda's tourism sector will support the Volcanoes National Park Expansion Project. This critical conservation initiative aims to safeguard the habitat of endangered mountain gorillas and other wildlife species, underscoring the commitment of both Zipline and RDB to environmental stewardship.



By harnessing Zipline's autonomous drone technology, the partnership promises to revolutionize supply chain logistics within Rwanda's tourism industry. The use of drones streamlines delivery processes, reducing wait times and enhancing overall efficiency while minimizing carbon footprint, aligning with RDB's dedication to promote environmentally friendly solutions.

Pierre Kayitana, General Manager of Zipline Rwanda, expressed his excitement about the collaboration, emphasizing the opportunity to enchant tourists with locally sourced gifts seamlessly delivered to their doorsteps, even in remote areas of Rwanda. He highlighted Wilderness Destinations and Umva Muhazi Lodge as pioneering subscribers to the innovative drone delivery service, aimed at elevating guest experiences.

Francis Gatare, CEO of RDB, hailed the partnership as a testament to Rwanda's commitment to collaboration, environmental conservation, economic development, and innovation. He emphasized the role of such public-private initiatives in positioning Rwanda as a global leader in embracing innovative solutions for societal progress.

The collaboration between Zipline Rwanda and RDB sets a precedent for the integration of drone technology into diverse sectors, fostering economic development while prioritizing environmental sustainability. With a focus on empowering local businesses, conserving wildlife habitats, and embracing innovation, the partnership paves the way for a more resilient and equitable future for Rwanda's tourism industry.