

Rwanda is on the brink of making history as it pursues a bold ambition to host a Formula 1 Grand Prix, marking a potential return of the prestigious motorsport to the African continent for the first time since 1993.

High-level talks between Formula 1 executives and Rwandan representatives are scheduled for the end of September, signaling a significant step forward in the country's efforts to secure a spot on the global racing calendar.

In an exclusive interview with [Motorsport.com](https://www.motorsport.com) last Friday, August 8, 2024, Formula 1 CEO Stefano Domenicali confirmed the upcoming meeting, expressing optimism about Rwanda's bid. "They are serious," said Domenicali. "They have presented a good plan, and actually, we have a meeting with them at the end of September. It will be on a permanent track."

Known for its rapid development and visionary projects, Rwanda is setting its sights on becoming a premier destination for international events. The potential of hosting a Formula 1 race is not just a sporting ambition—it's a strategic move to elevate Rwanda's global image, attract tourism, and spur economic growth.

The Formula 1 race could be a game-changer for Rwanda. The event is expected to draw thousands of international visitors, create jobs, and generate significant revenue for the local economy. Moreover, it would firmly establish Rwanda as a top-tier destination for global sports, further boosting its profile on the world stage.

Rwanda's interest in motor racing has been steadily growing in recent years. The Rwanda Development Board (RDB) has been actively involved in promoting the country as a future F1 destination, with representatives attending the Monaco Grand Prix earlier this year to meet with the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA). Additionally, Kigali is set to host the FIA Annual General Assembly and Prize Giving Ceremony this December, further underlining Rwanda's commitment to the sport.

While efforts to reach Rwanda Automobile President Christain Gakwaya for comment were not successful, motorsport enthusiasts in Kigali have expressed excitement about the possibility of an F1 race coming to Rwanda. This is a huge opportunity for our country," said Kalisa Jean Claude a local motor sport fan, "It shows that Rwanda is ready to take on the world and host events that put us on the global map."

Rwanda's bid comes at a time when Africa has been absent from the Formula 1 circuit for over three decades, with the last race held in South Africa in 1993. Bringing Formula 1 back to Africa would not only be a historic moment for the continent but also a tribute to Rwanda's forward-thinking leadership and its ability to take on ambitious projects.

Formula 1 CEO Stefano Domenicali emphasized the importance of strategic planning and investment in making the African race a reality. "We want to go to Africa, but we need to have the right investment and the right strategic plan," Domenicali stated. "We need to have the right moment, and we need to make sure that also in that country, in that region, in that continent, there is the right welcoming, because, of course, they have other priorities. We need to be always very careful in making the right choices."

As Formula 1 eyes future calendar expansions, the interest in Rwanda's bid is a promising sign. Domenicali hinted at the growing number of countries eager to host F1 races, giving the sport the luxury of choosing the best possible locations. "With 24 races, I see that there's a number that will be stable, and we can really tune the ones that we are discussing to see what will be the future in the middle term," he said.

For Rwanda, the upcoming meeting in September could be a pivotal moment. If successful, the country will not only bring Formula 1 back to Africa but also solidify its status as a dynamic and ambitious nation ready to host world-class events.

As the discussions unfold, all eyes will be on Rwanda, a nation poised to make its mark on the global motorsport stage.