



A Glimpse of Rwanda

10 days in the land of a thousand hills



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It was a privilege to spend a short time in Rwanda. From the bustle, busyness and endless lines of yellow-jacketed motorcycle taxis of Kigali to the tranquillity of Lake Kivu in the west with its bright orange sun rises, and miles of verdant, multi-shaded green terraced hills in between, Rwanda is beautiful. Fields of sugar cane, rice paddies and forests of green bananas, often all tended by hand, line the hillsides, punctuated by deep reddish-brown earth that colours the land, the rivers and the feet of those at work. Tethered goats graze by roadsides lined with steady streams of people carrying their wares on heads or piled high on bicycles in seemingly unbalance-able ways. Almost no-one smokes; single-use plastic bags are banned; and streets are clean and rubbish-free, partly thanks to Umuganda, 3 hours of community service that everyone engages in on the fourth Saturday of every month. Yet beneath or alongside all this lies the spectre of the 1994 genocide which killed 800,000 people and displaced millions. Rwanda continues to recover from this unthinkable event which destroyed the government, the economy and families. Genocide memorials are common sights across the country, reminders to all of what took place.

Captured here are a very few glimpses into the land and its people.

Philip King, August 2025.





A view of Kigali, Rwanda's capital.





Kigali in its busyness and life.





Sugar cane transport.





Growing and transporting sugar cane.

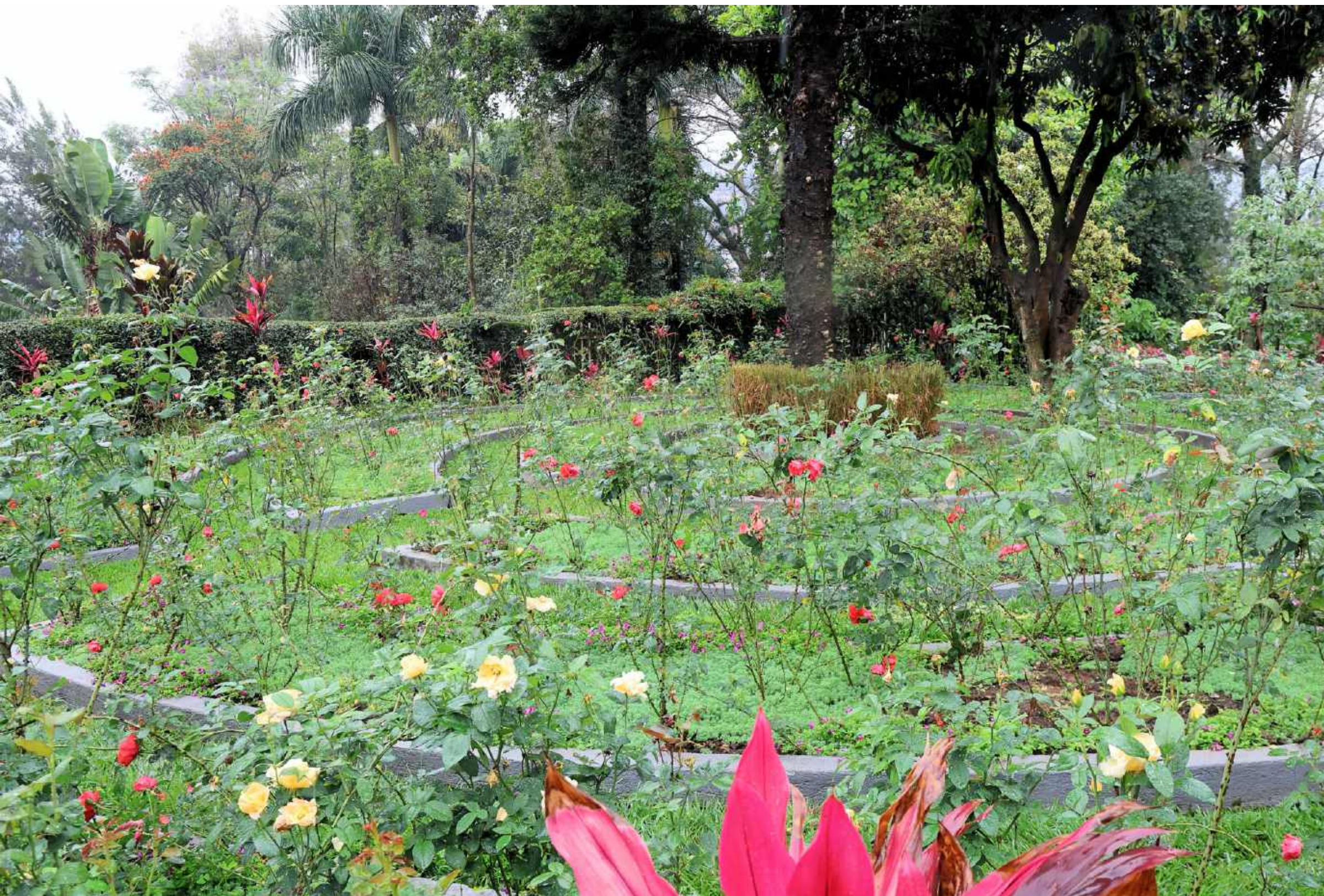








The 1994 genocide is never far below the surface. St Peter's Church, Kibuye, was the site of thousands killed. At the Kigali Genocide Memorial (opposite), 250,000 people are buried.







The red-brown Rwandan soil is due to the presence of iron oxides.















Lake Muhazi, Gahini.







Matoke (green bananas) are one of Rwanda's main crops.















Building a church in the Congo-Nile parish, Karongi.

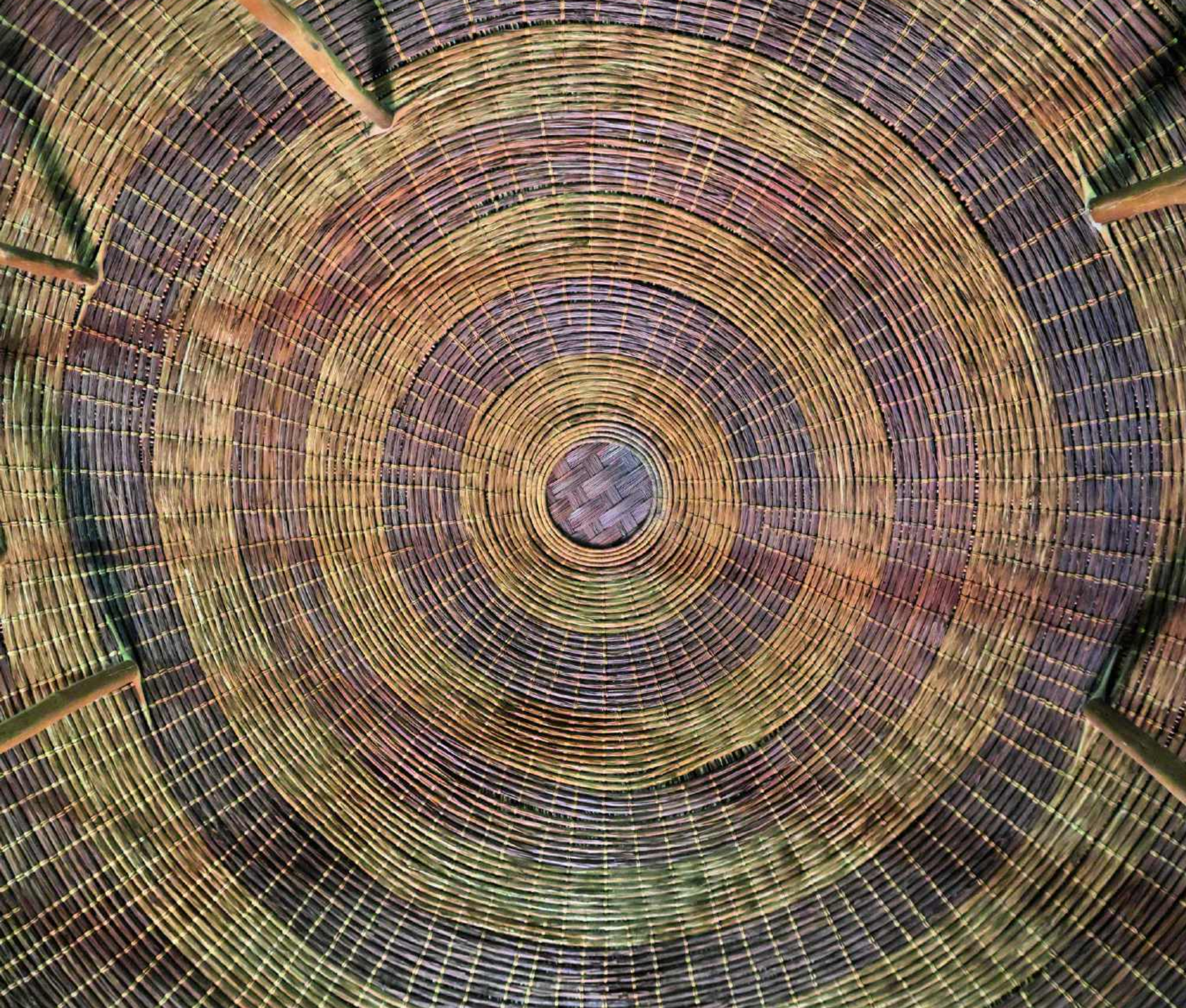








The King's Palace Museum, Nyanza, with long-horned Inyambo cattle and keeper, and the ceiling of the replica palace.























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Sunrise over Lake Kivu.

















Fishing boats on Lake Kivu.







A traditional Rwandan beehive (opposite). Above: a coffee-washing station - coffee is one of Rwanda's biggest exports.





Rice paddy fields.







Dancing with music from an iningiri, a traditional Rwandan instrument.









Celebrations in Gahini to mark 100 years of the Anglican Church in Rwanda.





The Karongi Diocese guest house under construction with Lake Kivu in the background.

