



Regional Economic Blocs in Africa: A Comparative Study Emphasising Kenya's Role and Impact

Kerubo Musundi¹, Orindi Wambugu^{1,2}, Turaka Were^{1,2}, Oyugi Njuguna^{1,3}

¹ University of Nairobi

² Moi University

³ Department of Research, Pwani University

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Correspondence: kmusundi@outlook.com

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Author notes

Kerubo Musundi is affiliated with University of Nairobi and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Orindi Wambugu is affiliated with University of Nairobi and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Turaka Were is affiliated with University of Nairobi and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Oyugi Njuguna is affiliated with University of Nairobi and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Regional economic blocs in Africa have emerged as tools for facilitating intra-regional trade and development. Kenya, being a significant player in East Africa, has played a pivotal role in these initiatives. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data analysis from existing databases and qualitative interviews with key stakeholders in Kenya's trade and investment sectors. A notable finding is that Kenya's membership in the East African Community has led to a significant increase in intra-regional trade by over 30% compared to pre-bloc period levels. The study concludes that regional blocs have enhanced economic cooperation and integration among member states, with Kenya as a key facilitator of these processes. Policy recommendations include strengthening institutional frameworks for cross-border collaboration and promoting greater private sector engagement in regional trade initiatives.

Keywords: *Pan-Africanism, Regionalism, Mercosur, Preferential Trading Programmes for Africa (PTPA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Developmental State, Decentralization*

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