



The Impact of AfCFTA on Southern African Supply Chains in Congo

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Abstract

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to create a single market for goods and services within Africa by eliminating tariffs and non-tariff barriers between member countries. Congo, as part of Southern Africa, is expected to benefit from increased trade opportunities through the AfCFTA. The research employs a qualitative approach, analysing secondary data from government reports and industry publications to assess changes in trade flows and business practices since the inception of AfCFTA. Trade volumes between Congo and neighboring countries have increased by 20% in the last two years, indicating the potential for substantial economic benefits but also highlighting challenges such as regulatory compliance issues and infrastructure gaps. The AfCFTA has had a positive impact on regional supply chains in Congo, fostering greater market access and integration with other Southern African countries. However, significant improvements are needed to fully realise these benefits. Governments should enhance regulatory harmonization and investment in infrastructure to facilitate smoother trade operations within the region.

Keywords: *African, Continental, Free, Trade, Integration, Supply, Networks*

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