



The AfCFTA's Influence on Post-Apartheid Southern African Supply Chains in Morocco,

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Abstract

{ "background": "The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was established in with the aim of promoting intra-African trade and economic integration. Southern Africa, including post-apartheid South Africa, has seen significant changes in its supply chains due to regional integration efforts such as the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Protocol on Trade in Services and Goods (TSGP). Morocco, a key player within this region, has been actively participating in AfCFTA negotiations. This study examines how AfCFTA influences Moroccan post-apartheid Southern African supply chains.", "purposeandobjectives": "The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of AfCFTA on regional supply chains in Southern Africa, with a specific focus on Morocco's role as an intermediary and its influence on these networks. Objectives include understanding how AfCFTA has reshaped Moroccan-Southern African trade patterns and the implications for businesses operating within this region.", "methodology": "Qualitative research methods were employed to collect data from interviews with key industry stakeholders, government officials, and business representatives in Morocco. Focus groups were also conducted to gather insights on supply chain dynamics and policy responses to AfCFTA implementation.", "findings": "The analysis reveals a significant increase in Moroccan-Southern African trade volumes following the AfCFTA's inception, particularly in sectors like agriculture and manufacturing. There is evidence of enhanced collaboration between Moroccan firms and their Southern African counterparts, facilitated by improved regulatory frameworks designed under AfCFTA guidelines.", "conclusion": "This study provides empirical evidence on how AfCFTA has positively influenced Moroccan-Southern African supply chains, demonstrating the transformative potential of regional integration efforts in fostering economic growth and diversification across the region. The findings highlight the importance of continued engagement with AfCFTA for businesses aiming to expand into Southern Africa.", "recommendations": "Businesses operating within Morocco are advised to closely monitor regulatory changes under AfCFTA and adapt their strategies accordingly. Government bodies should continue supporting small and medium enterprises (S

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

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