



# The AfCFTA's Impact on Regional Supply Chains in Southern Africa: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry

Sifiso Mkhize<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Wits Business School

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**Correspondence:** [smkhize@gmail.com](mailto:smkhize@gmail.com)

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## Author notes

*Sifiso Mkhize is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Wits Business School and focuses on Business research in Africa.*

## Abstract

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) seeks to promote regional integration in Africa, including Southern Africa. However, its impact on supply chains within this region remains understudied. The research employs both qualitative semi-structured interviews and quantitative surveys. Qualitative insights are derived from expert consultations, while quantitative data is collected through online questionnaires targeting firms operating within the region's supply chains. Findings indicate that while AfCFTA has facilitated increased trade volumes by up to 20% in some sectors, it also revealed challenges such as regulatory inconsistencies and infrastructure deficiencies. The mixed-methods approach highlights both facilitators and barriers of AfCFTA implementation on regional supply chains. Recommendations focus on harmonizing regulations and improving logistics infrastructure. Advises the establishment of a dedicated body to oversee regulatory alignment and investment in improved logistics networks within Southern Africa's supply chain sectors.

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan, Africanization, Ethnography, Qualitative Research, Supply-Demand Dynamics, Global Value Chains, Case Studies*

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