



# Economic Blocs in Eswatini: An Ethnographic Comparative Study

Sangwana Nkhonjela<sup>1</sup>, Hlatsoni Dlamini<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, University of Eswatini (UNESWA)

**Published:** 16 May 2012 | **Received:** 05 December 2011 | **Accepted:** 02 April 2012

**Correspondence:** [snkhonjela@yahoo.com](mailto:snkhonjela@yahoo.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18978989](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18978989)

## Author notes

*Sangwana Nkhonjela is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, University of Eswatini (UNESWA) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

*Hlatsoni Dlamini is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, University of Eswatini (UNESWA) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland) is a small country in southern Africa that has historically lacked significant economic integration with its neighbors due to geopolitical and socio-economic factors. The research employs qualitative methods including participant observation, in-depth interviews, and document reviews to explore how these economic blocs affect Eswatini's economic policies and social systems. A key finding is that while both EDCO and SACU have led to increased trade volumes between member countries, the level of integration varies significantly, with SACU having a more pronounced effect on reducing tariffs and fostering cross-border cooperation. The study concludes that although economic blocs provide opportunities for growth and development, they also pose challenges related to governance and socio-economic disparities within Eswatini's borders. Given the contrasting impacts of these blocs, policymakers in Eswatini should consider adopting a flexible approach to regional integration that balances national interests with broader economic goals.

**Keywords:** *Geographic, Comparative, Regional, Integration, Development, Anthropology, Sub-Saharan*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge