



Comparative Economic Bloc Formation and Governance in Central African Republic Regions: An Analytical Framework

Karlbi Ngaoundere¹

¹ University of Bangui

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Correspondence: kngaoundere@yahoo.com

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Author notes

Karlbi Ngaoundere is affiliated with University of Bangui and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Comparative economic bloc formation is a critical area of study in African Studies, particularly within Central Africa where regional integration efforts have been limited and fragmented. The study employs a comparative analysis, reviewing existing literature on regional blocs in Africa and conducting interviews with local policymakers and stakeholders. A thematic framework is used to categorize findings based on governance structures, economic policies, and socio-economic impacts. Initial findings suggest that CAR's diverse regions exhibit varying levels of economic interdependence, ranging from significant trade links (up to 30%) between certain urban centers and neighboring countries to minimal integration in remote rural areas. This disparity highlights the need for tailored regional blocs that can address both intra-regional and cross-border economic challenges. The analysis underscores the necessity of a flexible governance model capable of adapting to CAR's diverse socio-economic landscapes, with potential blocs focusing on either urban-industrial or agricultural-based economies. Such models could facilitate more coherent integration efforts across CAR's regions. Policy recommendations include the establishment of regional economic councils and the development of targeted developmental programmes aimed at boosting productivity and reducing dependency on external aid in both urban and rural areas.

Keywords: *Central African, Regional Integration, Economic Blocs, Governance Models, Comparative Analysis, Sub-Saharan Africa, Liberalization Strategies*

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