



# Regional Economic Blocs in Africa: An Analysis of Their Impact on Equatorial Guinea's Development Context

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## Abstract

Equatorial Guinea is a small state located in Central Africa, bordered by Cameroon to the north and Gabon to the east, west, and south. The country's economy heavily relies on oil exports and has experienced significant fluctuations over the years. The study employs a comparative analysis approach to examine data from multiple sources including official reports, academic journals, and government documents related to Equatorial Guinea's interactions with regional blocs. A thematic framework will be used to identify key themes in the impact of REBs on Equatorial Guinea's development. A notable theme identified was the varying levels of economic integration between Equatorial Guinea and its neighboring countries within ECOWAS, resulting in disparities in resource allocation and economic growth opportunities among member states. The regional economic blocs have played a significant role in shaping Equatorial Guinea's economic policies but have not been uniformly beneficial. Specific interventions are needed to enhance the effectiveness of these blocs in promoting equitable development within the region. Equatorial Guinea should engage more actively with regional bodies such as ECOWAS and COMESA, advocating for reforms that address existing imbalances and promote inclusive economic growth strategies tailored to its specific conditions.

**Keywords:** *Equatorial, Pan-Africanism, Mercosur, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa), Association Agreement, Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), Regional Economic Communities (RECs)*

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