



# Informal Cross-Border Trade and Regional Integration in ECOWAS: A Policy Analysis for Namibia 2009

Falkland Kanduta<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST)

**Published:** 01 October 2009 | **Received:** 15 June 2009 | **Accepted:** 22 August 2009

**Correspondence:** [fkanduta@outlook.com](mailto:fkanduta@outlook.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18897256](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18897256)

## Author notes

*Falkland Kanduta is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

## Abstract

This article examines the role of informal cross-border trade in regional integration within ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), specifically focusing on its impact on Namibia. A qualitative approach was adopted to review available data from ECOWAS member states' policies, academic research, and regional integration frameworks. Expert interviews were also conducted with policymakers and industry representatives to gather insights into Namibia's specific context. Informal cross-border trade in ECOWAS is predominantly focused on agricultural products and small-scale manufacturing goods, accounting for approximately 20% of total intra-regional trade volumes. The analysis highlights the potential benefits of integrating informal sectors into formal regional policies to enhance economic growth and stability. However, it also identifies significant regulatory challenges that need to be addressed to ensure fair competition and sustainable development. Namibia should prioritise developing a comprehensive legal framework for cross-border trade, promote public-private partnerships for infrastructure improvements, and engage in capacity-building initiatives among small-scale traders to align with regional standards.

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan, regionalism, globalization, border-crossings, comparative analysis*

## 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