



# Informal Cross-Border Trade Networks within ECOWAS: A Theoretical Framework for Regional Integration in South Africa

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## Abstract

Informal cross-border trade networks are crucial in regional integration efforts within ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), particularly in South Africa. Theoretical analysis grounded in socio-economic literature on regional integration and informal economies. This theoretical framework underscores the importance of engaging these traders for effective regional economic development. Policy recommendations include fostering cooperation between government agencies and local communities, promoting trade facilitation measures that support informal sectors.

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan, African, geopolitics, social-networks, theory, ethnography, community-building*

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