



Cybersecurity in East African Financial Systems: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

East African financial systems are increasingly vulnerable to cyber threats due to rapid technological adoption and a lack of standardised cybersecurity practices. A mixed-methods approach combining quantitative surveys ($n=500$) \wedge qualitative interviews ($n=20$), with statistical analysis using logistic regression models $\hat{=}$ assess threat p. . Botswana's financial sector reported a higher incidence of cyber attacks compared to other countries, with an estimated 42% experiencing at least one breach in the past year, while Tanzania showed lower attack rates but significant financial losses from fraud. Mitigation strategies vary by country, emphasising the importance of regional collaboration and tailored cybersecurity policies for effective protection against evolving cyber threats. Develop a regional cybersecurity framework based on Botswana's successful model to strengthen East African financial resilience.

Keywords: *Cybersecurity, East Africa, Threats, Mitigation Strategies, Financial Systems, Geographical Focus, Mixed-Methods Approach*

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