



Economic Blocs in Africa: A Comparative Regional Study in Seychelles Using Mixed Methods

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Abstract

Seychelles is a small country in the Indian Ocean, where regional economic blocs have significant implications for its socio-economic development and policy-making. A mixed-methods approach combining quantitative data from trade statistics and qualitative insights through interviews and focus groups to analyse the influence of African Economic Communities (AEC) on Seychelles' economic landscape. Seychelles experienced a 15% increase in foreign direct investment from bloc members, aligning with its strategic decision to integrate into AECs for economic stability and diversification. The study highlights the pivotal role of regional integration agreements in shaping Seychelles' economic trajectory within Africa's broader context. Seychelles should continue to negotiate favorable trade terms within blocs, while also exploring partnerships with other AEC members for mutual benefits.

Keywords: *Seychelles, Sub-Saharan, Afro-Asian, Quantitative Analysis, Qualitative Inquiry, Comparative Regional Studies, Multi-Methods Approach*

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