



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

DEPARTMENT OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

**THE EFFECTS OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION ON STATE SOVEREIGNTY: A CASE
STUDY OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC)**

BY

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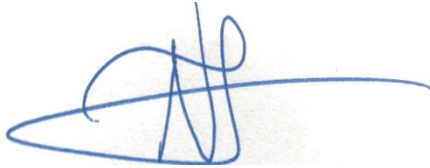
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DECLARATION

This is an original research project done by me and has not been submitted to any other institution.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AfCFTA:	African Continental Free Trade Area
ASEAN:	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU:	African Union
COMESA:	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EAC:	East Africa Community
EACJ:	East African Court of Justice
EALA:	East African Legislative Assembly
EAMU:	East African Monetary Union
ECOWAS:	Economic Community of West African States
EU:	European Union
SADC:	Southern African Development Community
SMEs:	Small and Medium Enterprises
UNASUR:	Union of South American Nations

ABSTRACT

Regional integration attempts in Africa are often hampered by the conflict between regional integration and state sovereignty, which is also a challenge facing the East African Community (EAC). This research seeks to fill the void by analyzing how state sovereignty in the EAC is affected by regional integration. The primary goal of the research study is to investigate how integration in the East African Community (EAC) affects sovereignty of the states in the region. Neo functionalism believes that transferring government authorities and decision-making procedures for common goals causes spillover effects that affect regional integration. EAC member states retain significant power over decision-making and sovereign matters due to supranational organizations' coordination services, which lead regional integration through intergovernmentalism. According to constructivist international relations theory, state behavior is influenced by common norms and values. Regional integration is expected to considerably impair stronger EAC members' state sovereignty due to power and governments' willingness to pursue their own interests. This study involved collection, and analysis of data using quantitative methods. Questionnaires have been used for data collection in this research. The analysis takes into account the particulars of integration, such as its nature and extent, as well as the level of willingness on the part of individual member states to relinquish their sovereignty to the regional entity as a whole. Those with interest in regional integration, state sovereignty, and Africa's progress could benefit from the conclusions of this study. From the analysis, majority of respondents are optimistic about regional integration and they believe it have enhanced development, expansion, peace, and security in the EAC. Nonetheless, there are dissenting voices with hesitation or pessimism towards some aspects of integration. In conclusion, this study suggests that regional integration could affect state sovereignty in different ways within the EAC, providing directions to policy makers and other stakeholders for decision making towards the integration process into the future. Finally, the study suggests some recommendations towards enhancing efficiency of regional integration in the EAC. They include periodic review and adaptation, multi-faceted approach, consultation with member states and stakeholders, balanced harmonization of policies and rigorous policy framework. This highlights the need for further research and discussion on the link between regional integration and state sovereignty.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

State sovereignty refers to a state's exclusive right to exercise authority over its territory and people, without external interference¹. Regional integration, on the other hand, involves the pooling of sovereignty among states to achieve common goals. Africa's quest for integration has been growing strong since the 1960s. But it was not until the 1990s when meaningful regional initiatives, created by African leaders, and informed by an African perspective, came to the fore². From the period of 1990s, the leaders in Africa had already started acknowledging that regional integration was very important in spurring the continent's economic development. This led to the establishment of various regional formations, like the East Africa Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) among others. Independence, cooperation, and mutual respect among African states shaped the formation of these groups³. By enhancing cross-functional and cross border trade, enabling the transit of individuals and commodities, and fostering regional cooperation in sectors like public investment, energy, and agriculture, they hoped to foster economic growth, good governance, and social development.

Because it was a purely contemporary endeavor, it was viewed as a Pan-African reality advancing the cause of African integration. Nonetheless, this does not rule out the possibility that regionalism in Africa predated independence. This is because the colonial period established the groundwork

¹ Couture, Stephane, and Sophie Toupin. "What does the notion of "sovereignty" mean when referring to the digital?" *New media & society* 21, no. 10 (2019): 2305-2322.

² Chala, Dejene, and Jira Mekonnen. "The Politics of Symbols." *The Ethiopian Journal of Social Sciences and Language Studies (EJSSLS)* 9, no. 2 (2022): 3-18.

³ Byiers, Bruce, Antoine Cazals, Jaime de Melo, and Alfonso Medinilla. *African regional integration: A problem-driven approach to delivering regional public goods*. No. P290. FERDI Working paper, 2021.

for numerous national programs. The East African Community was established as the first step in African integration efforts⁴. It is an example of regional integration initiatives in Africa.⁵ In 1999, the treaty of the organization was signed, reviving the old EAC after it had been created in 1967 before disintegrating in 1977. State sovereignty, and the effects of regional integration are controversial topics. Many factors, such as the type of integration, the level, and willingness of members to relinquish some of their sovereignty to the regional organization, determine how much regional integration affects state sovereignty⁶.

While members of a trading bloc agree to abolish trade barriers and coordinate fiscal plans, they nonetheless have substantial autonomy over these matters on the national level. The threat to state sovereignty may be low if this occurs. A political union is an example of a more sophisticated approach of integration in which member nations agree to pool their sovereignty and make decisions collectively, frequently transferring major responsibilities to a central authority. However, the peril to national sovereignty is very promiscuous under such settings. Depending on a number of conditions, regional integration can either strengthen or weaken state sovereignty⁷. Specific states may be more willing than others to delegate authority to a regional council depending on their political, economic, and social conditions.

⁴ Anami, Ali Keya. "Contribution of regional integration to economic development of member states, case study: East African community (EAC)." *World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews* 17, no. 2 (2023): 758-769.

⁵ Amuhaya, Claire A., and Denis A. Degterev. "The East African Community: A Revived Hope for "One Destiny"." In *A Century of East African Integration*, pp. 29-83. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2022.

⁶ Söderbaum, Fredrik, and Sören Stapel. "Regionalism in Africa." In *Handbook on Global Governance and Regionalism*, pp. 218-229. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022.

⁷ Vivares, Ernesto, and Cheryl Martens. "The global political economy of regionalism: Beyond European and North American conceptual cages." In *The Routledge Handbook to Global Political Economy*, pp. 343-358. Routledge, 2020.

Understanding Africa's regional integration processes necessitates studying potential influence of the EAC on sovereignty⁸. Its goal is to analyze the potential effects on state sovereignty, and the elements that affect the success or failure of regional integration programs. The research also acknowledges the potential good, and negative effects of regional integration on sovereignty. Stronger institutions that can more efficiently further the aims of all participating states are one benefit of regional cooperation. Yet, this can also lead to a weakening of national sovereignty and a decline in the independence of participating nations. The study's findings on the EAC's possible effect on sovereignty are crucial in comprehending regional integration within the bloc⁹. It acknowledges difficulties encountered by regional integration programs and strives to determine what elements contribute to their success or failure. It also discusses how the EAC could serve as an example for other integration attempts in Africa, and the potential influences on state sovereignty of the countries involved.

1.2 Background to the Study

For many African nations, boosting economic growth and development has meant prioritizing regional integration measures. One such effort was the reason for the formation of the EAC that was formed to promote economic development among East African nations¹⁰. By intensifying prevailing markets, letting down trade obstacles, and reassuring easy movement of products, labor, and humans, regional integration stimulates economic growth and establishes sovereignty. This is

⁸ Ackermann, Tobias. *The Effects of Armed Conflict on Investment Treaties*. Vol. 169. Cambridge University Press, 2022.

⁹ Vidmar, Hannah Marie. "The East African Community: Questions of Sovereignty, Regionalism, and Identity." PhD diss., The Ohio State University, 2015.

¹⁰ Orinda, Reuben, Nixon Omoro, Luther Otieno, and Muranga Njihia. "PUBLIC DEBT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY." *African Development Finance Journal* 1, no. 1 (2022): 67-79.

especially crucial for African nations, which generally struggle with weak governance, limited resources, and dispersed marketplaces.

By creating a trade bloc and common market, the community of the East African nations has made significant progress in the right direction¹¹. Increased trade and investment between member nations and the birth of new prospects for firms and individuals are direct results of these accomplishments. While East Africa Community has made great strides toward regional integration, many obstacles still remain challenging. There is political unpredictability, inadequate institutions, scant resources, and competing national interests among the East African Community member states¹². Due to these obstacles, regional integration measures have not been fully implemented, slowing down the pursuit of economic growth goals. The possible threat to the sovereignty of member states is an impediment towards the full realization of the aspirations of the bloc. In many cases, supranational entities with decision-making capabilities that supersede those of individual member states are established as part of regional integration. In countries with weak institutions, this may raise fears of a loss of national sovereignty.

There are two reasons why the EAC is important¹³: First, it is the result of a long tradition of regional integration, during which supranational institutions were seen as an innovative response to the region's main challenges; second, that tradition provides a comparison basis that emphasizes the evolution of African regionalism rather than just the problems and priorities of the present day.

Therefore, the main question that most people ask regarding the East Africa Community is, “Is the

¹¹ Mose, Naftaly, Irene Keino, G. Yoganandan, Oladipo Olaniyan, and Thabani Nyoni. "East African Community regional integration: Private investment implications." *Asian Journal of Economics, Business and Accounting* 21, no. 5 (2021): 84-89.

¹² Muhoza, Benjamin Kanze. "Financial intermediation and economic growth in the East African Community: A financial index approach." *African Journal of Economic Review* 7, no. 2 (2019): 165-182.

¹³ Vidmar, Hannah Marie. "The East African Community: Questions of Sovereignty, Regionalism, and Identity." PhD diss., The Ohio State University, 2015.

EAC being reestablished to address the same issues as it did after independence, or are there new challenges that necessitate its creation?" There is also the hope of transforming the EAC into a federal national-state space, which would make East Africa the 17th largest country in the world with a population greater than that of Russia, Japan, or Mexico¹⁴.

Despite these goals, national sovereignty is still strongly held by East African leaders, creating obstacles to establishing a supranational regional organization¹⁵. Highlighting the challenges of this transition is the fact that member nations often find themselves in direct rivalry with one another for markets and investments due to their common colonial background. Furthermore, current institutions are finding it difficult to commence political unification because previous political crises have questioned the legitimacy and sovereignty of East African nation-states in sustaining their boundaries and populations¹⁶. The re-establishment of the EAC sheds light on the overlapping local, national, and super-national governance that has accompanied African states' transition from decolonization to neoliberalism, as well as the shifting political authority that has been vested in the existence of the African nation-state.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

It is a common practice among African states to adopt regional integration as a policy tool to foster economic cooperation and growth among nations. However, questions regarding how integration can affect state sovereignty are frequently voiced when countries attempt to deepen integration and increase their collaboration. EAC is not immune to basic challenges posed by conflict between

¹⁴ Patz, Ronny, Klaus H. Goetz, Abraham L. Newman, Elliot Posner, Tim Bartley, Liesbet Hooghe, Gary Marks et al. "Transformations in Governance."

¹⁵ Vaughan, Chris. "The politics of regionalism and federation in East Africa, 1958–1964." *The Historical Journal* 62, no. 2 (2019): 519-540.

¹⁶ Auer, Stefan. *European Disunion: Democracy, Sovereignty and the Politics of Emergency*. Hurst Publishers, 2022.

regional integration and state sovereignty that plagues regional integration attempts across Africa¹⁷. When fully integrated, the organization hopes to foster maximum economic cooperation and integration among its members. However, there are risks associated with this integration process that threaten the independence of individual member nations. Therefore, in the framework of the EAC, it is crucial to investigate how regional integration affects the sovereignty of individual states. This research aims to fill that void by analyzing the effect of regional integration on state sovereignty in the EAC, paying special attention to the specifics of that integration, such as its nature and extent, as well as the degree to which individual member states are willing to cede sovereignty to the regional entity as a whole.¹⁸ A shared market, and an unrestricted flow of labour and commodities could be factors that affect sovereignty. The study also looked into what variables affect member states' willingness to give up some of their sovereignty to the regional entity.

1.4 Research Questions

This study addresses the following questions:

1. How has the integration in the EAC affected on member state's sovereignty?
2. What is the effect of regional integration on economic growth and development in the EAC?
3. What are the areas in which member states have ceded sovereignty to the regional entity in the EAC?

¹⁷ Erickson, Tenley. "Africa in Transition--Nexus Between State Building & Regional Integration." (2022).

¹⁸ Tiampati, Lornah Komeiyan, and Christopher Hugh Onyango. "THE ROLE OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION ON PORTABILITY OF PENSIONS IN EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY." *development* 16 (2022): 4.

1.5 Research Objectives

The research focuses on the Effect of regional integration on state sovereignty in the East African Community (EAC).

1.5.1 Main objective

The main objective of this study was to determine the effect of regional integration on state sovereignty in the East African Community (EAC).

1.5.2 Specific objectives

1. To examine the nature and level of integration in the EAC and its Effect on state sovereignty.
2. To assess the effect of regional integration on economic growth and development in the EAC.
3. To analyze the areas in which member states have ceded sovereignty to the regional entity in the EAC.

1.6 Literature Review

1.6.1 Theoretical Literature Review

1.6.1.1 The Functionalism Theory

A theoretical approach called functionalism arose during the period of the 1950s and 1960s to address issues related to regional integration¹⁹. Functional needs or the functional interdependence of its member states drive the integration process according to this theory. To achieve certain

¹⁹ Jensen, Carsten Stroyby. "Neo-functionalism." *European Union Politics* 4 (2013).

common objectives that cannot be attained individually, regional integration is driven, in other words.

Regional integration leads to a spillover effect as stated by the functionalist theory²⁰. Hence, the member states progressively transfer governance of certain policy spheres to the community's supranational institutions. The integration process naturally leads to this spillover effect. Furthermore, member states comprehend that collaboration is essential for achieving shared aims. Gradually transferring authority in certain policy areas—like trade and investment—to the community's supranational institutions is consistent with Functionalist theory, meaning, the regional bloc is advancing towards stronger integration. The motivation behind this move would be the desire to attain shared aspirations like improved regional infrastructure, greater regional stability and increased economic growth.

Neo functionalism proposes that the spillover effect has both positive and negative outcomes. The creation of new policies and institutions that are more efficient than prior ones occur during positive spillover resulting from the integration process. The outcome of creating less efficient policies and institutions during the integration process is referred to as negative spillover. On balance, functionalism gives us a useful framework to understand how regional integration affects state sovereignty. State sovereignty erosion may happen gradually when member states transfer control over specific policy areas to supranational institutions during the integration process. Consequently, the state's power is reduced. The achievement of common goals can justify this

²⁰ Ibrahim, Sheriff Ghali, David Ogbeidi, and J. W. Adams. "Anintergovernemntalist approach to regional integration in Africa: the efficacy of the African Union." *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research And Modern Education* 1, no. I (2015): 461.

erosion of sovereignty, according to the suggestion. Nevertheless, individual states acting alone cannot accomplish these objectives.

1.6.1.2 The intergovernmentalism Theory

Theoretical approach of intergovernmentalism sees regional integration as a process where member states assume center stage while supranational bodies act mainly as coordinators²¹. Member states retain significant control over decision-making processes within the regional integration process, according to this perspective. Advocates of intergovernmentalism contend that regional integration is a consensual procedure where participating nations combine their resources and collaborate in certain domains, while preserving their autonomy in other areas. The EAC member states have established a regional community. This community aims to reach collective goals like enhancing economic growth and development while also keeping hold of decision-making power regarding their domestic policies.

The EAC makes decisions through an intergovernmental process. In addition, each member state has representation at all levels of the community's governing structure. However, the role played by the main organs of the organization, for instance the Secretariat, is primarily limited to coordinating the decision-making process among member countries. This approach is considered inadequate for achieving deeper regional integration by intergovernmentalism's opponents²². Their opinion is that a centralized approach is needed to ensure cooperation among member states. They claim that choosing an intergovernmental approach can cause a delay in making decisions. In addition, member states could place importance on their individual interests rather than those of the community as a whole. Besides, skeptics contend that employing an intergovernmental

²¹ Moravcsik, Andrew. "Liberal intergovernmentalism." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. 2020.

²² Smeets, Sandrino, and Derek Beach. "Intergovernmentalism and its implications—new institutional leadership in major EU reforms." *Journal of European Public Policy* 27, no. 8 (2020): 1137-1156.

technique can bring about difficulties regarding the enforcement of identical policies and regulations; hence hindering the attainment of collaborative objectives. By and large, intergovernmentalism is a theoretical perspective on regional integration which underscores the role of member states in decision-making processes. By adopting this approach, the regional community ensures that member states retain significant control over their domestic policies. In addition, they cooperate to accomplish mutual objectives.

1.6.1.3 The Constructivism Theory

Constructivism emphasizes that shared norms, values, and identities shape state behavior as per its theoretical framework. This argument asserts that states' behavior is not solely based on self-interest alone, as it is also affected by their social and cultural environments²³. Shared norms and values, as believed by constructivists, can establish a sense of community and identity among states, resulting in increased cooperation and integration. The acceptance of reduced sovereignty by member states within the EAC can be better understood through a constructivist lens. By following constructivism, member states may become more open to transferring authority over specific policy domains to the community's supranational organizations. This happens because it develops a communal sense of belonging and unified objectives among them. Acceptance of reduced sovereignty may come more easily to member states. Both economic development and political stability are believed by them to come from greater regional integration.

Member states' readiness to relinquish some sovereignty may also be affected by shifting norms and values²⁴. Should the general attitude towards regional integration sour, member states may become less amenable to losing control over certain aspects. Greater integration may be easier to

²³ Brau, Bekki. "Constructivism." *The Students' Guide to Learning Design and Research* (2020).

²⁴ Rannikmäe, Miia, Jack Holbrook, and Regina Soobard. "Social Constructivism—Jerome Bruner." *Science Education in Theory and Practice: An Introductory Guide to Learning Theory* (2020): 259-275.

accept by member states if there exists a strong sense of regional identity and community among them. As a whole, constructivism presents an effective foundation for interpreting how shared norms and identities influence state behavior amidst regional integration. Constructivism values the social and cultural context. Accordingly, it can demonstrate why member nations may display differing levels of openness to ceding sovereignty within the EAC.

1.6.1.4 The Realism Theory

In Realism, states seek their own interests and power is crucial in shaping international relations. Member states' relative power and influence determines to what extent regional integration affects state sovereignty in the East African Community²⁵. In addition, more potent states would exercise greater command over decision-making operations. Realism suggests that states behave logically and aim to pursue self-interests, which involves protecting their sovereignty. Thus, they are expected to oppose any measures by global organizations attempting to limit their independence in making decisions. The resistance towards ceding sovereignty to supranational institutions in matters of trade and investment may be higher from stronger EAC members such as Kenya and Tanzania²⁶. Their focus on expanding their influence within the region may lead certain states to view the EAC primarily as an avenue for enhancing their own power, rather than promoting collective decision-making.

Realists recognize that achieving shared objectives may require cooperation among states at times. EAC member states might consider accepting a certain degree of reduction in their sovereignty. Should they deem it necessary for maintaining regional stability and security, this could be carried

²⁵ Barnes, Barry. "Realism, relativism and finitism." In *Cognitive relativism and social science*, pp. 131-147. Routledge, 2020.

²⁶ Chrisman, James J. "Stewardship theory: Realism, relevance, and family firm governance." *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice* 43, no. 6 (2019): 1051-1066.

out? A possible approach to boosting both economic growth and member states' power/influence is through establishing a common market within the EAC.

1.6.2 Empirical Literature Review

1.6.2.1 How the integration in the EAC Effected on member state's sovereignty.

Since 1999, the EAC has achieved substantial progress in enhancing integration among its member nations. This includes the development of a one market and the struggle to achieve the realization of similar policies on taxation and relations with external markets. To deepen regional integration, member states of EAC have agreed on establishing various institutions and policies through a gradual and phased approach. The bloc started a customs union in 2005. In the year 2010, they came up with a common market, and later the adoption of a monetary union protocol in 2013.²⁷ The success of promoting interregional trade and investment has been demonstrated by several studies. One of the studies discovered that implementing a customs union in the EAC caused a noteworthy rise in inter-regional commerce, and found that the EAC's common market resulted in amplified foreign direct investment in the area²⁸. The organization continues to achieve tremendous development by encouraging trade and investment between member states, coordinating policies and regulations, and enhancing infrastructure and transportation links.

The effect on state sovereignty has however raised concerns among some observers regarding the process of regional integration. Critics contend that the power and independence of member states,

²⁷ Umulisa, Yvonne. "Estimation of the East African community's trade benefits from promoting intra-regional trade." *African Development Review* 32, no. 1 (2020): 55-66.

²⁸ Anami, Ali Keya. "Contribution of regional integration to economic development of member states, case study: East African community (EAC)." *World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews* 17, no. 2 (2023): 758-769.

especially in fields of trade, finance, and security, could be weakened by regional integration²⁹. To evaluate the effect of EAC integration on state sovereignty, it's essential to examine specific domains of cooperation and the level of authority member countries have delegated to the regional organization. A common market created by the EAC gives room for unrestricted transfer of merchandise and labour within the region. A requirement for members to harmonize their trade policies and regulations has resulted in increased trade and investment but reduced state autonomy in those areas.

1.6.2.2 The effect of regional integration on economic growth and development in the EAC.

The nexus between growth of commerce in East Africa, and regional integration process has been emphasized in multiple studies. Increasing inter-regional trade, enhancing market access, and fostering competition are among the positive effects of the EAC's integration process as discovered by this study³⁰. Furthermore, the EAC's integration process has also caused an expansion in foreign inflow of resources into the bloc. The manufacturing sector has been a major beneficiary, receiving substantial investments from foreign businesses³¹. The formation of a unified market within the locality is one instance that has caused a surge in labor migration. This, in turn, has aided in the dissemination of expertise, know-how, and technological innovations among member countries. Not just human capital development, but also the creation of a skilled and competitive workforce has been enhanced in the region.

²⁹ Owiro, David, and Joan Akoth. "Fundamental Lessons from Regional Economic Communities for the African Continental Free Trade Area: A Case Study of the East African Community." (2021).

³⁰ Ejones, Francis, Frank W. Agbola, and Amir Mahmood. "Regional integration and economic growth: New empirical evidence from the east African community." *The International Trade Journal* 35, no. 4 (2021): 311-335.

³¹ Singoro, Brian Wanyama. "The Effect of Regional Integration on Economic Growth of East African Community (EAC)."

In addition, infrastructure development in the EAC has been boosted by regional integration. The region has received major boosts in infrastructure investment, specifically in transport and communication networks³². This has improved connectivity and decreased business costs in the region. The economy and development outcomes within the region have been enhanced by increased trade, investment, and infrastructure development resulting from regional integration, as demonstrated by numerous studies. Therefore, policymakers in the area must still make regional integration a priority to foster economic growth and development in the EAC.

1.6.2.3 The analysis of the areas in which member states have ceded sovereignty to the regional entity in the EAC.

The areas where member states have surrendered sovereignty to the regional entity has been the subject of investigations by examining Tanzania's perspective on the regional integration prospects. One of the studies explores the areas where member states have given up sovereignty to the EAC. The author observes that although Tanzania has been careful about surrendering its sovereignty in certain domains such as defense, foreign policy, and currency, it has shown greater willingness to do so in areas like trade and investment.³³ Another author wrote about the East African Community's case regarding regional integration and sovereignty. Analyzing the EAC, this study investigates how regional integration affects state sovereignty³⁴. The author notes that member states have given up their sovereignty in certain domains, including trade, customs, and immigration, while maintaining sovereignty in domains such as defense, foreign policy, and currency.

³² Anami, Ali Keya. "Contribution of regional integration to economic development of member states, case study: East African community (EAC)." *World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews* 17, no. 2 (2023): 758-769.

³³ Omondi, Fleming Lumumba. "Ceding sovereign powers of the Partner State to the East African Community—a viable integration model?." *East African Community Law Journal* 1, no. 1 (2020): 73-91.

³⁴ Heinonen, Hannu. "Regional integration and the state: the changing nature of sovereignty in Southern Africa and Europe." *Interkont Books* (2006).

Another study examines Kenya's perspectives, Uganda and Rwanda's to analyze areas where member states have surrendered sovereignty to the EAC. The writer discovered that member states have given up their sovereignty in sectors like trade, customs, and immigration³⁵. However, they have maintained their sovereignty in areas like currency, foreign policy, and defense. The EAC has been given sovereignty in trade policy by member states. In 2005, the EAC had to harmonize external tariffs and adopt a common trade policy towards third parties to establish a customs union³⁶. Member states have relinquished some level of authority over their trade policies to the EAC, particularly with regard to negotiating trade agreements with countries that are not members.

1.6 Justification of the Study

The EAC has a proven track record of putting regional institutional and policy changes into practice. Therefore, the successes and failures of African regional entities can be better understood by looking at the regional bloc. While the EAC as a regional body has been a topic of investigation, deeper dive into the prospects of its threats to sovereignty of its members is needed. Understanding the effect regional integration has on state sovereignty within the EAC is important for policymakers, researchers, and other regional players. The results of this research may determine policy decisions and define future initiatives with the goal of fostering greater economic cooperation and development in the area without compromising the rights of any of its member nations. The EAC is a dynamic and multifaceted region influenced by many different cultural, political, and economic forces. Therefore, understanding the complex linkages between regional

³⁵ Mwita, Neema. "A Deep Dive on Pertinent Issues beneath Supremacy of Community Law: Special Reference to the East African Community." *International Journal of Legal Developments and Allied Issues* 8, no. 4 (2022): 34-59.

³⁶ Kugler, Kholofelo, and Mulualem Getachew Adgeh. "Africa and Trade and Investment Liberalization." *The Oxford Handbook of International Trade Law (2e)* (2022): 395.

integration and state sovereignty requires analyzing the influence of regional integration on state sovereignty, especially, within the EAC.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

Sovereignty, as used in international relations theory, is a measure of a state's autonomy in internal policymaking, lawmaking, and executive administration³⁷. It is viewed as an absolute concept, and any attempt to compromise it is seen as an attack on a state's autonomy and sovereignty³⁸. Affiliation in regional integration organizations, which often includes yielding some sovereignty to a transnational entity, has put this concept of state sovereignty to the test. However, the neofunctionalism framework is one of the theories that attempts to explain how regional integration affects the sovereignty of individual states³⁹. According to this view, transferring some sovereignty from the member states to a central authority is necessary to satisfy the new functional needs that arise as a result of regional integration. According to neo functionalists, the transfer of sovereignty occurs as a result of a "spillover effect" brought about by regional integration, in which cooperation in one policy area leads to the necessity for cooperation in other policy areas⁴⁰.

The liberal institutionalist theory is an alternative paradigm for understanding how regional integration affects state sovereignty⁴¹. This view holds that regional integration organizations increase state sovereignty by encouraging cooperation and coordination among member states. Liberal institutionalists hold that regional integration organizations serve to avert conflicts that

³⁷ Viotti, Paul R., and Mark V. Kauppi. *International relations theory*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.

³⁸ Heiskanen, Jaakko. "Spectra of sovereignty: Nationalism and international relations." *International Political Sociology* 13, no. 3 (2019): 315-332.

³⁹ Niemann, Arne. "Neofunctionalism." *The Palgrave handbook of EU crises* (2021): 115-133.

⁴⁰ Hakan, Cavlak. "The cost of brexit: Neo-functionalism strikes back." *Romanian Journal of European Affairs* 19, no. 1 (2019): 65-78.

⁴¹ Scholte, Jan Aart. "Beyond institutionalism: toward a transformed global governance theory." *International Theory* 13, no. 1 (2021): 179-191.

could endanger state sovereignty by giving member states a forum in which to negotiate and resolve conflicts peacefully⁴². The influence of regional integration on state sovereignty can also be understood via the lens of the constructivist theory. State sovereignty is threatened, according to this view, because regional integration organizations foster the development of common values, identities, and norms among their member nations. Some constructivists argue that the rise of regional integration groups undermines national sovereignty by fostering the development of a supranational regional identity.

1.8 Hypotheses

1. Regional integration effected the state sovereignty among the member states of EAC.
2. Regional integration effected the economic growth among the member states of EAC.
3. Regional integration has increased areas in which member states have ceded sovereignty to the regional entity in the EAC.

1.9 Methodology of the Research

1.9.1 Research Design

This study used a mixed research design where both questionnaires for primary data, and review of literature for secondary data were. Through this research, the investigator learnt more about how regional integration has affected state sovereignty in the EAC by employing both questionnaires and review of literature. Key stakeholders' opinions and experiences could be better understood through the review of literature, while quantitative data acquired through questionnaires was used to discover trends and patterns. Quantitative data from the sampled

⁴² Onyango, Lilian A. "The Role of Digital Diplomacy in Regional Integration: a Case Study of Kenya's Relations With Other East African Community Member States (2012–2020)." PhD diss., University of Nairobi, 2022.

participants were collected in a shorter amount of time using questionnaires. With the questionnaire, the researcher developed closed-ended questions with predetermined response possibilities

Review of literature, on the other hand, yielded more qualitative data from a set of relevant literature. Open-ended questions give the researcher a chance to learn more about the participants' perspectives on regional integration and state sovereignty in the EAC. Government officials, business leaders, and representatives of civil society are all good examples of key stakeholders who answered the questionnaires. The most important themes were extracted and clarified using review of literature. However, questionnaires guides needed to be carefully crafted to guarantee the researcher that they are understandable, applicable, and valid.

1.9.2 Target Population

Individuals and groups within the countries that form the East African Community were the intended audience of the research investigation. The bloc is composed of six countries as; Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania. In order to understand how regional integration affects state sovereignty, the study collected data from persons and institutions inside these member states. Government officials, policymakers, civil society organizations, and corporate executives were all examples of potential audiences in this research study.

1.9.3 Sampling

Purposive sampling was an effective strategy for recruiting study participants who could offer unique insights into the study. However, adequate statistical power and the reliability of the results required careful consideration of the sample size. Purposive sampling was therefore used to pick a sample size that was both practicable within the scope of the study and large enough to act as a

representative of the entire population. Sample sizes for purposive samples should typically be large enough to allow for data saturation⁴³. Therefore, the researcher used a sample size of 200 participants spread across the East Africa Community states as the population of interest. The sample size was arrived at using the Nassiuma's formulae⁴⁴.

Nassiuma's formula is as follows:

$$n = Nc^2 / (c^2 + (N - 1)e^2)$$

Where: n = sample size

N = accessible population

c = Coefficient of Variance

e = standard error

1.9.4 Data Collection Methods

Several techniques may exist for collecting data from participants in this research; however, both questionnaires and review of literature were useful for data collection, since the study's design is a mixed design comprising both the quantitative and review of literature. When a researcher needs to get numerical data from many individuals, questionnaires is very helpful. With a questionnaire, the researcher collected basic participant information and ask closed-ended questions on the respondents' views on how regional integration affects state sovereignty. Questions about the influence of regional integration on state sovereignty, for instance, were asked using a Likert scale

⁴³ Andrade, Chittaranjan. "The inconvenient truth about convenience and purposive samples." *Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine* 43, no. 1 (2021): 86-88.

⁴⁴ Mugenda, A. and Mugenda, O. (2003). *Research methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches*. Nairobi: Acts press.

and included in the survey's questionnaire. On the other hand, the collection of qualitative data from the participants was facilitated by conducting review of literature. The researcher conducted in-depth interviews with relevant parties, such as government officials, embassies, civil society leaders, and corporate representatives.

1.9.5 Validity of Data Collection Instruments

This research study considered validity as an essential factor since only that can guarantee that the results are accurate and authentic. For complete coverage of the construct being measured, it was necessary to assess the relevance and comprehensiveness of the instrument's items. Another option that was used to test the validity of data was to use statistical methods like factor analysis. Comparing the scores obtained from the instrument with scores obtained from another known instrument that measures the same construct was a way to assess validity. In the end, face validity pertains to how closely a data collection instrument appears to be measuring what it was intended to measure. A subjective evaluation called face validity usually relies on expert judgment or common sense.

1.9.6 Reliability of Data Collection Instruments

An instrument is reliable when it is consistent and stable. When used repeatedly under the same conditions, a dependable instrument generates comparable results consistently. Internal consistency was the types of reliability that this study adopted when evaluating the reliability of their data collection instruments. Administering the same instrument twice to the same participants was done to compare the obtained results. High test-retest reliability was attributed to the instrument when consistent results were obtained. For consistent and dependable research findings, having a reliable data collection instrument was vital. To ensure that their instruments are reliable,

researchers must take into account the various types of reliability and use appropriate evaluation methods.

1.9.7 Data Analysis and Presentation

This research was recommended because it combines quantitative and qualitative data analysis to provide a complete and more holistic picture of the phenomenon being studied. The influence of regional integration on state sovereignty was quantified by statistical metrics provided by the analysis of quantitative data using SPSS. Tables and graphs were used to display analysis results for clearer discourse and comprehension. In order to summarize the data and spot any trends or patterns, descriptive statistics like mean, standard deviation, and median can be used. However, the review of literature helped us better comprehend the participants' perspectives, beliefs, and perspectives on how regional integration affects state sovereignty. To accomplish this, we extracted, analyzed, and interpreted key concepts and themes from the data. Combining quantitative and qualitative methods of data analysis yielded more robust insights into the phenomenon being studied and strengthens the credibility of the results.

1.9.8 Ethical Considerations

Crucial to research is the serious attention given to ethical considerations. Prioritizing the rights and welfare of study participants was crucial when conducting this research. This involves obtaining informed consent, protecting their confidentiality and privacy, assessing risks and benefits, promoting fairness and justice, and undergoing ethical review. Receiving informed consent was a vital factor of ethical research. Before collecting any data, researcher had to get informed consent from participants and make sure that the consent process was clear and easy to understand. An additional ethical consideration of great importance was safeguarding the confidentiality and privacy of study participants. Personal information and data of participants

must be kept confidential and secure by researchers. Protection of participant identities and limiting data access to only those involved in the study may require anonymous data collection methods. To build trust with study participants and ensure their comfort in participating, researchers could protect confidentiality and privacy.

1.10 Scope and Limitations of the Research

The scope is crucial because it sheds light on the threats and benefits that regional integration presents to the sovereignty of member states⁴⁵. Because of its unique viewpoint on regional integration in Africa, where other regional integration blocs have been inconsistent in producing results, the study's focus on the EAC as a case study was essential. However, this study consisted of some shortcomings that could compromise its results, despite its importance. One potential shortcoming was the lack of relevant and up to date data, especially on the social effects of regional integration on state sovereignty. The scope of the study was constrained by the researcher's inability to collect all of the necessary information about the societal implications. To remedy this, the researcher collected new data from the field and tested it to ensure it produced consistent results. Secondly, the diverse official languages spoken within the EAC member nations could make it more difficult to obtain representative samples. Data that has been translated for use in the study could not capture all of the nuance of the original data. To ensure trustworthiness of the study, the researcher enlisted the services of a qualified translator, specifically a proficient French translator. Lastly, there was always the chance that the researcher's own prejudices would cloud their judgment and skew their findings during data collection, analysis, and interpretation. To

⁴⁵ Ullah, Atta, Chen Pinglu, Saif Ullah, and Shujahat Haider Hashmi. "Nexus of regional integration, socioeconomic determinants and sustainable development in belt and road initiative countries." *PloS one* 16, no. 7 (2021): e0254298.

ensure reliability against such bias, the researcher ensured a strict adherence the rules and regulations governing a research study, especially rules on ethics.

1.11 Chapter Outline

This section outlines the overall structure of the research project and the order in which the individual chapters were written. The research consists of five chapters arranged as;

The first chapter is the introductory chapter. It outlines the topic, problem statement, goals, review of relevant literature, hypotheses, supporting arguments, theoretical framework, and techniques that were used to gather data

Chapter two discusses the “Nature and Level of Integration in The EAC And Its Effect on State Sovereignty.” It started by a quick introduction and the progresses being made toward full membership. Then, it tackled the nature of integration, where it explained the various levels achieved so far, and the continued attempts toward the highest level of integration, as well as the nature of integration itself. The chapter also discussed the effect of integration on state sovereignty, where it discusses the potential negative effects of integration on state sovereignty, including the erosion of national control over economic matters and the standardization of legal codes. Discussion of the advantages of integration, including better regional security and more opportunity for commerce and investment. Lastly, it discusses how to strike a balance between integration's benefits and individual states' sovereignty examines the difficulties of striking a balance between integration's benefits and individual states' sovereignty.

Chapter three discusses areas in which Member States Have Ceded Sovereignty to The Regional Entity in the EAC. The chapter gives an in-depth analysis of these areas to determine how the surrender to regional integration has affected the sovereignty its members.

The fourth chapter discusses the effect of Regional Integration on Economic Growth and Development In the EAC. It highlighted the following ways in which regional integration might affect the EAC's economic growth and development: 1. Trade: It determines whether increased commerce has resulted from the EAC's establishment of a customs union and single market. 2. Improved Infrastructure: It determined whether the EAC has made it a top priority to improve transportation infrastructure by building new roads, rail lines, and harbors. 3. Harmonized policies: The chapter tackles trade, investment, and agricultural policies as the areas where the EAC could have achieved policy harmony. 4. Increased Competitiveness: The chapter also determines whether regional integration has boosted the competitiveness of its member states by expanding their access to markets and improving their operational efficiency and cost structure. 5. Improved Human Development: Lastly, it determines whether human development has been enhanced as a result of improved regional collaboration in the provision of education, healthcare, and social services.

Chapter five gives the “Discussion, Conclusion, and Recommendation.” It concludes the study by summarizing key findings, giving the necessary closures and suggesting recommendations based on the various findings from the data and their implications on the regional bloc.

CHAPTER TWO

NATURE AND LEVEL OF INTEGRATION IN THE EAC AND ITS EFFECTS ON STATE SOVEREIGNTY

2.1 Introduction

Amidst the present globalized landscape, regional integration has seen a remarkable surge in momentum. The EAC's creation aims to advance cooperation, spur economic development, and stabilize politics across member nations. The EAC is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising six East African nations. The primary aim is to enhance regional integration and sustainable development, providing a shared benefit for member states. With deeper integration, a fundamental question is raised regarding the character and extent of integration and how it affects the autonomy of the individual members. The uncontested capacity of a state to govern its domain independently is sovereignty. Sovereignty evolves to accommodate the sharing of powers among member states for regional progress and shared goals.

The EAC's inner workings are explored in-depth, revealing the consequences for the independence of its member nations. Integration entails a comprehensive approach, covering economic, political, social, and security dimensions⁴⁶. To fully appreciate the effects of integration, it is necessary to know the interplay of these elements and their impact on country autonomy. With a focus on creating a unified market and customs union, as well as synchronizing policies across various sectors, the EAC has launched a sweeping integration effort. The increasing level of integration

⁴⁶ Pascaris, Alexis S., Chelsea Schelly, Laurie Burnham, and Joshua M. Pearce. "Integrating solar energy with agriculture: Industry perspectives on the market, community, and socio-political dimensions of agrivoltaics." *Energy Research & Social Science* 75 (2021): 102023.

can result in substantial alterations to national policies, laws, and institutions, causing concern about the potential loss of state authority.⁴⁷

2.2 Economic Integration

A remarkable milestone in regional collaboration and advancement, the East African Community's (EAC) economic integration stands tall. Economic integration takes center stage as the most prominent dimension within the EAC⁴⁸. This dimension has seen remarkable progress, rooted in the development of a unified market and customs union. These accomplishments have not only simplified trade procedures but also eliminated tariffs on intra-EAC trade, creating a more efficient customs framework. Smooth transfer of merchandise, investments, and labour without boundaries has been instrumental in fostering economic expansion and success for the EAC.

The foundation of economic integration in the EAC is unquestionably the development of a shared market. The foundation for unfettered trade is laid by this framework, allowing member states to dismantle the restrictions that had historically restricted the free exchange of goods, services, and capital. This push towards a unified market highlights a commitment to mutual economic goals and resource sharing to foster regional growth and expansion. The creation of a more accessible trade environment by the EAC has benefited businesses and entrepreneurs by removing trade limitations like import quotas and tedious licensing processes⁴⁹. This dynamism has given rise to economic growth, fostering innovation and increased productivity, resulting in more output and wealth creation within the region.

⁴⁷ Mies, Annika, and Stefan Gold. "Mapping the social dimension of the circular economy." *Journal of Cleaner Production* 321 (2021): 128960.

⁴⁸ Ejones, Francis, Frank W. Agbola, and Amir Mahmood. "Regional integration and economic growth: New empirical evidence from the east African community." *The International Trade Journal* 35, no. 4 (2021): 311-335.

⁴⁹ Ejones, Francis, Frank W. Agbola, and Amir Mahmood. "Regional integration and economic growth: New empirical evidence from the east African community." *The International Trade Journal* 35, no. 4 (2021): 311-335.

Coordinating with the market, the EAC has achieved a customs union, a significant factor in economic integration. By eliminating tariffs and trade restrictions, member states establish a customs union. The elimination of tariffs by the EAC has fostered a more even competition landscape for businesses⁵⁰. The region's attractiveness to investors and lower costs for imports and exports both benefit from this, making the EAC a more competitive economic entity worldwide. The customs union has not only boosted intra-EAC trade but also served as a driving force behind economic progress. The elimination of tariffs represents a notable victory for the EAC in its quest for economic unity. In the past, import costs were significantly raised through artificial means by tariffs. Eliminating tariffs within the EAC has enabled businesses to procure goods and materials more affordably from nearby nations. This has resulted in greater economic efficiency, as companies can now obtain inputs from the most economical locations within the region. Consumers also experience the added benefit of reduced prices and a larger array of products, elevating their standards of living.

The removal of tariffs and standardization of customs procedures have collectively revolutionized economic integration within the EAC⁵¹. Customs harmonization aims to standardize and simplify procedures across member states. Streamlining and accelerating the transfer of commodities, this process minimizes wait times and commercial expenses linked to international commerce. By standardizing customs procedures, trade operations have become more manageable and easier to understand. This increased investor confidence allows companies to plan operations with more stability, resulting in greater cross-border trade and investments.

⁵⁰ Umulisa, Yvonne. "Estimation of the East African Community's trade benefits from promoting intra-regional trade." *African Development Review* 32, no. 1 (2020): 55-66.

⁵¹ Komuhangi, Hildah. "Economic integration and peace-building in east Africa: A Study of East African Community." PhD diss., Kampala International University, College of Humanities and social Science, 2023.

Economic integration in the EAC has facilitated the flow of goods, leading to one of its most evident consequences⁵². This facilitation's impact extends to transportation infrastructure, going beyond just trade ease and including upgrades. Robust infrastructure development, spanning from roads to railways and beyond, has been a steadfast focus. The development of this infrastructure has enhanced logistical and transportation capabilities within the region. The improved efficiency and cost savings of the EAC's goods movement have led to reduced transportation delays and a more cost-effective business environment⁵³. Trade has been promoted alongside stimulating economic expansion by tapping into new economic possibilities, primarily within the logistics and transportation sectors. Furthermore, the EAC's pursuit of economic integration spans beyond its immediate area. By engaging in negotiations, the community has expanded market access for its member states. A prime example of this is the EAC's trade arrangement with the European Union, offering preferred market access. This strategic decision enhances export prospects for EAC member states by expanding their market reach.

The EAC's future goals revolve around deeper economic integration. The introduction of a single currency has gained significant attention. While the timeline has encountered delays and difficulties, the concept remains promising. Eliminating exchange rate risk through a shared currency allows member states to overcome a significant trade and investment barrier⁵⁴. With a shared currency, financial transactions become simpler, prices stabilize, and economic collaboration flourishes. This demonstrates the EAC's dedication to economic integration by creating a shared investment space. The initiative spurs economic growth and development

⁵² Mohammed, Musah, and Petro Sauti Magai. "Effects of regional economic integration on regional trade in Africa: the case of regional economic communities." *Business Management Review* 22, no. 2 (2020): 119-134.

⁵³ Ndizera, Vedaste. "Innovative solutions to border management challenges for trade facilitation in the east African community."

⁵⁴ Oreiro, José Luis. "New Developmentalism: beyond competitive exchange rate." *Brazilian Journal of Political Economy* 40 (2020): 238-242.

through cross-border investments. This framework enables member states to collaborate on investment attraction and addressing shared development hurdles. Uniting their resources and efforts, member states can access more significant investments and fund crucial infrastructure initiatives advancing economic unity.

2.3 Political Integration

The EAC has consistently sought political integration as a cornerstone of its existence. In recent years, particularly during the second phase, economic cooperation has overshadowed political integration as member states' primary focus⁵⁵. Although long-term goals of political federation remain a distant aspiration, EAC has not focused on them recently. The region's complex and dynamic integration process is reflected in this shift in emphasis. During its operational years, the EAC's primary emphasis was on political unity. The founding countries collaborated on a quest for political unity, aiming to establish a single East African nation. The initial effort proved futile when momentary, political differences and unresolved conflicts among members led to the its ultimate dissolution in 1977.

Following a brief lapse of almost two decades, the EAC was revived with a renewed commitment to regional harmony. With economic integration at the forefront, political integration took a secondary position. The membership expansion has led to a heightened emphasis on the development of a comprehensive market and customs union, designed to boost regional trade, investment, and economic development. Building trust and confidence among member states was a significant reason for the shift away from immediate political integration. The legacy of a past political federation is defined by a lingering sense of suspicion and unresolved political concerns.

⁵⁵ O'Reilly, Peter, and Tony Heron. "Institutions, ideas and regional policy (un-) coordination: The East African Community and the politics of second-hand clothing." *Review of International Political Economy* 30, no. 2 (2023): 608-631.

Noticing the need for a solid economic base, member states began their complex path toward political unification. Pursuing economic cooperation, they sought to establish a more favorable atmosphere for resolving political issues ahead.

The rationale behind prioritizing economic integration was sound and convincing. The member states realized that economic integration could lead to substantial trade growth, investment boosts, and job opportunities. Viewed as a sound investment to better the lives of regional inhabitants and enhance general prosperity. Through economic integration, the EAC hoped to improve its position in international trade talks and draw in foreign investments. The integration's economic success has been substantial. A common market, customs union, tariff removal, and harmonized customs procedures have collectively fostered EAC trade and economic expansion⁵⁶. The accomplishment has reinforced the member states' commitment to deepen economic relationships and has contributed to their continued emphasis on economic fusion.

Despite the absence of loud whispers, political integration discussions linger in the background. The treaty lays the groundwork for a political federation as the community's eventual objective. The treaty mandates the EAC to form a political federation based on a schedule that will be agreed upon by the partner states. As a distant aspiration, the political federation remains a legal component of the EAC⁵⁷. Periodic and careful political debates on a federation within the EAC have taken place. States have been mindful of navigating complex political dynamics and historical disputes. Realizing that governance frameworks, power allocation, and national security are crucial concerns, they have acknowledged the complexity of forming a political federation.

⁵⁶ Piccolino, Giulia. "Regional integration." In *The Routledge Handbook of EU-Africa Relations*, pp. 188-201. Routledge, 2020.

⁵⁷ Busingye, Godard. "Building Peace in East Africa." In *The Palgrave Handbook of Sustainable Peace and Security in Africa*, pp. 95-107. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2022.

Besides this, member states have exhibited varying degrees of enthusiasm for political integration. There are those who are more ardent supporters of a political federation, while others have expressed doubts or concentrated on economic unification. The variety of opinions in the EAC has led to a cautious approach to political integration. In pursuit of political union, member states have opted to first foster economic cooperation and integration. While the EAC has long considered political federation, it has not been a recent priority. This practical strategy highlights the dynamic evolution of regional integration in East Africa, where economic collaboration has yielded considerable advantages and continues to propel the region's growth and progress.

2.4 Social Integration

The integration of social aspects within the bloc is a vital yet often disregarded element of regional cooperation. The organization's main objective is to facilitate collaboration in these areas among member states. While the EAC has made gains in both spheres, the slower progress in social integration highlights the complexity of the issue. The EAC fosters cultural exchange as a means of promoting social integration among member states⁵⁸. The distinct cultural, linguistic, and traditional practices of the East African region can be used to foster a shared identity. By fostering cultural celebrations, festivals, and displays, the EAC endeavors to showcase the cultural patrimony of member states and facilitate interpersonal communication. The events foster an atmosphere of cultural exchange, giving East Africans the chance to learn about and value the variety of their community.

The EAC has prioritized initiatives that facilitate the sharing of cultural and artistic works, as well as sports events that foster collaboration and community. These community and sporting events

⁵⁸ Komuhangi, Hildah. "Economic integration and peace-building in east Africa: A Study of East African Community." PhD diss., Kampala International University, College of Humanities and social Science, 2023.

help create connections between groups, promoting a feeling of shared identity and belonging. While promoting cultural exchange in East Africa presents opportunities, it is important to recognize its difficulties. As an illustration, language disparities can act as a blockade to effective communication and intercultural bonding⁵⁹. From Swahili to English, French, and numerous indigenous languages, each member state has its official language identity. With Swahili as a shared language, language barriers can still limit deeper cultural understanding.

Education's integral part in social integration is evident, as the EAC seeks to deepen collaboration in this realm⁶⁰. To improve education quality and validate academic credentials, member states have created collaborative programs and initiatives. The synchronization of these factors is essential for facilitating the movement of students and professionals across the region. East Africa has seen the implementation a notable initiative to standardize qualifications and competency classification which seeks to simplify the recognition of qualifications across member states, thereby fostering educational mobility and regional workforce integration. The EAC has prioritized initiatives aimed at enhancing educational access and quality, targeting areas of need. Attention has been directed towards upgrading educational opportunities across elementary, middle, and secondary levels, alongside vocational and technical training. To bridge the gaps within the region and foster social unity, education is viewed as a vital tool.

While improvements have been achieved, education-related challenges persist. Despite efforts to bridge the gap, disparities in quality education persist both within and across member states, and resources for education remain inconsistent. The educational goals for East Africans are obstructed

⁵⁹ Ha Le, Van, and Hoi Tan Huynh. "A Cross-Cultural Study on English and Vietnamese Verbal Expressions in Giving and Receiving Presents." In *Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Information and Education Innovations*, pp. 74-79. 2021.

⁶⁰ Mwangi, Jackson. "The Influence of East African Integration on Kenya's Sustainable Development and Economic Growth." PhD diss., University of Nairobi, 2021.

by these discrepancies. Across member states, social policies must be brought into alignment. By harmonizing these policies, regional integration goals can be achieved. With a more uniform and inclusive approach in mind, the goal is to create a comprehensive social safety net for East Africans. Healthcare reforms have been undertaken to better integrate EAC member states' healthcare policies. In a region beset by infectious diseases and underdeveloped healthcare, numerous health challenges arise. In addressing these challenges, collaborative programs like a shared health policy and the Health Research Commission have been established. With the goal of improving healthcare, disease prevention, and research, these initiatives target member states.

Alongside trade, there have been parallel initiatives to harmonize social security and labor policies. With a focus on employment, workers' rights, and social protection, the EAC works towards policy alignment⁶¹. These topics involve discussions about minimum wage standards and professional qualification recognition. Although harmonization of social policies is a difficult undertaking. Different socioeconomic settings within member states frequently give rise to contrasting opinions on policy issues.

2.4 Data Analysis and Presentation of Results

To what extent do you agree that the East African Community (EAC) has achieved its objective of promoting regional economic integration?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	51	51.0	51.0	51.0
	Agree	28	28.0	28.0	79.0
	Neither agree nor disagree	1	1.0	1.0	80.0
	Disagree	13	13.0	13.0	93.0
	Strongly disagree	7	7.0	7.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

⁶¹ Masabo, Juliana. "Informality and Social Insurance in East Africa: an Assessment of the Law and Practice." *Social Security outside the Realm of the Employment Contract. Informal Work and Employee-Like Workers* (2019): 177-200.

From this table, we can discern that a significant portion of respondents, 51%, "Strongly agree" that the EAC has achieved its objective of promoting regional economic integration, and an additional 28% "Agree" with this statement. This indicates that a majority, 79%, express positive sentiments regarding the EAC's efforts in this regard. However, there are some respondents who hold a more critical perspective, with 13% expressing "Disagree" and 7% "Strongly disagree." Additionally, 1% of respondents indicated that they "Neither agree nor disagree." This breakdown provides valuable insights into the perceptions of the surveyed individuals regarding the EAC's success in fostering economic union. It reflects a range of opinions, with a predominant positive sentiment but also some dissenting voices.

How would you rate the level of integration in the EAC

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	High	31	31.0	31.0	31.0
	Low	11	11.0	11.0	42.0
	Moderate	9	9.0	9.0	51.0
	Very high	43	43.0	43.0	94.0
	Very low	6	6.0	6.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Based on data presented on this table, we can see that respondents have varying perceptions of the level of integration within the EAC: A majority of respondents, 43%, rated the level of integration as "Very high," indicating a positive perception of the extent of integration in the EAC. Thirty-one percent of respondents rated it as "High," suggesting that a significant portion believes that integration is substantial. A smaller proportion, 9%, rated it as "Moderate." 11% of respondents rated the level of integration as "Low," signifying that some individuals perceive integration to be at a lower level. Finally, 6% rated it as "Very low," indicating that a minority of respondents believe that integration within the EAC is minimal. This breakdown reflects a range of opinions among the surveyed individuals regarding the extent of integration within the East African Community. While a significant portion views integration positively, there are also respondents

who perceive it to be at a lower level. This diversity of perspectives highlights the complexity of assessing the level of integration in a regional organization like the EAC.

To what extent do you believe that integration in the EAC has led to the loss of national sovereignty

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Believe	23	23.0	23.0	23.0
	Disbelieve	10	10.0	10.0	33.0
	Strongly believe	58	58.0	58.0	91.0
	Strongly disbelieve	9	9.0	9.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From this table, it's clear that the majority of respondents, 58%, "Strongly believe" that integration in the EAC has led to the loss of national sovereignty. This indicates a strong conviction among a significant portion of the surveyed individuals that regional integration has indeed impacted national sovereignty in a negative way. Additionally, 23% of respondents "Believe" that integration has led to the loss of national sovereignty, reinforcing the overall sentiment that integration has had an impact on sovereignty. However, there are also respondents with differing opinions. A smaller proportion, 10%, "Disbelieve" that integration has led to the loss of national sovereignty, and 9% "Strongly disbelieve" this idea. The responses in this table reflect varying perspectives among the surveyed individuals regarding the relationship between regional integration and national sovereignty. While a majority holds concerns about the potential loss of sovereignty, there are also respondents who do not share this viewpoint or hold stronger dissenting opinions. This highlights the complexity of the issue and the diversity of opinions on the topic of regional integration's impact on national sovereignty.

How has the integration in the EAC impacted political stability in the region

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	I don't know	4	4.0	4.0	4.0
	Improved political stability	82	82.0	82.0	86.0

No impact on political stability	5	5.0	5.0	91.0
Worsened political stability	9	9.0	9.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Based on this, we can observe the following: A significant number, 82%, believe that integration in the EAC has "Improved political stability" in the region. This reflects an affirmative view among the surveyed individuals on the effect of integration on political stability. A smaller proportion of respondents, 9%, believe that integration has "Worsened political stability." This suggests that there are some concerns or perceptions of negative effects on stability due to integration. Only a few respondents, 5%, believe that integration has had "No impact on political stability." A minority, 4%, responded with "I don't know," indicating uncertainty about the impact of integration on political stability. The responses in this table show a predominant sentiment that integration has a positive effect on political stability. However, there are also respondents who hold concerns about potential negative effects, as well as some uncertainty among a small portion of the surveyed individuals. This reflects a range of opinions on the nexus between regional integration and political stability in the region.

How has the integration in the EAC impacted the free movement of people across member states

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Has had no impact	4	4.0	4.0	4.0
	I don't know	4	4.0	4.0	8.0
	Improved	88	88.0	88.0	96.0
	Worsened	4	4.0	4.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From this table, we can observe the following: The majority of respondents, 88%, believe that integration in the EAC has "Improved" the free movement of people across member states. This indicates a positive perception among the surveyed individuals regarding the impact of regional integration on mobility within the EAC. A small portion of respondents, 4%, believe that integration has "Worsened" the free movement of people, suggesting some concerns or perceptions

of negative effects on mobility. A very limited number of respondents, 4%, believe that integration has "Had no impact" on the free movement of people. An equal number of respondents, 4%, responded with "I don't know," indicating uncertainty about the impact of integration on the free movement of people. The responses in this table reflect a predominant sentiment that integration in the EAC has positively impacted the free movement of people across member states. However, there are also respondents who hold concerns about potential negative effects and some uncertainty among a small portion of the surveyed individuals. This highlights the complexity of assessing the impact of regional integration on the mobility of people within the region.

Member states have had to cede decision-making authority to regional institutions in the EAC

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	41	41.0	41.0	41.0
	Agree	31	31.0	31.0	72.0
	Neither agree nor disagree	5	5.0	5.0	77.0
	Disagree	16	16.0	16.0	93.0
	Strongly disagree	7	7.0	7.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From this table, it's apparent that there is a significant perception among the surveyed individuals that member states within the EAC have ceded decision-making authority to regional institutions. A substantial majority, 72%, "Strongly agree" or "Agree" with this statement. However, there is also a range of opinions, with 5% of respondents indicating that they "Neither agree nor disagree," and 7% "Strongly disagree" with the notion that member states have relinquished decision-making authority. Additionally, 16% of respondents "Disagree" with the statement. The responses in this table reflect differing viewpoints among the surveyed individuals regarding the balance of decision-making power between member states and regional institutions in the EAC. While a

significant proportion agree that authority has been ceded to regional bodies, there are dissenting opinions and varying degrees of agreement within the sample.

How would you rate the EAC's efforts in promoting social development across the region

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	I don't know	4	4.0	4.0	4.0
	Not at all effective	6	6.0	6.0	10.0
	Not very effective	18	18.0	18.0	28.0
	Somewhat effective	29	29.0	29.0	57.0
	Very effective	43	43.0	43.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From this table, we can observe the following: A significant proportion of respondents, 43%, believe that the EAC's efforts in promoting social development across the region have been "Very effective." This reflects an affirmative perception among the surveyed individuals about the impact of the EAC's initiatives on social development. A notable number of respondents, 29%, consider the EAC's efforts to be "Somewhat effective," indicating a somewhat positive view of the organization's impact on social development. There are respondents who hold more critical views. For example, 18% rated the EAC's efforts as "Not very effective," and 6% rated them as "Not at all effective." These respondents are less positive about the EAC's contributions to social development. A small proportion of respondents, 4%, responded with "I don't know," indicating some uncertainty about the effectiveness of the EAC's efforts in promoting social development. The responses in this table showcase a range of opinions among the surveyed individuals regarding the EAC's role in promoting social development across the region. While a significant portion holds a positive view of its effectiveness, there are also individuals with more critical perspectives and some uncertainty among a small portion of respondents. This diversity of opinions reflects the complexity of assessing the impact of regional organizations on social development.

2.5 Conclusion

In conclusion, the data analysis and presentation of results provide an all-inclusive overview of how regional integration affects different dimensions in the EAC. These views shed some light on the effect of integration on job creation, economic expansion, SMEs advancement, technology exchange, and transportation development, trade across borders, industrial expansion, and standard of living. The information proves a favorable view of regional integration and its implications on various issues. Most respondents consider that regional integration is bringing about high development with regard to employment opportunities, economic growth, creation and improvement of SMEs, transfer of technology, infrastructure promotion, and enhancement of inter-state trade, industrial expansion, and welfare in the EAC. Most respondents believed that integration efforts have led to significant and highly positive effects on development, growth, and stability in the region. It must be noted, however, that while the majority of attitudes expressed relate to positive opinions, there exists a minority of persons with both cautious and negative thoughts on some issues.

This chapter examines the character of integration within the East African Community and how it impacts state authority. It considers how integration is multidimensional, involving the economic, the political, and the social, and its impact on individual member state's autonomy. These include the efforts towards economic integration, especially, creating a single market with a borderless flow of labor, investments, services and capital. The removal of tariffs and the common establishment of customs has added to the economic efficiency and attracted foreign investments, thereby making the EAC competitive globally

Concerning regional integration and politics, the chapter highlights that the original aim of creating the EAC was political integration. Nowadays, the focus has changed as this goal has proved complicated with many disagreements between the member states. However, it still considers

political federation as a long-term goal. It also recognizes efforts towards social integration that include exchange programs in education and attempts at unifying social security systems, health care, and labor policy. Subsequently, the chapter features survey results indicating differing perspectives regarding the magnitude of integration and how it affects statehood, political equilibrium, mobility freedom, and community advancement in the EAC region. Respondents mainly look at the ECA integration with a positive outlook; however, there are divergent views regarding the influence on national sovereignty, political security, mobility, and development of social relations. Overall, EAC's road to integration has been a complex affair with an overwhelming thrust on the economic component. The chapter outlines the achievements and brings out the complexities, views, and opinions of how integration impacts member states regarding sovereignty, stability, and socio-economic growth. The sophisticated insights will shed light on the complexities behind regional integration, sovereign states, and the general development of East Africans.

CHAPTER THREE

EFFECT OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE EAC

3.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses integration and ways upon which it affects the EAC's economic growth and development: 1. Trade: It determines whether increased commerce has resulted from the EAC's establishment of a customs union and single market. 2. Improved Infrastructure: It determined whether the EAC has made it a top priority to improve transportation infrastructure by building new roads, rail lines, and harbors. 3. Harmonized policies: The chapter tackles trade, investment, and agricultural policies as the areas where the EAC could have achieved policy harmony. 4. Increased Competitiveness: The chapter also determines whether regional integration has boosted the competitiveness of its member states by expanding their access to markets and improving their operational efficiency and cost structure. 5. Improved Human Development: Lastly, it determines whether human development has been enhanced as a result of improved regional collaboration in the provision of education, healthcare, and social services.

3.2 Trade

How does regional integration affect economic expansion and growth within the EAC? This question gains importance with the creation of a customs union and single market. Member states feel the effect most keenly on trade. Economic development relies heavily upon trade in multiple dimensions⁶². Whether there has been a surge in commercial activity following the implementation

⁶² Yang, Zhendong, Qaiser Abbas, Imran Hanif, Majed Alharthi, Farhad Taghizadeh-Hesary, Babar Aziz, and Muhammad Mohsin. "Short-and long-run influence of energy utilization and economic growth on carbon discharge in emerging SREB economies." *Renewable Energy* 165 (2021): 43-51.

of these integrated approaches remains a pressing concern. Trade's foundational role in promoting economic expansion applies to all nations and territories. This transaction enables the growth of an economic system characterized by diverse offerings, stiff contest, and benefits derived from differences in labor or other inputs. With the objective of enhancing border crossings, the foundations of an incorporated single market and customs union within the EAC rest upon streamlining protocols while eliminating policy discrepancies. Economic expansion hinges upon harnessing the latent potential embedded within international commerce.

Successful implementation of a customs union and single market has brought forth numerous practical benefits. A notable rise in trade between member nations is expected, with one of the most prominent expectations being this surge. A reduction in tariffs and non-tariff barriers makes conducting cross-border trade more straightforward⁶³. With increased trade between areas, there may emerge a more unified and networked regional economy. With increasing size, integrated markets experience increased economies of scale. By optimizing processes, businesses operating under the EAC reduce their overall production expenditures. Boosted performance enables EAC items to gain traction internationally, making them more competitive. Exports provide an opportunity that propels economic progress, which in turn stimulates overall growth and improvement. Realizing these advantages depends on resolving these issues. To facilitate successful integration, these factors include regulatory harmonization, infrastructural growth, and institutional establishment. Cohesion between member states determines the effectiveness of customs union and single markets. Understanding the customs union and single market's effects on trade inside the EAC is crucial.

⁶³ Vhumbunu, Clayton Hazvinei, and Joseph Rukema Rudigi. "Eliminating Non-tariff Barriers in the African Continental Free Trade Area: Lessons and Experiences from African Regional Economic Communities." *Journal of African Foreign Affairs* 8, no. 2 (2021): 129.

3.3 Improved Infrastructure

Development and economic growth in the East African Community depend heavily on transportation infrastructure serving as a critical connection point. Of vital significance to international business dealings is the crucial piece of infrastructure which takes center stage. Key to understanding the situation is evaluating whether the EAC devoted sufficient resources to upgrading its transportation network, comprising street construction, preservation, and expansion⁶⁴. Potential transformation lies at the core of improved transportation infrastructure within the EAC region. With the help of new highways, railroad tracks, and ports, travel expenditures may be cut down while commerce becomes more effective. The logic behind these investments is clear: By fostering greater physical connection throughout the region, the EAC can encourage unrestricted movement of products and services between countries.

Improved infrastructure leads directly to lower transportation costs being realized. Efficient transportation networks lead to lower expenditures when transferring commodities across an area. The reduction could result in enhanced market accessibility, boosting sales of goods manufactured in East African Community countries across multiple regions. Reduced transportation costs have the added effect of spurring more investment and economic development. A robust transport network can facilitate seamless distribution networks and efficient supplies. With improved efficiencies, the EAC region sees reduced impediments to trade, facilitating faster movement of

⁶⁴⁶⁴ Olyanga, Anthony Moni, Isaac MB Shinyekwa, Muhammed Ngoma, Isaac Nabeta Nkote, Timothy Esemu, and Moses Kanya. "Export logistics infrastructure and export competitiveness in the East African Community." *Modern Supply Chain Research and Applications* 4, no. 1 (2022): 39-61.

Olyanga, Anthony, and Francis Muhire. "Trade Infrastructure and Export Competitiveness in the East African Community." *Journal of Economics, Finance and Accounting Studies* 5, no. 3 (2023): 174-188.

items across borders⁶⁵. A welcoming atmosphere, generated by this factor, may encourage greater international investment (FDI), thereby enlarging the realm of financial ventures. Although it may appear straightforward, the truth is that infrastructure investing necessitates significant planning and collaboration. Significant obstacles include funding, compliance with regulations, and strong governance structures to ensure effective project management. Assessing the influence of regional unity on financial expansion and enhancement depends on upgrading the area's transport networks, including streets, railways, and waterborne routes. It's not simply about connecting people, places, and things – this infrastructure lays the groundwork for successful exchange, cost savings, and flourishing markets.

3.4 Harmonized Policies

Harmony among policies is central to successful regional integration within the EAS. Integration's success in this area depends heavily upon these policies, which act as a key factor. Alignment of policies by member states is an essential aspect of regional integration. By establishing a solid foundation incorporating integrated policy implementation concerning trading norms, investments, and farm tactics in the EAC, one may effectively tackle the situation at hand⁶⁶. With individual countries having their own sets of regulations and priorities, achieving policy alignment is an intricate process.

With policy consistency, the simplicity of cross-border transactions increases exponentially across the EAC region. Trade across national boundaries gains simplicity and efficiency once differences

⁶⁵ Mmari, Donald, Jamal Msami, Stephen Mwombela, Jane Mpapalika, Binyam Afewerk Demena, and Peter AG van Bergeijk. "EAC integration: evidence-based policy in difficult times." In *Trade and Investment in East Africa: Prospects, Challenges and Pathways to Sustainability*, pp. 21-39. Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore, 2022.

⁶⁶ Ndomondo-Sigonda, Margareth, Jacqueline Miot, Shan Naidoo, Nelson E. Masota, Brian Ng'andu, Nancy Ngum, and Eliangiringa Kaale. "Harmonization of medical products regulation: a key factor for improving regulatory capacity in the East African Community." *BMC Public Health* 21 (2021): 1-13.

among duties, import guidelines, and industrial best practices have been standardized. Boosting regional economies is achieved through this, fostering intra-regional commerce⁶⁷. With a unified commercial approach, the East African Community may effectively bargain more profitable deals. A coherent framework for fundraising benefits all stakeholders by drawing in both home grown and foreign money. With a clear legal structure in place, investors become more willing to put their funds into the East African Community (EAC). Economic expansion results when investments create jobs, encourage creativity, and strengthen infrastructure.

Within the context of agriculture, policy synchronization tends to produce substantial results. Most EAC international locations have agriculture because the vital sector, so aligning insurance policies increases manufacturing effectivity. Policies that align with one another can lead to improved agricultural production methods, ultimately contributing to poverty alleviation and broader growth within the area. Regional integration demands unified regulations across the East African Community; therefore, policy alignment matters most⁶⁸. Acting as an essential hub, these elements support agriculture growth, attract investment, and simplify trading procedures. Enhancing economic progress and quality of life within the region is facilitated by the EAC's concerted effort to align policies in crucial spheres such as commerce, investment, and farming.

3.5 Increased Competitiveness

Assessing the competitive stance of member countries against one another offers insights into the success rate of integrational initiatives undertaken by the East African Community (EAC). By assessing how well expanded market access, increased productivity, and reduced costs enhance

⁶⁷ Mashingia, Jane H., Vincent Ahonkhai, Noel Aineplan, Aggrey Ambali, Apollo Angole, Mawien Arik, Samvel Azatyan et al. "Eight years of the East African Community Medicines Regulatory Harmonization initiative: Implementation, progress, and lessons learned." *PLoS medicine* 17, no. 8 (2020): e1003134.

⁶⁸ Dansie, Live Storehagen, Walter Denis Odoch, and Christine Årdal. "Industrial perceptions of medicines regulatory harmonization in the East African Community." *PloS one* 14, no. 6 (2019): e0218617.

the economic position of EAC member states, it functions as an indicator of the success of the organization's projects⁶⁹. Global market success depends on regional integration's ability to create an atmosphere where member nations may compete successfully. To create a level playing field among its members, the EAC strives toward streamlining regulatory frameworks and removing trade hurdles. By fostering greater collaboration among nations within the EAC, these efforts will boost their individual economies and contribute toward building a more robust bloc capable of driving growth throughout East Africa.

Operations must operate efficiently to increase competitive edge. Simplified customs rules allow goods to move more swiftly across borders, enabling firms to capitalize on opportunities throughout East Africa. Within the EAC, improved operational efficiency can lead to lower transaction costs, making it easier and more affordable for companies to function. Regionally speaking, revamping cost structures holds great promise for elevating competitiveness among EAC member nations. Attracting consumers and investors, companies can boost sales by producing products/services below market price. With this advantage, regional economies might experience higher shipments, career advancements, and expanded commerce. Economic growth through cost efficiency can lead to a stronger and more varied industrial sector, resulting in a thriving overall economy.

Integration within the region hinges upon the pursuit of greater competitiveness by the EAC. With expanded market accessibility, better operations, and optimized costs, the EAC strives to heighten the economic status of its member states⁷⁰. Competition boosted through efforts leads not only to

⁶⁹ Bongomin, Ocident, Eric Oyondi Nganyi, Mfanga Ramadhani Abswaidi, Emmanuel Hitiyise, and Godias Tumusiime. "Sustainable and dynamic competitiveness towards technological leadership of industry 4.0: implications for East african community." *Journal of Engineering* 2020 (2020): 1-22.

⁷⁰ Vida, Imre, Endre Spaller, and Laszlo Vasa. "Potential effects of finance 4.0 on the employment in East Africa." *Economie și Sociologie* 2 (2020): 29-42.

international investments being drawn in but also results in economic expansion, ultimately supporting regional progress and prosperity within the bounds of the East African Community.

3.6 Data Analysis and Presentation of Results

How would you rate the impact of regional integration on employment opportunities in the EAC?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No impact	3	3.0	3.0	3.0
	Somewhat negative impact	8	8.0	8.0	11.0
	Somewhat positive impact	16	16.0	16.0	27.0
	Very negative impact	8	8.0	8.0	35.0
	Very positive impact	65	65.0	65.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Based on the information above, we can observe that: A significant number of respondents, 65%, believe that integration has a "Very positive impact" on employment opportunities in the EAC. This indicates a strong conviction among the surveyed individuals that regional integration has played a substantial and highly positive role in creating employment opportunities. A smaller proportion, 16%, believe that regional integration has a "Somewhat positive impact," suggesting a positive but perhaps less emphatic view compared to those who believe in a "Very positive impact." A minority, 8%, perceive a "Very negative impact" of regional integration on employment opportunities. Another 8% believe that regional integration has a "Somewhat negative impact," indicating a negative but not highly significant view. Only 3% of respondents believe that regional integration has "No impact" on employment opportunities. The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that regional integration has had a positive impact, with the majority of respondents perceiving a "Very positive impact" on employment opportunities in the East African Community (EAC). This positive perception suggests that many respondents believe regional integration has been beneficial for creating job opportunities within the region.

To what extent do you believe regional integration has contributed to economic growth in the East African Community (EAC)?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Believe	14	14.0	14.0	14.0
	Disbelieve	6	6.0	6.0	20.0
	Neither believe nor disbelieve	6	6.0	6.0	26.0
	Strongly believe	69	69.0	69.0	95.0
	Strongly disbelieve	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

A significant majority of respondents, 69%, "Strongly believe" that regional integration has contributed to economic growth in the EAC. This indicates a conviction among the surveyed individuals that integration has had a substantial effect in fostering economic development. A smaller proportion, 14%, "Believe" that regional integration has contributed to economic growth, suggesting agreement but perhaps not as strongly as those who "Strongly believe." A limited number of respondents, 6%, "Disbelieve" that regional integration has contributed to economic growth, indicating a contrary viewpoint. An additional 6% responded with "Neither believe nor disbelieve," indicating some uncertainty or ambivalence about the extent to which integration has been responsible for economic growth. A very small minority, 5%, "Strongly disbelieve" that regional integration has contributed to economic growth. The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that regional integration has indeed been responsible for economic success in the East African Community (EAC). Most respondents either "Strongly believe" or "Believe" in this positive impact, although there are also some who hold contrary views or express uncertainty. This diversity of opinions highlights the complex and multifaceted nature of assessing the effects of integration on economic growth and development.

How would you rate the impact of regional integration on the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the EAC?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
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Valid	No impact	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
	Somewhat negative impact	3	3.0	3.0	8.0
	Somewhat positive impact	16	16.0	16.0	24.0
	Very negative impact	4	4.0	4.0	28.0
	Very positive impact	72	72.0	72.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From this table, we can observe the following: A significant number, 72%, believe that regional integration has a "Very positive impact" on the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the EAC. This indicates a strong conviction among the surveyed individuals that regional integration has played a substantial and highly positive role in fostering SME growth. A smaller proportion, 16%, believe that regional integration has a "Somewhat positive impact," suggesting a positive but perhaps less emphatic view compared to those who believe in a "Very positive impact." A very small number of respondents, 5%, perceive "No impact" of regional integration on SME growth. A minority, 3%, believe that regional integration has a "Somewhat negative impact," indicating a negative but not highly significant view. Another minority, 4%, perceive a "Very negative impact" of regional integration on SME growth, though this view is less common. The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that regional integration has had a positive impact, with the majority of respondents perceiving a "Very positive impact" on the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the East African Community (EAC). This positive perception suggests that many respondents believe regional integration has been beneficial for SMEs in terms of their growth and development.

To what extent do you believe that regional integration has facilitated the transfer of technology and knowledge in the EAC?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Believe	18	18.0	18.0	18.0
	Disbelieve	7	7.0	7.0	25.0
	Neither believe nor disbelieve	6	6.0	6.0	31.0

Strongly believe	63	63.0	63.0	94.0
Strongly disbelieve	6	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From this table, we can observe the following: A significant majority of respondents, 63%, "Strongly believe" that regional integration has facilitated the transfer of technology and knowledge within the East African Community (EAC). This indicates a strong conviction among the surveyed individuals that regional integration has played a substantial and highly positive role in promoting the exchange of technology and knowledge. A smaller proportion, 18%, "Believe" that regional integration has facilitated technology and knowledge transfer, suggesting agreement, but perhaps not as strongly as those who "Strongly believe." A minority, 7%, "Disbelieve" that regional integration has necessitated the transfer of knowledge and technology. An additional 6% responded with "Neither believe nor disbelieve," indicating some uncertainty or ambivalence about the extent to which integration has facilitated transfer of knowledge and technology. Another 6% "Strongly disbelieve" that regional integration has facilitated technology and knowledge transfer, indicating strong opposition to this idea. The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that regional integration has indeed facilitated the transfer of knowledge and technology within the regional bloc. The majority of respondents either "Strongly believe" or "Believe" in this positive impact, although there are also some who hold contrary views or express uncertainty. This suggests that many respondents perceive integration as a way of enhancing technological and knowledge exchange within the region.

How would you rate the impact of regional integration on the development of infrastructure, such as roads and ports, in the EAC?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No impact	4	4.0	4.0	4.0
	Somewhat negative impact	4	4.0	4.0	8.0
	Somewhat positive impact	39	39.0	39.0	47.0

Very negative impact	4	4.0	4.0	51.0
Very positive impact	49	49.0	49.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From the information provided above, we see that: A significant majority of respondents, 49%, believe that regional integration has a "Very positive impact" on growth and development of infrastructural projects such as roads and ports, in the East African regional bloc. This indicates a strong conviction among the surveyed individuals that regional integration has played a substantial and highly positive role in advancing infrastructure development. A notable proportion, 39%, believe that regional integration has a "Somewhat positive impact," suggesting a positive but perhaps less emphatic view compared to those who believe in a "Very positive impact." A very small number of respondents, 4%, perceive a "Very negative impact" of regional integration on infrastructure development. An additional 4% responded with "Somewhat negative impact," indicating a negative but not highly significant view. Only 4% of respondents believe that regional integration has "No impact" on infrastructure development. The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that regional integration has had a positive impact, with the majority of respondents perceiving a "Very positive impact" on development and growth of infrastructural projects within the East African regional bloc. This positive perception suggests that many respondents believe regional integration has been beneficial for enhancing infrastructure, including roads and ports, within the region.

To what extent do you believe that regional integration has facilitated the growth of cross-border trade in the EAC?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Believe	47	47.0	47.0	47.0
	Disbelieve	5	5.0	5.0	52.0
	Neither believe nor disbelieve	2	2.0	2.0	54.0
	Strongly believe	41	41.0	41.0	95.0
	Strongly disbelieve	5	5.0	5.0	100.0

Total	100	100.0	100.0	
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Based on the data in the above table, we can observe the following: A significant majority of respondents, 47%, "Believe" that regional integration has facilitated the growth of trade across the borders of the member nations. This indicates a strong conviction among the surveyed individuals that regional integration has played a substantial and positive role in promoting cross-border trade. A smaller proportion, 41%, "Strongly believe" that regional integration has had significant effect by promoting trade and growth across the borders of member states, suggesting a particularly strong and emphatic view in favor of this belief. A minority, 5%, "Disbelieve" that regional integration has facilitated cross-border trade growth. Another 5% "Strongly disbelieve" that regional integration has facilitated cross-border trade growth, indicating strong opposition to this idea. Only 2% of respondents selected "Neither believe nor disbelieve," indicating some level of uncertainty or ambivalence about the impact of regional integration on cross-border trade. The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that regional integration has indeed facilitated the growth of cross-border trade in the EAC. The majority of respondents either "Believe" or "Strongly believe" in this positive impact, although there are also some who hold contrary views or express uncertainty. This suggests that many respondents perceive integration as a way of enhancing cross-border trade within the region.

How would you rate the effect of regional integration on the reduction of trade barriers among member states in the EAC?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No impact	3	3.0	3.0	3.0
	Somewhat negative impact	2	2.0	2.0	5.0
	Somewhat positive impact	41	41.0	41.0	46.0
	Very negative impact	9	9.0	9.0	55.0
	Very positive impact	45	45.0	45.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Based on the information above, we can observe that a number of respondents, 45%, believe that integration has had a "Very positive impact" on the reduction of trade barriers among member states in the EAC. This indicates a strong conviction among the surveyed individuals that regional integration has played a substantial and highly positive role in reducing trade barriers. Another substantial proportion, 41%, believe that regional integration has a "Somewhat positive impact," suggesting a positive but perhaps not as emphatic view compared to those who believe in a "Very positive impact." A smaller but still notable number of respondents, 9%, perceive a "Very negative impact" of regional integration on reducing trade barriers. A very small number of respondents, 2%, perceive a "Somewhat negative impact" on the reduction of trade barriers. Only 3% of respondents believe that regional integration has "No impact" on reducing trade barriers. The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that regional integration has had a positive impact on reducing trade barriers among member states in the East African Community (EAC). The majority of respondents either "Very positive impact" or "Somewhat positive impact," indicating that they believe regional integration has been effective in addressing trade barriers within the region.

To what extent do you believe that regional integration has facilitated the growth of industries in the EAC?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Believe	16	16.0	16.0	16.0
	Disbelieve	4	4.0	4.0	20.0
	Neither believe nor disbelieve	2	2.0	2.0	22.0
	Strongly believe	73	73.0	73.0	95.0
	Strongly disbelieve	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From this table, we can observe the following: A significant majority of respondents, 73%, "Strongly believe" that regional integration has facilitated the growth of industries in the East

African Community (EAC). This indicates a strong conviction among the surveyed individuals that regional integration has played a substantial and highly positive role in promoting industrial growth. A smaller proportion, 16%, "Believe" that regional integration has facilitated the growth of industries, suggesting agreement but perhaps not as strongly as those who "Strongly believe." A minority, 5%, "Strongly disbelieve" that integration has facilitated the growth of industries. Another 4% "Disbelieve" that regional integration has facilitated industrial growth. Only 2% of respondents selected "Neither believe nor disbelieve," indicating some level of uncertainty or ambivalence about the impact of regional integration on industrial growth. The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that regional integration has indeed facilitated the growth of industries in the East African regional bloc, EAC. The majority of respondents either "Strongly believe" or "Believe" in this positive impact, although there are also some who hold contrary views or express uncertainty. This suggests that many respondents perceive integration as a way of enhancing industrial growth within the region.

How would you rate the impact of regional integration on the standard of living for people in the EAC?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No impact	4	4.0	4.0	4.0
	Somewhat negative impact	4	4.0	4.0	8.0
	Somewhat positive impact	54	54.0	54.0	62.0
	Very negative impact	4	4.0	4.0	66.0
	Very positive impact	34	34.0	34.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From the information provided in the table above, we can observe that majority of respondents, 54%, believe that regional integration has a "Somewhat positive impact" on the standard of living for the people of the regional bloc. This indicates that a significant portion of surveyed individuals sees regional integration as having a positive effect on the standard of living. A notable proportion,

34%, believe that regional integration has a "Very positive impact," suggesting a particularly strong and emphatic view in favor of this belief. A small minority, 4%, perceive a "Very negative impact" of integration on the standard of living. Another 4% perceive a "Somewhat negative impact" on the standard of living. Only 4% of respondents believe that regional integration has "No impact" on the standard of living. The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that regional integration has a positive impact on the standard of living for people in the East African Community (EAC). The majority of respondents either "Somewhat positive impact" or "Very positive impact," indicating that they believe regional integration has positively influenced the standard of living within the region.

3.7 Conclusion

In conclusion, this chapter summarizes the impact of integration on the output and development in EAC. Trade, infrastructure, integrated market-specific regulations, competitiveness, and human development are some of these dimensions investigated in depth. The results above show that integration towards the economic advancement in the EAC has contributed significantly to several areas of economic expansion. From the results, there is a customs union that was created alongside a single market among member states, leading to an increase in trade among them. Cross-border trade is facilitated with lowered tariffs and nontariff barriers, enhancing regional commerce. It has also brought forth competition due to enhanced economies of operation and reduced production rates. From the analysis, coordination of policies amongst member states is essential, especially on issues related to trade, investment, and agriculture.

Consensus policies ease international transactions that help boost agricultural practices for the overall development of the economy as well as alleviate poverty. In addition, most people participating in the survey consider the influence of regional integration as very favorable

regarding different spheres. There is an extensive belief that regional integration has a very positive impact on job creation, economic growth, small and medium-scale enterprises, transfer of technology, development of infrastructure, cross-border trade, as well as expansion of different sectors. Finally, based on the analysis described in this section, EAC has greatly helped promote economic growth and advancement. Most interviewees support this assertion and note that its impact was very positive. In conclusion, these results emphasize the need to strengthen regional integration in East Africa to ensure enhanced economic growth and improved livelihoods of Africans.

CHAPTER FOUR

AREAS IN WHICH MEMBER STATES HAVE CEDED SOVEREIGNTY TO THE REGIONAL ENTITY IN THE EAC.

4.1 Introduction

Integration of countries demonstrates the value of coordinated efforts. Surrendering national sovereignty has enabled member states to embark on a grand initiative to achieve commonalities and shared contentment. The EAC's commitment to relinquish sovereignty marks a notable shift from the typical view of nation-state autonomy, clearing the path for improved economic, political, and social harmony among its constituent countries. This chapter examines the complex dimensions of sovereignty surrender within the EAC, analyzing the intricacies and repercussions of this evolution. The EAC's fundamental mission is to surpass the narrow boundaries of individual nations and construct a more interconnected regional community. As this realization sets in, member states recognize that, while national sovereignty remains vital, joint decision-making and collective accountability can produce notable advantages.

The first critical component of sovereignty cession is the development of a Customs Union, streamlining the agile exchange of goods across the region through synchronized customs policies and trading methods. Recognizing the benefits of collective economic might, member states strive to unite. Just as before, the Common Market's establishment promotes the unrestricted flow of goods, services, capital, and labor across borders, thereby cultivating a shared sense of regional identity and economic advantages for all residents. Furthermore, the EAC has embarked on a monetary integration journey, with member states striving towards a shared currency. The success of this ambitious project depends on ceding control over monetary policy to the EAC, illustrating

a practical understanding of how a single currency can contribute to regional economic stability and expansion.

In addition to economic benefits, political cooperation and diplomatic coordination are essential aspects where member states collaborate and speak with a unified voice on local and global matters. The EAC's commitment to ensuring peace and stability in the region is paramount, highlighting its significance as a regional entity. In a thorough examination, the research explores the intricate details of sovereignty cession in the EAC and its extensive implications for the region's advancement towards unity and prosperity.

The EAC serves as a testament to the evolving integration of regional communities in Africa, a development that is gaining traction. The integration of these countries within the East African Community (EAC) has shown impressive progress in the areas of economics, politics, and social harmony. At the heart of this initiative is the idea of member states giving up some of their independence to a regional body, requiring a willingness to prioritize shared choices and shared responsibility over individual interests. As we dive into the specific regions where sovereignty has been transferred to the EAC, the researcher uncovered the underlying mechanics and consequences of this act.

4.2 Trade Policy and Customs Union

The EAC aims to foster a unified customs union and common market. Pivotal moments in the integration process, as member states cede authority over domestic trade policies and customs regulations to promote autonomous commerce within the EAC⁷¹. This significant change in approach highlights the member states' dedication to promoting economic collaboration and

⁷¹ Pomfret, Richard. "Regionalism and the global trade system." *The World Economy* 44, no. 9 (2021): 2496-2514.

integration. The EAC member states view customs unions as an essential element for advancing economic integration. Customs unions consolidate tariffs, abolish non-tariff barriers, and implement shared trade policies.⁷² Notably, this means that member states are no longer allowed to set their own tariffs for trade within the EAC and must follow a standardized framework of trade rules.

The customs union's key element, the EAC's emphasis lies in tariff synchronization. In pursuit of consistency and fairness in trade, member states have aligned their tariffs. Avoiding this step could lead to one nation imposing higher tariffs on goods from another member state, thereby obstructing their trade. By harmonizing trade processes, businesses can now navigate customs with greater ease, resulting in reduced trade costs. Targeting NTBs within its customs union, the EAC is concurrently removing tariffs. Customs procedures, regulatory complexities, and administrative hurdles furthermore slow down trade, taking up valuable time and resources. By working together, member states have streamlined trade processes and lowered the expense of international commerce. By promoting trade across the EAC, this initiative simultaneously makes the region more alluring to external investors looking to access a wider market. The customs union within the EAC leads to the implementation of common trade policies. Integration's benefits depend on member states coordinating their trade policies and regulatory frameworks⁷³. Ensuring regional trade rules are standardized, this coordination levels the playing field for companies, preventing uneven competition. With a united position on trade matters, the EAC can negotiate better trade agreements with external partners.

⁷² Rauschendorfer, Jakob, and Anna Twum. "Unmaking of a customs union: Regional (dis) integration in the East African Community." *World Trade Review* 21, no. 1 (2022): 59-70.

⁷³ Schiff, Maurice W., and L. Alan Winters. *Regional integration and development*. World Bank Publications, 2003.

Customs Union formation is a cornerstone of the EAC's regional integration vision⁷⁴. To achieve a unified economic position, member states have collectively ceded some of their authority in trade and commerce. By synchronizing customs regulations, tariffs, and trade practices, this Customs Union streamlines the movement of goods across the region. Through this integration, member states can strengthen their regional trade by dismantling barriers, which in turn attracts investments and fosters economic expansion. With a recognition that independence may not be enough, the Customs Union creates a harmonious environment for states to achieve shared prosperity.

This additional level of regional integration within the EAC involves the establishment of a unified market. In this scenario, member states have given up some of their authority in exchange for stronger economic bonds. Within the bounds of borders, the unlimited exchange of goods, services, capital, and labor is permitted. The concept of workers from EAC member nations residing and working in other member nations highlights the dedication to regional solidarity. By ceding some sovereignty, numerous benefits are realized in areas of immigration and labor regulations⁷⁵. This effort fosters a strong sense of community, which in turn boosts economic prosperity and employment mobility.

4.3 Monetary Policy

Another instance of ceding sovereignty for member states is monetary integration. The EAC has advanced towards the goal of a common currency, although implementation remains incomplete⁷⁶. States within the region have agreed to collaborate on a single currency initiative. Surrendering

⁷⁴ Mmari, Donald, Jamal Msami, Stephen Mwombela, Jane Mpapalika, Binyam Afewerk Demena, and Peter AG van Bergeijk. "EAC integration: evidence-based policy in difficult times." In *Trade and Investment in East Africa: Prospects, Challenges and Pathways to Sustainability*, pp. 21-39. Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore, 2022.

⁷⁵ Brown, Michael F. "Sovereignty's betrayals." *Indigenous experience today* (2020): 171-194.

⁷⁶ Davoodi, Hamid Reza, ed. *The East African Community after Ten Years: Deepening Integration*. East African Community, 2012.

control over crucial monetary policies to the EAC involves issuing currency and managing interest rates. The challenging nature of this topic notwithstanding, member states acknowledge the potential benefits of a shared currency, including simplified exchanges, reduced risk, and enhanced monetary stability. While the advantages are substantial, the path to a single currency is replete with challenges, such as requiring economic alignment and representing each member state's interests. By ceding some sovereignty, member states have opened up a new domain where the EAC can exert influence. By working together on regional and international matters, we can promote security and peace. In the foreign policy realm, member states preserve their sovereignty while endorsing a unified approach to handle shared concerns⁷⁷. By uniting their diplomatic efforts, member states can effectively amplify their influence through the EAC. Furthermore, the EAC's role in these efforts underscores its significance as a regional entity for promoting stability.

The EAC aims to implement a single currency, the East African Shilling, as one of its primary ambitions. Progress towards a single currency has led member states to give up some control over their individual monetary policies. The East African Monetary Union protocol forms the foundation of this undertaking, specifying shared monetary policy directives that member states must comply with to cultivate a more integrated and stable economic climate within the region. The EAC's monetary harmonization effort's critical component is the East African Monetary Union protocol⁷⁸. This framework provides a roadmap for member states to work together in managing their monetary policies through a disciplined approach to fiscal management and inflation control.

⁷⁷ Krasner, Stephen D. *Power, the state, and sovereignty: essays on international relations*. Routledge, 2009.

⁷⁸ Drummond, Mr Paulo, Mr Ari Aisen, Mr Emre Alper, Ms Ejona Fuli, and Mr Sébastien Walker. *Toward a monetary union in the East African Community: asymmetric shocks, exchange rates, and risk-sharing mechanisms*. International Monetary Fund, 2015.

Following guidelines help maintain fiscal discipline and debt levels, promote price stability, and uphold sound economic governance.

Ceding control of monetary policies to the EAC necessitates member states' adherence to the union's unified standards. To achieve the East African Monetary Union's broader goals, fiscal and monetary policies require adjustments. The stability of the East African Shilling and combat against inflation are of paramount importance to secure financial stability in East Africa⁷⁹. Surrendering control over fiscal policies presents both opportunities and difficulties. With a shared currency, numerous benefits emerge, such as reduced costs, eliminated exchange rate risks, and enhanced price clarity. Removing the need for currency conversion can significantly simplify trade and investment within the region, making it more efficient. By preventing competitive devaluations and speculative attacks, a common currency can stabilize the financial system.

The opportunity and challenge of ceding control over monetary policies exists simultaneously. Boasting numerous benefits, a common currency can simplify trade and foster price consistency. By eliminating currency conversion complications, regional trade and investment can be more solidified. Additionally, a common currency achieved financial market stability by preventing devaluations and attacks on member states' currencies⁸⁰.

The quest for a single currency has faced numerous hurdles. As they navigate the intricate landscape of economic and political considerations, member states must strive for a flawless transition. Ensuring uniform economic performance and fiscal policies among member states is crucial, given the significance of disparities in impeding the successful implementation of a

⁷⁹ Goldstein, Andrea, and Njuguna S. Ndung'u. "Regional integration experience in the Eastern African Region." (2001).

⁸⁰ McKinnon, Ronald I. "Monetary and exchange rate policies for international financial stability: a proposal." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 2, no. 1 (1988): 83-103.

common currency⁸¹. Moreover, member states must assess the effects on their respective financial institutions and regulatory structures, as well as their citizens' daily lives.

4.4 Infrastructure Development

The EAC's pursuit of integration and growth hinges on infrastructure development. With this understanding, member states have voluntarily ceded some sovereignty to enhance regional coordination and address joint challenges. By encompassing diverse fields like roads, railways, energy, and ICT, this collaboration demonstrates a commitment to shared progress and integration. EAC infrastructure development is marked by the extension and upgrade of road networks⁸². The facilitation of cross-border movement is critical for member states, emphasizing the significance of efficient transportation links. To enhance connectivity, they have joined forces to plan, finance, and construct cross-border roads and highways. Uniting resources and strategies, the EAC has sped up the construction of vital roadways, removing trade hurdles and deepening economic unity.

The EAC assumes oversight for infrastructure development, an area where member states have surrendered their sovereignty. By uniting their efforts, the member states underscore the importance of interconnected infrastructure projects. From road networks to ICT infrastructure, this cooperation spans a wide scope of sectors. Collective efforts among member states result in the development and upkeep of crucial infrastructure. This growth is furthered through the integration and movement of both goods and people, making regional economic expansion more feasible. Although member states retain some oversight over their individual structures, the collective initiative showcases their dedication to the EAC's common goals.

⁸¹ Acs, Zoltan J., and Laszlo Szerb. "Entrepreneurship, economic growth and public policy." *Small business economics* 28 (2007): 109-122.

⁸² Were, Edmond. "East African infrastructural development race: a sign of postmodern Pan-Africanism?" *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 35, no. 4 (2022): 566-591.

Energy sector cooperation among member states reflects their commitment to regional collaboration. For economic development to occur, reliable and affordable energy access is a must. Realizing the advantages of shared energy resources and infrastructure, member states have collaborated on regional energy generation and distribution initiatives⁸³. Investments in power generation, transmission lines, and renewable energy sources are included. Through joint action, member states hope to achieve a reliable and budget-friendly energy supply, while simultaneously decreasing reliance on harmful and pricey energy sources. In addition, ICT infrastructure was a key focus of the EAC's infrastructure development strategy⁸⁴. As the digital economy plays a crucial role, nations are increasingly focusing on creating a robust ICT environment. Initiatives to increase connectivity and promote innovation within the region involve collaboration on digital infrastructure, regulatory harmonization, and ICT development.

By leveraging technology's growth-promoting capabilities, member states can attain economic development through a coordinated strategy. But challenges arise from ceding sovereignty over infrastructure development priorities. With differing infrastructure needs, member states confront distinct economic, environmental, and logistical challenges. Balancing these competing interests calls for persistent discussions and concessions to ensure projects accommodate both regional and national concerns. Moreover, gaps in infrastructure quality and access among member states require significant investments to foster fair development. In this instance, member states have relinquished their authority to regional cooperation. In an effort to create an interconnected railway

⁸³ Rosnes, Orvika, and Maria Shkaratan. *Africa's power infrastructure: investment, integration, efficiency*. World Bank Publications, 2011.

⁸⁴ Foster, Vivien, and Cecilia Briceño-Garmendia. *Africa's ICT infrastructure: Building on the mobile revolution*. World Bank Publications, 2011.

network, the EAC was working to enhance the efficient transportation of both goods and people⁸⁵. Building and maintaining railway lines, stations, and related infrastructure demands cooperation among member states. Through this initiative, they seek to reduce transportation costs, promote environmentally responsible transportation, and deepen economic integration.

Although challenging, regional infrastructure development offers substantial benefits. By combining resources and working together on major initiatives, member states can improve the affordability and effectiveness of infrastructure investments. The integration provided by roads, railways, and energy networks contributes to a setting that encourages trade, investment, and job creation, leading to economic growth within the EAC. Integrating infrastructure development with environmental conservation and sustainable development, regional strategies align. When member states join forces in renewable energy, efficient transportation, and harmonized environmental regulations, they can work together to combat environmental problems while promoting economic progress.

4.5 Free Movement of Labor

Central to the EAC's integration strategy is the principle of free labor movement⁸⁶. This collective agreement grants citizens of EAC countries the flexibility to reside and work in any member state with ease, unencumbered by permits or substantial immigration challenges. The policy marks a profound departure from traditional notions of sovereignty in immigration and labor market control, fostering regional movement and economic integration. By allowing for the unrestricted movement of workers, the EAC highlights its dedication to regional citizenship. This right allows

⁸⁵ Adero, Nashon, and Eric Aligula. "Challenges facing transport infrastructure in the East African Community." *Research Networking and Regional Development Policy Making in the East Africa Community (EAC), 90-113: Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)* (2012).

⁸⁶ Kanyangoga, John Bosco. "Integrating migration with development in EAC: policy challenges and recommendations." *CUTS Geneva Resource Centre: Geneva, Switzerland* (2010).

people to reside and work in any EAC country with the same freedom as they would at home as long as they are citizens of the respective members of the bloc. Both enhancing job opportunities and fostering a shared community, this mobility has far-reaching benefits within the region.

The cession of sovereignty by member states in the free movement of labor pertains to their national immigration and labor market policies. Throughout history, nations have held the right to manage their labor markets and immigration processes to protect their citizens and control immigration. With this policy, the EAC shows a willingness to give up some control for a broader regional partnership. In prioritizing the benefits of a more integrated labor market, this commitment highlights the significance of individual autonomy in this domain. This arrangement enables businesses to more effectively allocate labor across the region, leveraging a more comprehensive pool of skills and knowledge. This leads to a more dynamic labor market and increased appeal for both domestic and foreign investors.

The free movement of labor can lead to labor market differences, presenting a challenge. Imbalances in labor migration may arise when certain countries possess stronger economies or more extensive job markets. In response, the EAC has implemented measures to provide equitable treatment and equal chances for workers throughout the region. Protecting migrant workers from exploitation, this policy upholds fair employment practices. The free movement of labor mandates that social security and labor laws be standardized among member states. Consistency in workers' rights, advantages, and protection is paramount within the EAC to guarantee fair treatment⁸⁷. The need for robust strategies to address labor disputes and employment-related matters is underscored.

⁸⁷ Ezekiel, Rindstone Bilabamu. "National Legal Framework for Equal Social Security Rights and Protection of Migrant Workers within the East African Community Law: Case of Kenya." *Copyright© UONGOZI Journal of Management and Development Dynamics, Mzumbe University, Tanzania*. 29, no. 1 (2019): 63-98.

In line with broader principles of regional integration and economic cooperation, labor migration within the bloc supports a harmonious and integrated regional economy. Similar to the principles of the Schengen Agreement, which foster passport-free travel and labor mobility within member states⁸⁸. The EAC's approach seeks to promote growth, trade, and a more robust labor market across the region. By working together, member states address urgent matters like conservation, climate adaptation, and sustainable growth in the domain of environmental and natural resource management. Although each nation maintains control over its territory, they acknowledge the shared nature of environmental issues. In this arena, collaboration entails the exchange of knowledge, superior techniques, and resources to tackle interconnected environmental problems. By aligning regulations and policies, sustainable resource management can be achieved. Recognizing the limits of individual nations, this collaborative approach underscores the need for joint action in tackling environmental challenges.

4.6 Data Analysis and Presentation of Results

Member states have ceded decision-making authority to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) in the EAC

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	19	19.0	19.0	19.0
	Disagree	4	4.0	4.0	23.0
	Neither agree nor disagree	4	4.0	4.0	27.0
	Strongly agree	68	68.0	68.0	95.0
	Strongly disagree	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From this table, we can observe the following: A significant majority of respondents, 68%, "Strongly agree" that member states have ceded decision-making authority to the East African

⁸⁸ Del Sarto, Raffaella A. "Borderlands: The Middle East and North Africa as the EU's southern buffer zone." *Mediterranean Frontiers: Borders, Conflicts and Memory in a Transnational World* (2010): 149-167.

Legislative Assembly (EALA) in the EAC. This indicates a strong conviction among the surveyed individuals that decision-making power has been relinquished to the EALA. A smaller proportion of respondents, 19%, "Agree" with the statement, suggesting agreement but perhaps not as strongly as those who "Strongly agree." Only 4% of respondents "Disagree" with the notion that member states have ceded decision-making authority to the EALA, and an equal percentage, 4%, "Neither agree nor disagree." Only 5% "Strongly disagree" with this view, an indication of strong contradiction to the idea that decision-making authority has been ceded to the EALA. The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that member states within the EAC have indeed ceded decision-making authority to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). While there are some respondents who disagree or hold a neutral stance, the majority strongly affirm this perception, which implies that EALA has a major role in decision-making within the regional entity.

How has establishing the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) impacted sovereignty of member states in the EAC?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Had no impact	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
	I don't know	2	2.0	2.0	7.0
	Strengthened	89	89.0	89.0	96.0
	Weakened	4	4.0	4.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From this information, we can observe the following: A significant majority of respondents, 89%, believe that the creation of the EACJ has "Strengthened" sovereignty of its members. This indicates a strong perception among the surveyed individuals that the court's establishment has reinforced the autonomy and sovereignty of member states. Only a small proportion, 4%, believe that the EACJ has "Weakened" the sovereignty of member states, suggesting that there are some concerns or perceptions of a negative impact on sovereignty due to the court's existence. A very limited number of respondents, 5%, believe that the establishment of the EACJ has "Had no

impact" on the sovereignty of member states. An even smaller proportion, 2%, responded with "I don't know," indicating uncertainty about the impact of the court on sovereignty. Responses in this table reflect a predominant sentiment that the establishment of the court has strengthened the sovereignty of member states within the East African region. However, there are also respondents who hold concerns about potential negative effects, as well as some uncertainty among a small portion of the surveyed individuals. This diversity of opinions highlights the complex relationship between the EACJ and member state sovereignty.

Member states have had to cede decision-making authority to the East African Community Secretariat in the EAC

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	19	19.0	19.0	19.0
	Disagree	5	5.0	5.0	24.0
	Neither agree nor disagree	8	8.0	8.0	32.0
	Strongly agree	57	57.0	57.0	89.0
	Strongly disagree	11	11.0	11.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From this, we can observe the following: A significant majority of respondents, 57%, "Strongly agree" that member states have had to cede decision-making authority to the Secretariat of the EAC. This indicates a strong conviction among the surveyed individuals that decision-making power has been relinquished to the EAC Secretariat. A smaller proportion of respondents, 19%, "Agree" with the statement, suggesting agreement but perhaps not as strongly as those who "Strongly agree." A minority, 8%, responded with "Neither agree nor disagree," indicating some uncertainty or ambivalence about the extent to which decision-making authority has been ceded. Only 5% of respondents "Disagree" with the notion that member states have ceded decision-making authority to the EAC Secretariat, and 11% "Strongly disagree." The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that member states within the EAC have indeed ceded

decision-making authority to the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat. While there are some respondents who disagree or hold a neutral stance, the majority strongly affirm this perception, which implies that the EAC Secretariat plays a significant role in decision-making within the regional organization.

How has the establishment of the Customs Union impacted the sovereignty of member states in the EAC?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Had no impact	10	10.0	10.0	10.0
	I don't know	7	7.0	7.0	17.0
	Strengthened	69	69.0	69.0	86.0
	Weakened	14	14.0	14.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Based on this data, we can observe that a significant number of those surveyed, 69%, believe that the forming of a Customs Union "Strengthened" the sovereignty of member states in the EAC. This indicates a strong perception among the surveyed individuals that the Customs Union has enhanced the autonomy and sovereignty of member states. A smaller proportion of respondents, 14%, believe that the Customs Union has "Weakened" the sovereignty of member states, suggesting that there are some concerns or perceptions of a negative impact on sovereignty due to the Customs Union. Only 10% of respondents believe that creating the Customs Union had "No impact" on the sovereignty of members, and 7% responded with "I don't know," indicating some uncertainty about the impact. The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that the formation of the Customs Union has strengthened the sovereignty of the members of the economic bloc. However, there are also respondents who hold concerns about potential negative effects, as well as some uncertainty among a small portion of the surveyed individuals. This diversity of opinions reflects the complexity of assessing the impact of regional integration initiatives on member states' sovereignty.

Member states have had to cede decision-making authority to the East African Monetary Union (EAMU) in the EAC

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	23	23.0	23.0	23.0
	Disagree	4	4.0	4.0	27.0
	Neither agree nor disagree	9	9.0	9.0	36.0
	Strongly agree	59	59.0	59.0	95.0
	Strongly disagree	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From this table, we can observe the following: A significant majority of respondents, 59%, "Strongly agree" that member states have had to cede decision-making authority to the East African Monetary Union (EAMU) in the EAC. This indicates a strong conviction among the surveyed individuals that decision-making power has been relinquished to the EAMU. Only a small proportion, 4%, "Disagree" with the notion that member states have ceded decision-making authority to the EAMU. A modest percentage, 9%, responded with "Neither agree nor disagree," indicating some uncertainty or ambivalence about the extent to which decision-making authority has been ceded. A very small minority, 5%, "Strongly disagree", an indication of strong contradiction to the idea that decision-making authority has been ceded to the EAMU. The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that member states within the EAC have indeed ceded decision-making authority to the East African Monetary Union (EAMU). While there are some respondents who disagree or hold a neutral stance, the majority strongly affirm this perception, implying that the EAMU plays a significant role in decision-making within the regional organization, particularly in monetary matters.

How has the establishment of the Common Market impacted the sovereignty of member states in the EAC

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Had no impact	18	18.0	18.0	18.0
	I don't know	7	7.0	7.0	25.0

Strengthened	59	59.0	59.0	84.0
Weakened	16	16.0	16.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Relying on the above data, we find that a significant percentage of respondents, 59%, believe having a Common Market has "Strengthened" sovereignty of states in the EAC. This indicates a strong perception among the surveyed individuals that the Common Market has enhanced the autonomy and sovereignty of member states. A notable number of respondents, 16%, believe that the Common Market has "Weakened" the sovereignty of member states, suggesting that there are concerns or perceptions of a negative impact on sovereignty due to the Common Market. Only 18% of respondents believe that the establishment of the Common Market had "No impact" on the sovereignty of member states, and 7% responded with "I don't know," indicating some uncertainty about the impact. The responses in this table demonstrate a predominant sentiment that creating the Common Market has strengthened the sovereignty of member states of the regional bloc. However, there are also respondents who hold concerns about potential negative effects, as well as some uncertainty among a small portion of the surveyed individuals. This diversity of opinions reflects the complexity of assessing the impact of regional integration initiatives on member state sovereignty.

4.7 Conclusion

The analysis and discussion of the results indicate a comprehensive point of view about the influence of integration processes on state sovereignty in EAC. The data gathered through this survey offer enlightenment on how the surveyed people think about the impact that some EAC institutions have on decision-making power & independence. Most participants agree with this statement and hold that member states transferred some decision-making powers to EALA under

the EAC. This affirms loudly that EALA's decision influence within the EAC is enormous, thus illustrating the EAC's desire for EALA legislation uniformity.

Additionally, about EACJ, most survey respondents hold that their sovereignty has been reinforced by establishing the court. On the other side, there are some concerns about this relation since it has a different impact in accordance with its interpretation. The information further shows that member states had to surrender their powers to the EAC Secretariat, as most of them agreed on this. The results, among others, demonstrate the importance of the Secretariat as far as coordinating and executing various regional policies. The majority of individual respondents have suggested that their understanding is that the union's customs and Common Market have been instrumental in enhancing member-state sovereignties.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

With regard to the nature and level of integration in the EAC and its effects on state sovereignty, minority's mixed views could be observed, for instance, with the lowering of trade barriers and living standards. Such wide variation in perceptions highlights multiple different views on how regional integration is affecting the state sovereignty of EAC, as reflected in the literature review⁸⁹. This underlines the importance of ongoing evaluation and adaptations in any changes for regional integration. Such alteration should be designed in such a way that it harmonizes with the objectives and aspirations of individual member states. Therefore, the results indicate that the interviewees have broadly welcomed regional integration, and most people feel that it has helped develop all areas within the EAC. As such, these results are significant for policymakers and other key EAC players to help them make informed decisions towards the growth and sustenance of the integration process.

As stated in the literature, the EAC's inner workings to fully appreciate the effects of regional integration is necessary to understand the interplay of economic, political, and social elements and their impact on country autonomy. With a focus on creating a unified market and customs union, as well as synchronizing policies across various sectors, the EAC has launched a sweeping integration effort⁹⁰. The increasing level of integration can result in substantial alterations to

⁸⁹ Mies, Annika, and Stefan Gold. "Mapping the social dimension of the circular economy." *Journal of Cleaner Production* 321 (2021): 128960.

⁹⁰ OLyanga, Anthony, and Francis Muhire. "Trade Infrastructure and Export Competitiveness in the East African Community." *Journal of Economics, Finance and Accounting Studies* 5, no. 3 (2023): 174-188.

national policies, laws, and institutions, causing concern about the potential loss of state authority⁹¹.

Considering how regional integration has affected the EAC's economic growth and development from the analysis, it has been believed by most respondents that integration efforts have led to significant and highly positive effects on development, growth, and stability in the region. It must be noted, however, that while the majority of attitudes expressed relate to positive opinions, there exists a minority of persons with both cautious and negative thoughts on some issues. For instance, where a minority views it negatively could be observed, hence lowering trade barriers and living standards. Such wide variation in perceptions highlights multiple different views on how regional integration is affecting the EAC. This underlines the importance of ongoing evaluation and adaptations in any changes for regional integration. Such alteration should be designed in such a way that it harmonizes with the objectives and aspirations of individual member states, as highlighted by the literature⁹². Therefore, the results indicate that the interviewees have broadly welcomed regional integration, and most people feel that it has helped towards development in all areas within the EAC. As such, these results are significant for policymakers and other key EAC players to help them make informed decisions towards the growth and sustenance of the integration process⁹³.

⁹¹ Mies, Annika, and Stefan Gold. "Mapping the social dimension of the circular economy." *Journal of Cleaner Production* 321 (2021): 128960.

⁹² Mashingia, Jane H., Vincent Ahonkhai, Noel Aineplan, Aggrey Ambali, Apollo Angole, Mawien Arik, Samvel Azatyan, et al. "Eight years of the East African Community Medicines Regulatory Harmonization initiative: Implementation, progress, and lessons learned." *PLoS medicine* 17, no. 8 (2020): e1003134.

⁹³ Vhumbunu, Clayton Hazvinei, and Joseph Rukema Rudigi. "Eliminating Non-tariff Barriers in the African Continental Free Trade Area: Lessons and Experiences from African Regional Economic Communities." *Journal of African Foreign Affairs* 8, no. 2 (2021): 129

As shown in the analysis, there are two critical sentiments concerning the extent of support that regional economic integration has on member-state independence. Despite this, some respondents have concerns and doubts about such a move, which shows the difficulty in measuring the effect of sovereignty in such integration. However, it is evident from the study that those interviewed had generally appreciated the efforts towards regional integration in the EAC, with many participants affirming that this had further consolidated states' sovereignty. In addition, the study has highlighted trade policy and customs unions, monetary policy, infrastructure development, and free movement of labor as the key areas where member states of EAC have ceded sovereignty to the regional entity.

5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, several views concerning the effects of regional integration on state sovereignty concerning EAC have been highlighted. This research examined the nexus between regional integration and state sovereignty in EAC, showing conflicting sentiments among the interviewed persons who believe integration enhances state sovereignty. The study has also revealed how complex it is to quantify state independence under a region-wide integration setup. For a start, the paper highlights some sovereign rights that the member states have relinquished to the regional body, like trade policy, customs unions, monetary policies, infrastructure developments, and a free flow of labor. However, this emphasizes the need for continued studies and discourse to ensure that EAC's plans follow a harmonious policy pattern relevant to the interests and needs of members. Therefore, this review highlights the importance of a dynamic and multi-dimensional method of regionalism that works for everyone. This diversity highlights the importance of being in touch with the environment regarding regional integration. Such adaptations should be sensitive

towards member states and their aspirations or goals and, therefore, should also allow for consultation.

Most of the respondents perceive regional integration as a positive contributor towards sectoral growth and economic development within the EAC. The findings have crucial implications for policymakers and other essential actors for making informed choices on the way forward for the integration process. This study stresses that for a clear understanding of the impact of integration, one should go beyond economics and into politics and society and their interference with state autonomy. In addition, this study presents essential aspects of interstate and sovereignty issues in regional integration. The study indicates that state sovereignty and regional integration are complex and multi-dimensional, with various views and realities. Although most people interviewed under EAC have positive opinions about regional integration and think it strengthened national independence, one should stress opposition. Several respondents, especially concerning specific issues, including trade barriers and standards of living, do not support regional integration. The variety of viewpoints makes it imperative that EAC's integration programs be continually assessed to ascertain whether the interests and goals of various member states are in tandem.

The study further highlights important domains like trade policy, customs unions, currency, communication, railways, energy, etc., in which the Member States have surrendered their national sovereignty to the regional entity. They also show how difficult it can be to measure sovereignty during regional integration, so such research should continue while being carefully informed. Policymakers, stakeholders, and researchers remain obliged to reconfigure the regional integration towards the desired needs of member states and the citizenry. In short, the study adds to the knowledge of the complex relationship between regional integration and state sovereignty that will inform future sustainable operations of the regional bloc.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on extensive analysis of effects of regional integration on state sovereignty within the East African Community (EAC), several recommendations can be made to enhance the effectiveness of regional integration processes and ensure the alignment with the aspirations of individual member states:

Continuous Evaluation and Adaptation: This shows the importance of continued evaluation and adjustments as people have diverse opinions about how regional integration affects state sovereignty. The EAC should also create ways in which it will examine regularly how integration has affected every single one of the countries involved in integration. In this case, this evaluation should include representatives of participating members' countries to adjust the integration process in line with the particular aims of each state.

Multi-Dimensional Approach: Considering the intricacy inherent in the effect of state sovereignty on regional integration, EAC should formulate a multi-dimensional strategy that embraces different dimensions, such as economics, politics, and society. An approach that gives a clearer picture of how integration affects an industry will be considered here. Considering all possible negative and positive results, policymakers responsible for developing appropriate policies will find this approach extremely beneficial because that is precisely what it implies.

Consultation and Dialogue: One needs to create an ongoing dialogue with every member state while seeking more answers and clarifications on their issues. It will also aid in formulating integration policies based on the distinctive interests of various nations. Therefore, EAC should involve various stakeholders like the governments, business community, civil society, and citizens in the consultative process for its success.

Balanced Harmonization: Integration has its advantages but must be addressed on what has been raised by other member states. Therefore, efforts should be put forward to make sure that integration does not affect specific countries in issues like trade barriers and living standards, for example. Policies that will consider the advantages and obstacles facing the integration efforts taking care of its member states' interests, is what EAC should strive for.

Robust Policy Framework: EAC should put in place a strong policy mechanism that will guide how to go about this process while preserving sovereignties in sensitive aspects as a country. Such measures include trade, trade clearance policies, monetary policies, and infrastructure building. These policies must keep changing in line with member States' ever-changing demands and aspirations.

Research and Discourse: Throughout the integration process, it is crucial to foster ongoing research and discussion. The research should look at the complex interconnections of regional integration and state sovereignty and policies thereof. Consulting experts, scholars, and researchers will shed more light on the consequences brought by the integration and will also offer valuable tips for modifying them as needed.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Informed Consent Form

I have carefully read and understood the content of the questions and therefore agree to voluntarily participate in the research investigation.

I agree keep the confidentiality of information during the course of the research investigation

YES NO (Please tick).

Respondents' Signature

Date

Researcher: Amol Alphonse

Date

Appendix II: Questionnaire

Instructions: Please give your utmost sincerest response. Tick

SECTION A: Personal information

1. What is your gender

Male Female

2. How old are you?

20 years old and below 21-30 years old 31- 40 years old

41-50years old Above 50 years old

3. Highest education qualification

Never attended school Primary/Elementary Secondary/High

University or College

4. Does your country belong to the East Africa Community?

Yes No

SECTION B: The effects of integration on state's sovereignty in the EAC

5. To what extent do you agree that the East African Community (EAC) has achieved its objective of promoting regional economic integration?

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree Strongly disagree

6. How would you rate the level of integration in the EAC?

Very low Low Moderate High Very high

7. To what extent do you believe that integration in the EAC has led to the loss of national sovereignty?

Strongly believe [] Believe [] Neither believe nor disbelieve []
Disbelieve [] Strongly disbelieve []

8. How has the integration in the EAC impacted political stability in the region?

Improved political stability [] No impact on political stability []

Worsened political stability [] I don't know []

9. How has the integration in the EAC impacted the free movement of people across member states?

Improved [] Has had no impact [] Worsened [] I don't know []

10. Member states have had to cede decision-making authority to regional institutions in the EAC?

Strongly agree [] Agree [] Neither agree nor disagree []

Disagree [] Strongly disagree []

11. How would you rate the EAC's efforts in promoting social development across the region?

Very effective [] Somewhat effective [] Not very effective []

Not at all effective [] I don't know []

SECTION C: Areas in which member states have ceded sovereignty to the regional entity in the EAC

12. Member states have ceded decision-making authority to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) in the EAC

Strongly agree [] Agree [] Neither agree nor disagree []
Disagree [] Strongly disagree []

13. How has the establishment of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) impacted the sovereignty of member states in the EAC?

Strengthened [] Had no impact [] Weakened [] I don't know []

14. Member states have had to cede decision-making authority to the East African Community Secretariat in the EAC?

Strongly agree [] Agree [] Neither agree nor disagree [] Disagree
Strongly disagree []

15. How has the establishment of the Customs Union impacted the sovereignty of member states in the EAC?

Strengthened [] Had no impact [] Weakened [] I don't know []

16. Member states have had to cede decision-making authority to the East African Monetary Union (EAMU) in the EAC

Strongly agree [] Agree [] Neither agree nor disagree [] Disagree []
Strongly disagree []

17. How has the establishment of the Common Market impacted the sovereignty of member states in the EAC?

Strengthened [] Had no impact [] Weakened [] I don't know []

SECTION D: Effect of regional integration on economic growth and development in the EAC

18. To what extent do you believe regional integration has contributed to economic growth in the East African Community (EAC)?

Strongly believe [] Believe [] Neither believe nor disbelieve []
Disbelieve [] Strongly disbelieve []

19. How would you rate the impact of regional integration on employment opportunities in the EAC?

Very positive impact [] Somewhat positive impact [] No impact []
Somewhat negative impact [] Very negative impact []

20. To what extent do you believe that regional integration has facilitated the movement of capital and investments in the EAC?

Strongly believe [] Believe [] Neither believe nor disbelieve []
Disbelieve [] Strongly disbelieve []

21. How would you rate the impact of regional integration on the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the EAC?

Very positive impact [] Somewhat positive impact [] No impact []
Somewhat negative impact [] Very negative impact []

22. To what extent do you believe that regional integration has facilitated the transfer of technology and knowledge in the EAC?

Strongly believe [] Believe [] Neither believe nor disbelieve []
Disbelieve [] Strongly disbelieve []

23. How would you rate the impact of regional integration on the development of infrastructure, such as roads and ports, in the EAC?

Very positive impact [] Somewhat positive impact [] No impact []
Somewhat negative impact [] Very negative impact []

24. To what extent do you believe that regional integration has facilitated the growth of cross-border trade in the EAC?

Strongly believe [] Believe [] Neither believe nor disbelieve []

Disbelieve [] Strongly disbelieve []

25. How would you rate the impact of regional integration on the reduction of trade barriers among member states in the EAC?

Very positive impact [] Somewhat positive impact [] No impact []

Somewhat negative impact [] Very negative impact []

26. To what extent do you believe that regional integration has facilitated the growth of industries in the EAC?

Strongly believe [] Believe [] Neither believe nor disbelieve []

Disbelieve [] Strongly disbelieve []

27. How would you rate the impact of regional integration on the standard of living for people in the EAC?

Very positive impact [] Somewhat positive impact [] No impact []

Somewhat negative impact [] Very negative impact []

Your participation is appreciated.