

# **The role of regional organisations in inter-state conflict management: a case of the East African Community**

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## **Introduction**


The study was about the role of Regional Organisations in Inter-State Conflict Management, focusing on the East African Community (EAC).

## **Study objectives**

1. To find out the existing inter-state conflicts among the EAC states,
2. to find out the mechanisms put in place by the EAC to manage inter-state conflict, and

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3. to examine the challenges facing the EAC in managing inter-state conflict in the East Africa region.

### **Methodology**


The study used a case study design to analyze the role of the EAC in inter-state conflict management involving its Partner States. The study used both the qualitative and quantitative approaches of data collection. A sample size of 256 respondents was determined using the Krejcie and Morgan table out of an accessible population of 750, who were selected using simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques. Questionnaires and an interview guide were the main Data Collection Instruments.

### **Key findings**

The study found that there are various inter-state conflicts in East Africa of political, social, and economic dimensions.

It was also revealed that the mechanisms used by the EAC to manage inter-state conflict include: exchange training programs for regional security, fostering close and peaceful relations among African states, negotiating and signing of relevant protocols, control of proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and border controls among member states.

Lastly, the study revealed that many challenges are facing EAC preventing the Organisation from managing inter-



state conflicts, including lack of confidence in the EAC Summit by the member states, weak EAC institutions and organs which make it less effective, poor democratic credentials, and authoritarian tendencies of leaders of partner states, inadequate funds to finance the inter-state conflict management activities, and leaders with different ideological interests.

### **Key recommendations**

The study recommended greater use of inter-state-based systems such as leaders' arbitration councils and East Africa Leadership councils to resolve long-standing inter-state conflicts.