



**UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND**

**Assessing the contribution of informal cross-border trade to regional
integration in the Southern African Development Community using Social
Networking Analysis (SNA)**

By

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DECLARATION

I Nokubonga Zuziwe Mzimela, declare that this research project is my original work and has not been submitted to any university for examination. The sources used are fully acknowledged by complete references. This dissertation is submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the MA degree in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Science and Agriculture at the University of Zululand, Kwa-Dlangezwa, South Africa.

Student's signature.....

Date...../...../.....

Supervisor's signature.....

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DEDICATION

To my siblings Sibahle, Siyabonga, Mhlonishwa, my son Enzokuhle and the informal cross-border traders.

People may throw stones at you. Do not throw them back. Collect them all and build an empire.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EAC	Eastern African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FTA	Free Trade Area
ICBT	Informal Cross-Border Trade
ICBTs	Informal Cross-Border Traders
NRA	New Regionalism Approach
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSBP	One-Stop Border Post
REC	Regional Economic Communities
RI	Regional Integration
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SNA	Social Networking Analysis
STR	Simplified Trade Regime

ABSTRACT

A majority of people within the SADC region pursue informal cross-border trade because of its socio-economic development impacts. The objectives of the study are to; a) examine the nature and dynamics of informal cross-border trading activities in selected Southern African Development Community (SADC) border regions; b) assess the extent to which SADC regional trade policies promote ICBT in the study areas; c) map and assess using social networking analysis, the contribution of informal cross border traders' activities to regional integration in the Southern African Development Community and d) propose strategies for enhancing the role of ICBT in regional integration in the study area. To achieve these objectives, the researcher deployed a qualitative research methodology, and the data was collected using interviews and observations. The data was analysed following strategies of qualitative data analysis which are thematic analysis and social networking analysis. Social networking analysis was also done by using the collected data to demonstrate the role played by ICBTs in contributing to regional integration. The results show that most people engage in informal cross-border trading due to drivers such as unemployment, lack of skills, and poverty. They buy and sell a variety of goods. The SNA showed that ICBT leads to regional integration from below because the ICBTs frequently travel across borders to purchase goods and resell them at their countries of origin, therefore, economic integration between the countries involved is manifested. Based on this, it is recommended that SADC countries must recognize the importance of ICBTs by implementing policies or revisiting existing policies that demonstrate exclusiveness rather than inclusiveness of the ICBTs. Such policies already implemented include the SADC Trade Protocol which presently appears to promote formal actors like registered businesses which fit in well with the neoclassical theory of regional integration. SADC countries must also limit the application of stringent border controls at the borders by implementing regulations that apply equally to both the formal and informal traders. In addition, the SADC governments, policymakers, and other stakeholders must inform/educate border officials about the regional trade policies implemented, so that they can understand the situation and contribution of cross-border traders and ensure that they treat the traders with fairness and dignity, without enforcing acts of corruption at the border.

Keywords: Borders, Migration, Informal Cross Border Trade, Regional Integration, Southern African Development Community, Social Networking Analysis (SNA).

CHAPTER ONE: ORIENTATION OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

This chapter introduces the whole research by discussing the background, problem statement, aim, objectives and research questions, and the significance of the study. This is intended to provide a clearer orientation to the reader.

1.2 Background of the study

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) was established in August 1992 and consists of 16 members which are Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Madagascar, Comoros, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. This region is largely dominated by the informal sector, including the informal cross-border trade (ICBT) between the countries in the region. This is mainly because the informal sector has become the main source of income and provides employment and livelihoods that can place the ICBTs outside the category of extremely poor populations that survive below the USD 1.25 per day international poverty line (Moyo & Nshimbi, 2017).

Informal cross border trade involves the movement of people across African borders for the buying and selling of processed or non-processed goods which may be legal imports or exports on one side of the border and very much unlawful on the other, due to not having been subjected to legal border formalities such as customs clearance (Afrika and Ajumbo 2012). Lesser and Moise-Leeman (2009) define ICBT as trade in legally produced goods and services that escape the regulatory framework set by the government to avoid certain tax and regulatory burdens such as the payment of duty at the border. Most of the people within the SADC pursue informal cross-border trade because it benefits society by improving the livelihoods of the people concerned. However, based on the legal and the national accounting point of view, it is considered as reducing governments revenue because of all the unrecorded activities that happen outside the country's regulations or taxation framework, (Bernabè, 2002).

Given that ICBT involves the movement across borders for purposes of trade, it has been argued that it contributes to a bottom-up process of regional integration (Moyo, 2017). In other words, ICBT contributes to regional integration in regions like the SADC although this is not captured in official policies and strategies (Moyo, 2017). Nshimbi (2020) also attests that the activities of ICBTs do play a role in highlighting the

contributions made by the grassroots actors to the process of regional integration in terms of linking the economies by sourcing and distributing goods and services in between the countries within the SADC region. Despite this, the tendencies of SADC regional instruments that promote integration still pay attention to formal trade entities and neglect the informal sector actors, which as indicated in this part also contribute to the commitments made to integrate the regions through trade (Moyo & Nshimbi, 2017). It is in this context that this study attempts to assess the contribution of ICBT to regional integration within the SADC using social networking analysis to map the nodes of business activities of ICBT on either side of the borders within the SADC region.

1.3 Problem statement

Several studies have been conducted on ICBT and regional integration. One such study by Peberdy (2002), asserts that ICBT is a form of activity that is most prominent across the borders of the SADC region and acts as a source of livelihood to the ICBTs who frequently cross these borders. Another study by Nshimbi (2020) also states that ICBT provides livelihoods that move people involved in this economic activity from the category of extremely poor populations living below the poverty line of USD 1.25 per day. Nshimbi (2020) also researched the Zambia-Malawi-Mozambique growth triangle and established the important role played by informal cross-border traders in terms of integrating the economies across these countries' borders in the region in question.

Similarly, the study by Moyo (2017) based on Zimbabwean cross-border traders between Botswana and Zimbabwe places further emphasis on the issue of ICBT as an important role player in regional integration due to the importation and exportation of goods across borders. The study also argues that the informal actors seem to be disregarded due to the absence of policies that are set to specifically advocate for ICBTs. These studies reveal the fundamentals of ICBT and its immense contribution towards regional integration that go unrecorded mostly due to the policies that do not favour the activities of the non-state actors. However, these studies have not demonstrated the extent and nature of regional integration. Therefore, this study aims to close this research gap by employing a social networking analysis to demonstrate the contribution of ICBT to regional integration within the SADC region.

1.4 Aim of the study

This study aims to assess the contribution of informal cross-border trade to regional integration in the Southern African Development Community region using Social Networking Analysis (SNA).

1.4.1 Objectives

The objectives of this study are to:

- a) Examine the nature and dynamics of informal cross-border trading activities in selected Southern African Development Community (SADC) border regions.
- b) Assess the extent to which SADC regional trade policies promote ICBT in the study areas.
- c) Map and assess using social networking analysis, the contribution of informal cross-border traders' activities to regional integration in the Southern African Development Community.
- d) Propose strategies for enhancing the role of ICBT in regional integration in the study area.

1.5 Research Questions

- a) What is the nature and dynamics of informal cross-border trading activities in the Southern African Development Community region?
- b) To what extent is the SADC regional instrument promoting ICBT in the study area?
- c) What are the contributions of ICBT to regional integration in the SADC region?
- d) Which strategies can be used to enhance the role of ICBT in regional integration in the study area?

1.6 Significance of the study

There are a substantial number of studies that have been done to address the issues around ICBT and regional integration at a local and global level such as those written by Peters-Berries (2010), Börzel & Risse (2009), and Moyo et al (2017). These studies also tend to unpack the importance of ICBT within the SADC region and how regional integration in Africa tends to be exclusive rather than inclusive regardless of the formal

and informal aspects of the practised activities. The researcher anticipated that the use of the SNA will help with a visual aspect based on the contribution made by ICBTs through their frequent movements across borders from different ends of the SADC region.

1.7 Outline of the study

This thesis is composed of seven chapters as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduces the whole research in terms of explaining the background, problem statement, aim, and objectives, research questions, and significance of the study.

Chapter 2: Discusses the theoretical frameworks which provide an analytical guide for this research. The two theories which underpin this study as analysed in Chapter 2 are neoclassical theories of regional integration such as that of Balassa (1961) and the New Regionalism Approach (NRA).

Chapter 3: Reviews authentic literature sources in the light of this research's aim and objectives. As such the literature review focuses on among others, informal cross-border trade, and regional integration as well as the contribution of ICBT to regional integration within the SADC region.

Chapter 4: Describes the setting of the study area, in terms of its location, physical as well as socio-economic, and other characteristics.

Chapter 5: Discusses the methodology that was followed in the research in terms of explaining the research paradigm, research design, sampling, instrumentation, and data collection, as well as the data analysis techniques.

Chapter 6: Focuses on data analysis in which the social networking analysis tool together with a thematic analysis approach is utilised to respond to the objectives of the study.

Chapter 7: Summarises the whole study by providing recommendations and a conclusion.

1.8 Chapter Summary

This chapter has introduced the whole research by explaining the background of the research as well as describing the aim, objectives, problem statement and research questions, and significance of the study. The next chapter focuses on the theoretical frameworks of this research.

CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

2.1 Introduction

This chapter elaborates on the main concepts along with their specific link to the study. It further discusses the theoretical frameworks which provide an analytical guide for this research. This is intended to provide a better understanding of the concepts and theories underlying this research topic.

2.2 Conceptual delimitation

The main concepts around which this study revolves are borders, informal cross-border trade, regional integration, and new regionalism, which are explained below.

2.2.1 Borders

Diener & Hagen (2012) define borders as artificially fabricated, geographic, or astronomic lines that form part of the boundary of a nation-state, where sovereign power is held by the state governing and authorizing the movement and the activities of that nation. But the concept of borders has moved beyond reference to physical lines on the map. It also includes stricter border enforcements and controls that cannot be taken simply as an attempt to close state spaces, but rather as filtering and sorting the people crossing them, from those perceived as welcome and desirable, and those who are unwanted and undesirable (Togral Koca, 2019). It is now associated with and reinforces discrimination, social injustice, and inequality (Van Baar, 2014). Notwithstanding, the concept of border is used in this study to refer to the physical border between South Africa and Zimbabwe (Beitbridge). The focus is mainly on the informal cross-border traders who travel across the Beitbridge border to South Africa, from their respective countries within the SADC region for the purchasing and (re)selling of goods.

2.2.2 Informal cross border trade

Informal cross-border trade is trade in legally produced goods and services, which escape the regulatory framework, set by the government, and avoid certain tax and regulatory burdens such as paying duty at the border (OECD 2005 cited in Lesser and Moise-Leeman 2009). This study refers to ICBTs who frequently cross the Beitbridge border (the border between South Africa and Zimbabwe) to South Africa and any other countries within the SADC region to sell goods and/or buy goods for resale in their countries of origin or other countries within the region.

2.2.3 Regional integration (RI)

Mambara (2007) defines regional integration as the formation of closer economic linkages among countries that are geographically near each other especially by forming preferential trade agreements (PTAs). Thus, regional integration involves the removal of barriers to free trade in the region, increasing the free movement of people, labor, goods, and capital across national borders, reducing the possibility of regional armed conflict, and adopting consistent regional stances on policy issues (Peters-Berries, 2010). There are generally two approaches to regional integration, which are state-centric and non-state actor-led. The former is propounded by neoclassical regional integration theory which champions the centrality of the state in regional integration. The latter is explained by the New Regionalism Approach, which considers other actors in regional integration beyond the state. All these are explained further below. In this study, the extent to which non-state actors like ICBTs contribute to the process of regional integration is analyzed using social networking analysis, which is explained in the following sections.

2.2.4 New Regionalism

New regionalism is a comprehensive, multifaceted, and multidimensional process, implying a change of a particular region from relative heterogeneity to increased homogeneity regarding several dimensions, the most important being culture, security, economic policies, and political regimes, (Hettne & Söderbaum, 2003). Therefore, new regionalism similarly to regional integration aims to integrate through the elimination of frontiers in communication, addressing problems beyond borders, the formation of regions regardless of boundaries and geographical location, (Obydenkova, 2006). Also, like regional integration, it precisely means the removal of barriers and the encouragement of regional cooperation without the discrimination against outsiders, (Garnaut, 2004). However, NR is characterized by the involvement of almost all types of governments in the world and involving a rich variety of non-state actors, resulting in multiplicities of formal and informal regional governance and regional networks in most issue areas, (Soderbaum, 2016). With regards to the study, the concept of new regionalism is utilized to comprehend the role of ICBTs in regionalism given that the process of regionalism is no longer the preserve of states only, but also open to other actors like the ICBTs.

2.3 Theoretical Frameworks

This study deploys two sets of theories which are neoclassical theories of regional integration, such as that of Balassa (1961) and the New Regionalism Approach (NRA), which are discussed below.

2.3.1 Neoclassical theories of regional integration

Classical theories of regional integration (RI) suggest that regional integration should occur through state institutions. In other words, regional integration is state-centric. Theorists such as Gamble and Payne (1996), Tussie (2012), Mistry (2003), and Neumann (2003) cited in Soderbaum (2003) are considered the main theorists in the analysis of states and inter-state frameworks. These authors state that historically the study of regionalism has always been verified as state-centric. They further attest that many states in the world have been or are part of, or are joining, several regionalist projects. That is mainly because of several reasons, such as to overcome economic balkanization, improve the economic and social welfare of citizens, create more and improved markets, attract developments and developmental funding to the economies of the countries, or rather states involved within the regional attempts to regional integration. As far as regional integration is concerned, Gibb (2009) states that the prioritization of open regionalism was the main reason resulting in the return to a neoclassical economic agenda. This agenda is underpinned by a belief in modernity and supports a more aggressive market integration approach.

A major proponent of neoclassical integration theory is Balassa (1961), who proposes that regional integration occurs through four states which are namely the formation of Free Trade Area (FTA), Customs Union (CU), Common Market (CM), and the Economic Monetary Union (EMU). The FTA is a Preferential Trade Agreement where member countries do not impose any trade barriers, meaning that there are zero tariffs on goods that are produced within the union. However, each country within the union can keep its tariff barriers to trade with the non-member countries. A good example of such a union is that of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) formed by the USA, Canada, and Mexico in 1993, (Panagariya, 2000).

The CU is described as an FTA in which member countries apply a common external tariff on goods imported from the outside countries (Panagariya, 2000). Similarly, Ovadek & Willemys, (2019), state that a customs union is an international

arrangement whereby sovereign states agree to trade freely with each other while also enacting common measures concerning trade with non-members. An example of this is the European Economic Community (EEC), which was formed in 1957 by West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. The Common Market (CM) is defined to be a CU that further allows free movement of labor and capital among member nations. Nonetheless, to achieve integration it promotes the necessity for member states to remove all trade barriers including the non-tariff restrictions and to have a certain level of coordination of some of the economic policies. Lastly, the EMU establishes a common exchange rate mechanism, which grows into a common currency functioning on the common market. An example of the EMU is the Eurozone within the EU, which from 2001 has a common currency named the Euro (Panagariya, 2000).

Gibb (2009) contends that the other neoclassical theories of regional integration are developmental co-operation and open regionalism. The developmental co-operation theory involves supporting and complementing the efforts of developing countries to guarantee the provision of universal social basic standards to citizens, while also actively developing these countries within the provision of international public goods without being driven by profit, (Severino and Ray, 2009). Similarly, open regionalism alludes to the removal of barriers and the encouragement of regional cooperation without discrimination towards countries working under their predetermined trading laws (Garnaut, 2004). However, all these theories tend to ignore non-state actors in many regional agreements on the African sub-continent.

Furthermore, these theories are concerned more with the mechanics of integration, in terms of how co-operation works rather than exploring the reason and rationale behind the co-operation (Gibb, 2009). Although regional integration in Southern Africa has also been pursued based on the above-mentioned theories, the market integration theory seems to influence regional integration more than any other theory. This theory sustains a hegemonic regional model for developing countries in general and Southern Africa in particular. It is based on Balassa's conventional analysis of economic integration mainly focused on the market integration theory. It is particularly a Eurocentric conception of regional integration and has its foundations in neoclassical economic thinking, and particularly the neoclassical international trade theory which

promotes free trade exploits economies of scale while creating a more competitive business environment (Gibb, 2009).

Peters-Berries (2010) further states that in the case of RI, the discrepancies between the neoclassical theoretical approach and reality have been big when applied to RI amongst developing countries. Pure neoclassical approaches tend to overlook the developmental requirements of RI outside the Industrialized North, especially because the concept was not developed for developing countries. Moyo (2020) also infers that the neoclassical theories of regional integration postulate that, regional integration is led by the states while deliberately excluding the non-state actors such as the informal cross-border traders as important players of regional integration. Therefore, neoclassical theories are relevant to this study to the extent that they show that regional integration in the SADC is currently exclusive.

This provides an analytical site for this research because these theories (neoclassical) tend to deny the contributions of non-state actors to regional integration whereas the study aims at highlighting the importance of these non-state actors such as ICBTs and showing that regional integration within the SADC region is multidimensional. This context is intended to assist in addressing objectives one and two of the study, which examine the nature and dynamics of ICBT trading activities in the selected SADC border region as well as to map and assess the extent to which the SADC regional trade policies promote ICBT in the study area respectively.

2.3.2 New Regionalism Approach (NRA)

Contrary to neoclassical logic, Hettne, (2007) states that regional integration in the context of economic globalization is a complex phenomenon and this is the fundamental argument of the NRA. Thus, the NRA advances the multidimensionality, complexity, and fluidity of regional integration because it involves a variety of state and non-state actors who in most cases come together in informal multi-actor coalitions (Soderbaum & Shaw, 2003). The NRA approach and conceptualization are not equivalent to rejecting the state, the important assumption in the NRA is that the state is not taken for granted but is problematized and unpacked, hence questioning the conventional interest of the nation. Thus, the NRA considers both state and non-state actors, focuses on both formal and informal processes of regionalization, without separating actors into perceived autonomous groups or spheres of actors. The

framework suggests that actors should be grouped into formal or informal multi-actor networks, partnerships, and modes of governance (Söderbaum 2004). Similarly, Hettne (2007) affirms the focus on the multitude of actors' points beyond a state-centric approach. It is anticipated the need to go beyond a state-centric approach is intimately related to the understanding of the state and its role in world politics, (Hettne, 2007).

Hurrell (1995) notes that NRA can be better understood with the use of five major distinguishing factors separating it from the old regionalism also known as the first wave regionalism. The first is that NRA is very diverse by nature, comprising a range of models, structures, and processes of region-building rather than the single norm expected of the first wave regionalism by neofunctionalists. Secondly, it can involve partnerships between the North and South (developed and developing countries), whereas previous regionalisms presupposed only North-North or South-South cooperation. The third factor is that NRA varies enormously in the level of institutionalization of the various regions and the fourth one is that NRA is multi-dimensional, and fundamentally blurs the distinction between the economic and the political, in contrast with its predecessor. The last factor states that NRA reflects, shapes, and requires the development of a regional sense of identity. Scholars such as Hettne (2002), Soderbaum (2003) argue that the core features of new regionalism are that it is both global in scope and not limited to Europe. It is based on economic openness and neoliberalism rather than protectionism, independent of superpower politics, and shaped voluntarily by actors from the bottom-up rather than imposed by foreign powers or cultivated by actors at the new Centre. This means that NRA recognizes the role of ICBTs as important actors in regional integration based on the role they play in moving goods and services across borders, (Moyo, 2018).

The NRA is therefore crucial in this research because it provides an analytical framework within which the role of ICBTs in regional integration in the SADC can be analysed. This is done in terms of Social Networking Analysis (SNA), which is an analysis software tool that is primarily interested in studying how the ties between actors serve as channels for the flow of material and immaterial resources such as capital, information, advice, or trust, with regards to that. Such an analysis responds to the third objective of the study, which aims to investigate the connections instigated

by ICBTs who travel from one country to another within the region for purchasing and the resale of goods.

2.4 Chapter Summary

This chapter has discussed the concepts that further proffer the understanding of the study as well as the theoretical frameworks that contribute to the nature and analytical viewpoint of the objectives of the study. The next chapter focuses on the literature review of this research.

CHAPTER 3: LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the literature relevant to informal cross-border trade and regional integration within the African region, specifically looking at the Beitbridge border post between South Africa and Zimbabwe. It discusses the nature and dynamics of ICBT, the extent to which regional trade policies promote ICBT, and the contribution of ICBT activities to regional integration.

3.2. Overview

Nshimbi, (2021), states that ICBT is widespread globally, and continues to prosper as a phenomenon touching a variety of countries, including developed countries. It also substantially contributes to the economies of many African countries (Brenton & Gamberoni, 2013). Generally, informal cross-border trade is often referred to as a parallel trade, which is informal in its organization. The SADC (2010) defines ICBT as any business operating in goods and services that trade across the borders and has no official export/ import license or permit within a defined threshold and frequency. In other words, it is a form of cross-border trade that is unrecorded in official statistics and is carried out by people operating small businesses or traders (Njiwa 2013). It is estimated that ICBT contributes between 30 to 40 percent of intra-SADC trade (Afrika and Ajumbo, 2012), and the proportion of total trade in Southern Africa is valued at approximately \$20 billion a year (Intracen, 2014). According to Brenton and Gamberoni (2013), this is equivalent to nearly half of the total development assistance to all Sub-Saharan Africa. A study conducted by Jawando et al. (2012) posits that on average, 60 percent of Africa's trade is informal. ICBT is relevant to the African integration project, based on the cross-border economic activities in which they engage (Nshimbi, 2018). This is also because ICBT plays a vital role in the attainment of the continent's structural transformation and poverty reduction objectives contained in the African Union's Agenda 2063 (Sommer and Nshimbi 2018). Hence, this study assesses the contribution of ICBTs to regional integration in the SADC region using social networking analysis.

3.3 Nature and dynamics of ICBT activities within the SADC region

By nature, and dynamics this study refers to how cross-border traders operate at the borders, to an extent that it explores the types of goods traded, the duration and

frequency of travel as well as the methods of transporting the goods. Several studies have been conducted on the nature and dynamics of ICBTs. For example, a study conducted at the Malawi-Zambia border by Matorofa, Chamuka, and Valy (2008), discovered that in terms of the duration and frequency, ICBTs could stay in Zambia for a duration of up to 90 days if they were on a holiday visa. Hence, these traders were recognized as holidaymakers or people visiting friends and relatives (VFRs) because the nature of their trade is considered illegal. In addition to longer durations, the ICBTs also frequently travelled a couple (2-3) times per week. However, in the border between South Africa and Zimbabwe at Beitbridge, Chikanda and Tawodzera (2017) conducted a study and identified that ICBT traders are highly mobile, spending only 1.8 days in South Africa on average per visit, although some stayed for several weeks, particularly if they were taking goods to sell. Furthermore, these traders travel frequently to South Africa, with 67 percent of traders making at least one trip per month and 82 percent of traders travelling more than four times per year (Chikanda & Tawodzera 2017).

In terms of the types of goods traded between the borders, Moyo (2018), established that at South Africa- Botswana border ICBTs frequently (2-3 times a week and once to three times in a month) travel through the border to purchase goods to sell back at their homes or for their personal use. In developed countries, ICBT tends to confine to only a few products such as tobacco and wine, whereas in developing countries a variety of goods like maize, beans, clothing, furniture, and electronics are traded. For instance, the World Bank (2016) reported that in Tunisia, a middle-income developing country, ICBT is significantly developed, reflecting that informal trade represents a fundamental part of Tunisia's bilateral trade with Libya and Algeria. It accounts for more than half the official trade with Libya and more than the official trade with Algeria. Another study by Benjamin and Mbaye, (2012) indicated that in West Africa informal cross-border trade has thrived due to the conflicts between the largely unchallenged state authorities over borders and the ease of entry causing operators to easily evade the rules at the border. Additionally, a report by Lesser and Leeman (2009), asserted that available surveys indicate that a substantial proportion of informal cross border trade in the region concerns staple food commodities such as maize, rice, and cattle, as well as the low-quality consumer goods such as clothes, shoes, and electronic appliances. However, in East Africa, women who constitute about 76.6 percent,

exceedingly represent the informal economy and trade dealing with a variety of agricultural commodities that include maize, beans, rice, fish, groundnuts, and bananas (ILO, 2015). Although there is an absence of accurate data available on informal trade, statistics for some agricultural commodities such as beans, maize, and many other food products between certain countries in the SADC region are understood to be more than the formal trade figures (Ackello-Ogututu and Achessah, 1998 Minde and Nakhumwa, 1996 cited in Matorofa et.al 2008).

With regards to transportation, studies such as those by Little, (2007) and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, (2007) note that in Eastern and Southern Africa, a large share of informally traded goods is transported by vehicles, bicycles, pushcarts, or by head/hand across the borders. Chikanda & Tawodzera (2017) states that most of the traders crossing the borders do not have their own means of transport to South Africa and back to their respective countries of origin. This then causes them to rely on public transportation such as bus services, taxis, motorcycles, and pick-up cars at the border areas. However, to avoid delays at the borders, like for instance the South Africa-Zimbabwe border at Beitbridge, some ICBTs rely on *malayishas* (informal cross border transporters) because they are well connected to the customs officials on both sides of the border. which enables them to carry goods without paying customs duties from South Africa and deliver at the doorstep of the Zimbabwean ICBTs. Additionally, amongst other modes of transporters are the *vemabhasikoro* (those who ride the bicycles). These transporters are mainly men who transport lighter goods from one end to another across the border using a bicycle.

There are also women head porters who, carrying goods and luggage using their heads, walk across to the other side of the border, (Pophiwa, 2017). While in Swaziland, the UN Women (2007-2009) noted that Swazi people mainly use trans-border buses and kombis (mini vans). Therefore, it is in this context that the study analyses the nature and dynamics of ICBT at the Beitbridge border post. In this regard, the intention is to understand the nature of types of goods traded, frequency of travel, and the mode of transportation used by the ICBTs at the border points.

3.4 Regional integration

Mlambo (2020), asserts that globally regional integration has become a development blueprint that has, over the years received massive prominence. In Africa, it has

received support from governments since independence and indeed scholarly attention, such that in Sub-Saharan Africa countries have taken regional integration as an instrument for economic integration and a means to socio-economic and political prosperity. It is therefore in this context that regional integration was viewed as an important factor with regards to the envisioned possible gains for African states. These gains include, but are not limited to attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), abolishing tariffs (via the reconfiguration of neo-colonial influences and unfair trading practices), promoting political independence, bilateral agreements, infrastructural development, and robust security mechanism and dependence on western donors. This has led to the supposed benefits being widely shared by the African states to further strengthen their economic ties, from several blocks of regional integration across the continent, (Mlambo, 2020). With the above-mentioned background on regional integration, the African Union (AU) recognizes eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs), which namely are, the Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA) Union, the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), several of which have significant membership overlaps, (Moyo, 2020).

Numerous RECs overlap in membership, for example, in East Africa, Kenya, and Uganda including Burundi and Rwanda are members of both the EAC and COMESA, whereas Tanzania, is also a member of the EAC, and left COMESA to join the SADC in 2001. This multiple and confusing membership creates duplication and occasionally competition in activities while placing additional burdens on already over-stretched foreign affairs staff to attend all the various summits and other meetings. It evokes a phenomenon called the Spaghetti bowl effect (see Figure 3.1 below), which explains the multiplicity and entanglement of Africa's integration processes in a complex web, influenced by the multiple overlaps of countries in Regional Economic Communities, (Byiers, et.al, 2019).

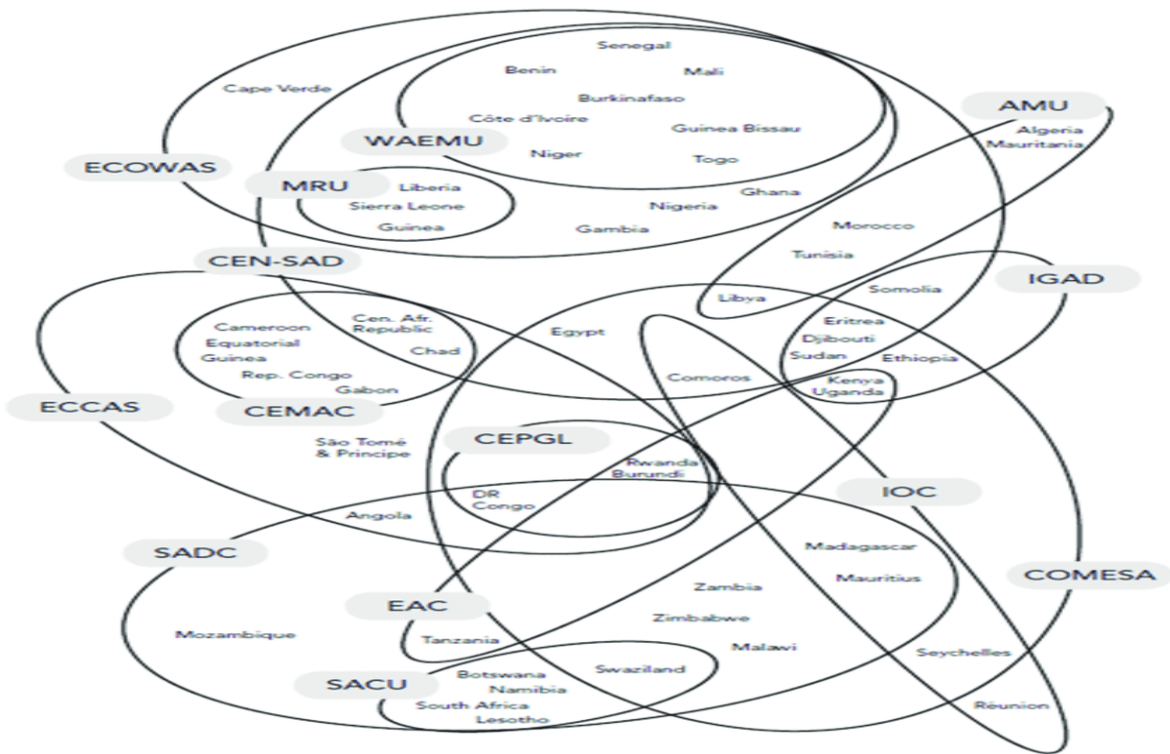


Figure: 3.1: RECs membership overlaps

Source: Wilson (2008, p.34)

Additionally, the SADC and COMESA have seven members in common, whereas for Zambia the SADC membership is politically and economically more important than to belong in the COMESA. It is therefore for such reasons that the SADC region does not abolish double memberships due to the social, economic, and political benefits emanating from the multiple memberships, given that a majority of African states tend to have memberships with more than one REC, (Peters-Berries, 2010).

However, Moyo (2018) echoes that the regional integration roadmap appears to be mainly informed by the neoclassical regional integration theory, particularly Balassa's (1961) theory of economic integration. Balassa's (1961) theory posits that regional integration advances through four stages. The first stage involves the removal of trade restrictions and the establishment of a Free Trade Area (FTA) by integrating countries. The FTA is a stage where member countries do not impose any trade barriers, meaning that there are zero tariffs on goods that are produced within the union. This is intended to open free trade within the integrating countries, which will lead towards the integration of markets. Therefore, with the FTA in mind, the question that arises thereafter is whether Free Trade Areas, are established with the non-state actors such

as the informal cross-border traders in consideration. The second stage involves the unification of external customs tariffs, formed by the Customs Union (CU), which has not only liberalized but has created a protected internal trade against third countries.

The third stage involves the development of a common market, which is accompanied by the removal by member states of all restrictions on the movement of capital, labor, goods, and services within the integration region. At this stage, the full liberalization of the movement of people and capital within the integration area is achieved. The last stage in Balassian theory is the economic and monetary union, which develops when supranational institutions govern economic policies, including the single currency, central bank, and fiscal system integrating countries. Given that African countries adopt the Balassian theory as a blueprint in their integration projects, the role of the state is emphasized to the neglect of non-state actors like the ICBTs. This understanding is important to the extent that it provides an analytical site for this research. This is because these theories (neoclassical) tend to deny the contributions made by the non-state actors to regional integration whereas the study aims at highlighting the importance of these non-state actors such as ICBTs and showing that regional integration within the SADC region is multidimensional.

Indeed, such an analytical approach falls within the New Regionalism Approach (NRA) to regional integration. The NRA advances the multidimensionality, complexity, and fluidity of regional integration because it involves a variety of state and non-state actors who in most cases come together in informal multi-actor coalitions (Soderbaum & Shaw, 2003). Unlike the neoclassical theories, the NRA does not abandon the non-state actors such as the informal cross-border traders. Thus, the NRA seeks to go beyond a focus on states as the main regionalizing actors, (Soderbaum, 2004). This is the context within which NRA provides an analytical context on the importance and the contributions of non-state actors such as the informal cross-border traders.

3.5 Regional trade policies and ICBT

Geda & Yimer, (2019), asserted that since independence, African countries have embraced regional integration as a fundamental component of their development strategies and have concluded numerous regional integration arrangements to that effect. Hence, several policies should have an impact on ICBTs. Among such arrangements is the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the agreement

for its establishment was signed in by 44 of 55 African Union (AU) member states in Kigali, Rwanda on March 21, 2018. The AfCFTA came into operation in January 2021. The agreement initially requires members to remove tariffs from 90 percent of goods, allowing free access to commodities, goods, and services across the continent. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, (2018) estimates that the agreement will boost intra-African trade by 52 percent by 2022. As with most regional integration schemes, the underlying economic rationale of the AfCFTA agreement is to provide greater opportunities to reap economies of scale, efficiency through greater competition and specialization, a more attractive internal market for investment (both foreign and domestic), and acceleration on intra-regional trade stimulate economic growth and lift people out of poverty (African Union, 2018).

Additionally, the AfCFTA consists of two Protocols, which are the Protocol on Trade in Goods and the Protocol on Trade in Services. The Protocol on Trade in Goods commits itself to expand intra-African trade through the harmonization, coordination of trade liberalization, and implementation of trade facilitation instruments across Africa. It is determined to take necessary measures for reducing the costs of doing business and creating a conducive environment for private sector development and thereby boosting intra- African trade. The principal objective of the Protocol on Trade in Goods is to create a liberalized market for trade in goods under Article 3 of the agreement. Furthermore, the Protocol on Trade in Services is intended to establish a continental framework of principles and rules for trade in services, with a view of boosting intra-African trade in line with the objectives of the AfCFTA as well as promoting economic growth and development within the continent. This Protocol is also projected to harness the potential and capacities of the African service suppliers, at the micro, small and medium levels to engage in regional and global value chains. The principal objectives of the Protocol on Trade in Goods are to enhance the competitiveness of services through economies of scale, reduced business costs, enhanced continental market access, and an improved allocation of resources including the development of trade-related infrastructure (African Continental Free Trade Area, 2018). It is within this context that some scholars such as Sommer and Nshimbi (2018) assert that the AfCFTA offers an opening to ensure that the full potential of ICBT is harnessed under a single comprehensive framework. Thus, it is in the interest of this study to understand how the operation of the AfCFTA impacts the informal cross-border traders,

specifically at the Beitbridge border post. The question which arises, therefore, is the extent to which the AfCFTA promotes informal cross-border trade or whether it only promotes formally registered companies. The views of the ICBTs should shed more insight on this question.

Another policy at the regional level of the SADC is the Protocol in Trade (1996), which was signed as a framework document, providing a basis for economic integration through the creation of the FTA, in a summit that was held in Maseru in August 1996 by all heads of SADC member states or Governments, except for Angola, (Mbono, 2004). The Protocol's objectives are to ensure the facilitation of the cross-border movements and the establishment of traders in services to establish cargo, clearing, and forwarding offices in second member states. In addition, the Protocol targets the harmonization of trade policies in all SADC countries, (Moyo, 2017). Furthermore, the aims of the Trade Protocol (1996) as outlined in part two of Article 3 to Article 11 are to provide for the elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade including the general exceptions on grounds of public morals, public order, health safety, and security considerations. Particularly, Article 4 to Article 6 stresses the elimination of import duties, where it is accentuated that there shall be phased reduction and eventual elimination of imports duties under Article 3 of the Protocol, on goods originating from member states of the SADC.

This process is proposed to be accompanied by an industrialization strategy to improve the competitiveness of member states. Article 5 highlights the elimination of export duties, where member states are not expected to apply any export duties on goods for export to other member states. Lastly, Article 6 speaks to the issue of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), where member states concerning intra-SADC trade, should adopt policies and implement measures to eliminate all existing forms of NTBs and refrain from imposing any new ones, (Protocol on Trade in the Southern African Development Community SADC Region, 1996).

According to the Trade Protocol, all barriers to intra-SADC trade should have been eliminated in the year 2008 (Protocol on Trade in the Southern African Development Community SADC Region, SADC, 1996). However, from Article 7 to 11 the emphasis is on the quantitative import restrictions, where member states are by no means expected to apply any new quantitative restrictions. Whereas quantitative export

restrictions are where member states may take necessary measures to prevent the erosion of any restrictions that may apply to exports outside the community, provided that no less favorable treatment is granted to member states than to the third countries. The 9th to the 11th Article emphasis is on the general exceptions, security exception, and the national treatment, (Protocol on Trade in the Southern African Development Community SADC Region, 1996). By these means, the SADC Protocol on Trade should assist and contribute towards attempts at the economic integration of the SADC region. However, Moyo (2017) suggests that without the express recognition and inclusion of ICBTs in such a Protocol, the role that ICBTs play in the regional integration project is trivialized. Nevertheless, the Protocol, seems to facilitate the formal trade more than the ICBT if at all, because it is argued that by nature the Protocol is not a deliberate policy on ICBT but the established businesses or rather the state actors, (Mbono, 2004). Interview results with the ICBTs should provide more detail on the impact of the Trade Protocol on these actors (ICBTs).

An additional policy and perhaps the most ambitious effort to promote ICBT is the establishment of the Simplified Trade Regime (STR) which was developed by the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and was launched in the year 2010 after it was recognized that cross border trade constituted a significant compound of trade in the region (Fundira 2018). It aims to facilitate small-scale cross-border trade in products originating from within the REC. Informal cross-border traders are provided with simplified certificates of origin by customs officials, help in completing customs documents, clearing procedures, and answering trade-related queries from the trade information desk officers at the border (Moyo, 2020). The STR targets specifically small traders who regularly transact in low-value consignments and who are exempted from customs duties and other related taxes.

Furthermore, the STR is meant to benefit the small-scale cross-border traders in employment creation, food security, and promotion of cross-pollination of goods where goods (food, clothing, furniture, etc.) are purchased from one country to another within the regions. Having goods purchased from South Africa and sold in Botswana is an example of the cross-pollination of goods (Mercredi, 2017). Further, the STR exempts small traders from complying with a certificate of origin when dealing with certain goods imported from member states. Fundira (2018), further emphasizes that such regional integration efforts do acknowledge the role of informal cross-border trade

(ICBT) as a contributor to socio-economic development in the wake of shrinking formal employment opportunities within the regions.

There are two RECs that have openly implemented the STR. First is COMESA which is made up of nineteen countries, namely, Burundi, Comoros, DR Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Second is the EAC which consists of members states, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republic of Uganda. These EACs have adopted and support the implementation of regulations that define the rights and obligations of ICBT and fund the trade information desks which assist traders in crossing the borders. The above-mentioned member states who are part of the STR initiatives (Musyoki, 2018, cited in Moyo 2020), asserted that there has been a setup of one-stop border posts (OSBP), which are significant in a manner that it has the infrastructure to deal with informal cross border traders. Consequently, this can be taken to demonstrate the overdue recognition and acceptance of the ICBT actors. For example, in February 2018 Kenya and Uganda launched an OSBP at Busia which reflects on the departure from the obsession with Eurocentric models such as the neoclassical framework which informs the RECs and the continental integration projects, (Musyoki, 2018 and Moyo, 2020). Therefore, it is in the best interest of this study, to identify the extent to which SADC trade policies promote informal cross-border trade activities.

Beyond the SADC Trade policies, it is important to provide an overview of the initiatives of individual SADC member states in promoting ICBT. For instance, in Zimbabwe, the government has made provision of space for flea markets to enable cross border and other traders to sell their wares, since the 1990s. Additionally, an initiative made by government agencies such as the Small Enterprise Development Corporation have extended finances to cross border traders, and through its National Budget Statements, the Ministry of Finance in Zimbabwe has also taken serious recognition and understanding of the nature and significance of the cross border traders' operations in establishing the rates of customs duty payable on certain goods (Bhamu, 2017). However, this effort has been undermined by the Zimbabwean government in that it implemented the import ban in 2016. This is because the implementation of the Statutory Instrument 64 of 2016 in Zimbabwe banned the imports of certain South African goods, in which the most targeted goods were those that the ICBTs mostly

purchased for resale and their personal use. These goods included coffee creamers, camphor creams, white petroleum jellies, plastic pipes and fittings, building material, baked beans, cereals, bottled water, and second-hand tyres. This affected the ICBTs in that they were restricted by the ban to purchase goods they needed and were able to acquire at convenient prices as opposed to those in Zimbabwe.

Therefore, the implementation of the import ban in 2016 denied the ICBTs their livelihoods (Moyo, 2016). Whereas Nshimbi (2020) points out that Zambia has an Act of Parliament that specifically caters to ICBTs. The author cites the Immigration and Deportation Act, 2010 [No. 19 of 2016] of Zambia that provides three types of permits to facilitate the movement of the ICBTs, which are the business permit, investors permit and the cross-border permit (issued to foreign nationals who are citizens of a country that is in the REC in which Zambia is a member of). In Rwanda, a member of the COMESA and EAC has mainstreamed informal trade in its National Cross-Border Strategy 2012-2017. Rwanda considers informal trade essential to the implementation of its Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) (Nshimbi, 2017). Overall, it seems as though efforts by individual countries to promote ICBT have been limited. This is because in most SADC member states there is no record or clear policy which can incorporate the removal of the existing binary between formal and informal actors where ICBTs will be able to receive the recognition and acceptance as a fundamental element in the intra-Africa trade dynamics and relations.

Furthermore, records of the ICBT are disregarded and not formally recorded as opposed to those of the formal actors. In other parts of Africa, facilitating the free movement of persons is also an important policy-legislative intervention being used to assist ICBT. Examples in this regard include the Common Passport initiative being used in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as the use of temporary permits and national identity (ID) cards to travel in East African Community (EAC) countries, (Koroma et.al, 2017). Therefore, it is in the best interest of this study to examine the extent to which regional trade policies promote and support ICBTs within the SADC region, specifically at the Beitbridge border post.

3.6 The contribution of ICBT activities to regional integration within the SADC

Fioramonti, (2014), asserts that despite the vast scholarly works that have emerged about non-state actors, not much focus has been channeled to its role in regional

integration. Furthermore, the scholar advocates that this could be driven by the fact that regional integration in Sub-Saharan Africa has mostly been state-centric, suggesting that states are often viewed as drivers of the economic and political integration in the context of a neoliberal global transformation. Additionally, Godsater (2014), states that continentally, the nonstate actors such as the ICBTs, play a robust role via representing the grassroots in bodies such as the AU and other continental institutes.

However, Peters-Berries (2010), asserts that although ICBTs are criminalized and given less if any recognition in some of the RECs, in the ECOWAS considerable strengths in regional integration come from shared political ideas and values focusing on democracy and the prevention of violent conflicts. Nonetheless, the economic and physical features of regional integration are improving in West Africa but remain patchy. Hence it is by no doubt that if the division of the region into Francophone and Anglophone states emanating from the colonial era has still not been overcome, it will continue to cause the major obstacle of acquiring deep regional integration, such that ICBTs may continue to be marginalized, (Peters-Berries, 2010).

Bhamu (2017) asserts that informal cross-border trade has made significant contributions to the economies of several African countries in various ways. The author states that informal cross-border trade also immensely contributes to the countries that the traders visit. For instance, the author states that in Zimbabwe ICBTs have long served as suppliers to Zimbabwean-based businesses, and have enabled the businesses to obtain inputs, machinery, and stock they might need to operate. Several studies have been done on how informal cross-border traders make significant contributions towards food security and satisfying other demands for goods that are uncommon in the countries in which they operate (Chalfin, 2001). Moreover, in a study conducted by Peberdy (2002), it was discovered that ICBT contributes immensely to the South African economy through the procurement of goods, use of accommodation facilities as well as other related business transactions. This confirms that cross-border traders contribute to the retail, hospitality, and transport sector thus sustaining jobs for people working in the sector.

Furthermore, Moyo and Nshimbi (2017) indicated that informal cross-border traders are a fundamental dimension of the SADC cross-border phenomenon as they are

responsible for the actual movement of goods, capital, and services across borders in the region. For example, it was established at the Beitbridge border between South Africa and Zimbabwe (Beitbridge-Musina interface) and the Botswana- Zimbabwe border (Francistown – Plumtree interface) that ICBTs import and export goods and capital between these countries. This goes to an extent that ICBTs establish shops/flea markets that enable communities to purchase and access goods from Francistown (Botswana), without even having to travel to Botswana and South Africa (Moyo, 2017). These shops owned by ICBTs become completely dependent on the goods purchased from these border towns, (Francistown and Musina), as a result, it clearly shows that the economic activities across and between the borders in these studies are integrated into a cross-national demand-supply relationship, in which the state actors are not responsible for such ties. Therefore, ICBT constitutes a *de facto* process of regional integration and this falls within the aims and objectives of the Declaration and Treaty of the SADC on the matters of regional integration and action plans (Moyo and Nshimbi, 2017).

However, informal cross-border trade is still not fully and formally recognized for its contributions in most parts of the region mainly due to it being stigmatized and misunderstood. Similarly, Moyo (2018) advocates that the role of ICBTs should not be romanticized or excluded, because their actions and processes do integrate the African regional economies from below. Therefore, it is in this context that this study examines the contributions of ICBT towards regional integration, at the Beitbridge border post.

3.7 Chapter Summary

This chapter has discussed the nature and dynamics of ICBT activities, the extent to which regional trade policies promote ICBT, and the contribution of ICBTs to regional integration. The next chapter elaborates on the study area/setting of the study.

CHAPTER 4: THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SETTING OF THE STUDY

4.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the physical setting of the study area, which is the Beitbridge border post situated between South Africa and Zimbabwe. The description includes the Geo-spatial location, history of the border, topography and land cover, land use, and climate. The intention in doing so is to provide a better understanding of the physical setting at the Beitbridge border area.

4.2 Historical background

The geographical boundaries of more than 50 African countries are inventions of the 19th century European colonial expansionist policies, which were not designed in the interest of the African people whatsoever. These African boundaries were drawn at the Berlin Conference on the 15th of November 1884 to divide Africa into individual territories under the control of the colonial powers. Regarding this, the Beitbridge border post was established by the Pretoria Convention of 1881 and later replaced by the London Convention of 1884, which drew and set the boundaries of the South African Republic also known as the Transvaal Republic (Osion and Shadle, 1991 cited by Moyo 2016). The border is situated where the South African N1 highway and the Zimbabwean A6 highway are joined by the Alfred Beit Road, named after Alfred Beit the British South African financier (see Figure 4.1), which was constructed in 1929, (Moyo, 2016).

In this regard, the South African Republic became part of the Union of South Africa in 1910, while Beitbridge was part of Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe as from April 1980. Further, Moyo (2016) infers that theoretically, the border has served the purpose of defining where the territorial extents of the two countries start and end and where the citizens belong. This has ignored the true dynamics such as the cross-border interactions and the existence of *de facto* border citizens who consider themselves to be both South African and Zimbabwean.

4.3 Geo-Spatial location

The Beitbridge border post (Figure 4.1) is the busiest border situated at the Alfred Beit Road Bridge, which crosses the Limpopo River between Musina in South Africa and Beitbridge in Zimbabwe (Afrika and Ajumbo, 2012). Furthermore, apart from connecting South Africa with Zimbabwe the border post also connects S.A with

Malawi, Zambia the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and northern Mozambique, (Nevhutanda, 2008).

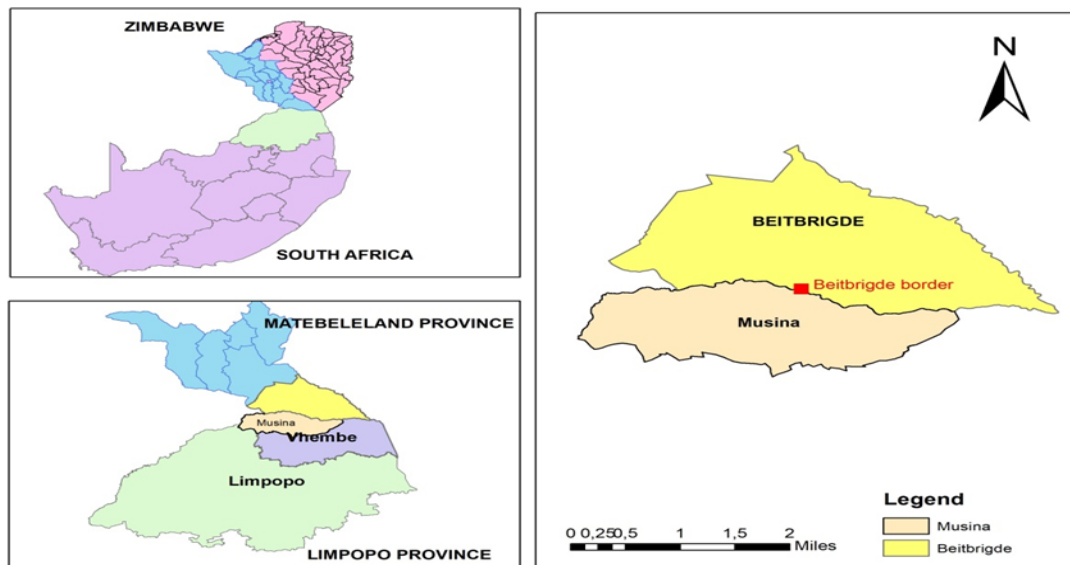


Figure: 4.1 Map showing the Beitbridge location between the two counties

Source: Mzimela (2019)

4.4 Topography and Land cover

The geographical feature that forms 200km of the Beitbridge border between South Africa and Zimbabwe is the Limpopo River that stretches from the east of Chiredzi to the Border with Botswana. The land covers different types of parent material and soils. On sedimentary formations, soils that occur in younger deposits are deep and often stratified. On levee deposits, the soils are of relatively light texture with a high proportion of granitic origin. Basin areas have heavy textured soils derived from fine materials deposited during floods. Vegetation varies from the savannah on deep fertile soils to the shrub savanna on shallower ones. The vegetation is of lower stature of about 2-6m high with a sparse grass cover of mainly *Sporobolus* spp (Love grass) and *Cynodon dactylon*. Common trees in this region include Mopani, which is prevalent in salt-rich soils, baobab, *marula*, and various species of combretum and acacia, (Chenge et.al, 1998 cited by Matsa and Dzawanda, 2019).

4.5 Climate

The Beitbridge border is found in the Limpopo Valley, a paragneiss zone that stretches from the east of Chiredzi to the border with Botswana, and the mean annual rainfall for the district is between 300 and 600mm. Most of the rainfall is experienced in summer from October to March. The mean annual temperature is between 25 and 27, 5 Degrees Celsius, (Feresu, 2010).

4.6. Socio-economic activities

The main socio-economic activity practised at the Beitbridge border post is the informal cross border trade which falls under the informal sector, involving the selling and purchasing of goods across the border to the neighbouring country, (Afrika and Ajumbo, 2012). For instance, traders crossing the border from Zimbabwe are pushed by the historical economic meltdown, political crisis, and the decline of the local currency value that tormented Zimbabwe from the late 1990s to the 2000s onwards. This led to the increase in the number of informal cross-border traders as well as an intensification in their activities involving crossing at the Beitbridge border, (Moyo and Nshimbi, 2017). This form of trade socially and economically improves the lives of the people and remains a vital form of activity that provides a livelihood for many households in Africa (Dzawanda et.al, 2021). It contributes to the income of about 43 percent of Africans illustrating the economic significance of the activity, (Brenton and Soprano, 2018).

The Beitbridge border has a heterogeneous population of marginalised minority farmer communities, which include the Venda, Shangani, and Sotho people. The demographics of the border are hard to capture since the border is the transit area, however, it is known that it is largely populated by the informal cross border trade activity, which is mainly dominated by women, who in Africa represent 70-80% of participants in ICBT trading across national boundaries largely at a small scale, (Bolivar and Omar, 2006 cited by Manjokoto and Ranga, 2017). Therefore, in this regard, it is rather safe to proclaim that through observations the Beitbridge border consists of more females who are in most cases unemployed, uneducated, and are still at their mid-30s upwards.

4.7 Biodiversity

Matsa and Dzawanda (2019), state that apart from the urban setting of Beitbridge as a border town with South Africa, the west of Beitbridge district is a semi-arid, remote, and is a marginal area, consisting of farmers who are generally sedentary pastoralists engaged in dryland farming, concentrating on drought-tolerant small grains like sorghum, millet, and rapoko. Communities in Beitbridge traditionally keep large herds of the indigenous Thuli cattle and other breeds as well as large flocks of sheep and goats.

4.8 Chapter summary

This chapter has elaborated on the physical setting of the study area, measuring the theory against what is on the ground. The chapter aimed to give a clear picture of the study area and its spatial characteristics. The geo-spatial location, history, topography and land cover, climate, and the type of land use dominant in this borderland were described. The next chapter elaborates on the methodology of the study.

CHAPTER 5: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

5.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the methodology of the study, the research paradigm, research design, research approach, sampling technique, research instrumentation, data collection technique, and data analysis. It also describes the ethical considerations and the limitations of the study.

5.2 Research Paradigm

A research paradigm is defined by Rehman (2016) as a basic belief system and theoretical framework with assumptions about ontology, epistemology, methodology, and methods. It is a way of understanding the reality of the world being studied. There are different types of research paradigms such as positivism, post-positivism, critical theory, constructivism, and pragmatism. This study utilizes constructivism/social constructivism. Social constructivism is an interpretive framework whereby individuals seek to understand their world by socially situating human developments and constructing knowledge through interacting with others, to develop their own meanings that correspond to their experiences, (Creswell, 2014). Furthermore, this paradigm posits that research participants have subjective meanings of their experiences and feelings they attach to certain objects or things, (Lincoln, et. al 2011).

Therefore, the research aims at exploring the views and experiences of ICBTs in terms of their operations and activities. The goal of the research is to rely on the participants' views of the situation being studied and use it to determine the extent to which the ICBT participants contribute towards regional integration. The study aims to assess the extent to which ICBTs contribute to regional integration through travelling across countries within the SADC region for the purchasing and reselling of goods using SNA Also it is to gain the participants' insights, perspectives, and experiences if any with the regional integration policies that are set to benefit both the formal and informal cross border traders.

5.3. Research Design

Creswell (2014), states that the research design is the structure within which the study is implemented. Based on this, a phenomenological design was followed using the qualitative approach to assess the contributions of ICBT to regional integration in the SADC region. A phenomenological research design as defined by Giorgi (2009), is a

design of inquiry that comes from philosophy and psychology where the research describes the lived experiences of individuals about a certain phenomenon and involves conducting interviews. This design is suitable for the study as it also aims at obtaining the ICBTs individual insights and perceptions towards regional integration. This research design is informed by the constructivist research paradigm, which asserts that individuals construct their understanding and knowledge of the world through experiencing things and then reflecting on those experiences, (Creswell, 2014).

5.4 Research approach

A qualitative research approach is defined by Creswell, (2014) as primarily exploratory and is used to gain an understanding of underlying reasons, opinions, motivations and provides insights into the problem or helps to develop ideas or a hypothesis for potential qualitative research. Whereas according to Bless, Smith, and Sithole (2013), a qualitative approach aspires towards some aspect of new knowledge and understandings that is transferable to other units of the population and tends to be rich with quotations, descriptions, and narrations as researchers attempt to capture conversations, experiences, perspectives, voices as well as meanings. This approach is suitable because the study is based on gaining the individual participant's perspective and mapping out the extent of their contribution towards the phenomenon of regional integration.

5.5 Research Methodology

Research methodology is a systematic, theoretical analysis of the methods applied to a field of study to guide the research processes. The focus is on the nature and kind of processes to be followed in a research procedure, (Nind et.al, 2013). For this study the researcher followed a qualitative research approach and methods such as interviews, observations and documentation were utilized to obtain the participants' full perspectives and views on the phenomenon discussed.

5.6 Research sample

The study was conducted among the informal cross-border traders at the Beitbridge border post, one of the borders considered to be the busiest, and connecting the SADC region to South Africa (Afrika and Ajumbo, 2012). The study used non-probability sampling. The study utilised purposive sampling and snowball sampling methods to

select the study participants. According to Creswell and Clark 2011 cited by Etikan et. al 2016) the logic behind purposive sampling is that researchers use their judgment to deliberately select a sample based on the qualities the participants possess. Therefore, the goal of purposive sampling was to sample participants with qualities relevant to the research questions of this study. The identified border and the number of officials (1 South African Immigration official and 1 South African Customs official) to participate were purposely selected, as the researcher was interested in officials who interact with informal traders travelling to South Africa. Also, these officials were expected to shed light on policies, if any, and how they govern informal cross-border traders.

Snowball sampling, also known as chain referral sampling, involves the participant with whom contact has already been made, to penetrate their social networks to refer the researcher to other participants who could potentially participate in the study, (Polit and Beck, 2010). Therefore, snowball sampling was used to select 40 ICBTs who responded to the research questions. The sample size of 40 ICBTs was not fixed, this is because qualitative research does not have fixed sample sizes but a point of saturation, (Charmaz, 2006 cited in Creswell, 2014). This suggests that the collection of data stops when the point of saturation has been reached and no new information emerges, (Trotter, 2012).

Thus, the researcher interviewed up to and stopped at the 40th ICBT when no new/additional information was being shared. As for the cross-border officials, only those on the South African side of the border were interviewed. It was not possible to reach the Zimbabwean side of the border, because the researcher was informed that it was closed and under renovation. These sampling techniques are most appropriate as they assist the researcher to gain access to the participants needed to obtain the relevant and valuable data in response to research objectives. Table 5.1 below summarises the research sample.

Table 5.1: Summary of qualitative sample

	Number	Method of sampling	Reason for selection
South African Immigration officials	1	Purposive sampling	Responsible for the examination of the migrant's passports checking into S. A
South African customs officials	1	Purposive sampling	Process travelers packages and collects duties on imported goods to S.A.
ICBTs	40	Snowball sampling	Responsible for integrating the countries they travel to, to purchase or sell goods.
Total	42		

5.7. Data collection and Instrumentation

According to Creswell (2013), data collection refers to the tools, techniques, or procedures used to collect data when conducting qualitative research. Data for this study was collected using both primary and secondary data sources. The primary data involves observations, in-depth interviews, focus group interviews, narratives, and oral histories. In the case of this research, in-depth interviews were conducted amongst ICBTs and structured interviews with the border officials. The interviews were structured, as the researcher had predetermined questions that required detailed responses from both the border officials and ICBTs, Kumar (2011). Secondary data was obtained using existing literature relevant to the study such as Government publications, earlier research conducted on a topic similar to this study, and articles relevant to the topic. The ICBTs were questioned regarding their experiences at the border and the type of ICBT activities they engage in, to find out about the nature and dynamics of ICBT activities practised at the borders, their travelling frequency as well as perspectives on their role in regional integration policies.

5.8 Social networking analysis

Social network analysis is primarily interested in studying how the ties between actors serve as channels for flows of material and immaterial resources, such as capital, information, advice, or trust. Unlike other social theories that assume a predefined social structure, social network analysis pursues the origins, evolution, and impact of structure on social outcomes. The formal study of social networks can be employed to understand the social, economic, and political interactions between discreet

individuals, groups, or organizations, (Walther, 2015). To represent the connections between two variables, nodes and edges are used, which can either be directed or undirected. When directed, it means the relationship between the variables or actors has a direction pointing from one node to another. This means the reciprocity of the link is important, whereas when the link is undirected it means the tie between the nodes has no significant feature to it. However, weighted edges can take an infinite value or any other decimal value and provide information about how strong the tie is, (Walther, 2015,). Therefore, with the assistance of the social network visualizer 2.8 the study demonstrates regional integration within the SADC region, informed by the informal cross border trade, specifically looking at the informal traders crossing at the Beitbridge border post.

5.9 Data Analysis

5.9.1 Analysis of data from cross border officials

The data collected from the border officials at the Beitbridge border was analysed manually following the strategies of qualitative data analysis. For this study, the researcher adopted a thematic approach (Braun and Clarke, 2012) to analyse the collected data. The first step was the identification of the main themes informed by the participants' responses. The second step was assigning codes to the main themes. The third step involved classifying the responses under the main themes. Lastly, the researcher integrated the themes with the responses into the report text in line with the first objective on the nature and dynamics of ICBT activities, the second objective that assesses the extent to which SADC regional trade policies promote ICBT, and the fourth objective that aims to propose strategies for enhancing the role of ICBTs in regional integration, (Kumar, 2011).

5.9.2 Analysis of data from ICBTs

Data on the contribution of ICBT activities to regional integration based on where they travel to and from was added to the social networking visualizer 2.8 software that is used for the analysis and visualization of vast network data based on social network analysis, (Scott, et.al 2005). Nodes and edges were used to represent the traders and the edges were used to show the links between the countries travelled to, within the SADC region. The connections between the nodes were directed and weighed to show the connection based on the trader's responses. The software illustrated the

connections between the countries the ICBTs travel to and from during their goods purchases, hence showing the contribution of ICBT to regional integration in the SADC region. This addressed objective three which emphasizes the contribution of ICBTs to regional integration through their movement across the African borders.

5.10. Ethical considerations

All participants in this study were provided with enough information about the research. The study ensured that participants operated from an informed position and a consent form was issued to the participants before the interview. Participants were asked to sign the form to express their willingness to participate. They were informed of the intentions of the study. No participants were forced to contribute to this study hence their participation was voluntary and they could terminate their participation at any time. Confidentiality was maintained through the protection of participants' identities. The participants' real identities were not used in the write-up of the findings. There was no violation of privacy, participants were assured of their anonymity. Given that the interviews were conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, all protocols relating to preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus were followed in that the researcher did the following,

- (a) Wore a mask at all times
- (b) Maintained physical/social distancing
- (c) Always carried a hand sanitizer

Therefore, the study ensured that participants were reminded of the safety protocols such as wearing a mask, carrying a hand sanitizer, and sanitizing after every 20 seconds, which the researcher also made available for those participants who did not have any of the above and were willing to participate. Another regulation that was adhered to was keeping the distance of 2.5 meters apart with the participants at the border to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

5.11 Limitations of the study

Due to the Covid 19 regulations, researching ICBTs was difficult due to safety reasons. This is because Covid 19 has caused constant fear in people's lives and requires everyone to adhere to the rules to stay safe and prevent it from spreading. Places like taxi ranks and market places where most ICBTs were likely to be found, were too

congested, making it a difficult place to obey the social distancing rule, therefore difficult to find traders who were interested to spare time for an interview. However, the researcher made every reasonable effort to abide by the restrictions, but at the same time collect the required data. Although, it may be probable that participants were afraid to interact with the researcher and thus gave rushed answers. Another limitation included coming across potential participants that were afraid to speak as they were not sure of the researcher's intentions based on similar situations, where they were tricked into thinking they were talking to get help but it turned out it was the government's way of tracking their whereabouts and confiscate their resources or force them to pay more duty. As a result, there could be some respondents who did not provide all the information to the researcher.

5.12 Chapter Summary

This chapter has elaborated on the research methodology which gave detail on the research paradigm, research design, research approach, and the sample techniques used to draw the sample size. The chapter also further explained the Social Networking Analysis visualizer 2.8 software that was used to further demonstrate regional integration within the SADC region, caused by informal cross-border traders crossing at the Beitbridge border. Furthermore, it explained the ethical considerations and the limitations of the study.

CHAPTER 6: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

6.1 Introduction

This chapter presents and discusses the findings on assessing the contribution of informal cross-border traders to regional integration within the SADC region. The first part provides data based on the demographic traits of the respondents. This is followed by the second part which analyses the nature and dynamics of the informal cross-border trade and responds to the first objective of this research. Following this is an analysis of the extent to which regional integration policies promote ICBT, and the demonstration using a map, the contributions of ICBTs to regional integration using social networking analysis and is a response to the second and third objectives of this research. There is then a discussion of the strategies which can be implemented to enhance the ICBTs in the SADC region. The final part of the chapter provides a summary of all the discussions.

6.2 Demographic/ Biographical traits of the research respondents

The biographical/demographic data provides more information about the respondents. It is important because it assists in understanding the participants under study. Discussed below are the gender profile, age class, level of education, employment status, and nationality profile.

6.2.1 Gender Profile

Informal cross-border trade is often associated with female participants, and this is verified by Ndlela (2006), who states that ICBT is significantly gendered because most informal traders within the SADC region are women. However, during this research, it was observed that there were more males than females (Table 6.1). It was gathered that, this could be due to Covid 19 related complications and the closure of the border at the Zimbabwean side, hence women resorted to alternative ways, such as getting runners to do the purchasing of goods for them, from South Africa to Zimbabwe for their safety. The gender profile does however demonstrate a growing dominance of men, which is an issue that was observed in a study conducted by Nshimbi (2020), where out of 54 ICBT respondents, 44 were male and only 10 were female, deviating from the previously conducted studies which have shown that ICBTs in the Southern African region are known to be predominately women, (SARDC, 2008 cited by Nshimbi, 2020).

Table 6.1: Gender profile of the research respondents

Gender	Frequency
Male	23
Female	17
Total	40

6.2.3 Age category

The data collected suggests that most of the informal cross-border traders both male and female crossing at the Beitbridge border to Musina town, are aged between 26-35 years of age, followed by those aged between 36-45 years. which was to some extent. Others were aged between 16-25 years and lastly those aged between 46-55 years of age. There were no respondents aged above 56 years, (Table 6.2). As result, most of the respondents are considered economically active, which can be due to the SADC region having a large population of people falling under the economically active age group, 15-64 years, (Nshimbi, 2020).

Table 6.2: Age of research respondents

Age range	Female	Male	Frequency
16-25	4	2	6
26-35	8	12	20
36-45	4	5	9
46-55	1	4	5
56-60	0	0	0
Above 60	0	0	0
Total	17	23	40

6.2.4 Education levels

The education level of the interviewed ICBTs illustrates that a majority of the ICBTs had secondary level schooling. This, however, could demonstrate that participants did not voluntarily choose to leave school or further their studies to tertiary level, but were forced to, most probably due to the economic meltdown and political instabilities in their country-of-origin Zimbabwe. These were followed by participants with post-secondary schooling, primary level education and the least were those participants with no form of education (Table 6.3). Among the 10 participants who had post-

secondary education, they had the following qualifications: Certificate in Administration, Certificate in Welding and Metal Fabrication, National Diploma in Business Studies, Diploma in Information Technology (IT), Degree in Chemical Engineering, Certificate in Public Administration, Level 4 Certificate in Professional Marketing (enrolled at the Chartered Institute of Marketing) and Degree in Education. These findings illustrate that ICBTs are relatively educated people who due to high levels of unemployment and economic downfall in Zimbabwe are left with not many options but to participate in ICBT to make a living and support their families. A similar trend was established in a study conducted by (Mhazo and Thebe, 2020) where many of the youth participants had post-secondary qualifications, but being unemployed, resorted to the informal sector to make a living.

Table 6.3: Education level of the respondents

Education Level	Frequency
Primary School	3
High school (secondary)	23
Post-secondary (tertiary)	10
None (no school)	4
Total	40

6.2.5 Nationality

Most of the informal traders interviewed were Zimbabwean and only two were Zambian nationals (Figure 6.4). The dominance of the Zimbabweans is because South Africa and Zimbabwe are in proximity as opposed to Zambia. In addition to this, economic problems in Zimbabwe have forced many people to engage in economic informality including ICBT (see e.g., Moyo and Gumbo, 2020, Moyo, 2018).

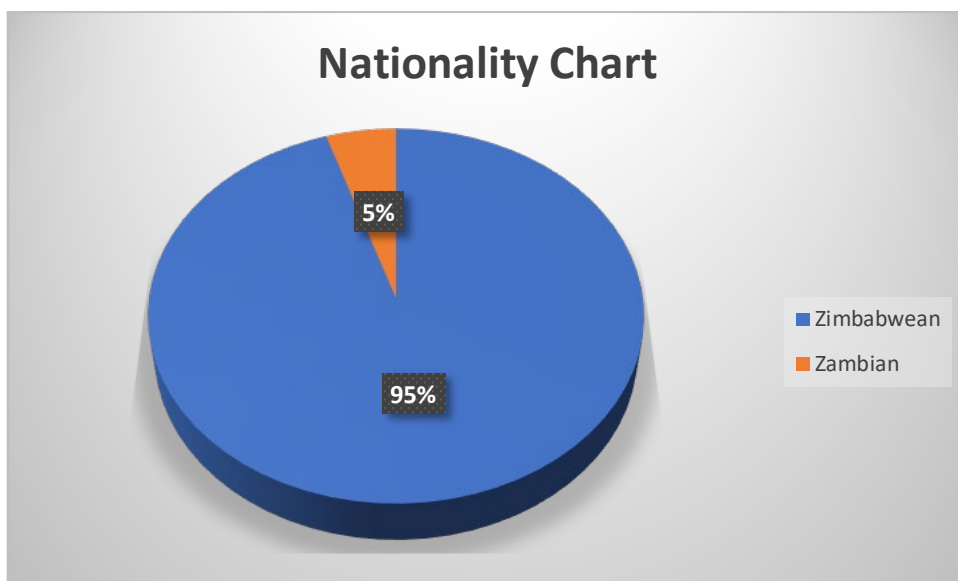


Figure 6.4: Nationalities of the participants

6.2.6 Employment status

The table (Table 6.5) below illustrates that most informal cross-border traders at the Beitbridge border, both male and female are self-employed, followed by a less but significant number of unemployed and employed participants. Other participants were under categories of students which had only one participant, and no one was a pensioner. The self-employed frequency confirms that most participants make a living out of being ICBTs, or rather ICBT is a form of livelihood for a majority. ICBTs can be excluded from the category of the unemployed because are already engaged in economically productive activities that earn them income within the informal sector and are in most cases not seeking employment but are self-employed. Therefore, this means that they can own small businesses that sustain and support them and their families back in their home countries, (Afrika and Ajumbo 2012). The frequency representing the employed participants validates that, even those formally employed by state institutions also engage in this activity with the interest of gaining for themselves extra income to supplement their formal job salaries. This corroborates similar studies such as by (Ama 2013, Manjakoto and Ranga, 2017) which showed that educated people engage in economic informality.

Table 6.5: Employment status of the respondents

Employment Status	Frequency
Unemployed	13
Employed	6
Self-employed	20
Student	1
Pensioner	0
Total	40

6.3 Nature and dynamics of informal cross border trade

6.3.1 Reasons for engaging in ICBT

From this research, many reasons were advanced by participants as to why they engaged in ICBT. The first reason mentioned by a majority of ICBTs was that they engaged in ICBT because they were trying to make a living (interview with Zimbabwean ICBT, 25 Aug 2021). This, however, suggests that the participants seek a livelihood to provide them with some form of income to pull themselves and their families out of the poverty trap. Some respondents mentioned that they were pushed into pursuing ICBT by the economic instabilities in Zimbabwe (Interview with Zimbabwean ICBTs, 26-29 Aug 2021). Other reasons behind pursuing ICBT, although, with less frequency included the need to supplement income. This was mentioned by employed respondents who stated that they engage in ICBT because they feel the money, they earn within the formal sector is not enough for them to meet all their needs and responsibilities in a country like Zimbabwe, (interview with employed Zimbabwean ICBT 28 Aug 2021). The ease of entry, opportunity to start a business, and unemployment, (see Table 6.5) were among the additional reasons. Therefore, these findings corroborate with Lesser and Moise-Leeman (2009), who infers that motivations towards the participation in ICBT are triggered by mostly a substantial growth in poverty, shrinkage of formal sector employment, and rigorous import controls imposed on formal businesses. Therefore, findings in the table below show that most participants engage in ICBT to generate income to survive and meet all their needs, this is supported by the neoclassical economic theory which states that people move to seek economic gains higher than that of their countries of origin, (Moyo, 2017).

Table 6.6 Motivations of respondents towards ICBT

Motivation	Frequency
Income generation	16
Supplement current income	3
Ease of entry	5
Opportunity to start a business	1
Unemployment	6
Economic instabilities	5
Poverty	4
Total	40

6.3.2 Frequency in travel

The ICBTs were asked how often they crossed the border to make their purchases and to restock. Most of the respondents mentioned that they travel once, twice, three times a week to once a month to make their purchases or restock, while other participants said they now travel at most twice a month, and this is due to the Covid 19 lockdown restrictions and the closure of the Zimbabwean border which is currently under renovation. Consequently, the participants said it is highly risky to travel to South Africa. This is because they used the undesignated/illegal routes (border-sango) which is a danger to their lives and their businesses because of the *amaguma-gumas* (criminal gangs who rob the ICBTs crossing in undesignated areas), who rape, kill, and steal the traders' goods and money (Interview with Zimbabwean ICBT, 27 Aug 2021). However, others did mention that they sometimes travel throughout the week (daily) in times when the demand for the products sold back in their countries of origin is high. In addition, when asked about the countries/towns they most traveled to, to purchase the goods all responses mentioned Musina as their town of purchase due to proximity and availability of alternative entry routes to South Africa as opposed to other countries they travelled to before Covid 19 (Interview with Zimbabwean ICBT, 27 Aug 2021), this is still to be discussed further below.

Regarding the type of transportation used by the ICBTs, most of them mentioned that they utilize public transport to move from Musina town to the border area, the mode of transport mainly includes taxis which are controlled by the South African Taxi

Association. Other respondents mentioned that they hire private vehicles referred to as *Omalayisha* who transport them and their loads of goods from Musina town to and potentially through the border to their respective residences in Zimbabwe (Beitbridge, Harare, Masvingo, etc.). However, due to Covid 19 and the closure of the Zimbabwean border, transporting goods across the border has become difficult for most ICBTs due to the requirements needed by the officials at the border. ICBTs stated that they now use an alternative method to transport their goods. It involves the use of people called the *Zalawi* (a name derived from the big truck operation called the *Zalawi*). These people consisting of both males and females carry goods ranging from clothing, fridges, building material, etc.) from the South African border to Zimbabwe (Beitbridge) for the ICBTs through the illegal routes in exchange for money. This, however, shows the extent to which ICBTs go to keep their businesses going, even though borders are closed the traders are still moving from Zimbabwe to South Africa in search of a better living. Other respondents stated that they were aware of the dangers that come with crossing the border using the illegal routes but they participate in it due to the strict border regulations and requirements of crossing the border with goods. This is supported by (Moyo, 2019) who states that ICBTs tend to use the undesignated points because they feel that the regulations are unnecessarily stringent and are punishingly inflexible.

Furthermore, interview data shows that most ICBTs who were interviewed came from different parts of Zimbabwe, most of the respondents came from places like Bulawayo, the Beitbridge town, Masvingo, and Harare. These ICBTs travelled primarily to Beitbridge to purchase goods/commodities for resale back to their countries of origin, but not limited to, Zimbabwe. The responses illustrate that a majority of these traders purchase most of their goods from Musina, followed by those who purchased from a town called Louis Trichardt in South Africa, which is close to Musina (about 70km from Musina). Other respondents mentioned that under normal circumstances, they purchased their goods as far as from Botswana (Francistown), Zambia (Lusaka), and Johannesburg and this confirms previous studies such as SME, (2006) cited by Moyo, (2017). However, the ICBTs stated that due to Covid 19 restrictions that discourage travelling, they find it difficult to cross the border to the above-mentioned destinations due to stringent border controls present at these countries' borders, unlike the Beitbridge border (South African side) where border officials are said to be friendly

and understanding. The interview data reveal that the goods bought for resale in Zimbabwe, mostly include clothing, blankets, foodstuff (cooking oil, flour, maize meal, powdered milk), and building material, while other participants mentioned that they purchased school shoes, electronics, motor spares, and furniture. Respondents mentioned that they resold these goods in the shops they own in their countries of origin. Therefore, it is for this reason that they frequently travel to South Africa (Musina town) to restock their supply of goods.

6.4 Extent to which regional integration policies promote ICBT

This section aims to provide an understanding of the extent to which regional trade policies are applied to support not only the state actors but also the non-state actors like the ICBTs.

6.4.1 Perceptions of ICBTs

The ICBTs were asked about their familiarity with any regional integration policies that have been implemented by the SADC region or the member countries (South Africa and Zimbabwe) to assist them as they are crossing at this border post. Most participants stated that they were unaware of any policies of such, and some were not even familiar with the term regional integration to start with, although a few mentioned the knowledge of the SADC Protocol on Trade. These policies in question were but not limited to the SADC Protocol on Trade, Simplified Trade Regime, and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. Some respondents stated that for them it is a matter of crossing the border, purchasing goods, and returning home safe and sound with all their goods to resell without any knowledge about policies (Interview with ICBT, 28 Aug 2021).

Although the respondents were unaware of any regional integration policies by name, they did however show an indication of being affected by the restrictions such as the limits on the number of goods that they could cross to Zimbabwe with at the Zimbabwean border. In the case of Zimbabwe, the restrictions relating to the provision of the Zimbabwean Exchange Control (General) Order 1996, which sets standards for the nature and quantities of goods that traders can import, and the Statutory Instrument 64 implemented in June 2016, also implemented to control the imports of

goods into Zimbabwe (Moyo, 2017). Hence, the respondents stated that they, despite the policies orders, crossed over to Zimbabwe with the goods illegally, by under-declaring the goods, bribing the officials, or using undesignated routes to cross over because of such policies implemented by the Zimbabwean government to stifle the activities of the ICBTs. For example, most ICBTs mentioned that most of the restricted goods (camphor creams, petroleum jellies, powdered milk, building materials, etc.) are the goods in which their business sell and are in demand in their country, Zimbabwe. Therefore, it can be gathered that among other effects due to such restrictions they are forced to specialize in goods less profitable or their businesses collapse. Therefore, Moyo, (2017), states that such Zimbabwean policies do however illustrate the absence of a SADC policy that is specific to the ICBTs, which leads to the vacuum being filled by national policies of the SADC members, thus frustrating the activities of the non-state actors such as the ICBTs in this study.

In the case of the availability of policies within the SADC region, very few respondents mentioned the knowledge of the SADC Trade Protocol but mentioned that they do not benefit from such a Protocol because their form of trade is considered informal. These responses do however corroborate with Moyo (2017), who states that although the Protocol touches on fundamental trade and business-related issues in the SADC, it appears to focus more on formal businesses than the informal businesses operated by ICBTs This is why the author suggests a need for a SADC-ICBT specific policy. Moreover, none of the respondents mentioned awareness regarding the AfCFTA policy, which was recently implemented in the whole of Africa. Other respondents did make mention of being aware of the STR policy implemented within the COMESA REC, in which Zimbabwe is a member state, to support them as ICBTs with simplified customs documents, certificates of origin, and a value of \$1,000 per consignment, allowing them to stock more goods and be permitted to cross over at the Zimbabwean border, which however is still not yet launched within the SADC region. Therefore, these responses validate the lack of policy awareness and the absence of regional integration policies that are specific to non-state actors such as the ICBTs who contribute to regional integration from a grassroots level (also see Moyo, 2017). Therefore, these findings confirm that regional integration within the SADC region is indeed premised within the neo-classical economic integration theories advanced by scholars like Balassa (1961), and which conform to the exclusivity of the non-state

actors such as the ICBTs. This is because although there are regional integration policies present within the SADC or the individual member states (South Africa and Zimbabwe), they tend to be exclusive towards informal businesses such as those of the ICBTs, which illustrates a vacuum or rather an absence of policies that will directly specialize with the needs of ICBTs and their form of trade. Hence, this demonstrates the need to address such issues with the NRA approach, which encompasses multi-dimensionality, inclusion, and fluidity of the regional integration principles towards both the state and non-state actors, (Soderbaum, and Shaw, 2003).

6.4.2 Perceptions of the border officials

Border officials were also asked about regional integration policies implemented at the South Africa- Zimbabwean border- Beitbridge and how they incorporated non-state actors such as the informal cross-border traders. A total of 2 border officials were interviewed at the South African side of the border. When asked about their views on ICBTs, they responded that these were people who crossed the border daily, and most likely do not conform to the border regulations, hence their line of work is informal. However, in addition, the respondents added that despite its informal nature, the border recognizes ICBTs, and do provide them with necessary assistance, such as supporting the SMMEs dominated by *Omalayisha* operations, that transport goods belonging to the ICBTs across the border, with the use of cross border permits, and providing security as they would for the formal traders crossing at this very same border. However, the operational spaces for these actors are not equal, reason behind the inequality as stated by the border official is due to infrastructural challenges and the need to give priority to those who obey the rules and regulations at the border.

Regarding the strategies enhancing the role of ICBTs one of the officials mentioned, the implementation of the One-stop border post (OSBP) currently in progress, at the Beitbridge border post between South Africa and Zimbabwe and the roll-out of the Border Management Authority (BMA) bill, which was passed in the South African Parliament in June 2017 and signed into law by the president of the Republic of South Africa Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa in July 2020. This bill in its present format is a migration/immigration management tool, which seeks to achieve what is termed the strict inflow of persons into South Africa, (Eghosa, 2020). Furthermore, it seeks to

prevent drug-related crimes, human trafficking, illegitimate movement of goods, and unauthorized movement of persons, (Mkhize, 2017). Another strategy mentioned was the SADC Protocol on Trade, which was implemented to among other things ensure the facilitation of cross-border movements. However, it is to be noted that the SADC Protocol itself is envisaged within the neoclassical conceptualization of regional integration, which does not recognize the ICBTs and their contributions towards regional integration, (Moyo, 2017).

These findings and observations made by the researcher indicate that the borders do not provide efficient operational space for the ICBTs nor are there regional integration policies implemented in response to the contributions made by the ICBTs to regional integration. Furthermore, the border officials themselves seemed to be unaware or deliberately deviated from providing straight responses in terms of the regional integration instruments. Therefore, considering the above, it is worth noting that regional integration within the SADC region is still premised on the neoclassical theories of economic integration, which is limited because it excludes other important actors like ICBTs. Yet, these ICBTs play a significant role in importing and exporting goods in a region like SADC and this leads to regional integration as explained further below.

6.5. Demonstration of the contribution of ICBTs to regional integration, using Social Networking Analysis.

To demonstrate the extent to which the activities of informal cross-border traders contribute to regional integration, the following was done.

- a) Data based on the information about where the ICBTs travelled to and from, the type of goods purchased, shops purchased from, and the routes used to transport the goods to the final destination was added to the social networking visualizer 2.8 software that is used for the analysis and visualization of vast network data based on social network analysis. This information was grouped according to the four factors (where the ICBTs travelled to and from, the type of goods purchased, the markets for the goods, and the routes used to transport the goods to the final destination).

- b) Different color nodes and edges were assigned to each group, representing ICBTs from Zimbabwe and those from Zambia (Table, 6.7).
- c) Each node added was linked to another by a single undirected and unweighted edge, which either stood for the directed connection between two nodes or the routes used to travel and transport the goods and to demonstrate the areas in which the goods are resold, in their respective colors.

Table 6.7: Group, country of origin, goods purchased, routes, routes, and market

Group	Country	Individual	Goods	Routes	Markets	Color
1	Zimbabwe	3,18,25,31,32	Clothing, foodstuff	N1/R1	Boxer, Indian owned shops	
2		1,2,11,16,20,22 ,29,27,33,35,39	Building material, foodstuff	N1/R1	Build-it, China Center/build- it	
3		4,5,6,10,12,13, 21,24,26	Furniture Foodstuff	N1/R1	China center, Pakistan owned shops	
4		7, 8,27,28	Building material, furniture	N1/R1/border sango	Build-it, China center	
5		9,14,15,17,19 ,23,30,36,37,	Clothing, electronics	N1/R1	China center	
6	Zambia	38,40	Building material, foodstuff, electronics	N1/R1	Build-it China-center boxer	

As already mentioned above, informal cross-border traders show immense contributions to regional integration, from a grassroots level by amongst other things the exportation and importation of goods within the SADC region. There are a variety of goods purchased from Musina, ranging from clothing, furniture, building material,

foodstuff (vegetables, cooking oil, flour, sugar, etc.) and electronics, purchased from different shops which are to mention a few, Build-It stores, Pakistan/Indian or Chinese owned shops (K05, Zebra works, Mega-Fresh, China center, etc.), Boxer, Shoprite, Jet, and Edgars. These goods are resold in places like Beitbridge, Bulawayo, Masvingo, and Plumtree in Zimbabwe and Chirundu (this is a border town on the Zambia-Zimbabwe border) in Zambia. Although the ICBTs were interviewed in Musina, the respondents did however mention that under normal circumstances (before Covid 19), they would also purchase goods from countries like Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, and Tanzania to resell in Zimbabwe. The roads commonly used by the ICBTs to and from South Africa are, the A4/R1 highway road which runs through Beitbridge to Masvingo and Harare, the A6 highway to Bulawayo, and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, and the N1 road in South Africa. Additionally, for some respondents, the undesignated routes (Limpopo river-crossing and the bushes) called border-sango were also used. Figure 6.8 below (which is model Frucherman-Reingold, with betweenness centrality index and node color index type) demonstrate the routes used to travel, types of goods purchased by the ICBTs, the shops in which they purchase the goods from, and the countries of origin/ where goods are resold after purchase to illustrate the contribution made by ICBTs to regional integration through the exportation and importation of goods within the SADC region. What this demonstrates is that economic activities between three countries, which are South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Zambia were connected through the activities of ICBTs.

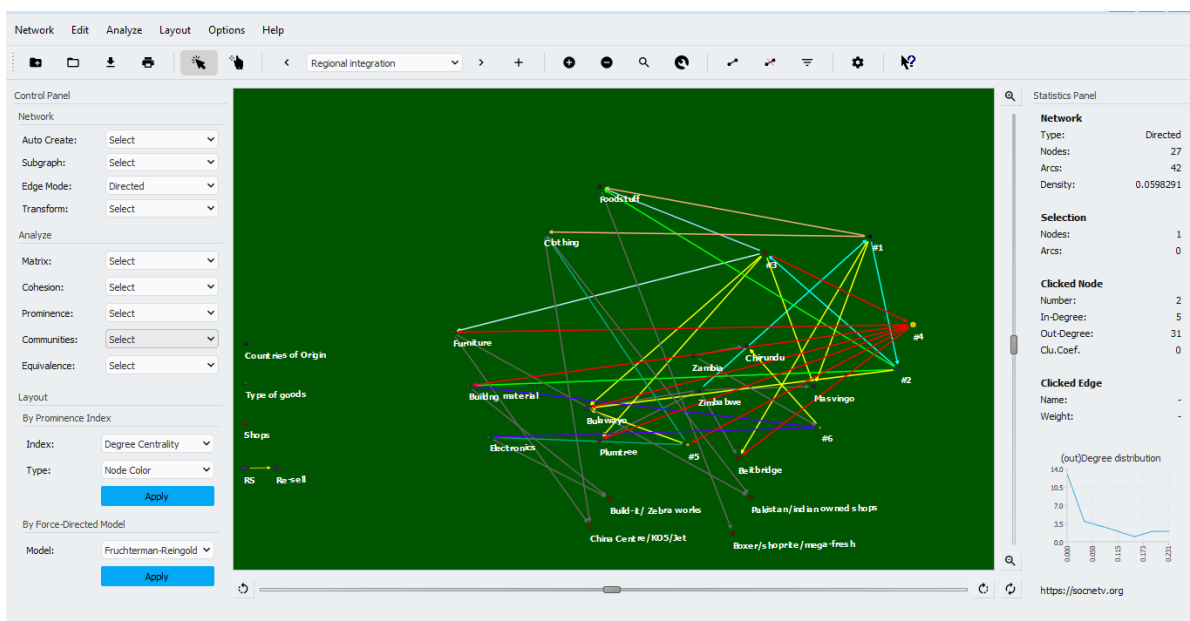


Figure 6.8: Economic regional integration between South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Zambia (Source: Author, 2021).

Furthermore, Table 6.9 below shows the descriptive statistics of degree centrality, which measures the number of actors connected to an individual, (Giri, Manongga, and Iriana, 2014). The table includes 40 informal cross-border traders in the network, but only shows 30 nodes, where the ICBTs are grouped according to their preferences in terms of the goods purchased and shops purchased from. In this table, it is shown that node 2 (group #4) and node #3 (group #3) have the highest degree of centrality, but due to the out-degree visible at the table, group #4 has the highest degree of centrality. This means group #4 has the highest number of connections/relationships integrating South Africa with Beitbridge, Bulawayo, and Plumtree in Zimbabwe, as opposed to #6 which has the lowest value of out-degree. Therefore, with this it is illustrated that ICBTs move across borders from South Africa to Zimbabwe based on the importation and exportation of goods, hence this illustrates regional integration from below (by ICBTs) within the SADC region.

Table 6.9: Degree Centrality Report

DEGREE CENTRALITY (DC) REPORT

Network name: Regional integration
Actors: 27


*In undirected networks, the DC index is the sum of edges attached to a node u.
In directed networks, the index is the sum of outbound arcs from node u to all adjacent nodes (also called "outDegree Centrality").
If the network is weighted, the DC score is the sum of weights of outbound edges from node u to all adjacent nodes.
Note: To compute InDegree Centrality, use the Degree Prestige measure.
DC' is the standardized index (DC divided by N-1 (non-valued nets) or by sumDC (valued nets).*

DC range: 0 ≤ DC ≤ 26
DC' range: 0 ≤ DC' ≤ 1

Node	Label	DC	DC'	%DC'
1	Zim	5.000000	0.192308	19.230769
2	#4	6.000000	0.230769	23.076923
3	#3	6.000000	0.230769	23.076923
4	#2	4.000000	0.153846	15.384615
5	#1	5.000000	0.192308	19.230769
6	#5	3.000000	0.115385	11.538462
7	Bul	1.000000	0.038462	3.846154
8	Clb	2.000000	0.076923	7.692308
9	Bul	2.000000	0.076923	7.692308
10	Foo	1.000000	0.038462	3.846154
11	Chi	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
12	Pak	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
13	Bul	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
14	Zam	2.000000	0.076923	7.692308
15	#6	3.000000	0.115385	11.538462
16	Mas	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
17	Bul	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
18	Typ	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
19	Cou	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
20	Sho	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
23	Re-	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
24	RS	1.000000	0.038462	3.846154
25	Elc	1.000000	0.038462	3.846154
26	Plu	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
27	Box	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
28	Be1	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
29	Chi	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000

DC Sum = 42.000000
Max DC: = 6.000000 (node 2)
Min DC = 0.000000 (node 11)
DC' classes = 7
DC' Sum = 1.615385
DC' Mean = 0.053846
DC' Variance = 0.005844

DC' DISTRIBUTION



GROUP DEGREE CENTRALIZATION (GDC)
GDC = 0.177515

Source: Author, 2021)

6.6. Chapter summary

This chapter described the demographic characteristic of ICBTs interviewed for this study. It then discussed the nature and dynamics of informal cross-border trade in which the reasons for engaging in informal cross-border trade as well as how the ICBTs operated were outlined. This was followed by the extent to which regional integration policies promote ICBT, then the demonstration of the contributions made by the ICBTs to regional integration using SNA. The chapter has also discussed the findings of the study in response to the aim and objectives of this research. The following chapter concludes the whole study and makes and recommendations.

CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Introduction

The study consisted of seven chapters. Chapter one provided a background as an orientation to the study. Chapter two explored the contextual and theoretical perspectives of the study. Chapter three critically reviewed literature relevant to the present research. Chapter four presented the physical setting of the study. The study was based at the Beitbridge border between South Africa and Zimbabwe. The chapter briefly explained the physical and socio-economic setting of the study area. Chapter five described the research design and methodology followed in the study. The chapter included the research paradigm which was the social constructivism paradigm and the research design which is the phenomenological design. This then informed the research methodology which adopted a qualitative research approach, including qualitative research methods like interviews, observations documentation, etc. Chapter six provided an extensive analysis and interpretation of the data in response to the objectives of the study. In line with this analysis, the following issues emerged in response to the objectives and research questions that guided this research.

7.2 Research question 1: What is the nature and dynamics of informal cross-border trading activities in the SADC region?

Informal cross-border trade represents a substantial proportion of regional cross-border trade in sub-Saharan Africa. It plays a vital role in Africa's development, through contributing income generation, job creation, structural transformation, and food security. This was supported by the findings of the study, where most respondents indicated that their main motivation towards participating in this activity was to generate income to sustain a living for themselves and their families. Available studies indicate that the scope of ICBT is wide and extends beyond basic agricultural products such as maize and raw milk, but also includes manufactured goods like processed foods, and low-quality consumer goods such as clothes, shoes, electronic appliances, and car spares, (Sommer and Nshimbi, 2018). This was also the case, at the Beitbridge border, most ICBTs purchased goods ranging from clothing, shoes, electronic appliances, and essential goods/foodstuff to resell back at their countries of origin. These goods are purchased through frequent travels across the border, to restock their goods. This was achieved with the use of mainly public transportation through both designated and undesignated border points.

7.3 Research question 2: To what extent is the SADC regional instrument promoting ICBT in the study area?

It is noteworthy that ICBTs contribute immensely to regional integration within the SADC region, but tend to be sidelined by the regional integration policies which appear to be premised on neoclassical economic theories advanced by scholars like Balassa (1961), (Nshimbi and Moyo, 2020). Regional integration policies tend to exclude the non-state actors such as the informal cross-border traders and recognize the formal actors like registered businesses. Policies implemented by states within the SADC region include the SADC Trade Protocol, the Simplified Trade Regime, and AfCFTA which was launched in Kigali, Rwanda on March 21, 2018, and came into operation in January 2021, were expected to promote economic growth and development, and to provide simplified cross-border trade procedures. However, from these interviews with ICBTs, it was evident that the policies are implemented on paper, but practically ICBTs continue to have problems in their cross-border activities. Hence, most of the respondents were not aware of any regional integration policies aimed at promoting their activities.

7.4 Research question 3: What are the contributions of ICBT to regional integration in the SADC region?

Regional integration broadly conceived as the voluntary surrender of some aspects of a state's sovereignty to integrate and achieve larger political and economic objectives has been at the core of development strategies in Africa since colonialism, (Ndlovu-Gatsheni, 2013 cited by Oloruntoba, 2020). Consequently, informal cross-border traders seem to be doing exactly that (see Moyo, 2018). They travel across borders with shopping as their main purpose, and the goods purchased are resold in their countries of origin. Therefore, the purchasing and reselling of these goods automatically integrates the economic activities of the countries involved. This was also established in this study, where ICBTs at the border town (Musina) in South Africa were from the neighboring countries Zimbabwe and Zambia and the main purpose was to purchase goods in large quantities to resell back in these countries. For instance, ICBTs from Zimbabwe resold these goods in Beitbridge town, Masvingo and Bulawayo. Therefore, this study has established that the frequent travel of ICBTs within the SADC region contributes immensely to economic integration as the traders constantly connect businesses across borders, spending large amounts of capital on

the purchases, transportation, and accommodation in the countries travelled to, like Musina in the case of this study.

7.5 Research question 4: What strategies can be put in place to enhance the role of ICBT in regional integration?

From a grassroots level beyond the policies already implemented, ICBTs should be included and integrated into all trade discussions and policies. This means there is a necessity for a paradigm shift in terms of understanding that regional integration is not be limited to formal actors but includes ICBTs as an integral part of the project as well. This will enhance recognition of ICBTs and their inclusion in SADC trade policies, (Nshimbi and Moyo, 2017). ICBT plays a vital role across Africa as it constitutes a source of employment and income, supports poverty reduction, and significantly contributes to food security. Therefore, it demands recognition of the extent of its contribution to the regional integration project. A lot can be learnt from the EAC region where some governments are actively engaged in ICBT issues related to information dissemination and awareness-raising, as well as making efforts to implement monitoring trade flows across the borders. For instance, the EAC has institutionalized trade information desks at the borders for proper STR implementations, (Fundira, 2018). This has resulted in enhanced compliance with the formalities of the border and reduced time is taken at the borders. Therefore, such a strategy would suggest the acknowledgment of ICBT as an activity that contributes towards regional integration through socio-economic integration processes.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Recommendation to the SADC policymakers and the government

For Africa to achieve its regional trade potential, governments need to do more to support the ICBTs such as:

(a) Recognizing the importance of the small-scale traders such as the informal cross-border traders both to the overall trade of the country and to the SADC region, by implementing policies or revisiting existing policies that demonstrate exclusiveness rather than inclusiveness of the ICBTs. Such policies already implemented include the SADC Trade Protocol which presently appears to promote formal actors like registered businesses which fit in well with the neoclassical theory of regional integration.

(b) Limiting the application of stringent border controls at the borders by implementing regulations that are equally applicable to both the formal and informal traders.

(c) The government, policymakers, and other stakeholders must inform/educate border officials about the regional trade policies implemented, so that they can understand the situation and contribution of cross-border officials and ensure that they treat traders fairly, with dignity, and without enforcing acts of corruption at the border.

(d) Considering the ubiquity of cross-border trade within the region, and especially occurring at the Beitbridge border it is recommended that a special tariff structure is implemented to ensure that customs duty becomes more affordable for them.

(e) Ensuring that rules and regulations governing trade are clear, transparent, and widely available at the border. This includes implementing policy awareness initiatives that will address the ICBTs in platforms easily accessible to them and at a level they can easily comprehend, such as appointing trade information desks at the border to assist and inform them of any regional trade regulations implemented within the SADC region and their rights and obligations.

(f) Simplifying trade documents and regulatory requirements for informal cross-border traders. An example is the duty-free- access for goods produced within the SADC region. Procedures involved in obtaining a certificate of origin are relatively complex and difficult for the ICBTs to comply with, therefore the implementation of the STR is recommended to ease the complexities encountered by ICBTs in terms of obtaining certificates of origin.

9.1 Areas of possible further research

It must be mentioned that the results of this research study suggested a possible area of future research around how technology and the COVID-19 pandemic have the potential of revolutionising how ICBTs operate. For example, the case of runners who were involved ICBTs in Zimbabwe sending money to contacts in Musina who bought, packaged, and transported goods on behalf of the ICBTs is a potential future research area. Therefore, the nature and the benefits that come with electronically purchasing goods without the ICBTs physically crossing the border are worthy of investigation.

9.2 Concluding remarks

This chapter summarized the whole thesis from the introduction to this conclusion and recommendations chapter. In the final analysis, the significance of this work was

demonstrated through SNA, the contribution made by the ICBTs to regional integration. This provided the visual description of the goods purchased by the traders from one country to another as well as the connectedness of the economic activities between the countries involved. This integration was achieved by non-state actors who are the ICBTs, and not the efforts of the nation-states. In other words, it was the ordinary people whose activities led to regional integration from below. To this extent, the argument propounded by NRA of the need to analyse and understand regional integration beyond the state-centric paradigm is important if the complexity and fluidity of regional integration are to be fully grasped and appreciated (see e.g., Tshimpaka et.al, 2021). Based on ICBTs at Beitbridge, this study was able to illustrate the multidimensionality of regional integration which escapes neoclassical regional integration theory with its fixation on states as the only actors capable of regionalism.

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APPENDIX A: Interview questions for informal cross border traders

I am a student from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Zululand. I am conducting a study based on the contribution of informal cross-border traders to regional integration within the SADC region, using social networking analysis focusing on the border between South Africa and Zimbabwe at Beitbridge. The study aims to assess the contribution of informal cross-border traders to regional integration within the SADC region. I would therefore be grateful if you take part in completing the study by answering the following questions. The information collected from this research will be treated with confidentiality and will be only used for academic purposes.

Section A

1. Demographics

1.1 Gender

Male	
Female	

1.2 Age

Below 16	
16-25	

26-35	
36-45	
46-55	
56-60	
Above 60	

1.3 Education

Primary School	
High school	
Post-secondary	
None	

1.4 Nationality

1.5 Are you a permanent resident of South Africa?

Yes	
No	

1.6 What is your employment status?

Unemployed	
Employed	
Self-employed	
Student	
Pensioner	

Section B

2. Cross border trade and regional integration

2.1 How long have you been participating in informal cross-border trade?

2.2 What motivated you to participate in informal cross-border trade?

Income generation	
Supplement current income	
Ease of entry	
Opportunity to start a business	
Other	

If other, please specify

2.3 How often do you cross the border?

Daily	
Once a week	
Three times a week	
Four times a week	
Five times a week	
Once a month	

2.4 Besides Musina in South Africa, which other city and in which country do you purchase or resell goods in?

	Purchase	Re-sell
Francistown in Botswana		
Plumtree, Bulawayo, and Beitbridge in Zimbabwe		
Johannesburg in South Africa		
Other		

If other, please specify.

2.5 What type of goods do you most likely sell?

Type of goods	
Fruits	
Vegetables	
Clothing	
Tin Stuff	
Electronics	
Other	

If other, please specify

2.6 Which shop/s would you say you are most likely to purchase your goods from?

2.7. Where and how do you re-sell the goods purchased from Musina, please specify?

2.8 Which mode of transport do you use to transport your purchased goods?

Public transport (bus, taxi)	
Hired vehicle (Omalayisha services)	
Private vehicle	
Head porters	

Vemabhasikoro (Bicycle transporter)	
Other	

2.9 What is the name of the road/route you use to travel to Mussina and back to your country of origin?

2.10 Approximately, how much do you spend on your purchased goods in Rands?

Section C

3. Perceptions of informal cross-border traders on regional integration within the SADC region.

3.1 Are you aware of any regional integration instruments or policies that assist you as an informal cross-border trader? If yes, please specify.

3.2 Amongst other trade policies established in the name of benefiting non-state actors such as ICBT is the Simplified Trade Regime policy, which was initiated to support small-scale cross border trade, so if in any way, how has this policy affected/assisted you or your trade business?

3.3 It is asserted that the recent establishment of the AfCFTA was to ensure that the potential of ICBT is fully harnessed to, among other things lift people out of the poverty trap, in your opinion do you think the agreement has the potential to do so, if yes what makes it different from the previously initiated agreements?

3.4 Do you agree with the statement, regional integration in Africa benefits the state actors (formal actors) while undermining and excluding the non-state actors such as informal cross-border traders?

3.5 What do you think needs to be done, to transform regional integration within the SADC region to benefit both the state and non-state actors who integrate countries economically, socially, and culturally?



APPENDIX B: Interview questions for border officials

I am a student from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Zululand. I am conducting a study based on the contribution of informal cross-border traders to regional integration within the SADC region, using social networking analysis focusing on the border between South Africa and Zimbabwe at Beitbridge. The study aims to assess the contribution of informal cross-border traders to regional integration within the SADC region. I would therefore be grateful if you take part in completing the study by answering the following questions. The information collected from this research will be treated with confidentiality and will be only used for academic purposes.

Section A

1. Demographics

1.1 Gender

Male	
Female	

1.2 Age

Below 16	
16-25	
26-35	
36-45	
46-55	

56-60	
Above 60	

1.3 Work description

South African immigration officer	
South African customs official	
Zimbabwean immigration officer	
Zimbabwean customs official	

1.4 Nationality

1.5 Are you a permanent resident of South Africa?

Yes	
No	

1.6 Years in employment

Below 3-6 years	
Above 3-6 years	

If above 3-6 years, please specify

Section B

2. Cross border trade and regional integration

2.1 In terms of experience under your job description, how would you describe informal cross-border trade, and what is your view on the people who participate in it?

2.2 What is your opinion on the statement, informal cross-border trade contributes more to regional integration?

2.4 Based on your observations, how often do informal traders cross this border?

Daily	
Once a week	
Three times a week	
Four times a week	
Five times a week	
Once a month	

2.5 In your own opinion, what do you think drives the informal traders into crossing at undesignated points instead of the border?

2.6 How do you as an official, ensure that goods transported across the borders are within the border protocols and if in any case, they are not, what actions are taken against the trader?

Section C

3. Perceptions of the border officials on regional integration within the SADC region.

3.1 What is your opinion on the statement, cross border management regimes are not favourable to the operations of the informal cross-border traders, and what is the border specifically doing to contest the statement?

3.2 In your own opinion, do you think borders provide equal operational space for both formal/registered businesses, and informal small trade businesses, if not what do you think needs to be done to improve the situation?

3.3 Has the border piloted the Simplified Trade Regime, if yes how is it implemented and what techniques are used to ensure that all ICBTs are aware and can utilise it effectively?

3.4 Are there any other regional integration agreements or policies that the border has implemented or have in line, to support the non-state actors (informal cross-border traders), crossing at this border?

3.5 To what extent has the border implemented the recently established AfCFTA agreement, and how do the ICBTs travelling across this border benefit from it?

3.6 Do you agree with the statement, regional integration in Africa benefits the state actors (formal actors) while undermining and excluding the non-state actors such as informal cross-border traders?

3.5 What do you think needs to be done, to transform regional integration within the SADC region to benefit both the state and non-state actors who integrate countries economically, socially, and culturally?
