

‘Biggest fish in the sea: The dynamic Kenyan labour migration in the East African Community’



➤ **Authors :**

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➤ **Objective:**

This study assesses the Kenyan policy and institutional framework concerning South–South labour migration with particular focus on the East African Community (EAC) countries.

➤ **Methodology:**

- Literature review
- GOK Interviewees, Interviews with Government Officials of EAC Partner States, Private Organisations in the EAC Partner States, Agencies of the Government of Kenya working on migration

Key findings

- Kenya's and other EAC Partner States' employment and labour policies and legislation predate the PEACCM and therefore require revision and harmonisation to conform to the changing circumstances.
- Kenya's labour supply dominance is vital to its EAC counterparts
- Rwanda has the most comprehensive and versatile law regulating both citizen and foreign labour in the country
- Kenya has not signed the IMWC (1990)

Key recommendations

- Kenya should sign and ratify the IMWC 1990.
- There is a need for a clear follow-up strategy on the recruited migrant workers to ensure their safety and to save their rights in the countries of destination
- Some private agencies should work closer with the GOK
- The GOK should institute registration of all emigrant Kenyans to inform the development of a data base from which critical decisions about LM could derive.

Innovative points to remember

1. The dynamic role of Kenya's labour supply amongst EAC
2. National labour policy framework should be harmonised in the EAC to fully implement PEACCM
3. Rwanda has a versatile law regulating both nationals and foreign labour that should be adopted by other EAC Partner States.
4. The EAC would benefit from EAC-wide study on policy frameworks and legislation concerning regional labour migration