

FOREIGN POLICY AND REGIONAL STABILITY IN EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY: AN ANALYSIS OF UGANDA'S ROLE IN REGIONAL STABILITY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL
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DECLARATION

I Kyabagye Natasha Shibbah hereby declare that this dissertation was produced out of my own effort with the guidance of my supervisor and has never been submitted to any other institution for any award.

Signature.....*Natasha Shibbah*.....

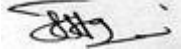
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APPROVAL

This research report has been supervised and approved by me and is therefore ready for submission to the School of Social Sciences in Uganda Christian University.

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Date: 29th April 2026

MR. TABALANGA JONATHAN

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research to my dear parents who advised, supported and mentored me throughout my education up to university level. Above all, I thank the Almighty God for guidance and provision towards completion of this dissertation.

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ABSTRACT

This research paper investigated the relationship between foreign policy and regional stability in the EAC through the analysis of the involvement of Uganda in ensuring regional stability. This study concentrated on the following objectives: to examine the extent of the contribution made by diplomatic policies in the attainment of regional stability within the EAC, to establish the contribution made by security policies in the attainment of regional stability within the EAC, and to determine the contribution made by trade policies in the attainment of regional stability in the EAC.

A cross-sectional survey design was applied in the carrying out of this research. Data collection was done through interviews and questionnaires, and both purposive and simple random sampling methods were employed. A total number of 133 employees and top management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were involved in this study.

The research findings have indicated that Uganda is very important in ensuring regional stability within the East African Community through diplomatic relations, security cooperation, and economic policies. Diplomatic dialogue, mediation, and involvement in various EAC forums will ensure peace, cooperation, and decision-making. On the other hand, common foreign and security policies in EAC will facilitate cooperation in security, intelligence, and peacekeeping. Furthermore, Uganda will achieve regional integration through economic interdependence and trade liberalization, which will decrease the risk of conflicts and sustain regional stability.

Finally, recommendations from the research include the need for improved diplomatic relations by fostering dialogues, improving its capacity in mediation and conflict prevention, as well as the incorporation of its diplomatic and security policies to promote regional security cooperation. Other recommendations included increasing intelligence sharing, joint training, and border management, as well as economic diplomacy through trade facilitation and economic agreements.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The research was focused on the topic of “foreign policy and regional stability in East African Community and analysis of Uganda’s role in regional stability.” This chapter highlights the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, and significance of the study.

1.2 Background of the study

Foreign policy plays an essential role in ensuring the security and stability of regions because it helps in controlling relationships and managing conflicts (Walsh, 2020). The foreign policy is a tool used by countries for achieving regional stability through maintaining peace, promoting economic integration, and encouraging political integration (Kiprotich & Onyango, 2023). The implementation of proper foreign policy strategies is significant for avoiding regional conflicts and creating collective security arrangements between neighboring nations (Uwingeneye & Gitahi, 2023). In East Africa, regional stability is influenced to a great extent by foreign policies implemented by member states with the ultimate goal of minimizing conflicts and fostering cooperation (Mawa et al., 2023). Foreign policy implementation requires a delicate balance of regional and international obligations and national interests, which can have a tendency to impact the economic, social, and political climate of the region (Akampa, 2019).

In the East African Community (EAC), the conduct of foreign policies plays a crucial role in the integration of the region, trade, and security (Tigatoola, 2022). In this regard, the member states of EAC, such as Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan, require concerted action through foreign policies in addressing the common problems facing the region, including border disputes, refugee crises, and insecurity (Mulindwa, 2020). There have been various efforts in resolving conflicts and fostering economic cooperation through bilateral and multilateral diplomatic measures in infrastructure development, economic trade, and security (Ejones et al., 2021). Indeed, Uganda has played a pivotal role in peace negotiations in the East African region (Akol, 2023).

Globally, countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, China, Japan, and India leverage foreign policies to promote regional stability and tackle security concerns that transcend national boundaries (Otele, 2020). In the United States, foreign policy has been used to create strategic alliances, economic sanctions, and military partnerships to stabilize contested regions such as Africa and the Middle East (Lisakafu, 2020). Countries in Europe, such as Germany and the United Kingdom, use development aid, peacekeeping missions, and diplomacy through foreign policy to encourage regional integration and stability (Abdullahi & Goomeey, 2025). Additionally, Asian countries, such as China, Japan, and India, have embarked on regional infrastructure projects, economic partnerships, and diplomatic relations to foster peace and stability (Krantz, 2025). Therefore, from these experiences around the world, it is evident that foreign policy is an effective tool for fostering collaboration, resolving disputes, and developing economies between regions (Lwesya, 2022).

Foreign policy in Africa has taken the lead in bringing an end to wars, fostering economic integration, and handling security issues along international borders (Okello, 2025). Some of the countries in the sub-Saharan parts of Africa which embrace foreign policies that include peacekeeping, mediation of conflict, and regional cooperation include Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and South Africa (Armande, 2023). For example, Nigeria has been known to mediate peace in the West African region, whereas Rwanda and Kenya engage in security cooperation and economic integration through trade in the East African Community (EAC) (Semwogerere, 2022). Ethiopia is involved in diplomatic negotiations to bring an end to the wars in the Horn of Africa, whereas South Africa utilizes its foreign policy to bring cohesion in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) (Abukar, 2024).

The Uganda Ministry of Foreign Affairs is instrumental in the formulation and implementation of foreign policy in Uganda's quest for achieving regional stability within the East African Community region (Akampa, 2019). Uganda has been engaging in efforts geared towards peacekeeping, diplomacy, and conflict resolution in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia (Akol, 2023). The Ministry works with the efforts aimed at regional integration of Uganda in the EAC through trade and other security agreements to ensure political and economic stability (Tigatoola, 2022). Further, Uganda's foreign policy focuses on the provision of humanitarian aid and refugee protection for regional stability (Abukar, 2024).

1.3 Problem statement

The stability of the East African Community includes political, economic, social, and security factors for successful governance, trade, refugee management, and border security (Uwingeneye & Gitahi, 2023). Nevertheless, there are some cases when regional stability decreases due to the following facts: political instability with inter-state conflicts among 45% of member countries from 2020 to 2023 (Okello, 2025), reduction in regional trade in EAC by 12% in 2022 (Tigatoola, 2022), refugees number exceeds 1.5 million in Uganda, placing extra burden on the government budget (Semwogerere, 2022), and increased insecurity because of cross-border crimes, DRC, and South Sudan insurgencies (Mulindwa, 2020). Such negative tendencies can lead to ineffective integration processes, deter foreign investments, and provoke further regional conflicts. Even though the measures to tackle instability were introduced by EAC Secretariat, Uganda Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as by regional security organizations via mediation, peacekeeping, and trade facilitation (Abaho, 2023), the situation still remains unresolved.

Moreover, past literature has mainly focused on Uganda's bilateral and multilateral diplomacy (Kiprotich & Onyango, 2023), security policy for peacekeeping operations (Akol, 2023), and how its trade policy affects regional economic growth (Tigatoola, 2022). There is limited evidence on how Uganda's foreign policy impacts regional stability within the EAC region. This represents a gap that called for further research in determining the effect of foreign policy on regional stability in the East African Community with an emphasis on Uganda's contribution toward regional stability.

1.4 Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to examine the relationship between foreign policy and regional stability in the East African Community (EAC), with a specific focus on analyzing Uganda's role in promoting and sustaining regional stability.

1.5 Specific objectives of the study

This study was guided by the following specific research objectives:

- i. To assess the impact of diplomatic engagement on regional stability in the EAC.
- ii. To find out the contribution of security policy in achieving regional stability in the EAC.
- iii. To examine the impact of economic/trade policy on regional stability in the EAC.

1.6 Research questions

This study sought to answer the following research questions:

- I. How does diplomatic engagement influence regional stability in the East African Community (EAC)?
- II. What is the contribution of security policy to achieving regional stability in the EAC?
- III. How do economic and trade policies impact regional stability in the EAC?

1.7 Scope of the study

1.7.1 Content Scope

The study concentrated on; the role played by diplomatic relations in ensuring regional stability in the EAC, the role played by security policy in ensuring regional stability in the EAC, and the role played by economic/trade policy in ensuring regional stability in the EAC.

1.7.2. Time Scope

This study collected data over a period of four months ranging from September to December 2025. The analysis of documents and reports covered a period ranging from 2021 to 2025 since this period covers the recent foreign policy activities in Uganda and how it contributes to regional stability in the East African Community.

1.7.3 Geographical location of study area

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was used as the research venue for this study. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is situated at Plot 2A/B, Apollo Kaggwa Road, P.O. Box 7048, Kampala, Uganda. It was chosen due to its nature as the government body mandated to formulate and implement foreign policy on behalf of Uganda, which makes it appropriate for studying Uganda's contribution to regional stability in the EAC.

1.8. Justification of the Study

The rationale of the present study is the necessity for research on the contribution of Uganda's foreign policy towards stability in the region within the East African Community because of the constant problems faced by the region in spite of the diplomatic and peacekeeping efforts taking place (Walsh, 2020; Mulindwa, 2020; Tigatoola, 2022). Even though past studies have focused on each aspect such as multilateral and bilateral diplomacy, peacekeeping missions, and trade promotion by Uganda separately (Kiprotich & Onyango, 2023; Akol, 2023; Tigatoola, 2022), there have been no studies that focus on how they have been coordinated to create regional stability as a whole.

1.9. Significance of the study

The study will be important to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs because it provides factual data regarding how foreign policies adopted by Uganda affects stability in the region, and this information will help policy makers to realign their strategies towards diplomacy, peace building, conflict resolution, and economic relations.

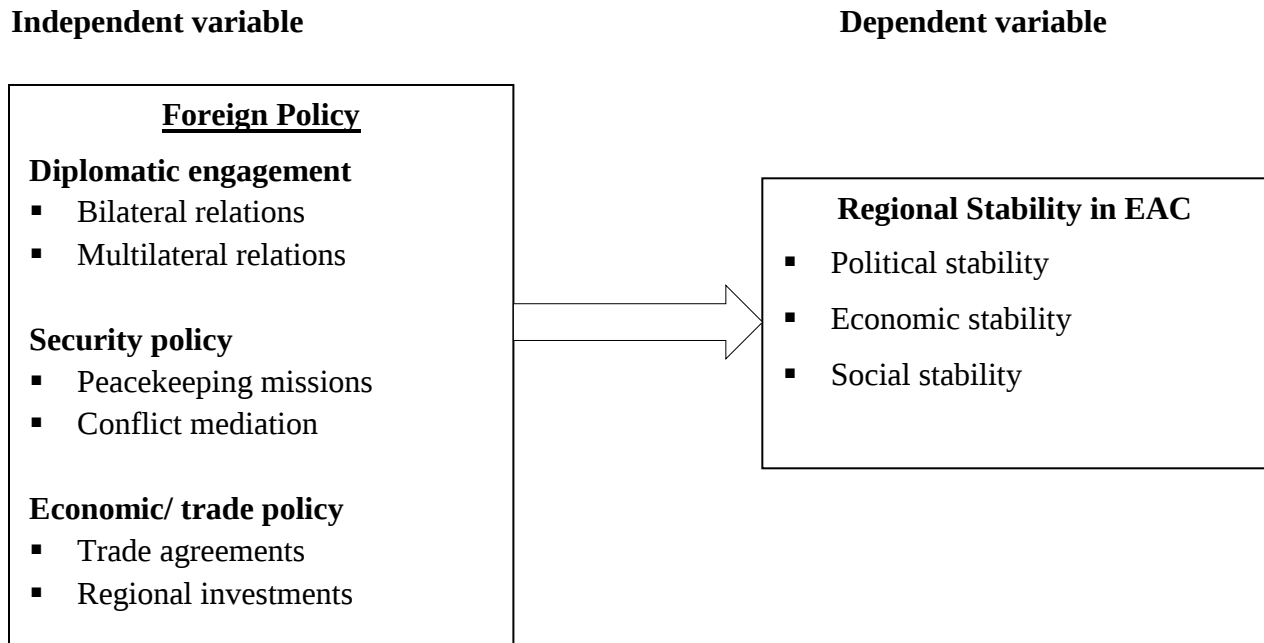
The study will be significant to the EAC Secretariat because it shows the role that the member countries play, especially Uganda, towards regional stability politically, economically, socially, and even in terms of security, which can be used in the integration process of the region.

The study will be important to the Government of Uganda in that it highlights the strengths and weaknesses involved in the foreign policy adopted by Uganda; hence, the government will be able to make sound decisions on how to improve further the involvement of Uganda in regional stability.

The study will also be relevant to future researchers and scholars because it provides a research gap and gives a critical analysis of Uganda's foreign policy as well as its effect on regional stability in the East African region.

1.10 Conceptual framework

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework



Source: *Adapted from and modified by the researcher (2025)*

The theoretical framework in this study is based on the belief that foreign policy, as the independent variable, affects regional stability in the East African Community via three major channels: diplomatic engagement, which includes bilateral and multilateral diplomacy; security policy, which includes peacekeeping activities and conflict resolution; and economic and trade policies, which include trade and investment initiatives. These three channels influence the political, economic, social, and security environment in the region to bring about regional stability. Moreover, according to the theory, if Uganda engages in effective foreign policy initiatives through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it will be able to promote declining conflicts, cooperation, and sustainable developments in the EAC region.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter includes other literatures from other studies. It is essential that more attention is paid to the analysis of similar studies that have been undertaken on the foreign policy and regional stability in East African Community, and the role played by Uganda in maintaining regional stability and reviewing some of the relevant literatures to the study. This chapter is therefore intended to include the review of various relevant literatures in the study.

2.1 Conceptual review

2.1.1 Foreign policy

Foreign policy is defined differently by some theorists as the conscious conduct of a state geared towards ensuring its protection and advancing its power in an international state system. The definition takes more meaning when examined from the point of view of realism which regards security and survival as key concerns of foreign policy (Walsh, 2020). Some scholars also contend that foreign policy should be defined in terms of the normative responsibilities and institutional cooperation that it entails, and thus redefines foreign policy as a means of promoting regional integration and economic interdependence through multilateralism (Uwingeneye & Gitahi, 2023). Foreign policy in the EAC has been analyzed as being conducted on both realist and institutionalist grounds. It serves as a means of meeting territorial and political aspirations of the states while at the same time advancing their economic interests through regional institutions (Krantz, 2025). There has therefore been a debate about whether foreign policy should be understood as power politics or regional governance.

When measuring foreign policy within the EAC, most academic researchers conceptualize it as being defined along three dimensions diplomatic relations, security policies, and economic/ trade policies, each of which represents particular means of exercising state power (Akampa, 2019). Studies analyzing bilateral relations and multilateral diplomacy focus primarily on treaty numbers and contents, high-level meetings, and regional forum membership as metrics of diplomatic policy (Kiprotich & Onyango, 2023). The security policy metric employs factors such as peacekeeping troops numbers, mediations performed, and border cooperation as proxies for a state's security

policy (Akol, 2023). Economic policies, meanwhile, are usually measured through trade treaties, investment flows, and changes in trade volumes, and scholars interpret them as consequences of foreign policy decisions affecting economic stability (Tigatoola, 2022).

From existing literature, one learns that there is no universal measurement for foreign policies since the latter can be determined by the influence of other parties, use of infrastructure through diplomacy, and internal politics, among others (Otele, 2020). From the cases of inter-state conflicts at the border, refugees moving across borders, and border crimes, it is clear that structural elements like lack of strong structures and disputed boundaries play their part in influencing the conduct of foreign policies towards regional outcomes (Semwogerere, 2022). From recent findings on the impact of populist foreign policy, it emerges that the manner in which leaders approach issues and political rhetoric plays significant roles in influencing policy conduct and perceptions in regions (Abaho, 2023)

2.1.2 Regional stability

The condition of regional stability is most often recognized as that in which nations in a particular area experience sustainable peace, political stability, and socio-economic security; however, there are disagreements among scholars concerning what defines the core of regional stability. For example, regional stability within the EAC, characterized by the lack of border conflicts between states and successful regional integration process, is defined by Mulindwa (2020); on the other hand, effective conflict resolution mechanisms in the context of fragile regions like North Kivu, which belong to the DRC territory, define regional stability, as stated by Armande (2023). Interestingly, according to Semwogerere (2022), the issue of regional stability is located much further down the road – namely, it can be traced to the capability of nations, including Uganda, to handle the flow of refugees that arise due to the political situation in other countries.

Another academic discourse discusses regional stability from an economic perspective, where regional integration, trade, and prosperity act as elements that stabilize. In the first case, according to Ejones et al. (2021), regional integration contributes positively to economic growth while decreasing the level of economic instability due to interdependence. Meanwhile, Mgale et al. (2024) point to comparative advantage in trading goods, such as food, as a way of achieving economic stability in the EAC region. Nevertheless, Abdullahi and Goomeey (2025) claim that despite the potential of Somalia becoming integrated into the EAC region, this integration reveals

structural inequalities that may result in conflict if handled carelessly. This shows that despite economic collaboration playing a central role in achieving stability, the benefits of trade may work against stability.

Apart from conflict and economic stability, there are also other considerations that the scholars of the region make when discussing regional stability, such as security governance and institutional resilience. According to Lisakafu (2020), bordering police collaboration is essential to the control of transnational criminal activities that threaten the peace in the region. Equally, Abukar (2024) illustrates how the refugees in Uganda enjoy the social stability that comes from the ability to evaluate humanitarian aid and social integration despite limited financing. In the same vein, Okello (2025) discusses the sovereignty theory, where military interventions by foreign forces into the conflicts like the DRC's M23 insurrection are a result of the balance between international and state security interests, thereby determining regional stability in a positive or negative way depending on their legitimacy. Overall, from the books, it is clear that regional stability is multi-dimensional.

2.2 Empirical review of the study objectives

2.2.1 Impact of diplomatic engagement on regional stability

In the research conducted by Kiprotich & Onyango (2023), it is evident that through the use of diplomacy in terms of making frequent bilateral visits and agreeing on treaties between each other, there can be increased levels of trust, hence reducing tensions between countries in the EAC. According to another research carried out by Uwingeneye and Gitahi (2023), multilateral diplomacy in terms of being members of the platforms of the EAC helps in harmonizing policies and setting up procedures for resolving disputes.

According to Mawa et al., 2023, the role of signals and leadership is such that it helps determine the interpretation of intent of the partner countries, meaning that the diplomatic interactions of leaders who have credibility and consistency will minimize the possibility of misinterpretation and escalation. Akol, 2023 has highlighted the role of Uganda's shuttle diplomacy and mediated peace with South Sudan, which helped localize the conflict, and humanitarian channels were opened immediately. It can be said that diplomacy not only involves treaties but also continuous high-intensity diplomacy to establish trust between EAC nations.

According to Tigatoola (2022), diplomatic involvement aimed at promoting trade facilitation and the negotiation of trade regulations for the EAC region provides economic stability through cost reductions and improved regional market access. Similarly, another study conducted by Lwesya (2022) shows that diplomatic engagement focused on the integration of value chains and coordinating standards leads to investments, reducing grievances that may be harnessed to create instability. Therefore, based on the findings above, it can be concluded that effective diplomatic efforts are an economic stabilizing factor as long as diplomatic involvement is able to convert political commitment into tangible trade and investment.

Krantz (2025) hints at how the involvement of diplomatic relations between external parties and development actors, if harnessed by regional diplomacy, can help build up resources necessary to prevent and rebuild after conflicts hence increasing regional stability. Mgale et al. (2024) have also carried out a study and found that diplomatic means used to negotiate cross-border management of resources such as food trade reduce social tensions among bordering communities. Overall, the two research findings show that diplomatic involvement linking foreign aid with regional and local resource management helps reduce security and social factors of instability.

According to Abukar (2024), the diplomatic approach relying on burden sharing and refugee protection strategies can help maintain stability in the host nations, along with preventing social tensions arising due to the influx of refugees. The study carried out by Ejones et al. (2021) indicates that the diplomatic approach, which includes security cooperation through policing and judicial cooperation, helps reduce transnational crimes, enhances border security, and consequently helps maintain security within the region. This shows that diplomatic approaches, especially if they incorporate various dimensions such as politics, economics, society, and security, significantly contribute to regional stability in EAC.

2.2.2 Contribution of security policy in achieving regional stability

As shown by Semwogerere (2022) in his research, strong security is important to mitigate the destabilization impacts that come with having a large number of refugees in a certain region because the lack of security will only exacerbate the already existing problems by placing an additional burden on the community. In another study conducted by Armande (2023), it is shown

that poor cross-border security in conflict regions such as North Kivu allows for armed elements to capitalize on open borders to create regional instability from local instabilities.

Nsubuga (2022) examines the shortcomings of financial institutions and concludes that security policy failures can cause economic instability to undermine regional economies and cross-border banking operations. This is similar to the case presented by Abdullahi and Goomeey (2025), who provide evidence that the creation of economic corridors by creating secure environments through security policies is undermined by insecurity. Therefore, it can be inferred from all these works that it is important to create general security policies that guarantee economic security.

In his study on cross-border military intervention, Okello (2025) demonstrates that security policies guided by legal legitimacy and regional collaboration make unilateral force initiation of larger-scale conflicts less likely. Armande (2023) reveals that negotiated ceasefires and security arrangements create less risk of violence repetition and open up space for political discussion if they occur in regional contexts. All these facts suggest that in order to ensure security, appropriate use-of-force policies have to be complemented by multilateral security arrangements, thus transforming military engagement into long-term security gains.

The issue of social element of security policy has been examined in Semwogerere (2022), who demonstrates that local grievances, which usually motivate armed group recruitment, can be alleviated by community-level policing and protection programs. The research by Nsubuga (2022) shows that development of rule-of-law organizations and cross-border legal collaboration increases accountability for transborder crimes. In this way, security policy includes military engagement alongside with rule-of-law and policing issues, which lead to regional stability.

In Abdullahi and Goomeey's (2025) study, there is emphasis on the need for security policies to be coupled with diplomatic and development policies for them to be able to deal with the underlying factors leading to insecurity such as marginalization and exclusion. In another study conducted by Okello (2025), he states that security policies ignoring international and regional laws may delegitimize intervention, thus facing opposition from foreign countries, which may undo the efforts made towards achieving stability. These studies complement each other in meaning and suggest that a comprehensive approach to security policies is more desirable in ensuring regional stability in the EAC.

2.2.3 Impact of economic/trade policy on regional stability

According to the research by Kiprotich and Onyango (2023), deliberate efforts made by the state in terms of a security-based foreign policy, including security dialogue, security visits, and others in pursuit of building mutual trust, have helped avoid misunderstanding that may have escalated to inter-state disputes in the East African Community. In another study by Ejones et al. (2021), it has been shown empirically that institutionalised security systems between neighbours increase the investors' confidence and build economic resilience, thus reducing the likelihood of economic shocks due to the outbreak of conflicts. All in all, it can be assumed that institutionalised security measures, including security committees and a regional intelligence system used by the East African Community, serve a preventive function towards regional stability.

Tigatoola (2022) illustrates that security-related disruptions to transport networks negatively impact the level of trade between EAC nations, while security policies for transport networks can facilitate trade and safeguard border societies from economic risks. This is evident from the empirical evidence produced by Mgale et al. (2024), indicating that efficient cross-border trade of vital food commodities is contingent upon effective security conditions that arise from harmonized border regulations and conflict resolution policies. These two research articles, thus, reveal that security policy is an essential component in fostering economic stability, as it guarantees infrastructural security that serves as the foundation for integration and sustainable livelihoods among the member countries.

As explained by Akol (2023), Uganda's diplomacy in security through mediation, inter-state joint patrols, and peace-making efforts within neighboring nation South Sudan have led to mitigation of internal violence and facilitated humanitarian access, hence increasing social integration of the communities living around border areas. A similar study by Abaho (2023) highlights leadership and contexts where security policy when combined with political inclusion leads to legitimacy of security measures and reduces recruitment of individuals into armed forces, thus increasing social stability in EAC. It can be concluded from the two findings that a combination of security policy that incorporates protection, mediation, and politics is capable of reducing not only current challenges but even the social reasons behind them.

The contribution from Uwingenye and Gitahi (2023) draws attention to the role of institutions in security policies and illustrates how conflict prevention mechanisms and cooperation within EAC

improve crisis management capacities, thereby minimizing autonomous actions that may result in escalation. In another article, Lwesya (2022) claims that integration between security policies and economic governance policies, e.g., coordination of borders and customs control, minimizes conflicts and increases security of international trade transactions. Synthesizing the articles reviewed in the current literature, one may conclude that security policies should be implemented through regional institutions and should be integrated into economic governance practices for maximizing their impact on regional stability.

According to Krantz (2025), cooperation with external partners and carefully organized security assistance will increase twice the regional capacity to recover after conflicts and to prevent new ones if provided through regional institutions and not bilateral agreements. The article contributed by Mawa et al. (2023) further explains that the effectiveness of security policies depends on leadership choices because these policies may appear predatory in certain settings while being effective in others. Thus, clearly stated and responsible security policies maximize their legitimacy.

2.3 Research/ Literature Gap

These gaps become clear from the literature reviewed in this empirical study. Even though researchers have agreed that stability in the EAC region results from the diplomacy, security and economic or trade policies of countries in the region, most of the researches carried out in isolation of other policies that contribute to stability within the region, and the role they play when integrated together remains unexplored. Furthermore, while most of the literature centers on state-based or institutional mechanisms, the grassroots mechanisms remain ignored, even though they contribute to regional stability and cooperation. One of the gaps in the literature is that even though scholars recognize the importance of economic integration in promoting trade, little attention is paid to how such processes create structural imbalances which affect stability in the region.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an explanation of the research approach used. It discusses the method by which this research was conducted. This includes such factors as the sample size, research population and research design. Furthermore, this chapter talks about the variables description, sampling technique, research instruments, data management and analysis, ethical considerations and research limitations.

3.2 Research design

A cross-sectional survey research design was used in this study. This is a research design where the data from the subjects was only collected once and there were no follow-ups (Maier et al., 2023). It was appropriate to use this method since it provided an effective way through which the researcher would investigate the relationship between foreign policy and regional stability in the East African Community within limited time and resources.

Further, in this study, a mixed-methodology approach was applied, whereby quantitative and qualitative methodologies were combined to get an in-depth understanding of the issue under consideration. On the quantitative methodology part, fixed questionnaires were used for data collection among the selected employees in the lower levels of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Quantitative data was collected to aid statistical analysis of the effect of all the elements of the country's foreign policy – the diplomatic relations, security policy and trade policy – on some of the major elements of regional stability, that is, peace, security, economic cooperation and social cohesion (Fischer et al., 2023).

The qualitative dimension added to the quantitative data in the study in terms of giving further information on the context-related factors contributing to the issues of regional stability. Semi-structured interviews were conducted among the key informants that include top management of the ministry such as the minister, state minister and departmental heads. Interviews gave information about the practices of foreign policy making, implementation and perception among the regional countries. Further, challenges affecting diplomatic, security and economic/trade

policies management and their impact on regional stability within the East African Community were determined (Wieland et al., 2024).

3.3 Study area and population

The research was done at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Plot 2A/B Apollo Kaggwa Road, PO box 7048, Kampala, Uganda. It is the major Government Department involved in formulation and implementation of the foreign policies of Uganda and thus it is an important place to conduct research concerning Uganda's contribution towards maintaining the regional stability in the East African community. The study sample includes the top management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the lower level employees.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs HRM records (2025), there are around 200 employees from the different departments in the ministry which include; Regional Peace and Security, International Political Affairs, International Law, Regional Economic Cooperation, International Economic Cooperation, Diaspora Services, Public Diplomacy, Protocol, Consular Services, Finance and Administration, and Internal Audit. In addition, the top management of the ministry consists of; the minister, state minister and heads of department totaling to seven and participated in the study as key informants.

3.4 Sample Size Determination

Sample size means a portion of a larger population used in conducting a survey (Althubaiti, 2023). Sample sizes were determined through the use of Slovin's formula (1960) as below:

“n” is sample size, “N” is population, “e” is error (0.05) or level of confidence 95%

“N” (population) = 200 lower-level employees of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

n = 133 lower-level employees working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Consequently, the number of respondents used for this research comprised 133 junior employees drawn from various departments within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Besides, the research involved seven key informants who include the management of the ministry such as the Minister, State Minister, and departmental heads. This is illustrated below in Table 1.

Table 1: Target Population, Size and Selection

Category of Respondents	Population	Sample size	Sampling Techniques
Employees in the Ministry	200	133	Simple random sampling
Top management of the Ministry	7	7	Purposive sampling
Total	207	140	

Source: *Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2025)*

3.5 Sampling methods

The current research adopted two sampling techniques. The first technique included simple random sampling. This was used to choose 133 low-rank workers from among 200 workers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As per the method, all eligible individuals have an equal probability of being chosen; therefore, bias is avoided and there is maximum representation in the sample (Rahman et al., 2022). This entails obtaining a masterlist of workers in different departments from the human resource office, after which random sampling was done using randomly generated numbers or lotteries.

On the other hand, purposive sampling was used in the selection of 7 key sources in the senior management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, namely, the minister, state minister, as well as departmental heads. Purposive sampling is appropriate when choosing knowledgeable sources who can offer elaborate explanations of a certain topic; in this case, this sampling will help describe Uganda's foreign policy practice and influence regional stability in East Africa (Campbell et al., 2020).

3.6 Data sources

Both primary and secondary data were utilized in the course of undertaking this research project.

Primary data: Primary data was gathered from the respondents themselves through the use of self-administered questionnaires and interviews. This type of data was an expression of the opinions held by the chosen subjects on the topic under investigation. It was the researcher who personally gathered primary data, employing interviewing techniques and questionnaire instruments appropriate to the research purposes.

Secondary data: Secondary data was acquired from sources of information like journal publications, books, institutional reports, and policies that were pertinent to the research.

3.7 Data collection instruments

3.7.1 Questionnaires

The questionnaire was the main technique used in collecting quantitative data from employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that had been selected as participants in the study. There were close-ended and structured questions because there was a need to ascertain the view held by the employees about the contribution of Uganda's foreign policy to the stability of the East African Community. The questions addressed areas related to the objectives of the study, which included diplomacy, security policies, and economic policies as means of fostering peace, integration, and socio-economic cooperation within the region. Opinions were recorded using a five-point Likert scale (5 = Strongly Agree to 1 = Strongly Disagree) (Ikart, 2019).

3.7.2 Key informant interview guide

The use of key informant interview guide was adopted by the researcher in the acquisition of qualitative data whereby he/she conducted interviews with the senior management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that consisted of the Minister, State Minister, and heads of the departments. These were open-ended questions revolving around issues relating to the roles of Uganda in conflict mediation, conflict resolution, regional integration, and economic cooperation and their impact on the stabilization process in the region. Through such interviews, the researcher was able to get deeper insights into the foreign policy implementation of Uganda, challenges faced, and the managerial perspectives, among others (Taherdoost, 2021).

3.8 Validity and reliability of data collection instruments

3.8.1 Validity for quantitative research

Validity was determined to check whether the questions were effective in capturing the right information from the participants (Sürücü & Maslakçi, 2020). Experts analyzed the questions in order to examine whether they were capturing the data effectively. The content validity index (CVI) was calculated to measure the validity of the research tool. The CVI was found to be 0.81 which was higher than the recommended score of 0.70, thus implying that the tool was effective in data gathering.

3.8.2 Reliability for quantitative research

Reliability refers to how dependable, stable, and consistent a piece of research is, that is, its capacity to have its results reliably reproduced by others. It was established through measuring the internal reliability of the test via the coefficient alpha using a pilot test of 10 respondents. The SPSS statistical package was used in calculating the test's reliability. The coefficient alpha was calculated using the below formula. It was discovered to be 0.83, which was higher than the required .70

3.8.3. Validity and Reliability of Qualitative Research Data

Interviews conducted with the senior management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with key informants, formed the basis for the validity of qualitative data for this research, and analyses were done promptly to extract meaningful and realistic information from them (Coleman, 2022). Interviewees had the chance to evaluate the results to ensure the authenticity of their views reflected in the findings, while feedback was obtained from the research supervisor for credibility purposes. However, the time frame did not permit repeating the research to ascertain reliability; therefore, reliability had to be ensured by recording the entire process of interviews and thematic coding methodically (Hayashi et al., 2019).

3.9 Procedure of data collection

After successfully defending the research proposal, the researcher was given a letter of introduction by the School of Social Sciences of Uganda Christian University. This letter was used to approach the Management of Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting permission to carry out the study. Upon obtaining permission, the researcher then used structured questionnaires on consenting Ministry of Foreign Affairs personnel. Data collection was only carried out after receiving their consent.

3.10 Data analysis

3.10.1 Analysis of Quantitative Data

Quantitative data collected from the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for this study has been analyzed using SPSS version 20 as it has proved reliable and is commonly used in statistical analysis (Jopling, 2019). Summary statistics such as mean, frequency, and percentage gave a view of how the staff responded to the foreign policies in place and how they enhance the stability of the region (Ali, 2020). Moreover, correlation and regression analysis techniques have been adopted

to establish the relationship between foreign policy activities and the measures of regional stability like peacekeeping efficiency and economic integration (Pentang & Pentang, 2021). The survey data was checked to make sure that responses were accurate. Coding process involved assigning numbers to the survey responses and classifying them into substantive categories (Skinner, 2020).

3.10.2 Qualitative data analysis

The data gathered from interviews with the top management and key informants at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was analyzed through thematic analysis as proposed by Creswell (2007). Verbatim transcription was conducted for the interviews recorded using an audiotape and then data was coded in themes related to diplomacy, security policy, economic and trade policy, and their implications for the stability of the East African Community (Jackson et al., 2019). The thematic classification facilitated the identification of trends, issues, and good practices involved in implementing the country's foreign policy. There were some verbatim quotations that were presented to highlight important findings, offering insight into the manager's views on the manner in which these policies ensure peace, integration, and socio-economic stability in the region (Ruggiano & Perry, 2019).

3.11 Ethical consideration

Ethical issues were taken into consideration during the research. Personal data was secured in an encrypted database and kept strictly confidential, only being used for scientific purposes in line with the laws governing privacy (Chervenak & McCullough, 2021). Written informed consent was gathered from all individuals, with clear details on the objectives, methods, and possible dangers of the study provided and signed consent forms completed (Skinner, 2020). The participants' anonymity was ensured by stripping away or encoding any identifying information to ensure it does not appear in the final report (Pietilä et al., 2020).

Additionally, the confidentiality of the information was maintained by limiting access to the data and using aggregated or anonymized data when releasing any information. Plagiarism was prevented by appropriately citing all sources, and if directly quoting someone else's words, indicating the author's name (Ruggiano & Perry, 2019).

3.12 Limitations and delimitations of the study

Firstly, some of the respondents were reluctant to supply information out of fear of whether the information collected will be used for a good cause. However, this problem was sorted out due to the researcher's positive image in the research context, which is considered a learning institution, and also securing an introduction letter from the University.

Secondly, there was a lack of funds required in the process of conducting the research, such as paying incentives to the respondents, costs of printing materials, and even transport costs to the institution to collect data. However, the researcher utilized self-driven initiatives to raise funds from the family.

Lastly, some respondents took much time to submit the questionnaires, causing the researcher to deviate from the target date set for analyzing the research. To solve this, the researcher gave more questionnaires than the target and filled the gaps for those who submitted their questionnaires late.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

The following chapter highlights and discusses the findings of the analyses conducted in order to examine the set objectives of the research in light of the reviewed literature. The research findings have been conducted via questionnaires targeting lower level employees from different departments within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as key informant interviews involving top level management officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the minister, state minister, and departmental heads. The findings are then represented in the form of tables for ease of understanding.

4.2 Response rate

Table 2: Response rate for questionnaires

Response Rate	Sample Size	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Received	120	90.2%
Non Response	13	9.8%
Expected Response	133	100.0%

Source: *Primary data*

From Table 2 above, it is evident that the number of respondents who are lower level employees from various departments within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was supposed to be 133 (100%), while the number that actually responded was 120 (90.2%). This leaves 13 (9.8%) who did not respond to the questionnaires. From Ahuja (2009), a response rate of 70% is excellent, 60% is good, while 50% is adequate. Therefore, a response rate of 90.2% could be said to be adequate and reliable enough for conducting the study. The reasons for failure to collect data from one of the respondents is because of limited time to conduct the data collection exercise due to the impending submission deadline of the dissertation.

4.3 Findings on demographic characteristics of respondents

The demographic characteristics of respondents sought background information of the samples, which have been highlighted below based on; gender, age, educational level and the period spent working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Table 3: Descriptive statistics on the bio data of respondents

Item	Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	68	56.7
	Female	52	43.3
	Total	120	100.0
Age	21-30 years	36	30.0
	31-40 years	40	33.3
	41-50 years	27	22.5
	Above 50 years	17	14.2
	Total	120	100.0
Education level	Bachelor's degree	65	54.2
	Master's degree	26	21.7
	Others	29	24.2
	Total	120	100.0
Period spent working in the Ministry	Less than 1 year	7	5.8
	1-5 years	39	32.5
	6-10 years	44	36.7
	Above 10 years	30	25.0
	Total	120	100.0

Source: *Primary data*

Based on table 3 above, the results show that most of the respondents were males, which made 56.7% and female respondents made 43.3 percent of the total sample. This means that male workers were more represented in the research than their female counterparts, but the fairly high percentage of females also indicates that there was significant female representation in the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs Uganda. This study involved male and female so that it would be possible to produce reliable and valid information using diverse respondents.

Regarding the age distribution, the respondents aged between 31 and 40 years represented the highest population of 33.3 and those aged between 21 and 30 years represented 30.0. The age group of 41 to 50 years had the highest percentage of 22.5 with those above 50 years having the lowest percentage of 14.2. It is revealed by this distribution that most of the respondents were in the economically active and professionally productive age brackets. It also indicates that age discrimination does not exist in the Ministry when providing employment opportunities as the respondents belonged to various age groups.

When it comes to education, the highest percentage of 54.2 was occupied by those with a Bachelor degree and the second category of 24.2 was occupied by others with qualifications such as post graduate diplomas, ACCA, CPA and CIPS among others. The last category of 21.7 was occupied by those with a Masters degree. This shows that majority of the respondents had undergraduate level education and above and this indicates a fairly educated labour force within the Ministry. It also means that the respondents could easily comprehend the questionnaires to respond to the questionnaires given that they have received high levels of educations.

Finally, with regards to work experience, the highest percentage of 36.7 were employed in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and served 6 or 10 years, and the next respondents served 1 or 5 years, which is 32.5. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs employees who have served over 10 years made 25.0% and those who have served less than 1 year made the least at 5.8%. This indicates that most of the respondents had a significant experience of working in the Ministry and thus were able to give informed and dependable answers to the study.

Impact of Diplomatic Engagement on Regional Stability in the EAC

Table 4 presents the findings on the impact of diplomatic engagement on regional stability in the EAC based on the Likert Scale; SA= Strongly Agree, A= Agree, NS = Not Sure, D= Disagree, and SD = Strongly Disagree.

Table 4: Impact of diplomatic engagement on regional stability in EAC

Statements	Extent of agreement and disagreement				
	SA	A	NS	D	SDA
	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)
Uganda's diplomatic engagement with other EAC member states has contributed to peaceful relations within the region.	32 26.7%	55 45.8%	00	22 18.3%	11 9.2%
Bilateral and multilateral diplomatic dialogues initiated by Uganda help prevent and resolve regional conflicts.	35 29.2%	35 29.2%	15 12.5%	23 19.2%	12 10.0%
Uganda's participation in EAC diplomatic forums strengthens cooperation and mutual trust among member states.	44 36.7%	55 45.8%	00	21 17.5%	00
Diplomatic negotiations led by Uganda promote political stability within the East African region.	50 41.7%	32 26.7%	00	20 16.7%	18 15.0%
Uganda's foreign missions in EAC countries play a significant role in maintaining regional peace and stability.	44 36.7%	44 36.7%	00	32 26.7%	00
Effective diplomatic communication by Uganda enhances collective decision-making within the EAC.	54 45.0%	46 38.3%	00	20 16.7%	00

Source: *Primary data*

Table 4 is a table that shows the descriptive statistics of the effect that diplomatic engagement has on the stability of the region in the EAC. The study shows that most of the respondents who were represented by 72.5% concurred that Uganda and its diplomatic relations with other EAC member states have helped in maintaining peaceful relations within the region whilst 27.5% of the respondents opposed to the statement. It means that diplomatic activities of Uganda are mostly seen as the key to establishing peace between the EAC states, and it means that the continuous development of diplomatic relations is the only way to ensure the peaceful relations between the states and avoid the tensions in the region.

The results also indicated that bilateral and multilateral diplomatic dialogues initiated by Uganda are effective in preventing and solving regional conflicts as 58.4 percent of the respondents agreed, and 29.2 percent of the respondents disagreed and 12.5 percent were not certain about the statement. It can be interpreted that despite majority recognizing the significance of Uganda diplomatic dialogues in conflict management, a significant number of the respondents are not convinced or doubtful about the diplomatic dialogues, thus, there is a need to make them more visible and efficient to boost their confidence in the success of the conflict-resolution efforts.

In addition, the findings indicated that 82.5 percent of the respondents concurred that the attendance of Uganda in the EAC diplomatic forums enhances cooperation and mutual trust among the member states whereas 17.5 percent of the respondents differed. This shows that there is a high level of agreement that active participation of Uganda in regional forums improves cooperation and strengthening of trust, which means that further participation in EAC diplomatic forums is essential to strengthen regional cohesion and stability in the long term.

More to the point, the results determined that 68.4% of the respondents held the view that diplomatic negotiations that Uganda conducts facilitates political stability in the East African region, and 31.7% of the respondents rejected the claim. This means that the diplomatic negotiations have tendencies to be considered effective in the promotion of political stability, though there is some scepticism, meaning that there should be more inclusive and transparent negotiation processes in the view of the differing perceptions among stakeholders.

Moreover, it was found that 73.4 percent of the respondents concurred that the foreign missions by Uganda through the EAC countries contribute to the peace and stability of the region, yet 26.7 percent of the respondents did not agree. This puts emphasis on the perceived significance of the diplomatic missions of Uganda as frontline players in the maintenance of peace and this implies that increasing the resources and personnel of the foreign missions to an adequate level would further increase their contribution towards maintaining stability in the region.

Finally, the findings showed that 83.3% of the respondents contended that efficient diplomatic communication by Uganda improves collective decision-making in the EAC, and 16.7% of the respondents opposed. This highlights the importance of efficient and effective communication in achieving regional decisions and this means that the diplomatic communications strategies in

Uganda play a critical role in ensuring that consensus-building and collective action are encouraged in the EAC context.

On the whole, the results suggest that diplomatic involvement plays an important role to attain regional stability within the East African Community as most of the respondents concurred in all the statements. This proves that the diplomatic efforts by the Uganda government in dialogue, negotiations, foreign missions and at EAC forums have significant roles to play in enhancing peace, cooperation, and collective governance to strengthen regional stability within the EAC.

4.4.1 Diplomacy and Stability within the EAC Region

In the process of interviewing the key managers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the Minister, State Minister, and heads of departments, their views were sought regarding the impact of Uganda's diplomacy with EAC members on the sustainability of peace and stability within the region. The responses obtained included the following:

The key informants disclosed that diplomatic relations between Uganda and EAC member states have played a major role in ensuring peace and stability in the country largely due to the ongoing diplomatic dialogue between the two countries. They described how Uganda interacts with partner states on a regular basis through bilateral meetings, joint commissions, and regional forums, which give them chances to air sensitive political and security issues freely. The respondents believe that this has been maintained communication and thus enabled them to avoid misunderstandings, political tensions and peaceful coexistence among member states. They highlighted that through dialogue, possible conflicts have been identified early and consensus has been built thus ensuring a stable regional environment.

The respondents also observed that the Uganda diplomacy was instrumental in mediating conflicts in the East African region. They articulated that Uganda has been able to intervene with its diplomatic powers to enable parties at dispute to negotiate and promote peaceful solutions. The respondents noted that the Ugandan neutral and consultative policy has increased its effectiveness in credibility as a mediator and thus they have been in a position to play a significant role in solving the disputes in the region. This mediation role, they contributed has been able to contain the conflicts and minimize their effects, thereby reinforcing peace and stability in the region.

Another issue that the respondents pointed out was the diplomatic involvement of Uganda which has played a critical role in establishing trust between the member states of the EAC. They described how in the process of regular attendance of EAC meetings and keeping to the agreed regional commitments, Uganda has been able to build confidence and mutual respect among partner states. The respondents assert that diplomacy has led to the establishment of trust, which has enhanced collaboration in political and security-related issues, and countries can now easily collaborate even when tensions are high. This kind of trust building process has been found to be a key factor in ensuring that the region maintains long term peace and stability.

Finally, the respondents described that the diplomatic work of Uganda has enhanced the cooperation of the region among the EAC, which has impacted positively the peace and stability. They observed that Uganda is an active supporter of collective decision-making and advancement of shared regional interests using the diplomatic approaches. Uganda has helped the region to be more cohesive in addressing shared problems by promoting cooperation instead of acting alone. The respondents stressed that this cooperation has strengthened the ability of the EAC to deal with the challenges facing the region in a peaceful manner, hence contributing to the stability at large. The following were some of the key informants,...Uganda is able to maintain a stable diplomatic contact, which ensures that the issues related to the region are openly discussed and resolved peacefully before they deteriorate.....The point of dialogue and cooperation in the EAC has contributed to the building of trust among the member states, a key element in ensuring peace and stability in the region, as the country of Uganda has demonstrated its commitment to the process...

“.....Through regular diplomatic engagement, Uganda ensures that issues affecting the region are discussed openly and resolved peacefully before they escalate.....” **Key informant 1**

“.....Uganda’s commitment to dialogue and cooperation within the EAC has helped to build trust among member states, which is essential for maintaining regional peace and stability.....” **Key informant 2**

4.5 Security policy's role in the realization of regional stability in the EAC

The table below provides an analysis of the role played by security policy in realizing regional stability in the East African Community according to respondents' answers on a five-point Likert scale ranging from "SA" (strongly agree) to "SD" (strongly disagree).

Table 5: Contribution of security policy in achieving regional stability in the EAC

Statements	Extent of agreement and disagreement				
	SA	A	NS	D	SDA
	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)
Uganda's security policies contribute to joint efforts aimed at combating cross-border insecurity in the EAC.	53 44.2%	42 35.0%	00	25 20.8%	00
Regional security cooperation involving Uganda has reduced threats such as terrorism and armed conflict.	60 50.0%	36 30%	00	24 20.0%	00
Uganda's participation in regional peacekeeping initiatives enhances stability in the EAC.	49 40.8%	53 44.2%	00	18 15.0%	00
Intelligence sharing between Uganda and other EAC member states strengthens regional security.	44 36.7%	54 45.0%	00	22 18.3%	00
Uganda's defense and security collaborations promote collective responses to regional security challenges.	32 26.7%	57 47.5%	00	20 16.7%	11 9.2%
Security agreements involving Uganda help maintain law, order, and stability across EAC borders.	48 40.0%	52 43.3%	00	20 16.7%	00

Source: *Primary data*

Table 5 is a description of the contribution of security policy towards the attainment of regional stability of the EAC. The majority of the respondents that 79.2% present in the study said that the security policies of Uganda have contributed to collective efforts to combat cross-border insecurity in the EAC, and 20.8% were not in agreement with the statement. This means that the security policies of Uganda are mainly perceived to work in dealing with cross-border security challenges and this means that concerted security measures are necessary to deal with common security problems and increase the stability of the region.

It was also found that 80.0 percent of the respondents accepted the fact that the regional security cooperation with Uganda has minimized various threats like terrorism and armed conflict, whereas 20.0 percent of the respondents rejected this fact. This indicates that regional security cooperation involving Uganda is largely perceived to have a significant influence in preventing the occurrence of the significant security threats, and thus, it is important to note that long-term cooperation between the member states of the EAC is vital in preventing the occurrence of terrorism and armed violence in the region.

In addition, the findings revealed that 85.0% of the respondents believed that the involvement of Uganda in regional peacekeeping operations improves the stability of the EAC, and 15.0% of the respondents did not agree. This shows that Uganda plays a strong role in the peacekeeping process and thus further contribution to the sustenance of peace and deterrence of worsening conflicts in East Africa is made by having the Uganda remain involved in the regional peacekeeping processes.

More so, the results determined that 81.7 percent of the respondents believed that intelligence sharing between Uganda and other EAC member states enhances regional security whereas 18.3 percent of the respondents did not agree. This underscores the significance of intelligence collaboration in the prevention and action against security threats and this means that efficient information sharing systems are critical to proactive and coordinated security management of the region.

Moreover, the results also depicted that 74.2 percent of the respondents concurred that defence and security partnerships in Uganda enhance joint effort in addressing security issues in the region, compared to 25.9 percent of the respondents who did not concur with the arguments. This implies that majority acknowledged the importance of common defense efforts, but some issues still exist, which means that collaboration structures should be reinforced further so that collective security efforts are inclusive and effective.

Finally, the findings indicated that 83.3 percent of the respondents were in agreement that security agreements with Uganda assist in sustaining law, order and stability within the region of the EAC borders with 16.7 percent of the respondents disagreeing. This highlights the importance of formal security arrangements in maintaining regional order suggesting that such arrangements offer a systematic foundation of cooperation and enforcement which increases cross-border stability.

In general, the results show that security policy has a great impact on the East African Community, which is stable regionally as most of the respondents concurred with all the statements. This shows that security policies in Uganda involving joint operation, peacekeeping, exchange of intelligence and security agreements are at the center of enhancing collective security, mitigating threats, and ensuring long-term peace and stability in the EAC.

4.5.1 Policy on security and regional stability in the EAC

During the interviews with the senior management in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the Minister, the State Minister, and other department heads, their perceptions of the means through which the foreign and security policies of Uganda have promoted regional security cooperation in the EAC were sought, and they gave the following answers;

The respondents also reported that the security policy of Uganda has laid stress on the intelligence sharing as the main pillar of cooperation within the region. They clarified that Uganda works hand in hand with other states of the EAC in passing across security related information, especially on new security threats and cross-border criminal activities. They observed that this exchange has enhanced early warning systems and the ability of the regional actors to prevent and act appropriately in a timely and coordinated way in regards to security risks.

Another significant contribution to security cooperation noted by the respondents was the Uganda commitment to the various regional peacekeeping initiatives. They described that the Uganda role in peace support operations has strengthened the collective action towards stabilizing conflict prone regions within and to the outskirts of the EAC region. The respondents claimed that this involvement shows that Uganda is ready to take the security burdens of the region and other member states should follow suit by participating in the peace and security projects.

The respondents underscored that foreign and security policies of Uganda encourage cross-border cooperation in dealing with common security problems. They observed that Uganda promotes border patrols, joint training, and integration of security processes with the neighbors. According to them, this kind of cooperation has contributed to the de-escalation of tension along the border, curbing the flow of armed groups as well as the enhancement of trust between the security agencies involved in EAC.

The respondents also reported that Uganda has employed a similar strategy that combines diplomacy and security policy as a means of maintaining cooperation within the region. They clarified that diplomatic activities tend to be adopted to supplement security operations, and therefore, military and security undertakings are complemented with dialogue and political insights. The respondents state that this combined strategy has contributed to the legitimization of joint security operations and the preservation of cooperation among the EAC member states even at the time of increased tension. According to some of the key informants,

“.....Uganda’s security policies are designed to work hand in hand with our regional partners, ensuring that security challenges are addressed collectively rather than individually.....” **Key informant 3**

“.....By combining diplomacy with security cooperation, Uganda has been able to build trust and sustain effective regional security partnerships within the EAC.....” **Key informant 4**

4.6 Economic/Trade Policy Effect on Regional Stability in the EAC

Table 6 shows how the respondents answered about the economic/trade policy effect on regional stability in the EAC through a Likert scale with the following options: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Not Sure (NS), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD).

Table 6: Impact of economic/trade policy on regional stability in EAC

Statements	Extent of agreement and disagreement				
	SA	A	NS	D	SDA
	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)
Uganda's trade policies promote economic interdependence among EAC member states.	32 26.7%	55 45.8%	00	22 18.3%	11 9.2%
Economic cooperation spearheaded by Uganda contributes to reduced conflicts within the EAC region.	44 36.7%	55 45.8%	00	21 17.5%	00
Uganda's support for regional trade agreements enhances economic stability in East Africa.	50 41.7%	32 26.7%	00	20 16.7%	18 15.0%
Cross-border trade initiatives involving Uganda foster peaceful relations among EAC countries.	44 36.7%	44 36.7%	00	32 26.7%	00
Uganda's economic diplomacy strengthens regional integration and long-term stability.	33 27.5%	55 45.8%	00	22 18.3%	10 8.3%
Trade liberalization policies supported by Uganda contribute to shared economic growth within the EAC.	54 45.0%	46 38.3%	00	20 16.7%	00

Source: *Primary data*

Table 6 is the descriptive statistics of the contribution of the AIDS Information Centre in eliminating mental health challenges. Study revealed that most of the respondents who were represented by 72.5% affirmed that the trade policies in Uganda enhance economic interdependence between the EAC member states, whilst 27.5% of the respondents to the statement disagreed. This shows that the trade policies in Uganda have been viewed to a large percentage as promoting economic interdependence in the region suggesting that the more people interdepend, the less economic isolation will be experienced and the more cooperative relations will be formed to sustain the region in terms of stability.

The research also indicated that 82.5 percent of the respondents acknowledged that economic cooperation led by Uganda facilitates less conflicts in the EAC region as opposed to 17.5 percent of the respondents. It implies that economic cooperation is broadly perceived as a mechanism of

peace, and as a result, common economic interests and collective efforts can be used to reduce the tensions and prevent conflicts between EAC member states.

Moreover, the findings indicated that 68.4 percent of the respondents responded that the support of the Uganda in regional trade agreements has improved economic stability in East Africa, with 31.7 percent of the respondents responding to the contrary. This shows that most people are aware of the stabilizing effects of regional trade agreements meaning that the adherence of Uganda to regional trade agreements helps in ensuring that there is predictability in economic relations and the economic environment of the region is stable.

More than this, the research determined that 73.4% of the interviewees affirmed that cross-border trade programs in which Uganda is involved encourage peaceful relations among the EAC nations and 26.7% of the interviewees refuted these claims. This is an indication of how cross-border trade is important in facilitating interaction and cooperation between the neighboring states and thus the implication is that when trade connections are extended, diplomatic relationships are enhanced and the chances of conflicts are minimized.

Moreover, the results showed that 73.3% of the respondents affirmed the idea that the economic diplomacy of Uganda enhances the integration of the region and the long-term stability, and 26.6% of the respondents did not agree. This implies that the economic diplomacy of Uganda is viewed as playing an instrumental role in the integration process, and thus, the long-term diplomacy in economic affairs would strengthen the long-term regional unity and stability.

Finally, the findings indicated that 83.3 percent of the respondents affirmed that trade liberalization policies that are supported by Uganda help in the collective economic growth of the EAC, whereas 16.7 percent of the respondents denied this. This goes a long way to support the idea of the great power of trade liberalization as a force behind collective development, which means that open trade policy can contribute to common prosperity, which further promotes peace and stability in the area.

Generally, the results reveal that economic and trade policy is influential in attaining regional stability in East African Community as seen through most respondents who consented with all the statements. This demonstrates that economic diplomacy, trade liberalization and support of

regional cooperation in Uganda are factors that help to build economic interdependence, collective growth and less conflict hence strengthening long term stability of the regions in the EAC.

4.6.1 Economic/trade policy and regional stability in EAC.

Based on the interviews with the top management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs such as the Minister, State Minister and departmental heads, they were requested to give their opinion on how the economic and trade policy in Uganda has facilitated regional integration and stability in the EAC and their answers were as follows;

The key informants noted that the economic and trade policies in Uganda have led to economic interdependence among the member states of the EAC. They said that Uganda promotes interdependence among partner states through the adoption of trade facilitation measures, reduction of tariffs, and harmonized trade regulations. The respondents said that this interdependence provides incentives to co-operate peacefully because economic gains are strongly associated with the stability of a region and there is no incentive to engage in conflicts that may affect the movement of trade and investments.

The respondents also asserted that Uganda is an active participant and supporter of regional trade agreements which are at the center of bringing about economic integration in the EAC. They described that such agreements such as free trade agreements and customs union agreements offer a platform on which predictable trade practices are guaranteed, barriers are minimized and access to markets is improved. This assistance, they pointed out, builds confidence among the member states and makes economic relations productive towards long term stability in the region.

The respondents noted that the Uganda policies support cross-border trade initiatives that ensure that the private sectors in the EAC countries collaborate. They observed that these kinds of initiatives can assist in unifying the local economies, enhance trade, and develop interdependence between communities beyond the boundaries. According to them, such integration would lead to a lower chance of economic conflicts culminating into larger conflicts thus enhancing the long-term peace and integration in the region.

The respondents highlighted the fact that Uganda has been using economic diplomacy as an important instrument to promote regional integration. They reported that Uganda conducts bilateral and multilateral discussions with the aim of settling trade issues, negotiating investment

treaties and promoting collective economic initiatives. It is, they emphasised, a diplomatic strategy that makes economic policies consistent with the political ones to produce a stable environment under which regional cooperation can be achieved.

The respondents also noted that the policies of trade liberalization in Uganda contribute to the economic growth that is shared in the EAC. They clarified that open markets, open investment laws and regional development initiatives promote fair growth among member countries. Such policies will reduce the level of tensions and make the regional bloc stronger by ensuring prosperity and lessening economic inequalities. The following was what some of the key informants had to say,

“.....Uganda’s trade policies are designed not just to enhance our economy, but to ensure that economic growth benefits the entire East African region, promoting peace through shared prosperity.....” **Key informant 5**

“.....Through economic diplomacy and support for regional agreements, Uganda has been able to strengthen integration and build trust among EAC member states, which is critical for stability.....” **Key informant 6**

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1 Introduction

The discussion of findings in relation to the literature is contained in this chapter. It also recapsulates all findings reported in chapter four based on questions of the study, comes up with conclusions, recommendations as well as some areas where further study is suggested.

5.2 Summary of findings

The research results indicated that the diplomatic relations of Uganda with the EAC member states are important in ensuring peace and stability in the region. Uganda can prevent misunderstandings and political tensions through continuous dialogue through bilateral meetings, joint commissions and regional forums among member states, thus promoting peaceful coexistence. The country is also a good mediator of regional conflicts where it influences through its diplomatic power to promote negotiations and peaceful settlements which contains conflicts and minimize its spillover effect. Moreover, the regular attendance of meetings of the EAC and the compliance of Uganda with the regional obligations foster the confidence and respect of the members towards each other, and the cooperation in political and security affairs. Lastly, Uganda encourages regional cooperation and collective interests, strengthening regional cooperation and empowering the EAC to solve problems together. On the whole, these diplomatic efforts enhance consensus, cooperation, and conflict management which play a significant role in long-term stability of the region.

Moreover, the research results determined that the foreign and security policies of Uganda have contributed substantially to the cooperation of security in the region within the EAC. By being actively involved in collective security processes, Uganda will be in a position to align its national security interests with those of the region, and will establish a coordinated response to common security challenges, including terrorism, organized crime, and trans-boundary insecurity. Sharing of intelligence with other EAC member states would strengthen the system of early warning and also improve timely and collective response to security threats. The involvement of Uganda in peacekeeping activities in the region further encourages the stabilization processes in conflict prone regions, and cross-border cooperation in terms of joint patrols, training, and harmonized

operations fosters confidence in each other, and the elimination of tensions. Also, the combination of diplomatic activity and security policies guarantees that military interventions are supported by the dialogue and foster the legitimacy and long-term collaboration among the member states. All in all, the combination of these policies advances the security of the region, countering threats, and creating a stable environment in the long term in the EAC.

Finally, the results indicated that the Uganda economic and trade policies have been instrumental in ensuring that the EAC has become more integrated and stable. Uganda promotes economic interdependence among the member states through trade facilitation, tariff cuts and harmonized regulations, which provide incentives to cooperate peacefully and minimize risks of conflicts. The reason is that its aggressive promotion of regional trades such as free trade and custom union agreements has stability in trade practices, builds trust, and increases market access, which makes the economy stable. Trade activities across the borders also help in uniting the local economies and communities hence the possibility of conflicts arising to wider conflicts is reduced. More so, the economic diplomacy of Uganda, in terms of negotiating investment agreements and joint projects, links the economic policies with political ones to achieve collaboration, whereas trade liberalization policies contribute to the fair development of the region and its minimization of inequality, as well as strengthening the unity and stability of the region in the long term.

5.3.1 Effect of diplomatic participation on EAC regional stability.

5.3 Discussion of findings

5.3.1 Impact of diplomatic engagement on regional stability in EAC

The research results have shown that the long-term diplomatic involvement by dialogue, mediation, and active presence in EAC forums is a major contributor to the peace and stability of the region in Uganda. These results are connected with the literature that Kiprotich and Onyango (2023) determined that effective bilateral and multilateral diplomatic relations between EAC member states lead to better understanding of each other, less political tensions, and more cooperation in the region. In a similar fashion, Akol (2023) discovered that the bilateral diplomacy of Uganda especially in conflict prone situations has played a key role in ensuring harmonious co-existence and the alleviation of conflicts in the region. These findings are also supported by Krantz (2025) who maintains that the stability of the regional stability over time is maintained by the

regular participation in regional institutions that will create trust and uphold collective norms. Combined, these researches confirm that the Uganda interest in dialogue and institutional involvement is consistent with the wider scholarly considerations of diplomacy as a source of regional peace in the EAC.

The research results also indicated that the mediator and promoter role of Uganda in facilitating collective decision-making is a plus in controlling conflicts and improving cohesion in the region under the EAC. The findings are in line with the literature by Walsh (2020) who notes that Uganda has taken a strategic diplomatic stance and has been at the frontline of influencing the region security dynamics within the East Africa region by engaging and negotiating with others instead of acting unilaterally. The authors Uwingeneye and Gitahi (2023) also discovered that political cooperation and consensus-building processes in the EAC are crucial towards regional challenges being tackled in a unified manner, which supports the significance of collective decision-making. These results are however contrary to Mulindwa (2020) who points out that unresolved political disputes and consistent interstate border wars have remained to sabotage the region-building processes in the EAC, implying that diplomacy might not be enough to address tensions completely. This difference implies that the effectiveness of the diplomatic efforts by Uganda is limited to the fact that structural and historical issues continue to be limiting factors to overall stability in the region.

The research also found out that the commitment to regional obligations and the encouragement of common regional interests has strengthened levels of trust and cooperation between EAC member states, as a result of the adherence of Uganda to regional commitments. These results are connected with Akampa (2019), who noted that the successful execution of the foreign policy by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uganda contributes to credibility and strengthening the cooperation systems within the EAC. This opinion is also supported by Mawa et al. (2023), who observe that regional engagement and stability through collaboration have been influenced by leadership and contextual foreign policy decisions in Uganda. Conversely, Semwogerere (2022) and Okello (2025) indicate that the repetitive crises in the regions, such as the influx of refugees and cross-border military interventions, reveals shortcomings in diplomatic engagements and places pressure on the stability in the region. This opposition highlights the point that despite the fact that the diplomatic activities of Uganda play an important role in the peace of the region, it is

sometimes limited by the external shocks and other intricate regional security processes beyond its means.

5.3.2 Security policy contribution towards the realization of regional stability in EAC.

As demonstrated in the study, the national security priorities that are aligned to national security structures in Uganda contribute a lot to the coordination of response to common threats in the EAC. These results are connected to the literature of Abaho (2023), who claims that the foreign policy and the security policy orientation of Uganda is characterized by local responsibility and collective action, especially in the fight against transnational security issues. On the same note, Armande (2023) discovered that the existence of co-ordinated regional security structures in the EAC helps to contain and stabilize conflicts in volatile regions, and the shared security structures are worthwhile. Nonetheless, these results are opposite to those of Lisakafu (2020), who claims that operational and institutional issues like unequal capacity and lack of trust between security services usually sabotage the effectiveness of combined actions against cross-border crime despite the established security cooperation frameworks at the regional level. This implies that policy alignment in Uganda is effective but structural factors in the region could hamper the achievement of collective security objectives.

The research results also indicated that the key to enhancing early warning mechanisms and stabilizing conflict-prone regions in the EAC is intelligence sharing and peacekeeping involvement. These results are connected to the literature provided by Armande (2023), who outlines the importance of intelligence cooperation and peace support operations as the essential means of preventing the further development of the conflicts within the broader East African region. Moreover, as pointed out by Abukar (2024), active security participation in the region, such as the participation of Uganda in peacekeeping missions and refugee hosting situations will boost the security in the region by mitigating humanitarian spillover of conflicts and immediate threats. Conversely, according to Otele (2020), regional security priorities may be complicated by external geopolitical interests and infrastructure-based regionalism, occasionally taking the focus off of regionally-based intelligence and peacekeeping requirements. Such deviation suggests that although the security contribution of Uganda is high, the wider geopolitical dynamics can weaken the stabilizing effect of the security contribution.

The analysis results also demonstrated that the combination of diplomacy and security policies foster legitimacy, trust, and long-term collaboration between the members of the EAC. These results are consistent with the literature by Ejones et al. (2021), who stress the idea that regional stability is strengthened when the security cooperation is incorporated into the larger political and institutional integration patterns. The same argument Lwesya (2022) makes is that aligned regional practices, such as harmonizing their policies and engaging in discussions, provide the atmosphere of stability and unanimity. But in a different approach, Abdullahi and Goomeey (2025) observe that the effectiveness of integrated security-diplomacy approaches may be limited by divergent national interests and unequal integration experiences of EAC members. This implies that though the combination of diplomacy and security policy in Uganda has enhanced cooperation, differences in commitment and capacity among member states is a challenge to long-term regional security in EAC.

5.3.3 Effect of economic/trade policy on EAC regional stability.

The study conclusions set that the Uganda economic and trade policies enable regional integration and stability by promoting the economic interdependence through trade facilitation, lower tariffs and harmonized regulations. The literature relates to these results because Tigatoola (2022) defined that the outcomes of Uganda within the framework of EAC have enhanced the flows of trade and interdependence within the region, thereby strengthening the cooperation between the partner states. On the same note, Ejones et al. (2021) determined that greater integration in the region under the EAC is positively associated with economic growth which in turn leads to improved political stability through the balance of the economic interests of member states. These results are however contrary to those of Mulindwa (2020) who claims that regardless of the increasing economic interdependence, unresolved interstate border disputes and non-tariff barriers still hamper the stabilizing effects of regional trade implying that economic integration in itself might not be a full guarantee of sustained regional stability.

The research outcomes further revealed that integration of regional trade agreements and cross border trade initiatives in Uganda increases trust, market access and peaceful co-existence among the member states of the EAC. These findings can be related to the work by Uwingeneye and Gitahi (2023), who discovered that the process of regional integration, including trade agreements, raises the degree of political cooperation and trust among the EAC countries by institutionalizing

relationships and removing uncertainty about the economic relations. In addition, Mgale et al. (2024) emphasize the fact that comparative advantage-based trade in the EAC promotes beneficial outcomes and reduces economic rivalry, which would otherwise result in tensions. On the other hand, Nsubuga (2022) cites structural weaknesses in the EAC financial and banking systems where the economic instability in a single of the member states can be spread to other states and hence limit the extent to which the trade agreements can be applied to keep the region economically stable.

The findings of the research also revealed that the policies of economic diplomacy and trade liberalization in Uganda integrate economic objectives and political ones, enables the equitable growth, and reduces the differences within the region, which increases the stability in the long-term perspective. These findings can be linked to the literature by Lwesya (2022), who asserts that the integration in the regional and global value chains would have beneficial impacts on the economical upgrading and overall prosperity within the EAC that is necessary to sustain the long-term cohesion of the region. In the same manner, Abdullahi and Goomeey (2025) observe that the opportunities of inclusive growth and cooperation within the members of EAC can be achieved through structured economic integration and liberalized trade structures. However, Otele (2020) presents an alternative viewpoint and states that region-related infrastructure and external effects on the economy may generate asymmetries of advantages among member states and therefore may generate new forms of inequality, which can undermine solidarity. This implies that though the economic and trade policies in Uganda have a significant role to play in making sure that the region is stable, its long-term success will be pegged on the fair application of the integration and equal distribution of benefits to EAC.

5.4 Conclusion

In conclusion of this paper, diplomacy between Uganda and the EAC states is a highly essential pillar in the quest to have peace and stability in this region. The continuous diplomacy, mediation and participation in the forums has enabled Uganda to evade misunderstanding, tame political tensions and promote peaceful coexistence among the member states. The Uganda diplomacy will be based on the principles of trust, mutual respect, and collective decision making to increase the cooperation in the EAC and strengthen the capacity of the region to address ordinary problems in a peaceful and coordinated manner to support the long-term stability of the region.

Another conclusion that can be made by the paper is that Uganda has foreign and security policies that have led to the creation of regional security cooperation within the EAC. The national security priorities on the regional frameworks, sharing of intelligence, participation in peace keeping missions and cross-border security cooperation have been generally beneficial in dealing with common security threats. The legitimacy and extension of collective security measures through diplomacy and security have resulted into minimization of insecurity, improvement of early warning systems and collective response to the security threats that contributes to the stability and peace within the region.

Finally, the paper concludes that Uganda has economic and trade policies that enable regional integration and sustainable stability in EAC. Uganda has contributed to the growth of the economies of the member states, expansion of trust and minimization of the likelihood of a conflict between member states through the establishment of economic interdependence, the encouragement of regional trade agreements, encouragement of trade liberalization and economic diplomacy. These economical programs are strengthening the integration of the region, reduction of disparities, and complementing the diplomatic and security efforts which demonstrate that economic cooperation are an essential pillar in the East African Community towards the long-term peace and stability.

5.5 Recommendations

In line with the research findings, the subsequent suggestions have been identified to be necessary in reference to the relationship between foreign policy and regional stability in the East African Community (EAC) with a particular interest in examining the role of Uganda in fostering and maintaining regional stability.

The paper proposes that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Uganda should make sure that the current diplomatic dialogue with the member countries of EAC is strengthened and institutionalised by making sure that regular bilateral and multilateral deliberations are upheld as it will further prevent misunderstanding, a build up on mutual trust and peaceful relations in the region.

The other recommendation of the research is that Uganda should increase its mediation and conflict prevention presence in the EAC, by investing in dedicated diplomatic capacity and early-warning

mechanisms, which will see it more prompt to intervene in any nascent conflict, and reduce regional conflicts at least.

In addition to that, the paper recommends that the Government of Uganda ought to further integrate the diplomatic and security policies through more efforts to integrate the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the security agencies so that the regional security cooperation is aided by dialogue, legitimacy, and shared political will.

The paper has also pointed out that Uganda must enhance models of inter-regional security cooperation by making sure that there is an improved system of intelligence sharing, joint training and coordinated border control with the other EAC member states as this will result in more effective collective responses to cross-border threats and as a result, brings about long term stability in the region.

Lastly, the paper recommends that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Uganda needs to intensify the economic diplomacy by facilitating trade, regional trade agreements and joint economic projects in the EAC because this will increase the economic interdependence, reduce the risk of conflict and reinforce long term regional integration and stability.

5.6 Future research opportunities.

According to the research paper, future studies concerning the long-term impacts of the Uganda foreign policy strategies on the stability of the region in the East African Community can be done by studying the impact of the long-term implementation of the diplomatic policies on the prevention of conflicts and peacebuilding outcomes of the different countries in the East African Community.

It is proposed that the effectiveness of the mechanisms of regional security cooperation in the EAC should be further investigated and that the comparative studies of security policies in Uganda with other partner states should be conducted in order to understand better best practices, coordination challenges and their implications on collective security in the region.

Finally, the study also implies that a study on the role of economic and trade policy in facilitating stability in the region, the role played by economic interdependence, trade liberalization and regional value chains in promoting peace, development and resiliency in the East African Community is necessary.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Questionnaire

For staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Uganda

Dear sir/madam

My name is Shibbah; I am a student of BGIR at Uganda Christian University. I am conducting a study on “Foreign policy and regional stability in East African community and analysis of Uganda’s role in regional stability: a case study of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Uganda.” You have been specifically selected to participate in this study and the information collected shall be purely for academic purpose and treated with the highest level of confidentiality. The success of this study shall greatly dependent on your response. Your cooperation shall highly be appreciated.

Section A. Bio Data

Please tick the most appropriate answer

1. Age

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| a) 21-30 years | ☐ | b) 31 -40 years | ☐ |
| c) 41-50 years | ☐ | d) Above 50 years | ☐ |

2. Gender

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| a) Male | ☐ | b) Female | ☐ |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|

3. Education level

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| a) Certificate | ☐ | b) Diploma | ☐ |
| c) Degree | ☐ | d) Masters | ☐ |

e) Others specify:.....

4. Period spent working in the Ministry

a) Less than 1 year b) 1-5 years

c) 6-10 years d) Above 10 years

Section B: Impact of diplomatic engagement on regional stability in the EAC

Rate your degree of agreement on the impact of diplomatic engagement on regional stability in the EAC using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

s. no	Statements	SA	A	NS	D	SD
1	Uganda's diplomatic engagement with other EAC member states has contributed to peaceful relations within the region.					
2	Bilateral and multilateral diplomatic dialogues initiated by Uganda help prevent and resolve regional conflicts.					
3	Uganda's participation in EAC diplomatic forums strengthens cooperation and mutual trust among member states.					
4	Diplomatic negotiations led by Uganda promote political stability within the East African region.					
5	Uganda's foreign missions in EAC countries play a significant role in maintaining regional peace and stability.					
6	Effective diplomatic communication by Uganda enhances collective decision-making within the EAC.					

How else does diplomatic engagement affect regional stability in the EAC other than the ones mentioned above?

.....
.....

Section C: The contribution of security policy in achieving regional stability in the EAC

Rate your degree of agreement on the contribution of security policy in achieving regional stability in the EAC using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

s. no	Statements	SA	A	NS	D	SD
1	Uganda's security policies contribute to joint efforts aimed at combating cross-border insecurity in the EAC.					
2	Regional security cooperation involving Uganda has reduced threats such as terrorism and armed conflict.					
3	Uganda's participation in regional peacekeeping initiatives enhances stability in the EAC.					
4	Intelligence sharing between Uganda and other EAC member states strengthens regional security.					
5	Uganda's defense and security collaborations promote collective responses to regional security challenges.					
6	Security agreements involving Uganda help maintain law, order, and stability across EAC borders.					

How else does security policy contribute regional stability in the EAC other than the ones mentioned above?

.....
.....

Section D: The impact of economic/trade policy on regional stability in the EAC

Rate your degree of agreement on the impact of economic/trade policy on regional stability in the EAC using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

s. no	Statements	SA	A	NS	D	SD
1	Uganda's trade policies promote economic interdependence among EAC member states.					
2	Economic cooperation spearheaded by Uganda contributes to reduced conflicts within the EAC region.					
3	Uganda's support for regional trade agreements enhances economic stability in East Africa.					
4	Cross-border trade initiatives involving Uganda foster peaceful relations among EAC countries.					
5	Uganda's economic diplomacy strengthens regional integration and long-term stability.					
6	Trade liberalization policies supported by Uganda contribute to shared economic growth within the EAC.					

How else does economic/trade policy contribute in achieving regional stability in the EAC other than the ones mentioned above?

.....
.....

Thank you for your cooperation

Appendix 2: Interview Guide

For top management in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Uganda

Dear participant,

My name is Shibbah and I am a student of BGIR at Uganda Christian University. I am researching on “Foreign policy and regional stability in East African community and analysis of Uganda’s role in regional stability: a case study of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Uganda.” You have been specially chosen to take part in this research and the information you provide will only be used academically and in utmost confidence. For the success of this research, your participation is very important and highly appreciated.

Part I – Introduction

1. Kindly give us your profile (gender, age, educational level).
2. Please, state the position you hold in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
3. Since how long have you been working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

Part II – Impact of diplomacy on regional stability in the EAC

4. How has Uganda’s diplomatic activities influenced peace and stability in the region?
5. Which diplomatic approaches does Uganda adopt in resolving conflicts in EAC region?

Part C: The role played by security policy in regional stability within the EAC

1. How has the security and foreign policy of Uganda been instrumental in ensuring regional security cooperation within the EAC?
2. What is the approach adopted by Uganda in collaboration with other EAC member states to handle security issues in the region?

Part D: The role of economic/trade policy in regional stability within the EAC

3. How has the economic policy of Uganda ensured regional stability within the EAC?
4. How important is the economic diplomacy of Uganda in ensuring peace among the EAC member states?

Thank you for your cooperation