

* Global * Gateway

Session 4: Registration of qualifications

ACQF-II project: Supporting implementation of ACQF

Capacity Development and networking programme 2023 -"Making National Qualifications Frameworks (NQF) operational in a changing world."

Nairobi, Kenya: 9-11 October 2023

Speaker: Coleen Jaftha

Topics of the presentation



1. Introduction and context

2. Country cases: Botswana (BQA), South Africa (SAQA), Zambia (ZAQA)

3. Registration and common criteria

4. Outcomes: types of registers



Introduction and context



ACQF developed 5-stage model of NQF development: Stages present a transitional situation for easier identification of

- what needs to be done and
- what type of support is needed

to progress and move on to a next stage

Stage of NQF development and implementation	Stage NQF development & consultation	Number of SADC NQFs	Number of NQFs Africa	Countries
NQF development to be started (2)	To be started	0	2	Chad, Republic of Congo
NQF in early thinking (9)	Early thinking	2	9	Burkina Faso, Union of Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, São Tomé e Príncipe, South Sudan,Togo
NQF in development and consultation (8)	In develop & consultation	2	8	Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan
NQF legal act approved, implementation started (18)	NQF approved & implementation	6	18	Angola, Burundi, Djibouti, Eswatini, Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe
NQF in advanced implementation and reviewed (7)	NQF advanced impl & reviewed	6	7	Cape Verde, Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia
Total		16	44	



ACQF-II Project addresses all 7 main areas of activity (as per ACQF Policy document)



Referencing NQF / NQS to ACQF

Support Recognition of Prior Learning



ACQF Qualifications Platform and MIS

Qualifications: common profiles for priority sectors AfCFTA / continental integration

Technical notes

Capacity development/ support to NQFs & related policies

Networking and cooperation

Registration of qualifications: comparison



Registration:

- a regulated process of placing qualifications in an NQF register,
- based on agreed quality-assured procedures
- to enhance transparency, quality and trust in the registered qualifications

ACQF Benefits of registered qualifications

Provides valid, transparent information on qualifications (entry requirements, learning outcomes, progression, credits, etc).

- Information can be used to support verification, comparison and recognition of qualifications to support opportunities for work and further learning (own or other countries)
- Once qualification is registered: can be offered as study opportunity by education and training institutions (supports eligibility for bursaries, scholarships, learnerships)
- Employers can use registered qualifications to get a sense of what qualification holder is able to know, understand and do, and use information to develop job advertisements and job profiles

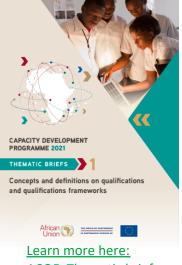
ACQF Training Module 6: Registration of qualifications



See more here: Training Modules 1 to 10 ENGLISH — ACQF Provides trust in the quality of the qualification in the register, as endorsed by relevant stakeholders. In this regard, registered qualifications protect the public, including learners, employers and the greater public against misleading information on qualifications

Provides statistics and real-time information on qualifications that can be used for research purposes, policy development, and educational and economic decision-making





ACQF Thematic brief <u>1</u> Concepts and definitions WEB.pdf

National Qualifications Framework (NQF):

 means a policy and instrument for the development and classification of qualifications according to a set of criteria for specified levels of learning achieved, which aims at integrating and coordinating national qualifications subsystems and improve the transparency, access, progression and quality of qualifications in relation to the labour market and civil society.

Level Descriptor:

 means a statement describing learning achievement at a particular level of the NQF that provides a broad indication of the types of learning outcomes and assessment criteria that are appropriate to a qualification at that level.

Learning Outcomes:

• mean statements of what a learner knows, understands and is able to do on completion of a learning process, which are defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competence.



Country cases



Country cases Botswana; South Africa; Zambia

All three SADC countries

Botswana also Small State of the Commonwealth

(Other African Small States: Eswatini, Gabon, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, and The Gambia)

Different population sizes

- Botswana: 2.6 million,
- □ South Africa: 60.5 million
- Zambia: 20.5 million

Botswana National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCQF)

		SUB-FRAMEWORKS		
Level	General Education	Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)		Minimum number of credits
10		Doctoral Degree	Doctoral Degree	360
9		Master's Degree	Master's Degree	240
8		Bachelor's Degree Honours Post-Graduate	Ordinary Bachelor's Degree Honours.	120
		Diploma Post-Graduate Certificate	Professional Bachelor's Degree Honours	600
			Post-Graduate Diploma	120
			Post-Graduate Certificate	60
7		Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	360
				480
6		Diploma	Diploma	240
				360
5	Certificate V	Certificate V		120
4	Certificate IV	Certificate IV		60
3	Certificate III	Certificate III		40
2	Certificate II	Certificate II		40
1	Certificate I	Certificate I		40

South African National Qualifications Framework (NQF)



SAQA. 2023a. Diagram of the NQF. Supplied by SAQA.



Zambia NQF

ZQF Level	General Education	Trades and Occupations	Higher Education			
10			Doctorate Degree			
9			Master's Degree			
8			Post-Graduate Diploma			
7			Bachelor's Degree			
6		Diploma				
5		Level 5 Certificate				
4		Level 4 Certificate				
3		Level 3 Certificate				
2B	Senior Secondary Education					
2A	Certificate Junior Secondary Education Certificate					
1	Primary Education Certificate					
Quality Assurance	Quality Assurance Bodies established by Acts of Parliament in Zambia					
Qualifications	The Zambia Qualifications Authority (ZAQA Act No.13 of 2011)					

Source: https://www.zaqa.gov.zm/wpcontent/uploads/2020/07/ZQF-2018.pdf



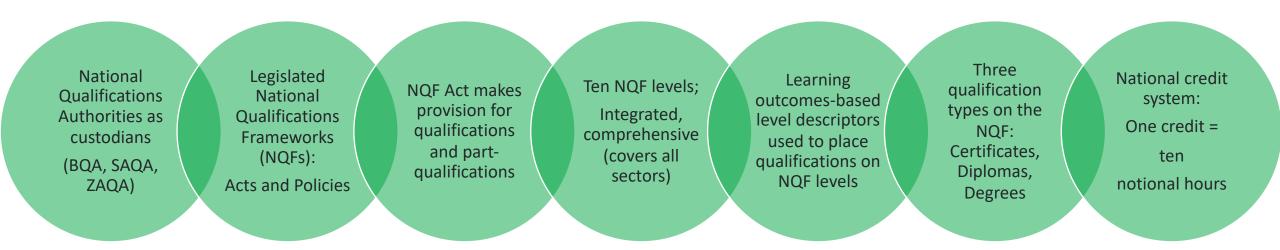
Custodian: Zambia Qualifications Authority (ZAQA)



Custodian: Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA)

Custodian: South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

Similarities: All three countries:



NQF development stage of the three countries:

Stage 1: No NQF

Stage 2: NQF in early thinking

- Stage 3: NQF in development and consultation
- Stage 4: NQF legal act approved, implementation started

Stage 5: NQF in advanced implementation and reviewed

Registration and common criteria

Botswana

- Clear workflow
- Relevant stakeholders apply for registration and accreditation
- BQA registers qualifications on the NCQF once they meet the overall requirements for registration
- Once the qualification has been quality assured, validated and finally approved, it is registered on the NCQF
- The BQA Board ratifies the final decision

Registration

South Africa:

- Clear workflow
- Only the three Quality Councils may recommend qualifications for registration on the SANQF
- All qualifications offered in South Africa must be registered on the NQF by SAQA, through an approval decision by the SAQA Board
- Approval depends on the extent to which the recommended qualification meets the *Policy* and Criteria for the Registration of *Qualifications and Part-Qualifications on the NQF* and the requirements and criteria from the relevant Quality Council
- The SAQA Board ratifies the final decision

Zambia:

- Clear workflow
- Appropriate authorities recommend qualifications for registration on the ZQF
- Registration and Accreditation of Qualifications is the process that
 ZAQA undertakes of examining or assessing a qualification, based on set criteria, to establish an appropriate level on the Framework for quality assurance and recognition purposes
- The ZAQA Board ratifies the final decision

Similarities: In all three countries, registration:

- ✓ refers to a process of including a qualification in the country's NQF, if it meets the relevant criteria
- ✓ is undertaken by the country's Qualifications Authority- Other key sector stakeholders are consulted/ involved in preparation and quality assurance of the qualification
- \checkmark decision/ validation is done by the Board of the Qualifications Authority

Registration/ revision/ renewal

Botswana registration periods:

\circ one rule

• qualification is registered for a period of five years

• South Africa registration periods:

- rules differ according to NQF Sub-Frameworks:
 - Five years: General and Further Education and Training Qualifications
 - Five years: Occupational Qualifications
 - Three years: Higher Education Qualifications

Zambia registration periods:

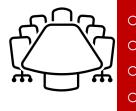
- o rules differ according to ZQF levels
 - ZQF Level 1: Five years
 - ZQF Level 2: Five years
 - ZQF Level 3: Two years
 - ZQF Level 4: Three years
 - ZQF Level 5: Four years
 - ZQF Level 6: Five years
 - ZQF Level 7: Six years
 - ZQF Level 8: Six years
 - ZQF Level 9: Six years
 - ZQF Level 10: Six years

Renewal/ revision can take place earlier as necessary

All registered qualifications are national qualifications, with certain exceptions

- South Africa: All qualifications registered on the SANQF are national qualifications, except classified, confidential qualifications (as requested by the relevant Quality Council and/ or prohibited by law)
- Zambia: In Zambia, a national qualification is a nationally recognised qualification. However, qualifications registered and accredited on the ZQF remain properties of the respective NQF sub frameworks' appropriate authorities and awarding bodies, and therefore, are not publicly accessible.

Comparability: common main criteria/ requirements for development, registration, re-registration (renewal) and de-registration of qualifications

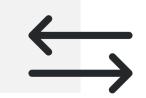


Stakeholder endorsements: Quality Council/ Provider/ Qualification developer Registration period and related expiry periods/ status of qualifications Protected terms (national; credits; level, etc) Classification and coding

- Sub-Framework and related qualification descriptors/ naming of qualifications/ Qualification Title/
 Organising Field and Sub-Field; Alignment with NQF levels and level descriptors/ learning domains
 - o Learning outcomes approach (purpose, rationale, alignment with levels and descriptors, exit level

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- outcomes and assessment)
- \circ Credits, duration of programmes/ exit level credits, CAT
- Qualification structure/ Rules of Combination
- Delivery and learning modes, Associated Assessment Criteria, Integrated Assessment/ Assessment
- International/ regional comparability
- Entry requirements
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- Articulation requirements/ progression/ education and employment pathways



Examples

- BQASAQA



ACQF BQA: process of registration of qualifications

Registration of Qualification Process

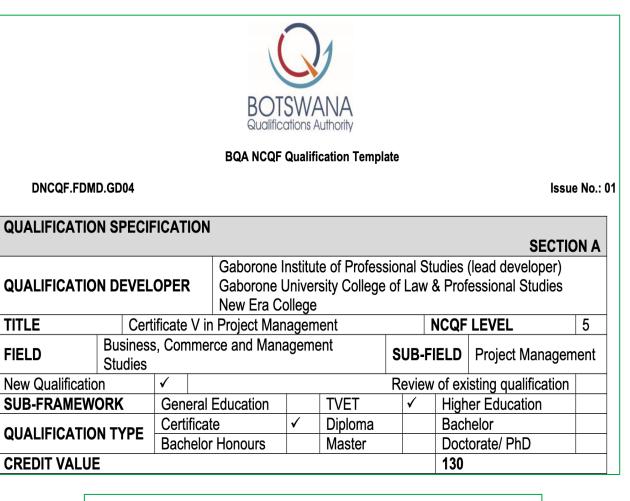
- 1. Identify a **need** for a qualification
- 2. Verify the need for a qualification from Human Resource Development Council (HRDC)
- 3. Apply for **pre-approval** (by BQA) of the qualification to be developed (<u>DNCQF.P01.F01</u>). This application form is to be completed <u>online.</u>
- 4. Development of the Qualification
- 5. Conduct a wider **stakeholder consultation** to obtain approval of the qualification
- 6. Obtain **endorsement from the professional body** if a qualification is a professional qualification
- 7. Submit **application** for registration of the qualification on the NCQF (application for registration of qualifications form)
- 8. Audit the qualification against NCQF Requirements
- 9. Registration of the qualification on the Framework



https://www.bqa.org.bw/qualification-development/

ACQF BQA: examples registered qualifications

BOTSWANA Qualifications Authority	BQA NCQF QUALIFICATION TEMPLATE					Document No. Issue No. Effective Date		01		002				
SECTION A: QUALIFICATION DETAILS														
QUALIFICATION D	EVELOPE	r (S)	Bots	wana	Inter	nation	al Uni	versi	ity o	f Scie	nce ar	nd Te	chnology	
TITLE	Bachelor	of Scier	nce H	lonour	s (Da	ita Sc	ience))			N	CQF	LEVEL	8
FIELD	Informatic Communi Technolog	cation	S	UB-FI	ELD		Computer Science CREDIT VALUE 120				120			
New Qualification						~			R	eview	of Exi	sting	Qualification	
SUB-FRAMEWORK	x 6	General	Educ	ation			TVE	ΞT			н	ligher	Education	~
QUALIFICATION TYPE	Certificat e	1	"				1		V		Diplo	ma	Bachelo r	
	Bachelo	r Honol	urs				ost Gra Certifi		te				Graduate ploma	
			Mast	ers						I	Doctor	ate/ F	PhD	



Registration of qualifications: comparison

Https://www.bqa.org.bw/qualifications/

Example from SAQA searchable database

Coding: Unique SAQA Qualification I.D.

SAQA QUAL ID	QUALIFICATION TITLE		
119966	Bachelor of Applied Science in Industrial Che	emistry	
ORIGINATOR			
Durban University of Technology			
PRIMARY OR DELEGATED QUALITY	ASSURANCE FUNCTIONARY		
CHE - Council on Higher Education			
QUALIFICATION TYPE	FIELD		
National First Degree	Field 10 - Physical, Mathematical, Computer	and Life Sciences	
ABET BAND	MINIMUM CREDITS	PRE-2009 NQF LEVEL	
Undefined	360	Not Applicable	
REGISTRATION STATUS	(SAQA DECISION NUMBER	Coding: Board decision
Registered		EXCO 1212/22	number

Qualifications have a:

- Registration/ re-registration start date and Registration end date
- A last date for enrolment of learners and a last date for achievement of the qualification/ part-qualification

Qualification with ID number 119966 has a:

- Registration start date: 22/11/22
- Registration end date: 22/11/2025
- Last date for enrolment: 22/11/2026
- Last date for achievement: 22/11/2031

These dates are included in the register (for each qualification)

Last dates of enrolment and achievement may be extended under the right circumstances



Outcomes: types of registers

Qualifications Authorities (BQA, SAQA and ZAQA) maintain the country's NQF qualifications databases/ registers.

The registers/ lists/ databases of qualifications information are in the public domain (public notice or on the Websites of the Qualifications Authorities) and freely available.

Some of the related lists like learner records; evaluation/ verification of national or foreign qualifications are available at a fee:
Summaries of these are usually made available on the Websites or annual reports of Qualifications Authorities

ACQF Workflow terms relevant to registration of qualifications (South Africa)

Qualifications that meet the criteria are registered

- Qualifications that have been submitted for registration but found to be non-compliant with the criteria for registration are returned to the Quality Councils for further improvement
- Where they have reached their end date but still meet the criteria, they can be re-registered or de-registered if they no longer meet the criteria

Where a qualification is registered:

- but requires small changes, it can be amended. Where changes are significant, the qualification has to be registered as a new qualification
- under a specific Sub-Framework (may be a legacy/ historical qualification) but is found to be more suitable for another Sub-Framework and Quality Council, it may be transferred under the right conditions
- as a legacy/ historical qualification, it can be reregistered or de-registered if it meets the relevant criteria

To discourage proliferation of qualifications with the same title, a distinction is made between qualifications and learning programmes.

Where a qualification is registered but may require more time for consultation before re-registration or de-registration, in order to protect the learners:

• The last date of enrolment and achievement may be extended

South Africa

Summary of achievements for the year		Public	cation/ perform	nance infoi	rmation
Table 1: Number of qualifications that were registered	d / de-registered	~			
	CHE		QCTO		UMALUSI
			(\mathbf{P})		
# qualifications registered on NQF:	176		76		1
# qualifications amended:	34		2		-
# qualifications returned:	117		70		-
Extension of the last date of enrolment and last date of achievement:	127		2		-
# re-registered qualifications:	1		287		-
*Extension of the last date of enrolment and last date of achievement (learning programmes):	-		7		7
# qualifications transferred from OQSF:	-		_		118
# qualifications de-registered from NQF:	11		-		-
Historical qualifications registered	_		2		-
& de-registered					

Source: SAQA Annual Report 2021/2022: 26

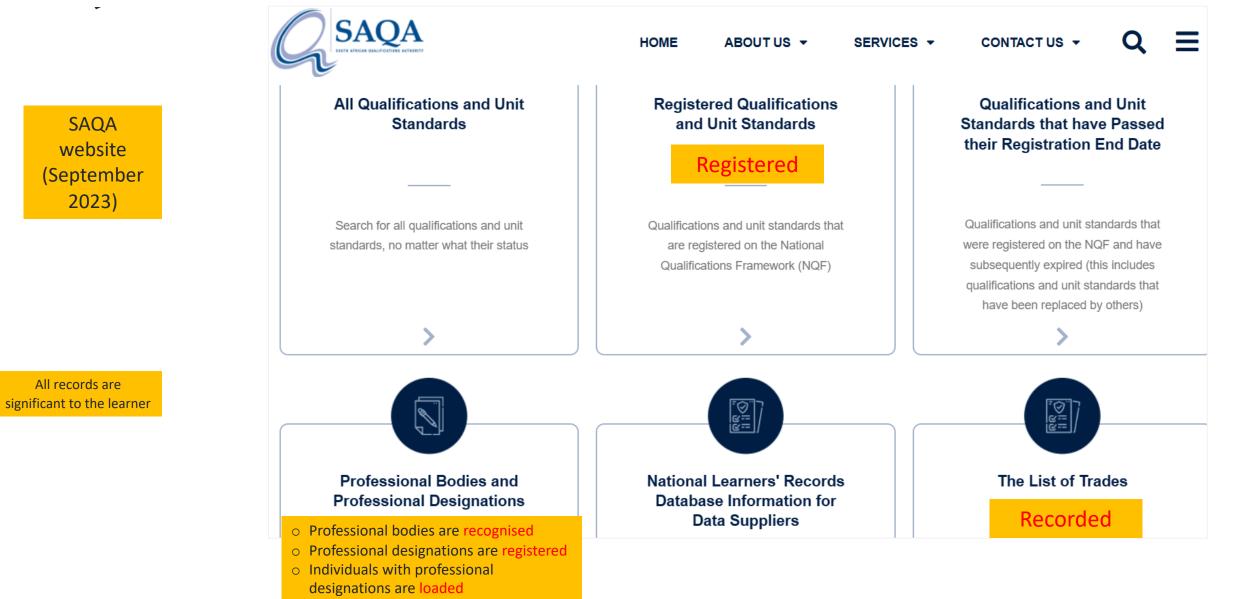
Summary (2021-22) of qualifications received from the three Quality Councils:

- Registered
- Amended
- Returned
- Extended
- Re-registered
- Extended (learning programmes)
- Transferred from another Sub-Framework
- De-registered
- Historical qualifications

Registration of qualifications: comparison

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South Africa information (contd.)



Registration of gualifications: comparison

SAQA

2023)

South Africa information (contd.)

Source: SAQA Annual Report 2021/ 2022

Learner achievement/ data loaded on the NQF MIS	6 3	
EARNERS	# RECORDS LOADED IN THE YEAR	TOTAL # RECORDS ON THE NLRD
Learners	581 388	21 365 389
Learners who achieved anything through RPL	19 038	123 965
HIEVEMENTS Qualification achievements	673 518	18 981 210
art-qualification achievements	1 689 177	115 575193
ualification achievements through RPL	3 733	40 024
ther achievements through RPL	163 828	1 965 249
People awarded professional designations	52 824	1 244 090



Misrepresente	d 😥	
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS	# RECORDS LOADED IN THE YEAR	TOTAL # RECORDS ON THE NLRD
SAQA	64	968
асто	440	2 202
JMALUSI	-	-
Fotal - National	504	3 170
FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS		
Qualifications	17	1 719
SCOE	28	1 754
Fotal - Foreign	45	3 473
TOTAL	549	6 643

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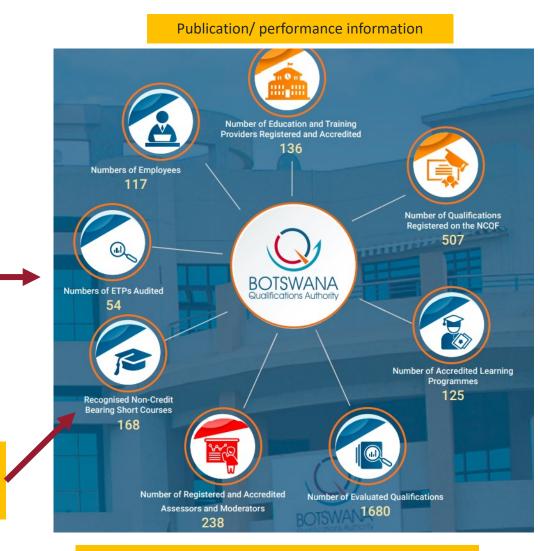
EDUCATION RECORDS

We maintain lists of registered and accredited Education and Training Providers, registered qualifications and accredited learning programmes.

A qualification registered on the Botswana NCQF is a national qualification and available in the public domain. Once in the public domain, education and training providers (ETPs) may apply for accreditation to offer learning programmes that lead to achievement of the registered qualification.

Recognise: e.g., Botswana recognises non-credit bearing short courses- these cannot be registered on the NQF as they fall outside the NCQF mandate.

Botswana



Source: BQA Integrated Annual Report 2021/2022

EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

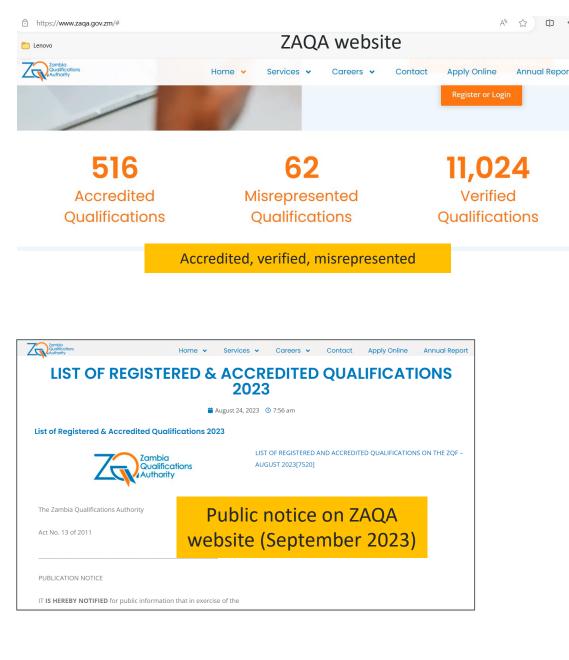
REGISTERED AND ACCREDITED HIGHER EDUCATION ETPS

REGISTERED AND ACCREDITED TVET ETPS

REGISTERED QUALIFICATIONS

ACCREDITED LEARNING PROGRAMMES (NCQF

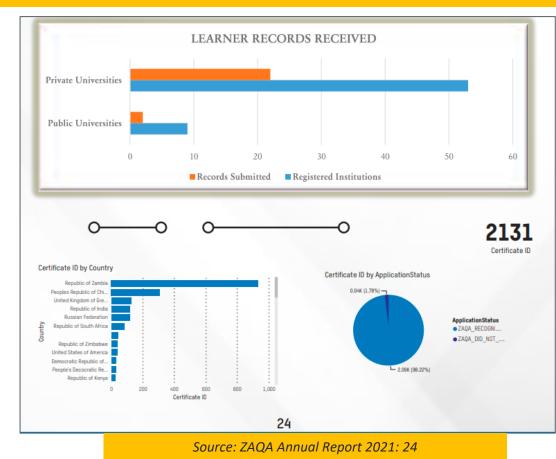
NON-CREDIT BEARING SHORT COURSES



Registration of qualifications: comparison

Zambia

Learner records as received from providers are loaded onto the Zambia Qualifications Management Information System (QMIS). These records can be used to verify qualification information for work or study purposes. Where qualifications are found to be misrepresented, Zambia maintains a record



Summary (1)

In all three countries:

- o registration refers to a process of including a qualification in the country's NQF, if it meets the relevant criteria.
- one credit = 10 notional hours of learning.
- o registered qualifications have a significant benefit to individual qualification holders and the economies.

All three countries:

- have integrated, ten-level, comprehensive NQFs comprising three sub-frameworks covering the relevant sectors in their countries; qualifications occupy different levels on their respective NQFs.
- have a set of learning outcomes-based level descriptors that define their NQF levels.
- register three types of qualifications: Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees.
- make provision for qualifications and part-qualifications to be registered on the NQF. In both Botswana and SA, qualifications registered on the NQF are national qualifications, in contrast to Zambia where the qualifications remain the property of the relevant authorities.
- have an established and quality-assured workflow to process applications for registration, with their respective
 Boards providing the final validation before the qualifications are registered and published.

Summary (2)

- Are comparable regarding common main criteria/ requirements for development, registration, re-registration (renewal) and de-registration of qualifications, for example:
 - Stakeholder endorsements: Quality Council/ Provider/ Qualification developer; Sub-Framework and related qualification descriptors/ naming of qualifications/ Qualification Title/ Organising Field and Sub-Field; Alignment with NQF levels and level descriptors/ learning domains; Learning outcomes approach (purpose, rationale, alignment with levels and descriptors, exit level outcomes and assessment); Credits, duration of programmes/ exit level credits, CAT; Entry requirements; Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL); Qualification structure/ Rules of Combination; Exit Level Outcomes, Delivery and learning modes, Associated Assessment Criteria, Integrated Assessment/ Assessment; International/ regional comparability; Articulation requirements/ progression/ education and employment pathways; Registration period and related expiry periods/ status of qualifications; Protected terms; Classification and coding.
- Have Qualifications Authorities (BQA, SAQA, ZAQA) that are the custodians of their respective country's NQF and maintains the country's Qualifications Management Information System. The Qualifications Authorities work with the relevant Sector Bodies to ensure the relevance of the qualifications.
- Provide registers/ lists/ databases of qualifications information that are in the public domain and freely available. Some of the related lists like specific, validated learner records are available at a fee.

Key sources

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- ZAQA. 2023c. Revised Guidelines for the Registration and Accreditation of Qualifications on the Zambia Qualifications Framework (ZQF). https://www.zaqa.gov.zm/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/REVISED-GUIDELINES-FOR-THE-REGISTRATION-AND-ACCREDITATION-OF-QUALIFICATIONS-ON-THE-ZAMBIA-QUALIFICATIONS-FRAMEWORK-06.23.pdf



Some questions

Poll questions

Q1: What is the greatest benefit of registered qualifications?

- o Transparent information on qualifications
- Trust in the quality of qualifications
- o Realtime information for policy/ statistical purposes

Q2: In your country, what stakeholders are involved in registration?

- Relevant/ appropriate sector stakeholders
- o National Qualifications Authorities
- \circ $\,$ None of the above $\,$

Q3: Select one:

In your country, what are the registration period rules?

- One registration period rule for all qualifications
- Registration period rules differ according to NQF Sub-Frameworks / education sub-sectors
- Registration period rules differ according to NQF level

F Poll questions contd.

Q4: In your country, which of these criteria are considered when developing and/ or registering a qualification criteria

- $\circ~$ Stakeholder endorsements: Quality Council/ Provider/ Qualification developer
- $\circ~$ Registration period and related expiry periods/ status of qualifications
- Protected terms (used only in NQF qualifications registration)
- $\circ~$ Classification and coding
- Sub-Framework/ qualification descriptors
- \circ Entry requirements
- o RPL
- \circ Progression

Q5: In your country, which of these criteria are considered when developing and/ or registering a qualification criteria

- Learning outcomes approach (purpose, rationale, alignment with levels and descriptors, exit level outcomes and assessment)
- $\circ~$ Credits, duration of programmes/ exit level credits, CAT
- Qualification structure/ Rules of Combination
- Delivery and learning modes, Associated Assessment Criteria, Integrated Assessment/ Assessment
- International/ regional comparability

ACQF Poll questions contd.

Q6: In your country is the register of qualifications freely available and in the public domain? • Yes • No

Q7: Are technical notes useful for NQF support and development?

 \circ Yes

0 **No**

Q8: What topic would you find useful in a technical note?