

# Session 8: Comparison Registration of qualifications

# **The Freetown Workshop**

ACQF-II project:
Supporting implementation of ACQF

Capacity Development Programme
Freetown, 26 November to 1 December 2023







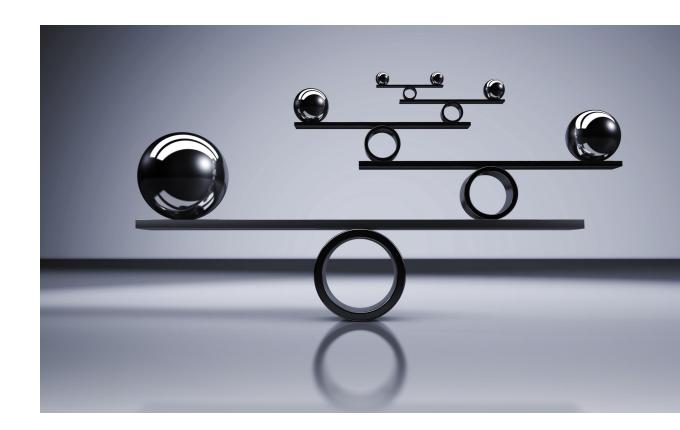


**Facilitator: Coleen Jaftha** 



# **Presentation outline**

- 1. Introduction and context
- 2. Country cases
- 3. Registration and common criteria
- 4. Outcomes: types of registers
- 5. Summary



# Country cases

# Southern African Development Community (SADC)



# **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; South Africa;
Zambia

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	

# Botswana National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCQF)

		SUB-FRAMEWORKS		
Level	General Education	Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)	Higher Education	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



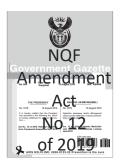
### South African National Qualifications Framework (NQF)



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/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ZQF-2018.pdf





# Similarities: All three countries:

National Qualifications Authorities as custodians (BQA, SAQA, ZAQA) Legislated
National
Qualifications
Frameworks
(NQFs):
Acts and Policies

NQF Act makes provision for qualifications and partqualifications Ten NQF levels; Integrated, comprehensive (covers all sectors) Learning outcomes-based level descriptors used to place qualifications on NQF levels Three qualification types on the NQF: Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees

National credit system: One credit = ten notional hours

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
- ✓ decision/ validation is done by the Board of the Qualifications Authority



# Registration/ revision/ renewal

# **Botswana registration periods:**

- o 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:**

- 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
  - o 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
- o 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





- Learning outcomes approach (purpose, rationale, alignment with levels and descriptors, exit level outcomes and assessment)
- 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)
- Page Articulation requirements/ progression/ education and employment pathways





# **Examples**

- BQASAQA



# ACQF BQA: process of registration of qualifications

## **Registration of Qualification Process**

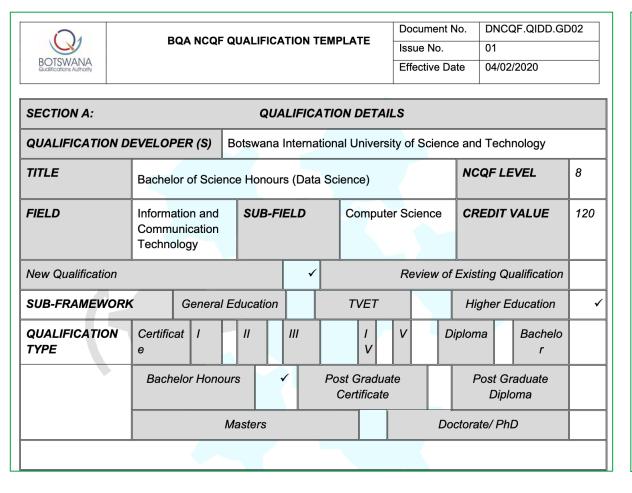
- 1. Identify a **need** for a qualification
- 2. Verify the need for a qualification from Human Resource Development Council (HRDC)
- 3. Apply for **pre-approval** (by BQA) of the qualification to be developed (<u>DNCQF.P01.F01</u>). This application form is to be completed <u>online</u>.
- 4. Development 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/



# **BQA:** examples registered qualifications





**BQA NCQF Qualification Template** 

DNCQF.FDMD.GD04 Issue No.: 01

QUALIFICATIO	N SPECIF	ICAT	ION					SECTION	ON A
QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER  Gaborone Institute of Professional Studies (lead developer)  Gaborone University College of Law & Professional Studies  New Era College									
TITLE	Cert	ificate	icate V in Project Management				NCQF	LEVEL	5
FIELD	Business Studies	s, Con	, Commerce and Management			SUB	-FIELD	Project Managen	nent
New Qualification	n	✓	✓			Revie	ew of ex	isting qualification	
SUB-FRAMEWORK General Education TVET			TVET	✓	High	er Education			
QUALIFICATION TYPE Certificate			ificate	✓	Diploma		Back	nelor	
Bachelor			nelor Honours		Master		Doct	orate/ PhD	
CREDIT VALUE							130		

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



# **Example from SAQA searchable database**

Coding: Unique SAQA Qualification I.D.

SAQA QUAL ID	QUALIFICATION TITLE	QUALIFICATION TITLE				
119966	Bachelor of Applied Science in Industria	Bachelor of Applied Science in Industrial Chemistry				
ORIGINATOR						
Durban University of Technology						
PRIMARY OR DELEGATED QUALI	TY ASSURANCE FUNCTIONARY					
CHE - Council on Higher Education						
QUALIFICATION TYPE	FIELD					
National First Degree	Field 10 - Physical, Mathematical, Comp	outer and Life Sciences				
ABET BAND	MINIMUM CREDITS	PRE-2009 NQF LEVEL				
Undefined	360	Net Applicable				
REGISTRATION STATUS		SAQA DECISION NUMBER				
Registered		EXCO 1212/22				

Coding: Board decision number

### Qualifications have a:

- Registration/ re-registration start date and Registration end date
- o 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



# 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 (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

ummary of achievements for the year			Public	cation/ perform	mance info	rmation
able 1: Number of qualifications that were re	gistered / de	-registered				
		CHE		QСТО		UMALUSI
				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		_
# qualifications de-registered from NQF:		- 11				1

Source: SAQA Annual Report 2021/2022: 26

# **South Africa information (contd.)**

**SAQA** website (September 2023)

All records are significant to the learner



### All Qualifications and Unit **Standards**

Search for all qualifications and unit standards, no matter what their status



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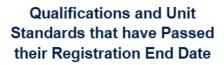




### **Registered Qualifications** and Unit Standards

## Registered

Qualifications and unit standards that are registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)



Qualifications and unit standards that were registered on the NQF and have subsequently expired (this includes qualifications and unit standards that have been replaced by others)





### **Professional Bodies and Professional Designations**

- Professional bodies are recognised
- Professional designations are registered
- Individuals with professional designations are loaded



**National Learners' Records Database Information for Data Suppliers** 



The List of Trades

Recorded

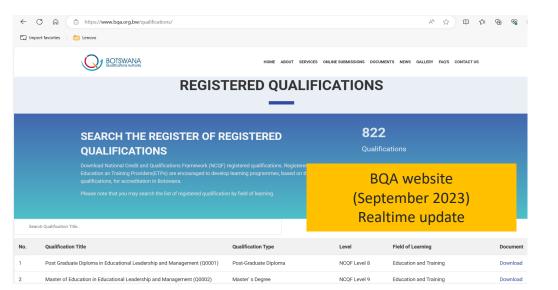
# South Africa information (contd.)

Source: SAQA Annual Report 2021/2022

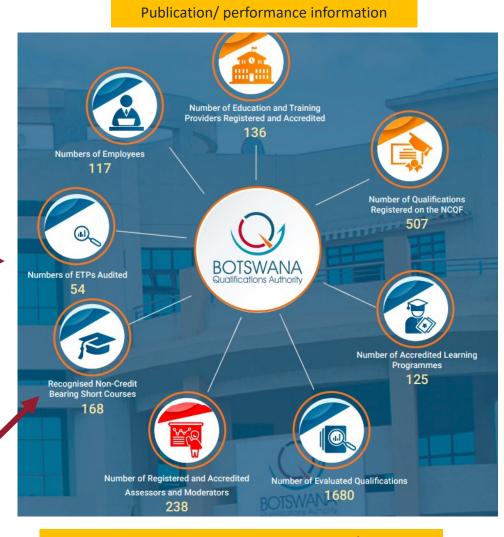
Learner achievement/ data loaded on the NQF MIS		
LEARNERS	# RECORDS LOADED IN THE YEAR	TOTAL # RECORDS ON THE NLRD
# Learners	581 388	21 365 389
# Learners who achieved anything through RPL	19 038	123 965
ACHIEVEMENTS # Qualification achievements	673 518	18 981 210
# Part-qualification achievements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

Verified: National and foreign	
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS	YEAR TO DATE
# Achievement records verified	161 536
# Verification letters issued	8374
FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS	
# Qualification achievements verified	7 499
# Qualification achievements recognised	9046
# eSCoE issued	7 607

Misrepresente	d	
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS	# RECORDS LOADED IN THE YEAR	TOTAL # RECORDS ON THE NLRI
SAQA	64	968
QCTO	440	2 202
UMALUSI		-
Total - National	504	3 170
FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS		
# Qualifications	17	1 719
# SCoE	28	1 754
Total - Foreign	45	3 473
TOTAL	549	6 643



# **Botswana**



**EDUCATION RECORDS** 

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

**EDUCATIONAL RECORDS** 

REGISTERED AND ACCREDITED HIGHER EDUCATION ETPS

REGISTERED AND ACCREDITED
TVET ETPS

REGISTERED QUALIFICATIONS

ACCREDITED LEARNING PROGRAMMES (NCQF

NON-CREDIT BEARING SHORT COURSES

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.

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Source: BQA Integrated Annual Report 2021/2022



516
Accredited
Qualifications

**62**Misrepresented Qualifications

11,024

Verified Qualifications

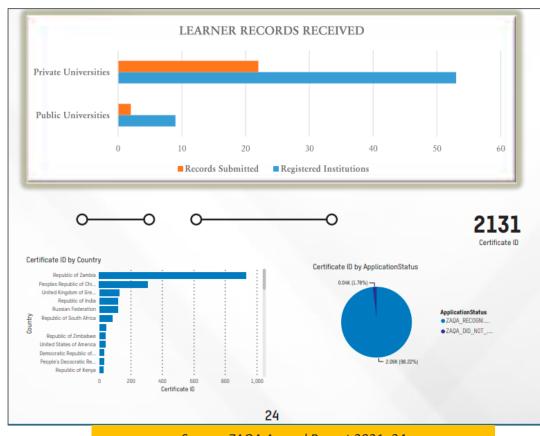
Accredited, verified, misrepresented



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# **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



# **ACQF**

# 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.
- registered qualifications have a significant benefit to individual qualification holders and the economies.

### All three countries:

- o 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.
- o register three types of qualifications: Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees.
- o 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.

# **ACQF**

# **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.
- o 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.
- o 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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# Some questions



# **Poll questions**

Q1: In your country, what stakeholders are involved in registration?

- Relevant/ appropriate sector stakeholders
- National Qualifications Authorities
- None of the above

## Q2: 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

# Poll questions contd.

Q3: In your country is the register of qualifications freely available?

- Yes
- $\circ$  No

Q4: Is the register of qualifications in the public domain?

- Yes
- $\circ$  No

Q5: What further support would you need to assist with your qualification registration? Please write your answer.