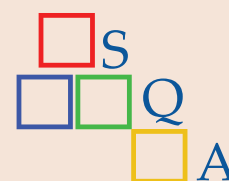


Seychelles Qualifications Authority



Recognising your Competencies

Recognising your Competencies

Newsletter Issue 31

January – December 2024



“Education is pre-eminently a matter of quality not amount”

- By Henry Ford

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Editorial

Dear esteemed readers and stakeholders,

As a new year begins, it is important to look back and take stock of our achievements as an authority and regulatory body.

Despite the year 2024 being the usual busy and challenging year for SQA it has been most fulfilling and rewarding. The Authority has asserted itself even more prominently on both the regional and international landscapes through participation in various activities, initiatives and projects. This was made possible through its active involvement with the Africa Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF II) project which is an initiative of the European Training Foundation.

Projects that SQA has implemented with the support of ACQF II project have included a national survey on Micro-credentials, the development of our Seychelles National Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (SNCATS) Policy and Guidelines, and the hosting of the ACQF 4th Forum on the theme "Micro-credentials for better opportunities". Other initiatives have included, participation in the 'Comparison of EQF to the SADCQF' and pilot referencing of the Seychelles National Qualifications Framework (SNQF) to the ACQF.

Other major highlights of the year have included finalisation of the Seychelles National Qualifications Framework (SNQF) 2024 and the Revised National Qualifications Framework Regulations.

None of our planned activities for the year could have been successfully implemented without the support and collaboration of our most valued local, regional and international partners and stakeholders. We thank you.

Within the SQA, there continued to be this keen sense of 'looking forward' and 'moving forward' during 2024. That feeling of purpose and positivity is clear in this edition of our Newsletter, with its focus on the many activities that were the highlights of our calendar for the year.

We warmly welcome you to our Newsletter for the year 2024 as we convey gratitude for your unfailing support throughout the year.

It is our hope that the new year 2025 is a happy, healthy and prosperous one for you our dear and esteemed readers and stakeholders.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with us. We keenly anticipate and look forward to another fruitful year of collaboration and achievement.

With appreciation.

SQA Team

SQA's Vision

A credible, valued and efficient organization which, as custodian of a high quality national qualifications framework puts the needs of learners at the centre of an open, responsive and integrated qualifications system which recognizes their competencies and enables them to develop to their fullest potential.

SQA's Mission

To develop and enhance a national qualifications framework that elevates and recognises competencies whilst promoting quality education and training.

Programme Accreditation

With the enactment of the new Seychelles Qualifications Authority Act 2021, the term '**programme validation**' used for endorsement of programmes and courses has been replaced by the term '**programme accreditation**'.

Programme accreditation means 'recognition status granted to a programme by the Authority for a stipulated period of time after an evaluation by the Authority indicates that it meets standards of quality'.

A provisionally accredited programme meets the majority of the requirements of the Seychelles National Qualifications Framework (SNQF) to be offered to learners but minor changes are required to achieve full accreditation status.

By accrediting a programme or credit bearing course, the SQA has ensured that the programme or course has met certain national quality criteria which enables it to be pitched at a specific level on the SNQF.

The offering of an accredited programme or course will lead to the award of a specific qualification or part of a qualification registered on the SNQF.

During 2024, the SQA processed forty-seven (47) applications for accreditation which included both new and resubmissions from the previous two years. Amongst the new applications, there were three applications for short courses.

Most of the applications were for programmes which had reached the end of their accreditation period and were being submitted for re-accreditation. Four applications were accredited after first submissions.

A total of twenty (20) programmes and two (2) short courses reached the status to be granted full accreditation during the period January to December 2024.

The chart below shows the number of programmes accredited per provider.

No. of Programmes/short courses accredited

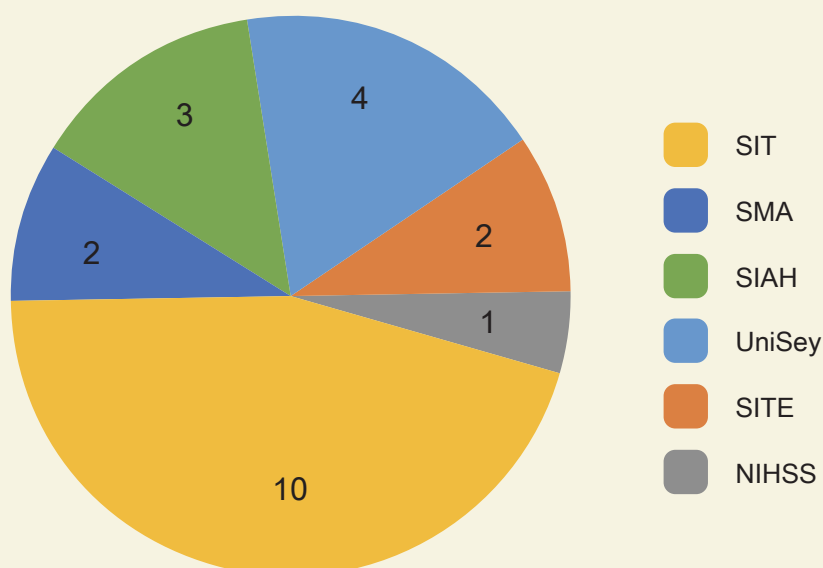


Chart no.1: The number of programmes accredited per provider in 2024

Institutional Accreditation

For the year 2024, the SQA scheduled three Institutional Accreditation visits at three institutions namely the Seychelles Institute of Technology, Seychelles Maritime Academy, and National Institute of Health and Social Studies. The Institutional Accreditation Unit prepared for the visits by setting appropriate timelines for the Institutional Accreditation process for each institution, conducting initiation meetings with institutions and liaising with the liaison person of each institution in preparation for the visits.

Institutional Accreditation Visit of Seychelles Maritime Academy (SMA)



Presentation of the Self-Evaluation Report by the Seychelles Maritime Academy

Institutional Accreditation Visit of Seychelles Maritime Academy took place from 20-24 May 2024. The scope of the accreditation included five of the six performance areas of the SQA Evaluation Framework as well as verification of the 2023 Monitoring Visit Report. The scope of this exercise did not include in-depth investigation of individual programme design and development. The accreditation visit therefore included the following areas: Leadership and Management, Management of Resources and Environment, Teaching and Learning, Engagement with Community and Regulatory Bodies, and Management of Quality. The SQA accorded the Seychelles Maritime Academy the status of Provisional Accreditation for a period of one year.

Institutional Accreditation Visit of National Institute of Health and Social Studies (NIHSS)



Presentation of the Self-Evaluation Report by the National Institute of Health and Social Studies

Institutional Accreditation Visit of National Institute of Health and Social Studies (NIHSS) took place from 5 to 9 August 2024. The scope of the accreditation included five of the six performance areas of the SQA Evaluation Framework: Leadership and Management, Management of Resources and Environment, Teaching and Learning, Engagement with Community and Regulatory Bodies and Management of Quality. The Team also verified the implementation of the 2019 recommendations of the 2019 Accreditation Report. The Seychelles Qualifications Authority adjudged the National Institute of Health and Social Studies as having met the requirements to be eligible for Re-accreditation.

Institutional Accreditation Visit of Seychelles Institute of Technology (SIT)



Verbal presentation by the Accreditation Team at Seychelles Institute of Technology

The Accreditation visit of Seychelles Institute of Technology (SIT) took place from 23rd -26th September 2024. The scope of the visit was to investigate to what extent SIT has implemented the recommendations of the 2023 Accreditation Report. The Seychelles Qualifications Authority adjudged the Seychelles Institute of Technology as having met the requirements to be eligible for Provisional Accreditation for a period of one year.

Accreditation Unit (Schools) Activities of 2024

The Accreditation Unit (Schools) was actively engaged throughout the year, undertaking a series of school visits and professional development initiatives to ensure the continued enhancement of educational standards.

During this time, the Unit successfully conducted six whole-school inspections and five return visits, reinforcing our commitment to quality assurance and continuous improvement in education. In addition to these inspections, the team carried out two confirmation of good practice, aimed at recognising and validating effective educational practices of educators within schools.

Additionally, the members of the Unit also met with members of the Ministry of Education to present the strength and challenges of schools inspected, based on the six key areas of the Inspection Framework 'Looking at Our School'.

In a related development, two members of the Accreditation Unit (Schools) had the privilege of attending the African Continental Framework Stakeholders Workshop, held at the Savoy Hotel from the 12th to 14th of November 2024. This workshop focused on the Seychelles National Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (SNCATS) development process as well as micro-credentials. Participation in this workshop provided valuable insights and strategies that will contribute to the ongoing improvement of educational frameworks and assessment practices.

These efforts reflect our unwavering commitment to upholding high standards in teaching and learning, ensuring that all students benefit from a consistent and high-quality educational experience. We look forward to further collaboration and continued progress in the coming year.



Presentation of findings at Grand Anse Praslin Primary School

Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) means principles and processes through which the prior knowledge and skills of a person are made visible, mediated and assessed for the purposes of alternative access and admission, recognition and certification, or further learning and development.

The SQA received twenty-seven (27) new RPL enrolments during the year 2024, targeting qualifications in various domains. Since the national launch of the RPL process, a total of 163 candidates have successfully completed the process and been awarded with a qualification. The table and pie chart which follow show the number and percentage of candidates respectively at different stages in the RPL process.

Stages of the RPL process	No. of candidates
No. of candidates awarded with a full qualification	163
No. of candidates gap bridging at institutions	13
No. of candidates in Phase 1 of the process (done at SQA)	36
No. of candidates in Phase 2 of the process (done at institutions)	23

Table 1: the percentage of candidates at different stages in the RPL process.

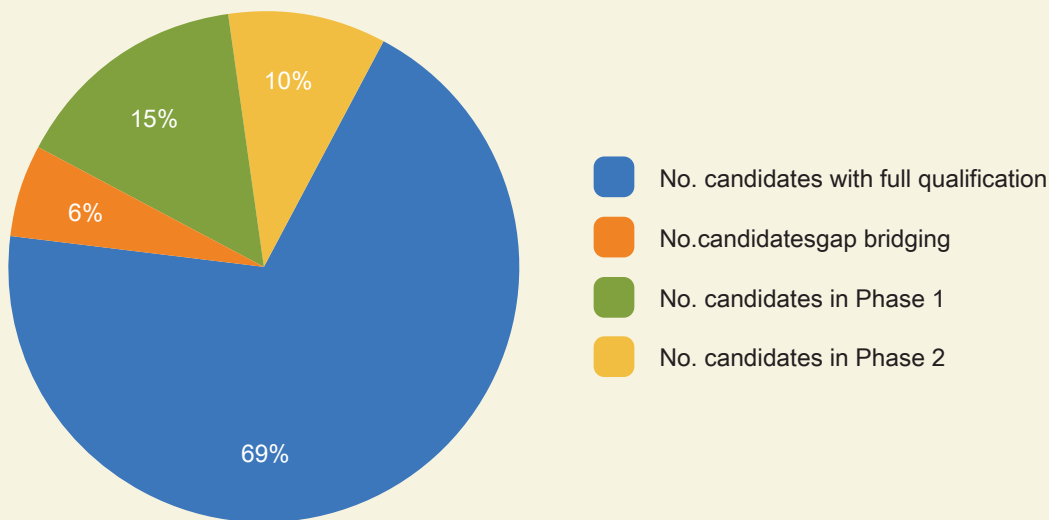


Chart no.2: The percentage of candidates at different stages of RPL

Evaluation and Certification of Qualifications

Recognition and Evaluation of Qualifications

The process of recognition and evaluation of qualifications establishes the authenticity of qualifications for evaluation on the Seychelles National Qualifications Framework (SNQF). A total of 1035 qualifications were recognised and evaluated from January to December 2024. 574 qualifications recognised and evaluated were awarded in India, 140 from the United Kingdom and 84 from Seychelles. Most requests for this service have come from businesses recruiting foreign workers. The SQA Certificate of Evaluation is a requirement for Gainful Occupation Permit. Other requests were from expatriates and returning graduates. A sample of the distribution of qualifications recognised and evaluated by country of origin from January to December 2024 is shown below.

Countries	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Country Total
India	14	76	56	46	47	60	60	51	22	41	47	54	574
United Kingdom	7	16	14	8	13	5	9	13	16	17	12	10	140
Seychelles	6	14	5	6	8	4	11	11	3	5	8	3	84
Mauritius	2	5	2	1	4	4	5	4		1			28
Malaysia	1	2	1	1	3			2	5	1	2	8	26
France	1	1	2	1	4		1	4	2	2		2	20
Bangladesh		1	1		2	2	3		3	1		3	16
South Africa	2	4		2			1		2	2		2	15
Sri Lanka			1		1	3	1	1	2			4	13
Nepal				3	1	3	2	2	1			1	13

Table 2. Sample of qualifications recognised and evaluated in 2024:

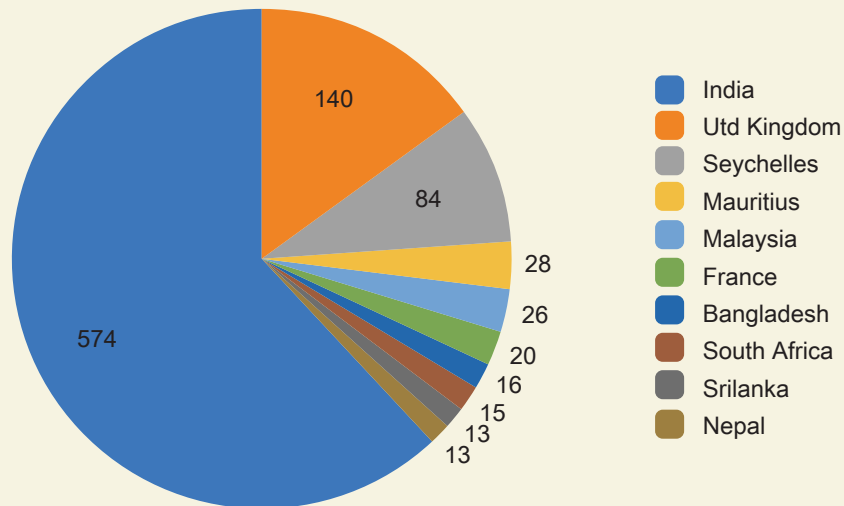


Chart no.3 Sample of qualifications evaluated by country

Certification of Qualifications

A total of 287 qualifications have been certified true copy in 2024. The most popular qualifications certified true copy are the IGCSEs (78), Diplomas (55) and Advanced Level certificates (45). The requests for this service have come from learners certifying their qualifications to enroll for higher education.

The number of qualifications certified true copy by type from January to December 2024 is shown below.

Qualifications	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Primary							4						4
Secondary	1			1									2
IGCSE	4	18	9	21	10	5	7	2	1			1	78
O Level			2		1	1		1					5
A Level	3	6	5	7	4	8	3	5	1	1	1	1	45
Certificate	5		1	9	1	6			6				28
Adv. Cert								2					2
Diploma	2	8	4	17	14	3	4	1	2				55
Adv. Diploma	1	1			1								3
DELTA A2		1		4	2		1						8
DELTA B1	1	3	3	8	6	1	2	1					25
DELTA B2		1		1	1	1	1						5
BSc/BA	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	3		19
PGCE	1					1			3				5
MSc	1				2								3
Monthly Total	21	40	25	69	45	27	23	14	14	3	4	2	287

Table 3. Qualifications Certified True Copy in 2024

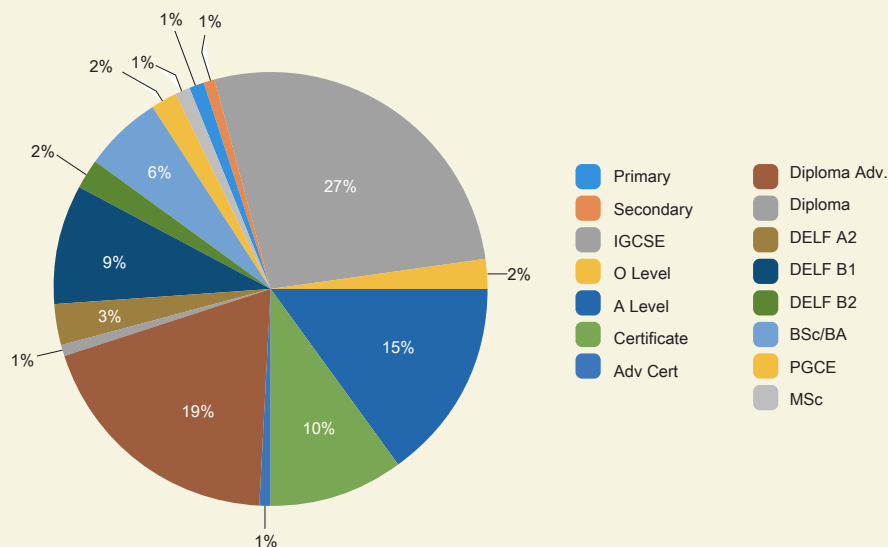


Chart no.4 Qualifications certified true copy in 2024

Inside SQA

Meeting of the Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation

The SADC Qualifications Framework (SADCQF) was approved and launched by Ministers responsible for Education and Training, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI) to set minimum standards for quality assurance and to facilitate the recognition of qualifications in the SADC region. The Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation (TCCA) was revived in 2016 and has since been active in discharging its roles.

In 2021 TCCA/SADC Secretariat took the initiative to review progress in implementation of SADCQF and identify perspectives and areas for improvement and further development. The review was conducted by European Training Foundation (ETF) in the context of the project developing the ACQF, and the analytical report was discussed at two meetings of TCCA (Nov 2021 and April 2022), before final presentation to the Joint Meeting of Ministers ESTI in Lilongwe, Malawi, on 14 June 2022, where it was endorsed. It is at the same meeting that the Ministers directed Secretariat to “convene a Technical Committee meeting on Certification and Accreditation to develop a four-year Roadmap taking account of the findings and recommendations of the Implementation Review Report, and the new demands and opportunities of this period of turbulence and continuing transformation of the contexts of the qualifications eco-systems (national and regional) to which the SADCQF relates, and report progress at the next Meeting”.

It is against the above background that SADC Secretariat, with the financial and technical support of the European Training Foundation (ETF) convened the TCCA Meeting, held between May 09-10, 2024, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

- Updates from SADC Member States on NQFs, RPL, CATS and other related developments;
- Roadmap SADCQF 2023-2026: state of play and way forward
- Micro-credentials. Common profiles of qualifications;
- Co-operation between SADC Secretariat and Member States with ACQF-II: report and way forward.
- Micro-credentials. Common profiles of qualifications;
- Co-operation between SADC Secretariat and Member States with ACQF-II: report and way forward.
- Qualifications and Credentials Platform. New African Network of NQFs. International workshops in 2024; and
- Validation of EQF-SADCQF comparison report

The CEO of the SQA and the Principal Quality Assurance Officer, Ms Nicole Bistoquet attended this very important meeting of the TCCA. The CEO was called upon to deliver a presentation on the Seychelles NQF.

Seychelles Represents SADC at EQF Advisory Group Meeting in Brussels

Seychelles had the honour of representing the Southern African Development Community (SADC) at the Advisory Group Meeting of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), held in Brussels, Belgium, on 11 June 2024.

Team Seychelles, comprising Ms. Fiona Ernesta, CEO of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority (SQA), and Mrs. Noella Baker-Albert, Principal Officer, was accompanied by Mrs. Eduarda Castel-Branco, Coordinator of the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF).

During the meeting, Ms. Ernesta, Mrs. Castel-Branco, and Tiina Polo, a representative from the European Training Foundation (ETF), delivered a presentation comparing the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the SADC Qualifications Framework (SADCQF).

The presentation was well received, with key stakeholders acknowledging that the two regional qualifications frameworks share strong similarities, with no significant structural differences. This alignment is a positive step towards greater international recognition and mobility for learners and professionals across both regions.

The Seychelles delegation's participation highlights the country's active role in advancing qualifications frameworks harmonisation and global education standards, reinforcing its commitment to quality assurance and regional cooperation.



Ms Fiona Ernesta (2nd from left) and Mrs Noella Baker-Albert (3rd from left) flanked by the ACQF coordinator, Eduarda Castel-Branco (1st from left) and representatives of ETF and European Union.

SQA Staff attends the HAQAA3 and SADC Conference in Mauritius

Principal Standards Setting Officer, Hilda Bertin represented the CEO at the HAQAA3 and SADC conference held from the 5th to the 8th of August 2024 in Mauritius. The four-day conference was organised by the HAQAA3 Implementing Team, and its partner the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA), in collaboration with the Commission for Higher Education of Mauritius and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

These events signified a critical collaboration with the Mauritian authorities, higher education institutions, and the SADC Secretariat. The gatherings drew participants from 13 African countries, encompassing national quality assurance bodies and qualifications authorities.

The participating countries included: Argentina, Belgium, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gambia, Ghana, Mauritius, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The meetings and deliberations covered the following themes:

- Regional Workshop to Promote an African Credit Transfer System (ACTS)
- Consultation on the Establishment of a Pan-African Quality Assurance Agency
- Regional Meeting of the SADC Education Management Information System (EMIS)

Key themes emerged from the meetings:

Regional Harmonization in Higher Education: Advocacy for harmonizing higher education standards and practices across Africa.

Alignment of Quality Assurance Systems: Emphasis on integrating and standardizing quality assurance mechanisms continent-wide.

Articulated data for policy making: The importance of articulated and accurate data for informed educational policies.

Additionally, discussions highlighted the implications for micro-credentials and the mobility of African students.

The success of these events underscores the ongoing commitment to enhancing higher education in Africa through strategic partnerships, collaborative policymaking, and regional integration.



Group photo of participants

“Peer Learning Activity on Comparison of the EQF and third country qualifications frameworks – what have we learned from pilots - how can we take it forward?”

The European Commission, in cooperation with ETF invited the Chief Executive Officer, Ms Fiona Ernesta to the “Peer Learning Activity (PLA) on the Comparison of the EQF with third country (national and regional) qualifications frameworks”.

The aim of the PLA was to understand how comparison works with a view to ensuring that future exercises are fit for purpose to support links between EQF and qualifications frameworks in relevant third countries or regions in the context of broader EU (external) policies.

Ms Ernesta delivered a presentation on learnings as a result of her key involvement in the project to compare the European Qualifications Framework and the SADC Qualifications Framework which was implemented in 2023.



The PLA took place on 29-30 October 2024 at the European Training Foundation (ETF), Turin (Italy).

Launch of the Seychelles National Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (SNCATS) Policy and Guidelines

The Seychelles National Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (SNCATS) Policy and Guidelines were officially unveiled on November 12, 2024 in a stakeholder meeting organised under the ACQF-11 project. Developed collaboratively by the Seychelles Qualifications Authority (SQA) and the ACQF-II project, the process began in March 2024 in Seychelles. The finalised document was completed in September 2024 by a team of experts and has since entered the official approval process managed by SQA.

The SNCATS document serves as both a policy framework and a practical guide, encompassing a Monitoring and Evaluation Matrix and a detailed implementation roadmap. It highlights linkages with key national initiatives, including the Seychelles National Qualifications Framework (SNQF), Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), and micro-credentials, ensuring a holistic and integrated approach to credit transfer and recognition.

During the final stakeholder meeting in November, the SNCATS Policy and Guidelines were presented, validated, and endorsed alongside agreed timelines for implementation. This milestone reflects Seychelles' commitment to creating a seamless and efficient system for credit accumulation and transfer, aligned with international best practices.



The official unveiling of the SNCATS policy by Eduarda from ACQF/ETF





The first workshop to gauge the knowledge and the use of micro credentials



Participants present their findings following a group discussion on calculating credit accumulation and transfer during the first workshop in March



Participants engage in group discussion on the development of a national policy on micro-credentials



The ACQF Coordinator, Eduarda Castel-Branco (middle) and ACQF CATS expert, James Mwewa discussing with the CEO of SQA.



Participants pose for a souvenir photo

Seychelles National Qualifications Framework: From Concept to Launch

The Seychelles National Qualifications Framework (SNQF) was first established in 2008 and has been operational for over 15 years. Recognizing the need to modernize and adapt to evolving educational and labor market demands, a comprehensive revision process commenced in June 2023. This initiative was led by the Seychelles Qualifications Authority (SQA) with technical support from JET Education Services, spanning a little over six months.

In November 2023, the draft of the revised SNQF was presented to key stakeholders from various public and private sectors during a validation workshop. Feedback gathered during this session was instrumental in refining the framework. The updated document was subsequently submitted to the Executive Committee of the Ministry of Education for review before being presented to the Cabinet of Ministers in October 2024, where it received official endorsement.

The Revised Seychelles National Qualifications Framework, 2024 was officially launched by the Minister for Education, Dr. Justin Valentin, on November 13, 2024. This landmark event took place during the 4th NQF Forum, co-organized by the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) and the Seychelles Qualifications Authority (SQA).

The updated framework reflects Seychelles' commitment to fostering a robust, adaptable, and globally aligned qualifications system, ensuring it meets the needs of learners, educators, employers and employees alike.



The Minister for Education addresses the participants and officially launches the SNQF



The Seychelles National Qualifications Framework Document

Ugandan delegation from the education sector learns more about the work of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority (SQA).

Leading the presentation to a delegation from the Ugandan Education sector on the operations of the Authority, was Ms. Hilda Bertin - Principal Standards Setting Officer of the SQA, with Ms. Jacqueline Gertrude delving deeper into the operations of Schools Inspections.

The session took place on 20th November 2024 and the delegation had the opportunity to learn more about the operations of the different Units within the Authority and the different tools it uses in order to attain its objectives. Light was shed on the Seychelles National Qualifications Framework (SNQF) and its Regulations, as well as the Seychelles National Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (SNCATS).

The delegation said that the Registration of Private Providers of Education and Training - SQA's newest Unit, was a concept worth exploring by Uganda.

The delegation was pleased to discover that the SQA had recently launched the revised SNQF and emphatically congratulated the SQA on its regional and international successes and prowess, such as successfully aligning with the Southern African Development Community Qualifications Framework (SADCQF), currently undergoing an alignment process with the Project "African Continental Qualifications Framework" (ACQF-II) and SQA's involvement with SADC to conduct a comparability exercise between the SADCQF and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), with the findings being that both regional frameworks are comparable.

The Ugandan delegation was impressed by the SQA and the breadth of activities it is involved with as a regulator in education both locally and internationally. This is despite the challenges it faces - such as human and financial resources. It was acknowledged by the Ugandan delegation that Seychelles is quite advanced in the area of quality assurance and much could be learnt from the SQA.



MoE officer gives the opening address to the Ugandan delegation



Ms. Jacqueline Gertrude gives a presentation on the Accreditation Unit for Schools

Seychelles Joins the African Qualifications and Credentials Platform

The Seychelles, through the Seychelles Qualifications Authority (SQA), has officially joined the Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP), alongside numerous other African nations.

The QCP is a key component of the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF), serving as a policy instrument for harmonizing qualifications across the continent. This cutting-edge system of interconnected databases supports the African Union's objectives and its member states by modernising and digitalising the management of qualifications at the national level while facilitating the sharing of information at the continental level.

The platform is being developed to process, classify, compare, and visualise information across various education and training sectors. Once operational, it will provide analytical tools for visualising the data for ease of use.

The QCP was officially launched on December 20, 2024, during the final ACQF meeting of the year. Once fully operational, the platform will enable users to access and view qualifications and related information from across the African continent, contributing to greater transparency, mobility, and mutual recognition of qualifications.

Mrs. Noella Baker-Albert has been designated as the principal QCP contact person for Seychelles, with Ms. Christine Marimba as the secondary contact; ensuring the country's active participation and collaboration in this transformative initiative.

ACQF

Introduction to QCP development

Project Timeline: 2024–2026 (3y)

Key activities:

- 2024: Baseline Analysis & Proof of Concept – initial technical development and definition of Data Model
- 2025: Continuous Platform Development and Operationalisation
- 2026: Handover – transition to African stakeholders

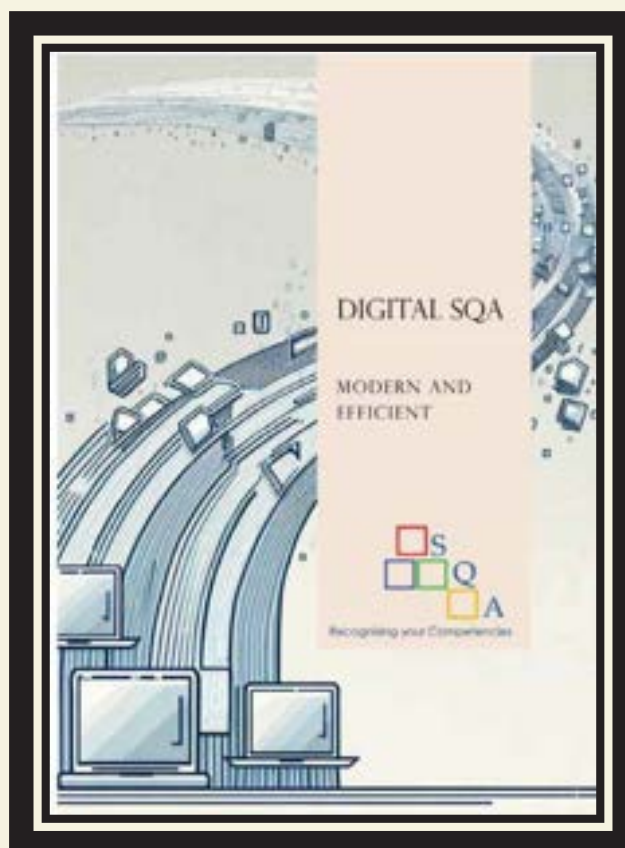
SQA Staff Professional Development and Capacity Building Activities

SQA Attends Training on Public Sector Digitalisation

In January 2024, the Seychelles Qualifications Authority (SQA) participated in a training session titled “Digital Transformation in Government: Navigating the Future,” organised by the Public Service Bureau. The training focused on the digitalisation of public services and attracted key stakeholders from various sectors. Representing the SQA at the event was Mrs. Noella BakerAlbert, who attended on behalf of the CEO of SQA.

The training featured presentations from esteemed speakers, including the Principal Secretary of the Department of Information, Communications, and Technology (DICT), Mr. Benjamin Choppy and Mr. Marc Chang Lam, who shared insights from successfully implementing similar digital transformation initiatives in a foreign company. Additionally, the session included valuable experiences from public entities already undergoing their own digitalisation journeys.

Following the training, the SQA developed its own digitalisation plan, which has now been submitted as the first draft to the Department of National Planning, under the Ministry of Finance, National Planning, and Trade. This marks a significant step in SQA’s ongoing efforts to modernise its operations and enhance service delivery.



Seychelles Strengthens Regional Educational Collaboration at SADC Forum

On May 11, 2024, Seychelles joined key leaders from qualifications frameworks across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) at SAQA House in South Africa to advance regional collaboration on education and qualifications. The CEO brunch, attended by representatives from Seychelles, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia, and South Africa, aimed to foster academic and skills mobility while laying the foundation for a more integrated regional qualifications framework.

Discussions highlighted four critical action points to strengthen regional education systems. First, there was a commitment to revitalize the African Qualifications Verification Network (AQVN) and SADC Qualifications Verification Network (SADCQVN) to improve qualifications verification processes. Second, Seychelles and other member states advocated for collaborative initiatives, such as mutual recognition of qualifications and shared standards to combat academic fraud.

Third, participants urged countries to ratify the Addis and Global Conventions to harmonize educational standards internationally. Finally, establishing dynamic communication channels, such as regular virtual and in-person meetings, was prioritized to enhance co-ordination and information sharing.

Seychelles' active role in these initiatives underscores its dedication to advancing regional educational integration and fostering international recognition of qualifications. By supporting these action points, Seychelles is positioning itself as a leader in promoting academic mobility and upholding the integrity of qualifications across the SADC region.

SQA was represented by the CEO, Ms Fiona Ernesta and Principal Quality Assurance Officer for Programme Accreditation, Ms Micole Bistoquet.



Participants in a group photo



CEO SQA joins with other member states to advocate for collaborative initiatives such as mutual recognition of qualifications and shared standards to combat academic fraud.

SQA participates in the 2nd NQF Forum in Luanda, Angola.

The Seychelles Qualifications Authority (SQA) actively participated in the 2nd National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Forum, held in Luanda, Angola, from the 5th to 6th of September 2024. This significant event focused on five key themes:

- Innovation in the development of new NQFs,
- Initiating the referencing process to the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF),
- Quality assurance mechanisms for NQFs,
- Policy instruments for mobility, recognition, and portability (RPL, CATS, and micro-credentials),
- Greening NQFs,
- Progress on the Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP).

The forum formed part of the ACQF-II project's broader programme, which includes training, dialogue, and peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing workshops across the continent.

Representing SQA at the forum were its Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Fiona Ernesta, and Principal Standards Setting Officer, Mrs. Noella Baker-Albert. On the first day of the forum, Ms. Ernesta delivered an insightful presentation on the Seychelles National Qualifications Framework (SNQF). This was followed by engaging discussions on micro-credentials and the results of a micro-credentials survey conducted in Seychelles between July and August 2024.

The SQA's contribution to the forum underscores its commitment to fostering collaboration and advancing best practices in qualifications frameworks, both regionally and globally.



The CEO of SQA delivering a presentation on Seychelles revised SNQF



The two SQA participants

3rd ACQF Forum: RPL for Practitioners

The Principal Quality Assurance Officer for RPL, Ms. Dazielle Laporte, represented Seychelles in the 3rd ACQF Forum held in Nairobi, Kenya, from the 1st to the 4th October 2024. This 3rd ACQF Forum, focused on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), was part of the programme of training, dialogue and peer-to-peer sharing workshops organised by the ACQF-II project in 2024.

The Project “African Continental Qualifications Framework” (ACQF-II) organised the 3rd continental “Forum of the institutions of National Qualifications Frameworks”, in partnership with the African Union, African countries, and Regional Economic Communities. The workshop was co-organised with Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA).

The ACQF-II project was launched in April 2023 to support the implementation of ACQF as a continental policy instrument, contributing to transparency, comparability and recognition of qualifications, collaboration between NQFs, promotion of lifelong learning, and support to Member States in the development of NQFs and related policies. The ACQF-II project supports referencing of National Qualifications Frameworks (NQF) to ACQF; and develops and operationalises innovative tools such as the Qualifications and Credentials Platform (national and continental levels), the RPL campaign, and Skills Data Focus (labour market intelligence tools).



Group photo of the participants

SQA Welcomes new board



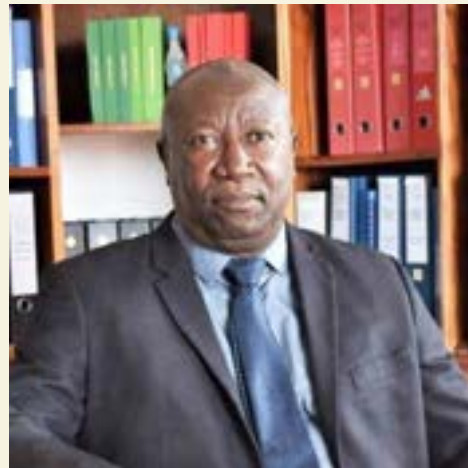
**Mr. Christian Caffrine as
Chairperson**



**Mr. John Lesperance as
Vice Chairperson**



Mrs. Monica Servina as member



Mr. Bernard Valentin as member



**Mr. Benjamin Choppy as
member**



Mr. Brian Hoareau as member

SQA welcomes new member of staff: Ms. Christine Marimba

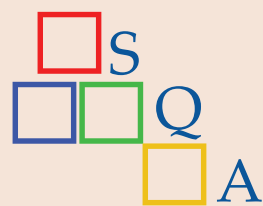
Christine Marimba is SQA's newly-appointed Principal Quality Assurance Officer for Registration of Private Providers of Education and Training. Previously under the purview of the Ministry of Education, Ms. Marimba has eagerly taken on the challenge of developing a national framework for the registration of private providers of education and training, under the guidance and leadership of SQA's CEO, Ms. Fiona Ernesta. Since taking up the position in June this year, Ms. Marimba has been an active team member in ensuring the smooth running of such key activities as the Micro-Credentials Survey, the 4th ACQF Forum 'Micro-credentials for better opportunities' which took place in Seychelles in November 2024, and she has also participated as a member of the ACQF referencing team. Ms. Marimba was previously the Quality Assurance Officer of the Seychelles Institute of Teacher Education. She is a qualified teacher with experience in marketing and publicity, and the media.

With the knowledge and experience, she has acquired, Ms. Marimba will no doubt bring some valuable contributions to the work of the SQA as she broadens her knowledge in the field of Quality Assurance.



“Education is pre-eminently a matter of quality not amount”

- By Henry Ford



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