

Evaluation of Foreign Qualifications at SAQA

Coleen Jaftha
South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)
Nokut seminar
Oslo, Norway
21 September 2018



Overview of Presentation



Overview of Presentation



History of Evaluation Function



- Function moved from HSRC to SAQA
- Criteria and Guidelines for the Evaluation of Foreign Qualifications (2005)

Used Lisbon Convention uncritically

Review of the evaluation function



Evaluation = Verification + Comparison

**National legislation
takes precedence**



Aligned terminology

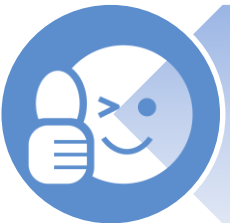


Changed understanding of the world



**Consistent
with the
NQF Act**

Revised methodology



New SAQA Certificate of Evaluation



**SAQA as
authority**

Replaces Criteria and
Guidelines for the
Evaluation of Foreign
Qualifications, 2005

Overview of Presentation



Context



NQF Act, 67 of 2008

SAQA mandate
NQF system &
objectives

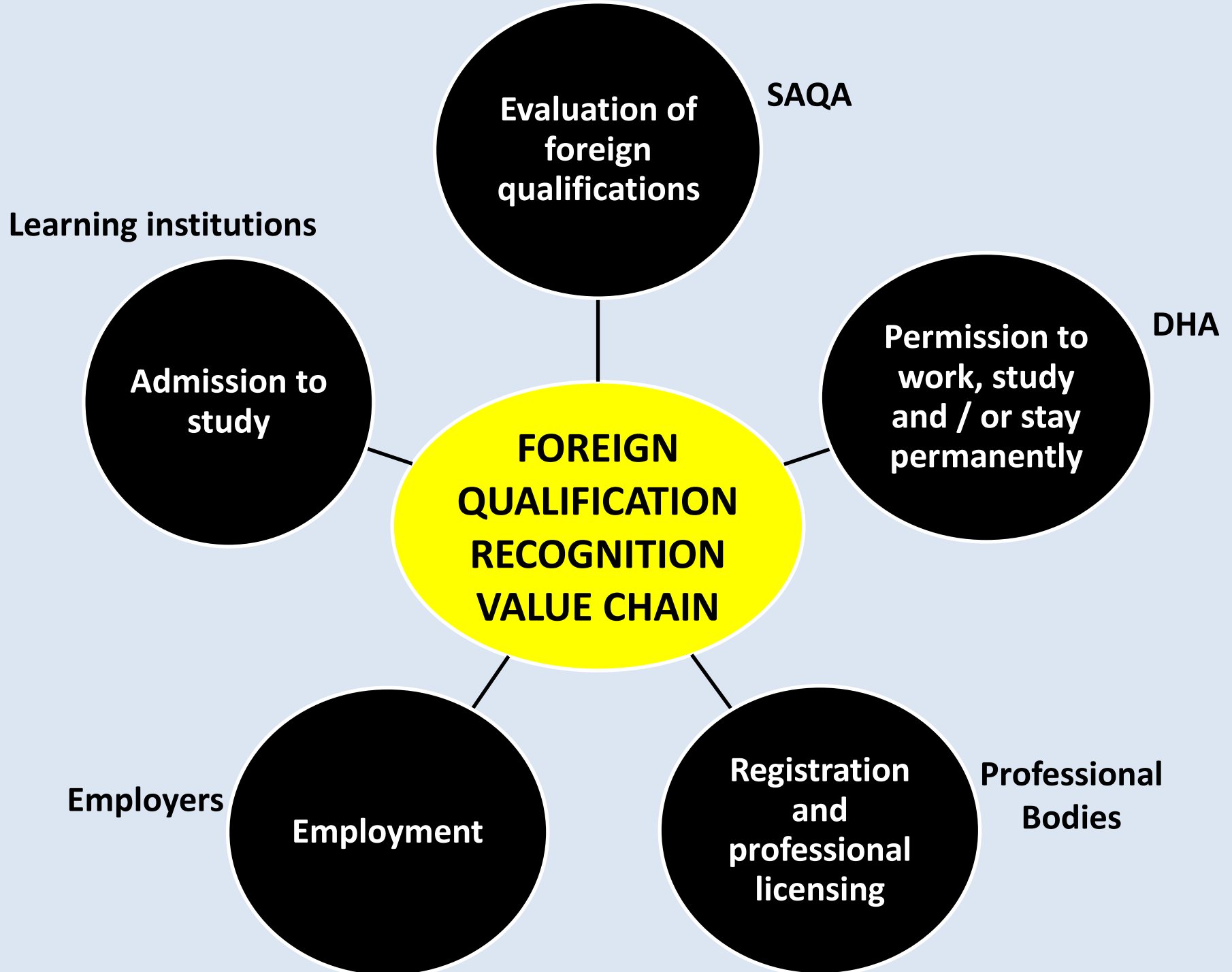
NQF as recognition
instrument

Global recognition
instruments

Recognition
value chain

SAQA Certificate
of Evaluation





Principles



The SAQA Certificate of Evaluation

Professional status,
licensing, admission

Information

Right to appeal

National
legislation

Substantial
difference

Zero tolerance
to fraud

Recognition relationships
& bigger context

NQF policies



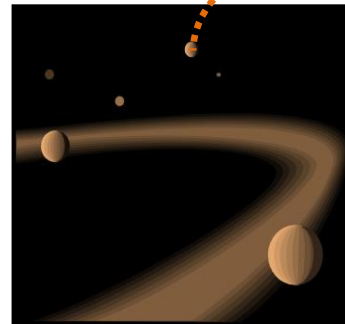
SAQA policies, structures, principles

Overview of Presentation



Evaluation

⦿ Verification



Internationally
recognised

⦿ Comparison

NQF as Benchmark

National Qualifications Framework

Level	Sub-framework and qualification types	
10	Doctoral Degree Doctoral Degree (Professional)	*
9	Master's Degree Master's Degree (Professional)	* Qualification types beyond Level 6 on the OQSF have not been determined pending further advice
8	Bachelor Honours Degree Postgraduate Diploma Bachelor's Degree	Occupational Certificate (Level 8)
7	Bachelor's Degree Advanced Diploma	Occupational Certificate (Level 7)
6	Diploma Advanced Certificate	Occupational Certificate (Level 6)
5	Higher Certificate	Occupational Certificate (Level 5)
4	National Certificate	Occupational Certificate (Level 4)
3	Intermediate Certificate	Occupational Certificate (Level 3)
2	Elementary Certificate	Occupational Certificate (Level 2)
1	General Certificate	Occupational Certificate (Level 1)

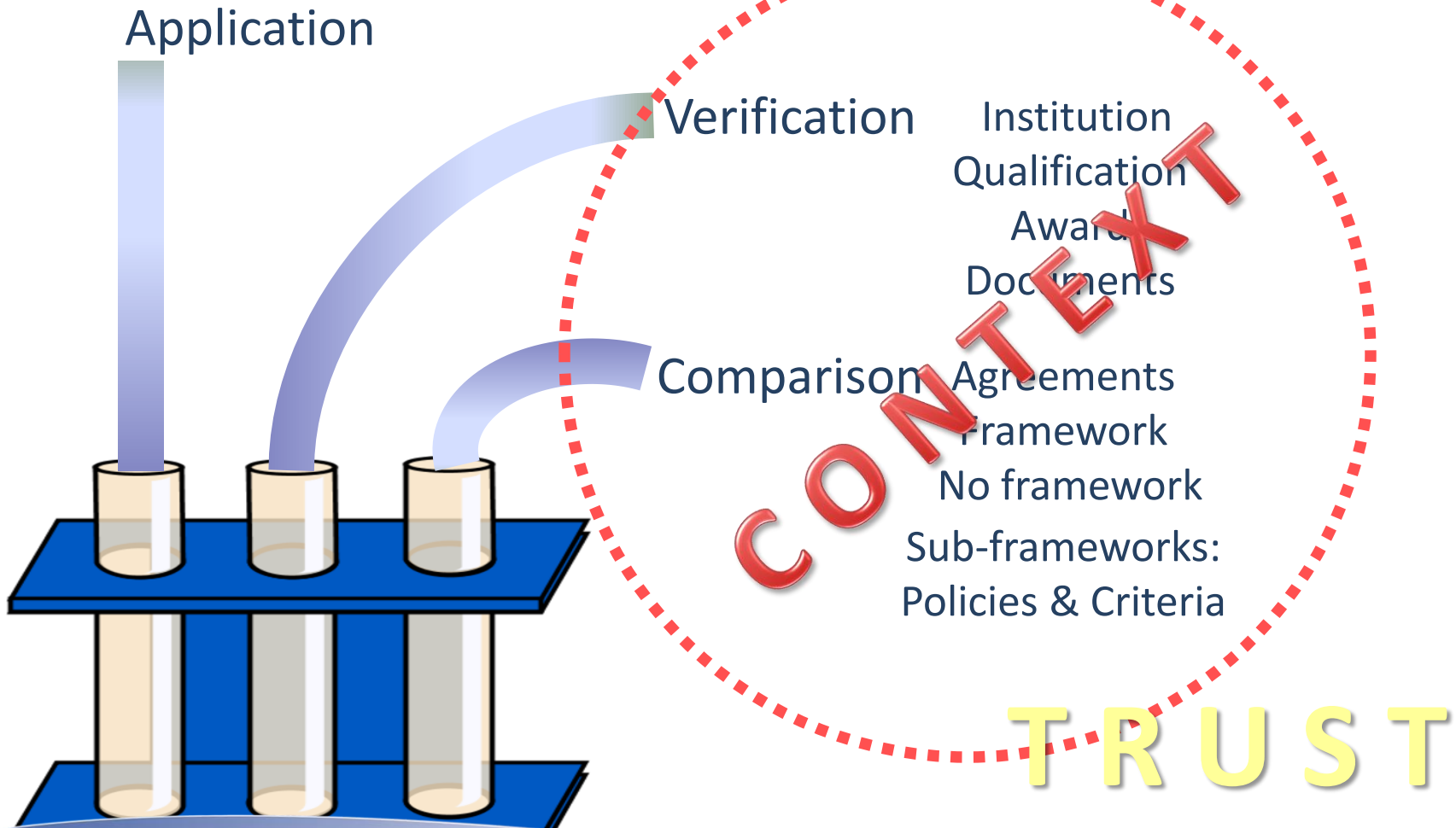
Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework

& Field

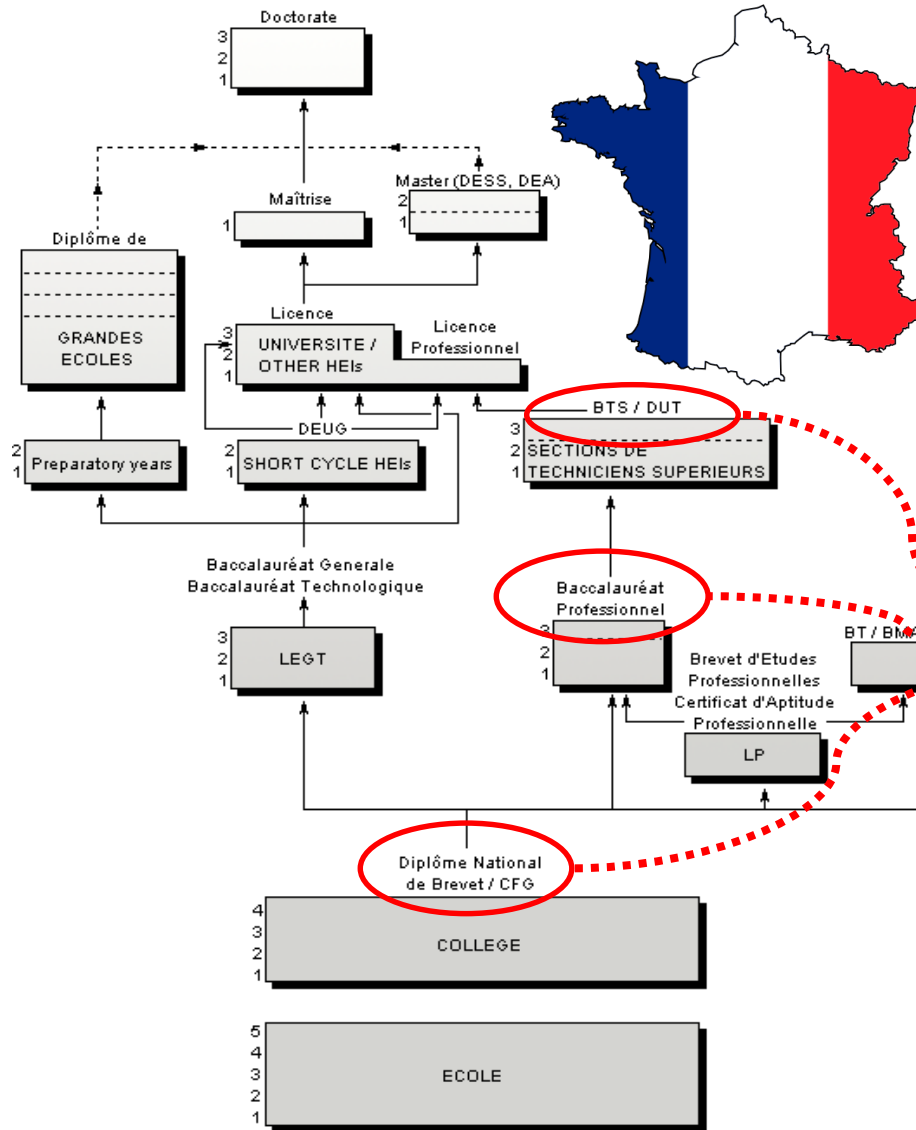
Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework

General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework

Criteria



Initial definition of a foreign qualification



Awarded by an institution
accredited or recognised
in an education system other
than South Africa

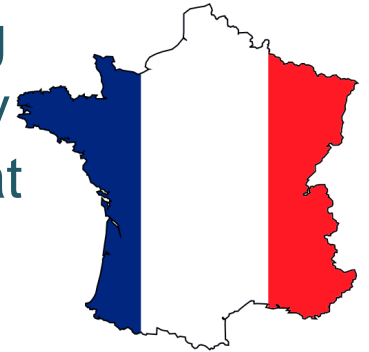
Forms an intrinsic part of
that system in accordance
with its laws, policies or
generally accepted
practice

Equivalent of “NQF registered”

Changed definition of a foreign qualification?



Forms an intrinsic part of an education and training system other than South Africa, and is awarded by an institution that is accredited or recognised in that system, in accordance with the relevant laws, policies or generally accepted practice



OR



Meets other specific criteria as determined and published by SAQA

Expanded criteria

29(a)(ii) and (b)(ii):

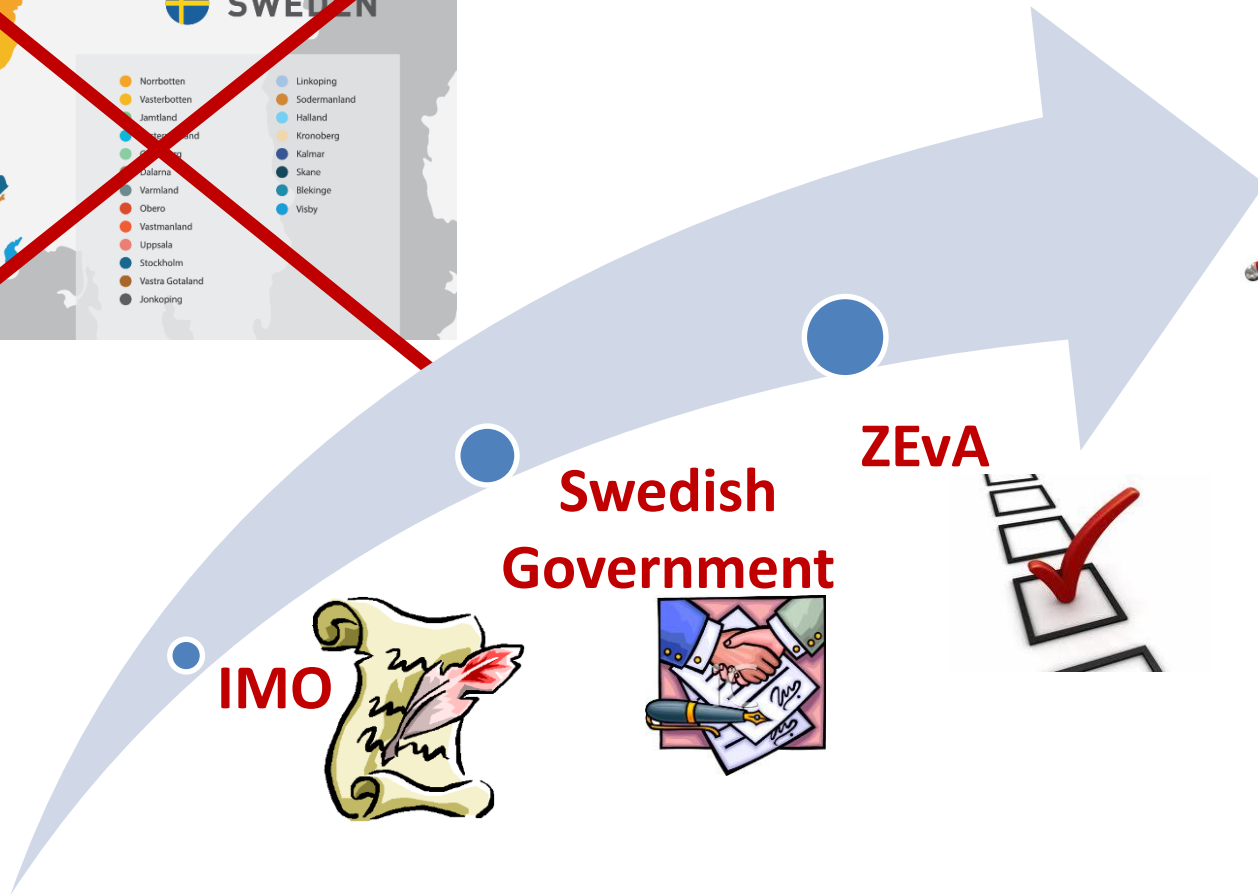


Under auspices of the UN and listed on
IAU / UNESCO WHED

Legitimate in terms of location and
agreed rights

Programme accreditation by legitimate
QA body

The case of World Maritime University



Further verification

Expanded criteria

29(a)(iii) and (b)(ii):



Established on grounds that SAQA may consider on a case-by-case basis and find to be meritorious

Expanded criteria

33:

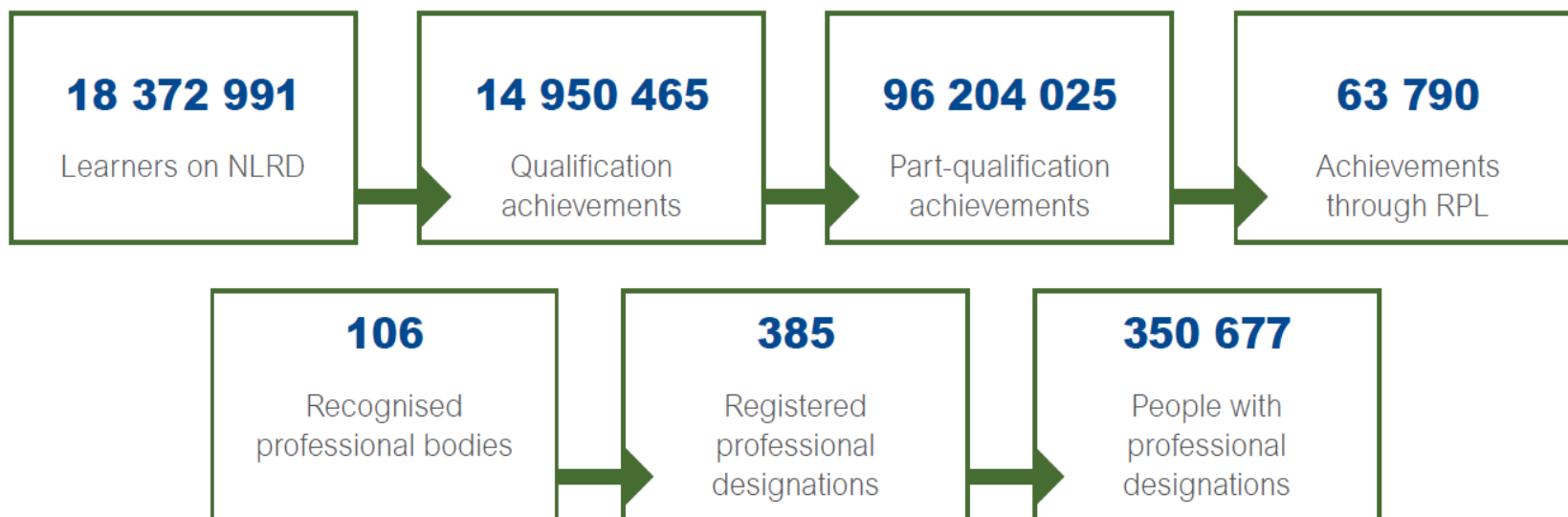


Not located within a national system of education and training

Meets all the verification criteria outlined in (29)(a) and (b)

SAQA will use appropriate measures to determine comparability in terms of the NQF

South African National Learners' Records Database (NLRD)- snapshot as at 31 March 2018



: Information on the NLRD as at 31 March 2018

Number of qualifications verified- snapshot as at 31 March 2018

Verified national qualifications

79931

(with misrepresentations)

230

&

Recognised foreign qualifications

25216

(with misrepresentations)

373

2017_2018 Financial Year

Top ten receiving countries 2017-2018

Rank	Country qualifications	No of qualifications recognised
1	Zimbabwe	5924
2	India	3402
3	UK	2124
4	Nigeria	2019
5	Lesotho	1312
6	DRC	1197
7	USA	894
8	Ghana	549
9	Cameroon	442
10	Swaziland	433

SAQA has standing memoranda and/or contracts with agencies in the following countries in these areas:



SADC Protocol on Education and Training



Bilateral agreement on mutual recognition of qualifications with Russia and China



Contract to develop an information system with Namibia



Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in the area of qualifications frameworks (QFs) with Malaysia, United Arab Emirates and New Zealand

27

Verifications' Service Level Agreements (VSLAs)



Australia



Botswana



France



Kenya



Lesotho



Namibia



Netherlands



Saudi Arabia



Singapore



Swaziland



UK



USA



Zambia



Hong Kong



Thailand

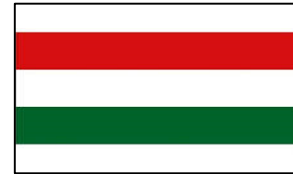
Seven draft mutual recognition of qualifications (MRQ) agreements between SA and other countries



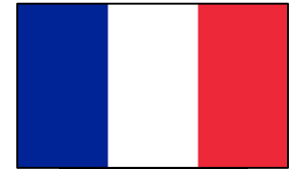
Brazil



Cuba



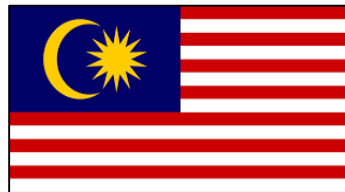
Hungary



France



India



Malaysia

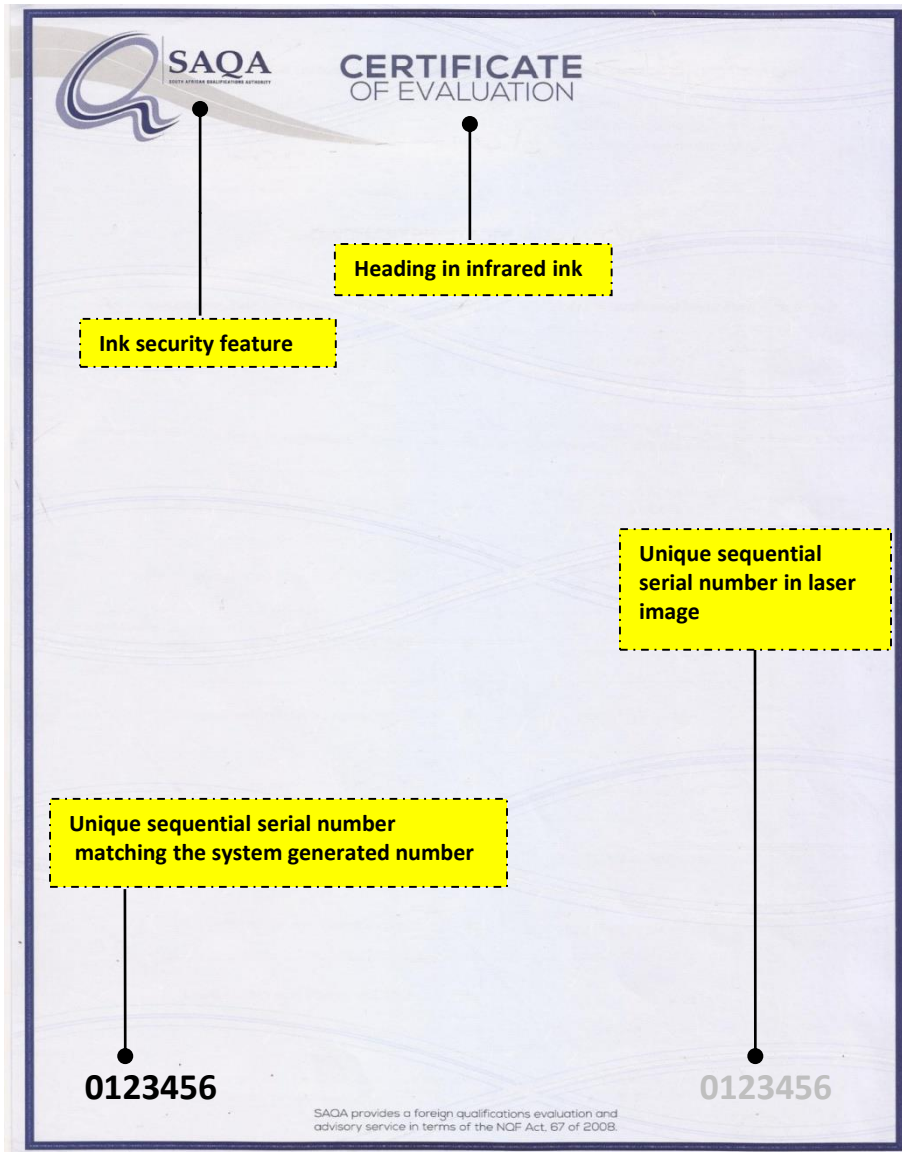


Palestine

Overview of Presentation



Secure SAQA Certificate in line with our counter-fraud drive



Since first week of December 2013

Other security features

"South African Qualifications Authority" written in microprint in border and in swirls

- **Substrate coated to prevent alteration to information**

- **Rainbow print and fine-line background design**

- **"RSA" watermark embedded in substrate**

- **Invisible fluorescent security fibres**

Counter-fraud drive to educate the public about the NQF

SAQA
SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

**CERTIFICATE
OF EVALUATION**

The serial number **0123456** must appear at the bottom of this page in printed and in perforated format

Unique sequential certificate number

Names and date of birth of applicant

CURRENT NAMES • **(Born YYYY-MM-DD)**

Items 1 to 8 describe the foreign qualification

Item 1: Qualification (1):
Item 2: Awarding Body / Institution:
Item 3: Date of completion / award:
Item 4: Purpose of the qualification:
Item 5: Minimum entry requirement:
Item 6: Minimum duration of study:
Item 7: Requirements for the award:
Item 8: Level in country of origin:

Items 9 to 13 state SAQA's recognition decision

RECOGNITION DECISION
Qualification(s) described above **Closest comparable South African qualification / qualification type**

Item 9: (1): (Name of comparable SA qualification appears here)
Item 10: Organising Field:
Item 11: Sub-framework location:
Item 12: NQF Level (see overleaf)
Item 13: Credits

Item 14: SAQA verified that, at the time of award of qualifications listed on this certificate, the institutions were part of the national systems in their countries of origin and had the right to award these qualifications.
Item 15: SAQA took all reasonable steps to ensure that the qualifications were authentic

Items 14 to 15 state SAQA's verification decision

Signatures and date of issue of certificate

Evaluator: 01308010018/AB Director: Foreign qualifications evaluation and advisory services

2013-11-13

SAQA's legal mandate in terms of the NQF Act

0123456

SAQA provides a foreign qualifications evaluation and advisory service in terms of the NQF Act, 67 of 2008.

The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) is mandated in terms of the NQF Act, 67 of 2008, to:

- Oversee the further development and implementation of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF);
- Advance the objectives of the NQF; and
- Co-ordinate the three sub-frameworks (outlined below).

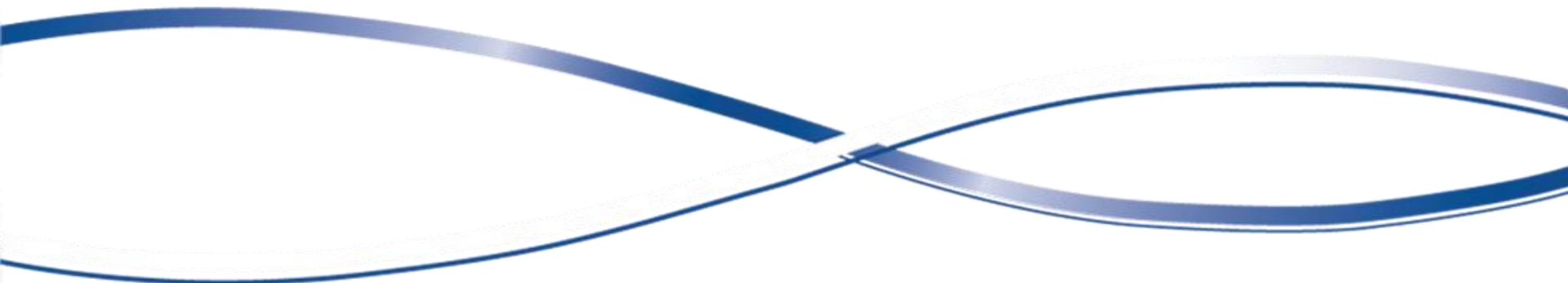
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Sub-frameworks and qualification types		Levels	Sub-frameworks and qualification types	
Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework (HEQSF)	Doctoral Degree Doctoral Degree (Professional)	10	*Not determined yet	
	Master's Degree Master's Degree (Professional)	9	*Not determined yet	
	Bachelor Honours Degree Postgraduate Diploma Bachelor's Degree	8	Occupational Certificate (Level 8)	
	Bachelor's Degree Advanced Diploma	7	Occupational Certificate (Level 7)	
	Diploma Advanced Certificate	6	Occupational Certificate (Level 6)	
General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-framework (GFETQSF)	Higher Certificate	5	Occupational Certificate (Level 5)	
	National Certificate	4	Occupational Certificate (Level 4)	
	Intermediate Certificate	3	Occupational Certificate (Level 3)	
	Elementary Certificate	2	Occupational Certificate (Level 2)	
	General Certificate	1	Occupational Certificate (Level 1)	

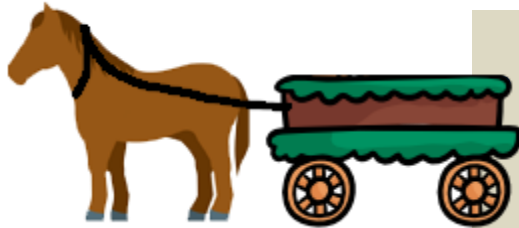
The amended determination of the sub-frameworks as outlined above was published as Notice 891 of 2013 in Government Gazette Number 36803 of 30 August 2013.

A digital era

**eSAQA Certificate of
Evaluation**



Why go digital?



Reduce time in getting the evaluation outcome to learners



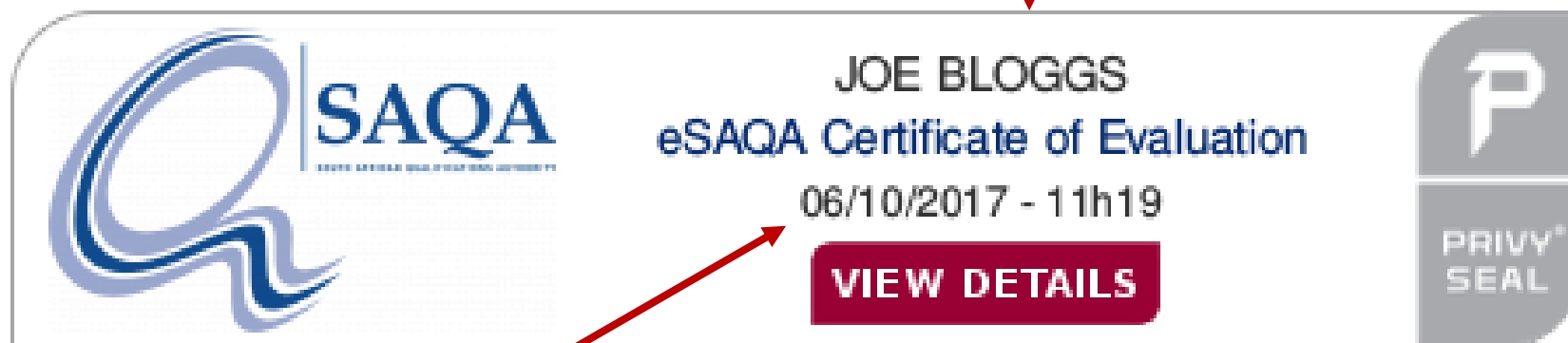
- **Make it easier and quicker for learners to apply for study and work**



- **Reduce and prevent fraud and misrepresentation**

The digital Seal

Name of seal holder



Date and time

Click to view certificate



CERTIFICATE OF EVALUATION

Name of certificate
holder

JOE BLOGGS

Serial
number
594870

Linked to paper-
based

Qualification (1):
Awarding body / institution:
Date of completion / award:

Bachelor of Science (Honours) (Agricultural Engineering)
University of Zimbabwe
2005

Holder's qualification
details

Closest comparable South African
qualification / qualification type:
Organising Field:
Sub-framework location:
NQF Level:
Credits:

Bachelor of Engineering: Agricultural Engineering
Agriculture and Nature Conservation
Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework
8
130

Qualification (2):
Awarding body / institution:
Date of completion / award:

Master of Science (Manufacturing Systems and Operations Management)
University of Zimbabwe
2007

Closest comparable South African
qualification / qualification type:
Organising Field:
Sub-framework location:
NQF Level:
Credits:

Master of Science
Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology
Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework
9
240

Closest comparable
qualification, NQF
Level and credits

SAQA verified that, at the time of award of qualifications listed on this certificate, the institutions were part of the national systems in their countries of origin and had the right to award these qualifications. SAQA took all responsible steps to ensure that the qualifications are authentic.

SAQA provides a foreign qualifications evaluation and advisory service in terms of the NQF Act 67 of 2008.

SAQA confirmed the above information, for digital certification and sharing by PrivySeal Limited [GB],
at 12:49 on 06 October 2017.

Real-time confirmation



What are the benefits?

- Real-time verification



- Easy to share



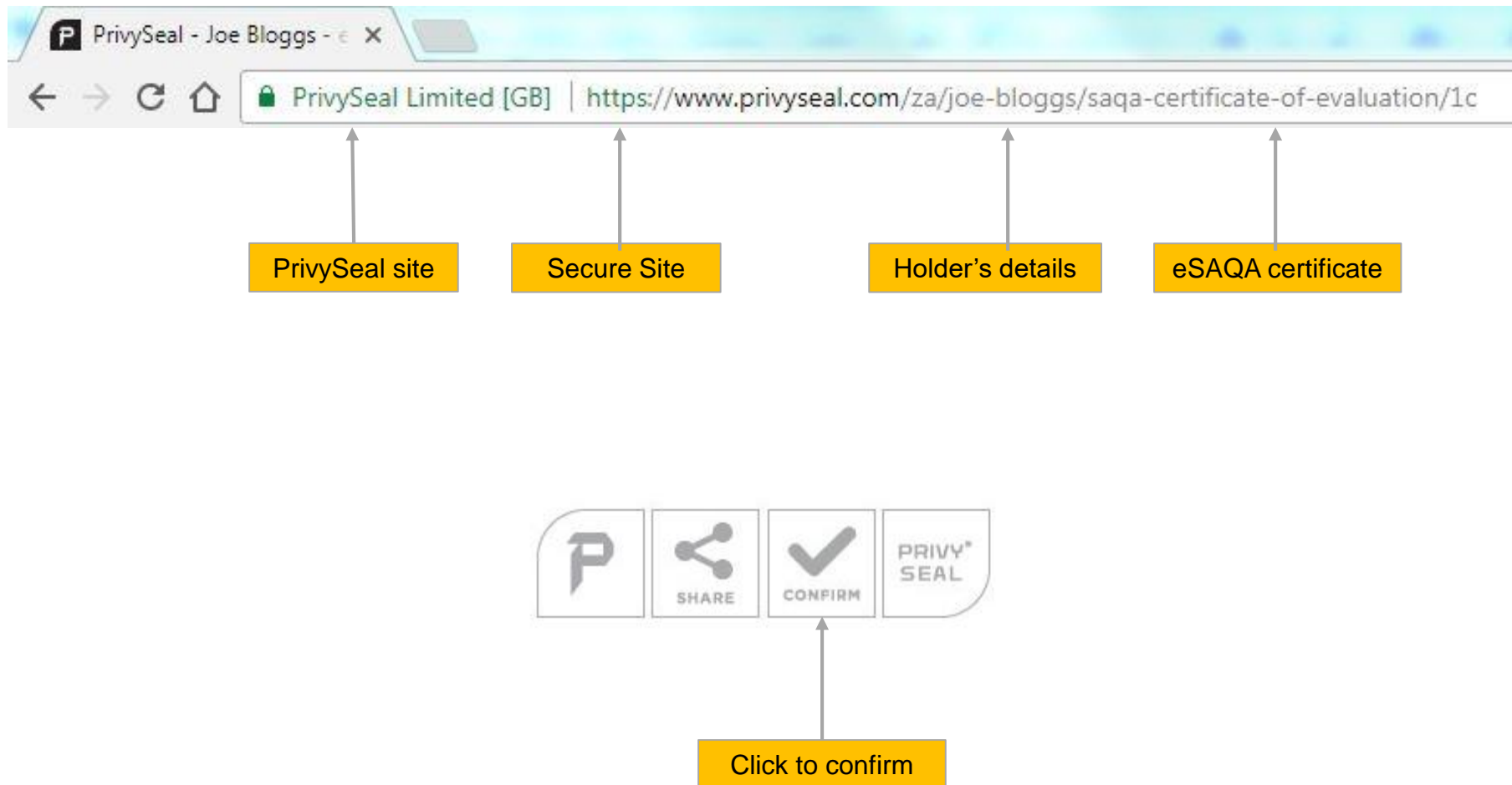
- Cannot be easily forged



- Cannot be lost

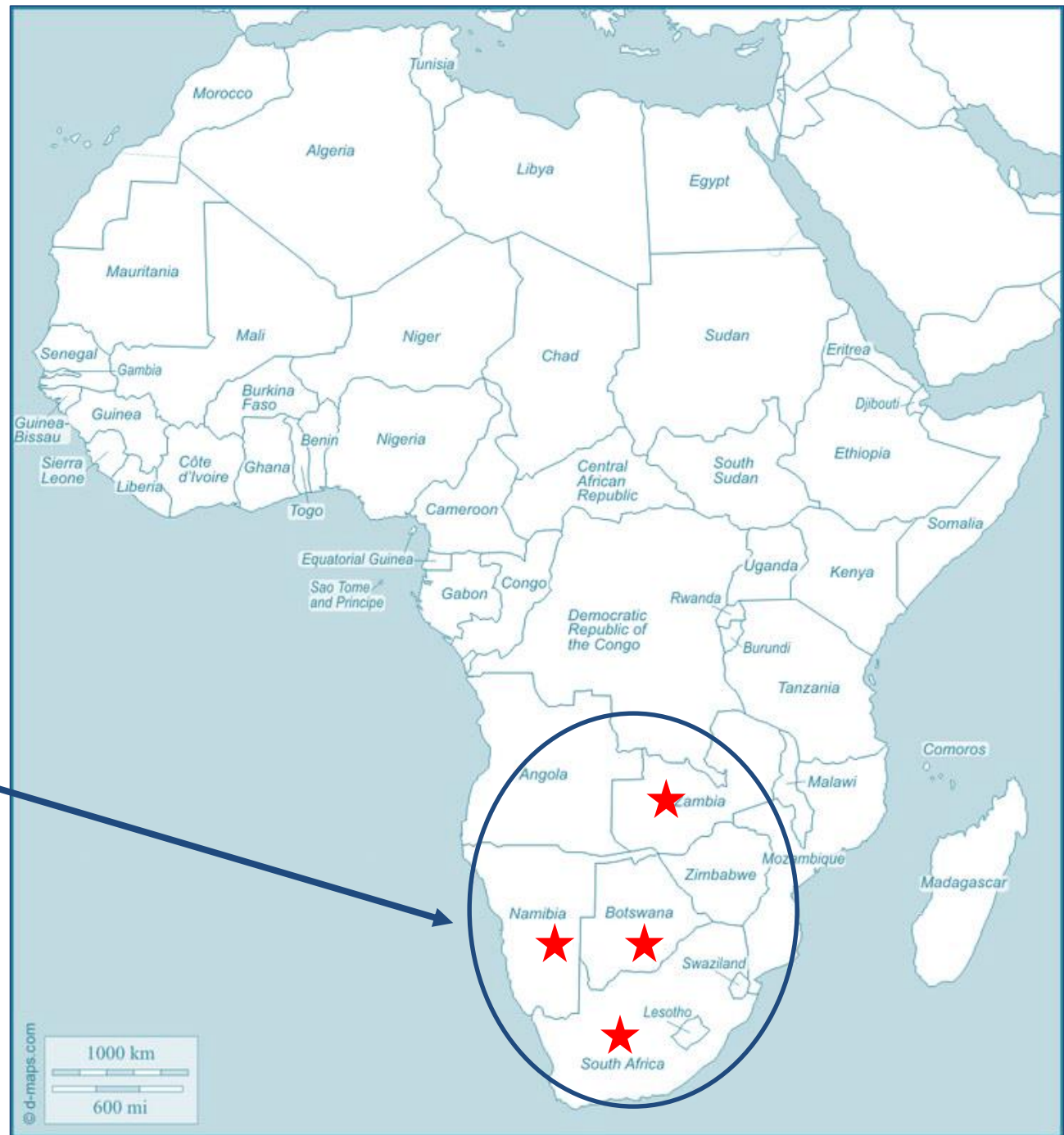


How do you confirm the authenticity of the certificate?



- SAQA piloted the eSCoE in SA; now rolling out

Regional digitisation pilot: testing in 4 SADC countries



Overview of Presentation





Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

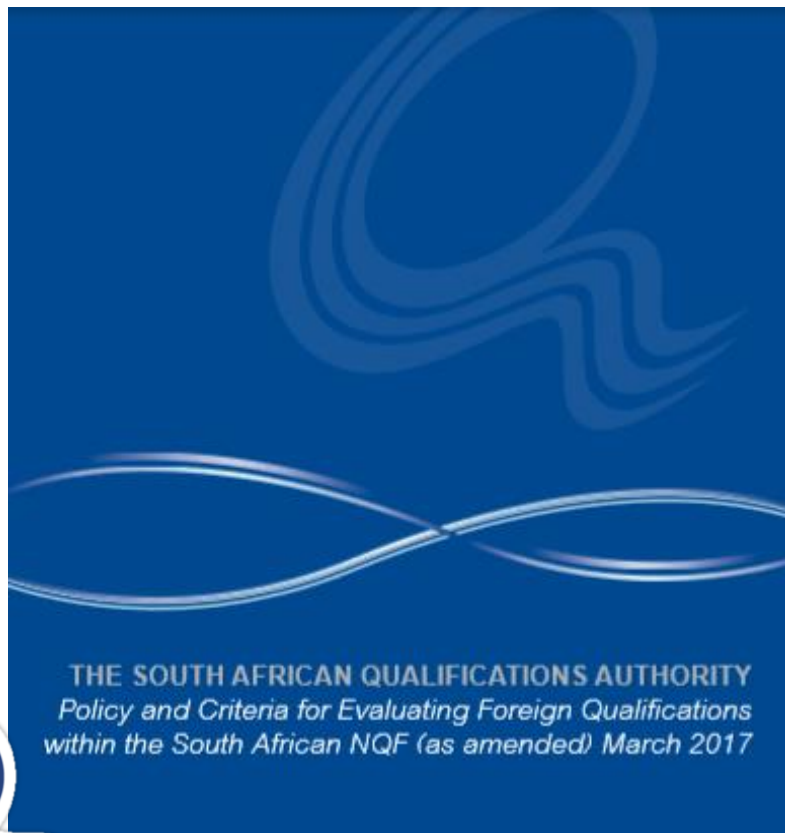
Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединённых Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتنمية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织



Foreign Qualifications Evaluation and Advisory Services

Appeal Policy



Foreign Qualifications Evaluation and Advisory Services

Revocation Policy



SAQA & NQF

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

THE SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SAQA) CREATES AND IMPLEMENTS THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (NQF).

NQF ENSURES THAT ALL EDUCATION & TRAINING IN SOUTH AFRICA IS STRUCTURED AROUND A RELIABLE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK.



BECAUSE OF THE NQF, THE QUALIFICATIONS THAT YOU HAVE EARNED THROUGH STUDY AND HARD WORK ARE ON RECORD FOR LIFE!

SAQA'S BIGGEST CHALLENGE TODAY IS TO ENSURE GENUINE QUALIFICATIONS.

GENUINE QUALIFICATIONS



GENUINE QUALIFICATIONS CAN ONLY BE ISSUED BY THE PROVIDER IF:

- THE PROVIDER IS ACCREDITED,
- THE PROVIDER IS REGISTERED, (EXCEPT IF IT IS A SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER),
- THE QUALIFICATION IS REGISTERED ON THE NQF,
- THE DOCUMENTATION IS AUTHENTIC.

IF YOUR QUALIFICATIONS ARE NOT GENUINE, YOU HAVE WASTED TIME, MONEY AND OPPORTUNITIES ON YOUR EDUCATION AND TRAINING!

GENUINE QUALIFICATIONS ARE IMPORTANT

HOW DOES SAQA ENSURE GENUINE QUALIFICATIONS



PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE NQF AND ITS FUNCTION WILL ENSURE THAT FRAUDSTERS CAN NO LONGER CHEAT THE PUBLIC.



SAQA HAS A STRICT VERIFICATION PROCESS FOR CERTIFICATES. A STRICT VERIFICATION PROCESS WILL ENSURE THAT FRAUDSTERS CAN NO LONGER FORGE CERTIFICATES.



HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP!



ALWAYS CHECK CREDENTIALS

ALWAYS CHECK THE CREDENTIALS OF YOUR INSTITUTION. MAKE SURE THAT THE QUALIFICATIONS THAT THEY PROVIDE ARE GENUINE, AND THAT THEY ARE ACCREDITED AND REGISTERED.

CHECK ON THE NQF

CHECK THE REGISTRATION OF THE QUALIFICATION ON THE NQF. YOU CAN DO THIS THROUGH THE WEBSITE OR JUST A PHONE CALL.



TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THE NQF

EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT SAQA AND THE NQF. PLAY YOUR PART IN ROOTING OUT FRAUD! INFORM YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY ABOUT GENUINE QUALIFICATIONS. SHARE THIS GRAPHIC ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

SAQA CONTACT DETAILS

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH SAQA

PHONE
Helpline: 0860 111 673

EMAIL AND WEBSITE
Email: saqa@saqa.org.za
Website: www.saqa.org.za

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTACTS
Twitter: [@SAQAonline](https://twitter.com/SAQAonline)
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SAQA

OR SIMPLY WALK IN

SAQA House
1067 Arcadia Street
Hatfield, Pretoria





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединённых Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
لتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States

Convention régionale révisée sur la
reconnaissance des études et des
certificats, diplômes, grades et autres
titres de l'enseignement supérieur
dans les États d'Afrique

الاتفاقية الإقليمية المعدلة الخاصة بالاعتراف بدراسات
التعليم العالي
وشهاداته ودرجاته العلمية وسائر مؤهلاته الأكاديمية في
الدول الأفريقية

Convenio revisado de convalidación
de estudios y certificados, diplomas,
grados y otros títulos de educación
superior en los Estados de África

Partial studies

**Addendum on
refugees and
asylum seekers**



Evaluation of Foreign Qualifications at SAQA

Coleen Jaftha
South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)
Nokut seminar
Oslo, Norway
21 September 2018

