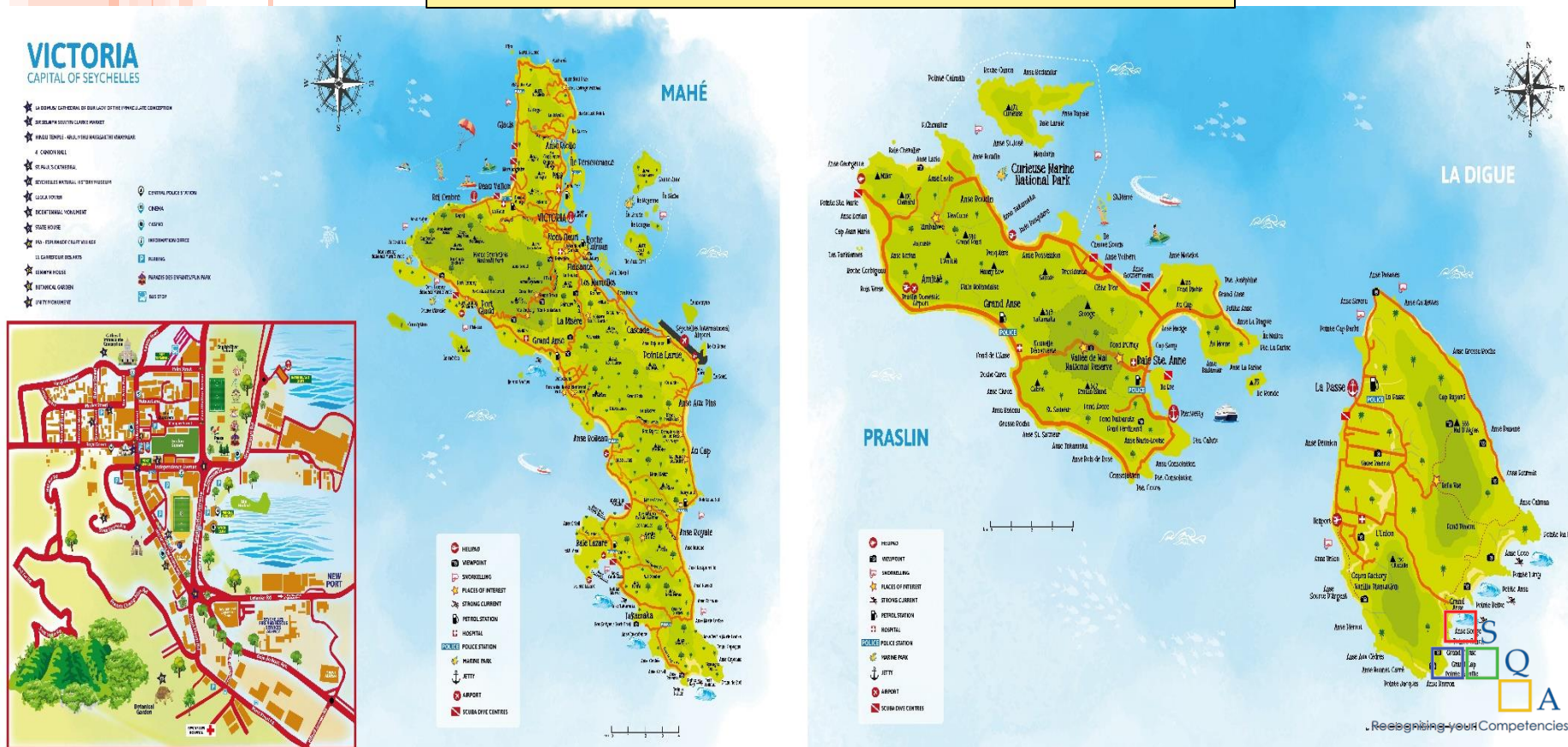




Seychelles - Quality Assurance in TVET

Accreditation of training providers, courses and qualifications

Webinar INQ – 28/07/2025
Fiona Ernesta, CEO SQA





Overview of the Presentation

- ❑ Seychelles Education System
- ❑ Relevant documents
- ❑ Mandate of Seychelles Qualifications Authority (SQA)
- ❑ Related functions of SQA
- ❑ Types of Reviews
- ❑ Definitions
- ❑ Institutional Accreditation
- ❑ Programme/ Course Accreditation
- ❑ QA internal to training providers



Seychelles Education System

Compulsory years

Age	Stages Assessment	SNQF Level	Progression between stages
18+	TERTIARY UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING	7-10	Selective/Dependent on learner performance in international examinations
16+	TERTIARY NON-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING	3-6	Selective/Dependent on intake capacity and learner performance in assessment/examinations
16+	International Examinations (A Levels)	3-4	Selective/Dependent on intake capacity and learner performance in assessment/examinations
	UPPER SECONDARY		
	2years		
16	International Examinations (IGCSE)/ National Examinations	2	Selective/Dependent on intake capacity/ International examinations (S5 → A-Levels)
15 14 13 12	SECONDARY EDUCATION 5 years (S1-S5)		Non-selective/ not dependent on learner performance in assessment/examinations
	National Examinations		Non-selective/ not dependent on learner performance in assessment/examinations
11 10 9 8 7 6	PRIMARY EDUCATION 6 years (P1-P6)	1	
5 4	EARLY CHILDHOOD (CRECHE)	0	Non-selective/ not dependent on learner performance in assessment/examinations
0-3	NON-FORMAL EARLY CHILDHOOD (Day Care centres and Child minders facilities)		



Relevant documents

- Seychelles Qualifications Authority Act, 2021
- National Qualifications Framework Regulations 2025
- Quality Assurance Manual of SQA 2011 (*undergoing revision*)
- Internal Quality Assurance Manual for Tertiary Education and Training Providers, 2012 (SQA)
- Internal Quality Assurance Handbook for Tertiary Education and Training Institutions of 2013 (SQA)



Mandate of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority

- ☐ to develop, implement and maintain a national qualifications framework; and
- ☐ to provide for quality assurance of the education and training system nationally.



Related Functions of SQA

- (e) *develop and review quality standards* and ensure compliance by providers through a monitoring system;
- (f) *accredit tertiary education and training providers* and other providers of post compulsory education and training and monitor that such providers continue to comply with prescribed standards and criteria;
- (g) *accredit programmes and courses of education and training* and monitor that such programmes and courses continue to comply with prescribed standards and criteria.

These three functions of the SQA are elaborated as regulations in the National Qualifications Framework Regulations, 2025.



Types of reviews

In keeping with its mandate, the SQA carries out two types of reviews that are complementary:

1. *Institutional Accreditation* where the whole institution is assessed;
2. *Programme Accreditation* where the quality of learning and academic standards are judged in specific programmes.



Definitions

Institutional Accreditation: recognition status granted to a provider by the Authority for a stipulated period of time after an evaluation through self-assessment and external review indicates that it meets or exceeds established standards for educational quality set by the Authority.

Programme Accreditation: recognition status granted to a programme/course by the Authority for a stipulated period of time after an evaluation by the Authority indicates that it meets standards of quality

(Source: SQA Act, 2021)



Institutional Accreditation

- ❑ The institutional accreditation process will assess the effectiveness of an institution's quality assurance arrangements against a *pre-defined set of standards and criteria* and identify areas of strength and areas for improvement.
- ❑ Participation in the process compulsory for all tertiary education and training providers operating in Seychelles.
- ❑ **Framework of standards and criteria** has been reviewed (*8 standards*) and awaits approval of the SQA Board. To be launched next year.



Institutional Accreditation: Institutional Accreditation Overview

INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

Self-
Assessment

Self-
Evaluation

Self-Assessment

External
Assessment

Accreditation
Report

External Assessment

QA
Committee
Deliberations

Accreditation
Outcome

Accreditation Decision



Institutional Accreditation: **Some Main Purposes**

- ❖ provide quality assurance in tertiary education and training in the country;
- ❖ continuously enhance the quality of tertiary education and training;
- ❖ promote accountability;
- ❖ encourage a culture of improvement and enhancement in tertiary education and training.
- ❖ ensure that acceptable standards are met by all tertiary education and training providers
- ❖ provide assurance of quality to the Government, parents, learners and other relevant bodies and stakeholders.



Institutional Accreditation: **Key Stages in the Institutional Accreditation Process**

1. Application: provider applies for Institutional Accreditation
2. Self-Assessment – prepares a Self-Evaluation Report (SER) and submits to SQA
3. External Evaluation by members of the External Review
4. Decision Making and Evaluation/Accreditation Report by External Review Panel.
5. Accreditation Report and proposed outcome submitted to the SQA for review and endorsement by the SQA Quality Assurance Committee



Institutional Accreditation: Institutional Accreditation outcomes

Accredited/ Reaccredited: valid for 5 years. Provider applies for reaccreditation 6 months before period of validity expires.

Provisionally Accredited: After the provisional accreditation period (up to 1 year), the tertiary education and training provider will submit a new Institutional Accreditation Application.

Not Accredited: required to undergo a new Institutional Standards Assessment following a defined period of up to two years after the initial Institutional Standards Assessment has taken place.



Institutional Accreditation: **Monitoring**

-
- ☐ Provider prepares an Action Plan to address the recommendations of the Accreditation Report
 - ☐ Actions Plans submitted to SQA QA Committee for approval
 - ☐ Provider submits progress reports o the implementation of the activities of the Action Plan at specified intervals



Institutional Accreditation: Institutional Accreditation Panel

- ***External reviewers:***

- form the Institutional Accreditation Panel
 - trained by the SQA and have been approved by the SQA Board through its Quality Assurance Committee.
- SQA maintains a *Register of external reviewers*. Also includes international reviewers as these are recruited for the process



Programme Accreditation

- ☐ Development of programme by training providers
- ☐ Completion of Application for Programme Accreditation template
- ☐ Submission to SQA
- ☐ Review by External Programme Reviewers (trained by and registered with SQA) and completion of Results Sheet
- ☐ Submission of Results Sheet (with recommended Outcome) to SQA QA Committee for review and final outcome



Programme Accreditation: **Importance of accreditation of learning**

- ❖ Establishes authenticity of a qualification
- ❖ Affirms that an individual has undergone training and possesses the appropriate competencies expected from the learning programme
- ❖ Assurance to stakeholders namely, employers that an individual holds a genuine qualification and can perform at certain level
- ❖ Comparability with foreign qualifications
- ❖ Ease of mobility of learners/ graduates across institutions, countries, regions and continents



Programme Accreditation: **Programme development by providers**

Identify what already exists locally /internationally

What is currently required -national needs requirement /Job Analysis Workshop

Development of competencies/ Learning outcomes

Validation by stakeholders

Development of teaching and learning materials, assessment and course documents

Internal Quality Assurance processes



Programme Accreditation: **Application for Programme/ Course Accreditation**

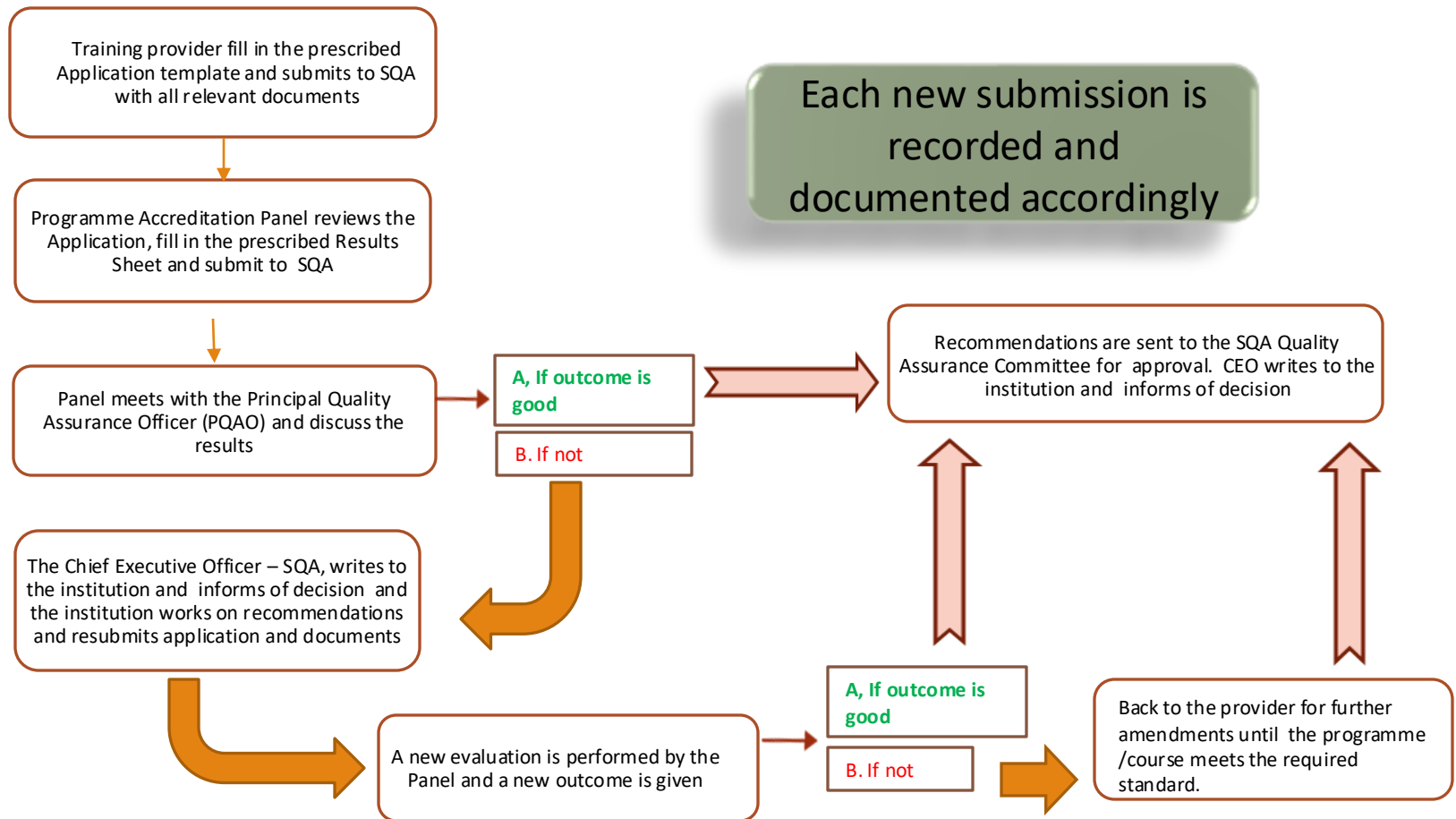
Complete Programme Application Template by provider

Verification and validation by relevant internal structures

Submission to SQA



Programme Accreditation: **The programme accreditation process**





Programme Accreditation: **Programme Accreditation Outcomes**

Accreditation Outcome	Description
Accredited	The programme meets all applicable national programme standards and criteria.
Provisional Accreditation	The programme does not meet all the applicable national programme standards and criteria. The programme will undergo Programme Reassessment following a defined period of provisional accreditation.
Not Accredited	The programme does not meet a number of the applicable national programme standards and criteria.



QA Internal to training providers

- ☐ Institutional QA Policy
- ☐ Institutional QA Guidelines
- ☐ QA Section/ Department
- ☐ QA Officers
- ☐ QA structures and mechanisms that make up the internal QA system
- ☐ Training in quality assurance organised/ facilitated by SQA

Thank you!

Merci!

Obrigada!

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