

SADCAS

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY



SADCAS Newsletter

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Mr Xavier Mugari



Mr Boniface Badubi

We are pleased to present Issue 48 of the SADCAS Newsletter (July 2024 Edition) to keep our readers updated on accreditation activities in the region and beyond. This issue unpacks news on accreditation activities undertaken by SADCAS and developments in the field of accreditation.

June 9th, marked World Accreditation Day (WAD), a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness on the importance of accreditation related activities.

This year's theme, ***Accreditation: Empowering Tomorrow and Shaping the Future***, highlights the role that accreditation plays in shaping various aspects of life, from technology to transportation, sustainability to security, and inclusivity to innovation as digitalization, new technologies and growing sustainability concerns continue to change our world.

WAD 2024 celebrations were exciting in the region, as the National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) held celebrations in their respective member states. SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa participated in the prestigious panel discussion for the 2024 SADCA World Accreditation Day (WAD) Regional Celebrations. Additionally, there was circulation of press releases in various social media, television interviews, virtual and physical workshops.

SADCAS is now in its 16th year of operation and continues to grow in terms of field, scope of accreditation, sectorial coverage, and in terms of geographical diversity. The SADCAS CEO and Management were busy with Accreditation Handover Ceremonies and Targeted Visits in the following countries: Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Thank you for your support and growing the accreditation landscape in the region and beyond!

Happy reading!

SADCAS CONDUCTS TECHNICAL ASSESSOR COURSE IN COLLABORATION WITH AFRICA CDC



Participants pose for a photo with facilitators after successfully completing the course.

Accreditation is a critical process that ensures conformity of Medical Laboratories to ISO 15189. The benefits of accreditation of Medical Laboratories in Africa are numerous and include the facilitation of accurate and rapid diagnostics, efficiency of treatment and reduction of errors in the laboratory process. This contributes to the strengthening of laboratory quality in the African region, for its better contribution to disease management, prevention, control and response to epidemics.

Through the Assessor Capacity Building Programme, the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS)

partnered with Africa Centre for Disease Control (Africa CDC) to conduct a Regional Assessor training course for 20 Experts from 10 Southern Africa countries namely; Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The course was conducted from 06 May to 17 May 2024 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The training course was facilitated by Mrs Eva Muronda, a registered SADCAS Technical Assessor/Team Leader and Scheme Coordinator for Medical Laboratory Accreditation Scheme and Mr. Xavier Mugari, a registered SADCAS Trainer, Technical Assessor/Team Leader for Medical

Laboratories and the SADCAS Quality Manager, Mrs Ziningi Pule, a registered SADCAS Team Leader/ Technical Assessor and Mr Ezekiel Njoroge, a registered SADCAS Technical Assessor. Africa CDC was represented by Mr Donewell Bangure. Mr. Bangure is an Epidemiologist with African Union in the Laboratory Systems and Networks Division of Africa CDC.

The objectives of the training were to:

- Impart the understanding of accreditation;
- Impart knowledge and skills to Medical Laboratory professionals in applying ISO 15189:2022;
- Impart knowledge and skills in applying accreditation assessment principles, methodologies, techniques and tools for comprehensive assessments;
- Produce a pool of accreditation Assessors who will contribute

- to the cascading of Technical Assessor training in Africa that will strengthen the accreditation of Medical Laboratories; and
- Building competent professionals across Africa.

The training was in 2 phases. The first phase was training on ISO 15189:2022 requirements, Risk management and Assessor Techniques. This was conducted from 06 May 2024 to 10 May 2024. The second phase held from the 13th to 17th May 2024 was mentoring and monitoring of the

trainee Assessors that involved practical application of knowledge gained during the first phase. The trainees were attached to 4 Medical Laboratories in Harare, Zimbabwe namely, CIMAS Medical Laboratories, University of Zimbabwe Clinical Trials Research Centre (CTRC), Biomedical Training and Research Institute and Sally Mugabe Central Hospital Molecular Laboratory.



Certificate Awarding to participants by Mrs Eva Muronda, a registered SADCAS Technical Assessor/Team Leader and Scheme Coordinator for Medical Laboratory Accreditation Scheme.

The candidates participated as trainee assessors in an assessment under the observation of a qualified and experienced assessor, covering all the technical requirements of ISO 15189:2022. Four (4) qualified Assessors were assigned to mentor and monitor the trainee assessors. The mentorship and monitoring were in the following scopes; Haematology, Clinical Chemistry, Molecular Biology; Serology, Microbiology and Mycobacteriology. The onsite assessments included vertical and witnessing assessment techniques.

The training was comprehensive and covered the required areas to equip the trainees with the knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- ISO 15189:2022 and its application in Medical Laboratory accreditation;
- Risk based assessment principles application of ISO 22367;
- SADCAS rules and processes;
- Application of assessment techniques;
- Metrological Traceability;
- Proficiency Testing; and

- Assessor soft skills including effective communication, report writing and assessment management skills.

OPTIMUM HEALTH LABORATORY BOTSWANA CELEBRATES ACCREDITATION STATUS



From Left to Right: Assistant Minister of Health, Honourable Sethomo Lelatisitswe, Optimum Health Laboratory Director, Mr. Desire Mhlabi, SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa and the SADCAS Technical Manager, Ms. Pinkie Malebe.

“Optimum Health Laboratory is situated at Broadhurst Industrial, Lejare Road in Gaborone, Botswana. Optimum Health was founded in January 2018 with a staff complement of seven (7) people and now has a staff complement of forty- four (44). It is also important to note that in 2021, Optimum Health was identified to be a referral facility for the Botswana National Health Laboratory.”

Through this accreditation, Optimum Health Laboratory has been granted a unique accreditation number MED 161 indicating that Optimum Health Laboratory is now an internationally recognised testing body accredited to the international standard ISO 15189:2012. The certificate of accreditation which was issued on 24 February 2024 is valid for 5 years until 05 December 2024.



The Optimum Health Laboratory team happily embraced the accreditation status of their laboratory during the ceremony

SADCAS attended an Accreditation Certificate Hand-Over Ceremony that was held on the 6th June 2024 at the Travel Lodge, Gaborone, Botswana. The Ceremony was officiated by the Assistant Minister of Health, Honourable Setlhomu Lelatisitswe. The momentous occasion was graced by Senior Government officials and stakeholders. SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa officially handed over the accreditation certificate to Optimum Health Laboratory.



Assistant Minister of Health, Mr Setlhomu Lelatisitswe giving keynote remarks during the grand ceremony.

In his keynote remarks, Assistant Minister of Health, Hon. Setlthomo Lelatisitswe said that the Ministry of Health is itself committed to the Accreditation of Healthcare facilities, with several Public Health Medical Laboratories already accredited and some in the process of implementing the requirements for accreditation. The Assistant Minister, Hon. Lelatisitswe urged other private laboratories to embrace quality service provision and endeavour to receive international recognition.



SADCAS Staff members with Optimum Health Laboratory Director, Mr. Desire Mhlabi and Miss Botswana, Anicia Gauthusi display the Certificate of Accreditation.

On presenting the certificate to the Assistant Minister, SADCAS CEO, Ms Gadzikwa said, "Optimum Health Laboratory is the 14th Medical Testing Laboratory to be accredited in Botswana. As of March 2024, SADCAS had accredited 300 facilities and issued 349 certificates in 13 SADC Member States and 3 certificates from 2 non-SADC Member States. Ladies and gentlemen, these are not

just numbers, this demonstrates the demand for accreditation services in the SADC region and beyond, and the capability of SADCAS to meet this demand."

Ms. Gadzikwa further congratulated the Optimum Health Laboratory on its huge achievement of becoming an internationally recognized medical laboratory. She further emphasised

that medical laboratory services play a pivotal role in ensuring that patients receive the most appropriate treatment and care. It is imperative that medical laboratories effectively meet the needs of all patients, clinical personnel responsible for patient care and any other interested parties.

MINISTRY OF TRADE & INDUSTRY BOTSWANA HOSTS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP



National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) Botswana, Mr. Edward Mmatli during the stakeholder engagement workshop.

Botswana Ministry of Trade & Industry hosted a Stakeholder Workshop on the 30th April 2024 at Travel Lodge, Gaborone, Botswana. The event brought together Quality Managers and Officers for Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) and Technical Regulators (TRs) from Government Departments, Parastatals and the Private Sector.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ms. Ellen Richard-Madisa emphasized the crucial role of fostering collaborative partnerships to implement the National Quality Policy (NQP). Speaking during the National Quality Policy Project Stakeholder Engagement Workshop organised by the Ministry through the Department of Industry Development in collaboration with Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa

CDC), Africa Region Subject Matter Expert and Global Health Security Fund (GHSF) in Gaborone recently.

Director of Industry Development Ms. Ruth Baoki, revealed that the National Quality Policy has an Inter-Ministerial Committee which was inaugurated in April 2023 and comprises Government Ministries and the Private sector. The role of the Committee is to monitor the implementation of NQP. She highlighted that Standardisation, Quality Assurance Accreditation and Metrology are critical components of Quality.

SADCAS ATTACHMENT EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS: DORIANE NASHMIWE (RWANDA STANDARDS BOARD)



Doriane receiving a token of appreciation from SADCAS CEO, Mrs. Eve Christine Gadzikwa

"My attachment training at the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) was an enriching experience that exceeded all my expectations. From the moment I arrived, I felt warmly welcomed and instantly fell in love with the country. The kindness and hospitality extended to me by everyone at SADCAS made my stay both enjoyable and fruitful."

The training program was meticulously organized, covering a wide range of topics crucial for understanding the operations of an internationally recognized accreditation body. The scheme coordinators shared their in-depth knowledge, offering practical insights into the accreditation processes. These discussions provided me with a comprehensive understanding of accreditation procedures and

the standards required to maintain quality and compliance.

"A particularly memorable part of the training was an enlightening session with the warm CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa, who gave a detailed overview of the SADCAS's governance structure. Her friendly manner and openness to sharing her knowledge were genuinely motivating."



Doriane posing alongside the SADCAS CEO, Ms. Gadzikwa on the right, and SADCAS Technical manager, Mrs. Malebe on the left.

SADCAS Technical Manager, Mrs. Pinkie Malebe was exceptionally helpful throughout my training. She seamlessly organized the programme and ensured everything ran smoothly. Additionally, the Finance and Administration team demonstrated how their work is very important at SADCAS, showcasing the critical role of efficient administrative processes.

"I was also happy to meet French speakers, which added a delightful exchange to my experience."

Coordinator – Calibration, Legal Metrology, Inspection & Certification

Bodies Accreditation Schemes, Mr. Victor Mundembe played a crucial role in sharing his extensive knowledge, further enhancing my learning experience. His guidance made my participation in virtual assessments smooth and insightful. I also had the opportunity to participate in a virtual assessment, where I gained a glimpse into the exciting world of being an assessor. This practical experience allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios, deepening my understanding of accreditation practices.

One of the most delightful aspects of

my stay was meeting Tsitsi, who sat next to me and shared my passion for coffee. Our mutual love for coffee led to many deep and engaging conversations, adding a personal touch to my time in the country. I will not forget my last lunch at Botswana Craft with all the colleagues, where we enjoyed traditional beef Tswana—the best beef I have ever tasted—and the received gifts. These moments made my experience even more memorable.



Doriane posing alongside the SADCAS CEO, Ms. Gadzikwa on the right, and SADCAS Technical manager, Mrs. Malebe.

My attachment training at SADCAS was an unforgettable journey into the world of accreditation. The combination of a welcoming community, insightful training, and exceptional support made it an enriching and memorable experience. I am grateful to everyone at SADCAS for their kindness and generosity, and I look forward to applying the knowledge and skills gained to my work in the establishment of the Rwanda Accreditation Office (RAO).

This experience has not only equipped me with valuable professional skills but also left me with wonderful memories, I strongly believe this was a steppingstone for future collaboration.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone at SADCAS for making this journey so special!!!

SADCAS ACCREDITS NAMIBIA AGRONOMIC BOARD (NAB) TO ISO/IEC 17020:2012

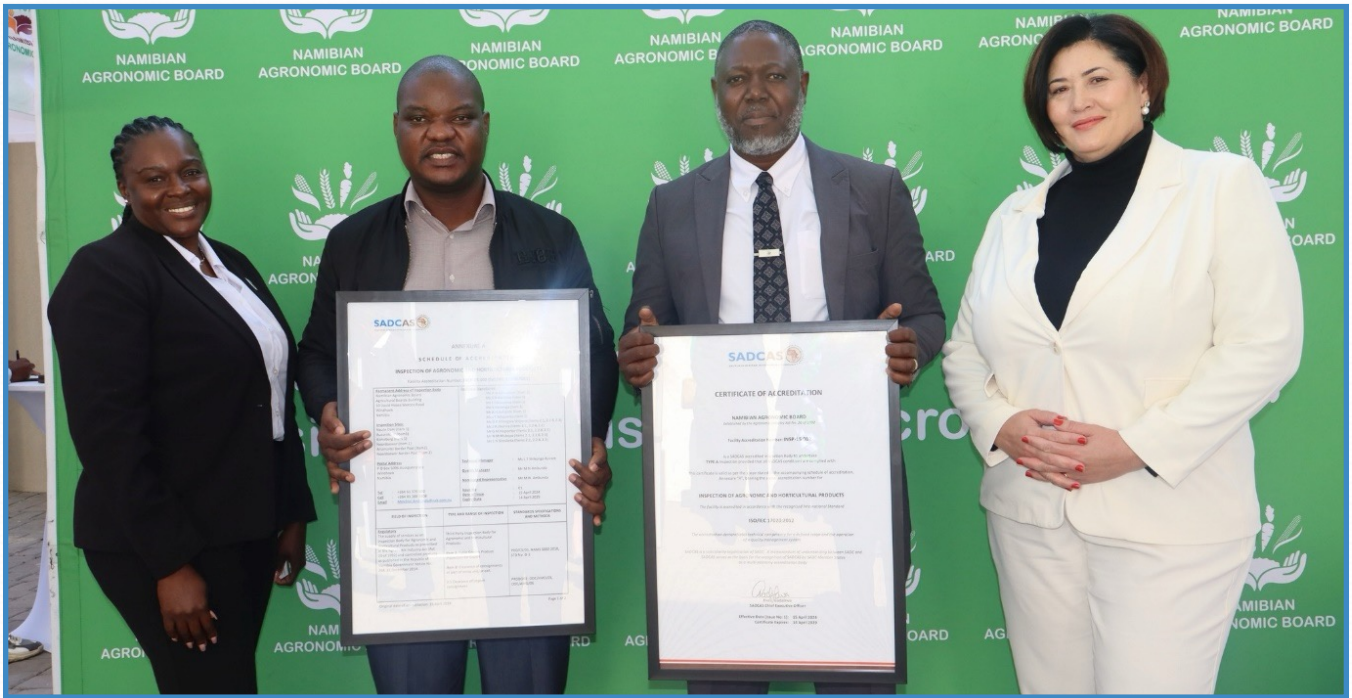


Chief Executive Officer, of Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), Dr. Fidelis Mwazi received the prestigious Accreditation Certificate from SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa.

“Namibian Agronomic Board is a statutory body that came into existence in Namibia in 1985 and is governed by the Agronomic Industry Act, Act 20 of 1992. The Board consists of 13 members representing different organizations within the agronomy and horticulture industry in Namibia. NAB is mandated to promote the agronomic industry and facilitate the production, processing, storage and marketing of controlled agronomy and horticulture products in Namibia through market regulation. The NAB is tasked to do the following functions as per the Agronomic Industry Act, Act No. 20 of 1992.”

Through this accreditation, Namibian Agronomic Board has been granted a unique accreditation number INSP-15 002 indicating that NAB is now an internationally recognised Inspection body accredited to international standard ISO/IEC 17020:2012. The certificate of accreditation which was issued on 15 April 2024 is valid for 5 years until 14 April 2029.

SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa attended a Certificate Hand-Over Ceremony that was held on the 23rd June 2023 in Windhoek, Namibia. The Ceremony was officiated by the Chief Executive Officer, of Namibian Standards Institution (NSI), Dr. Eino Mvula. The celebration was graced by Senior Government officials, the NAB Board, Management and staff.



Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) celebrating its milestone of being granted SADCAS Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020:2012.

In celebrating the milestone, the NAB Management indicated that accreditation of NAB to the ISO/IEC 17020:2012 International Standard is a testimony to its dedication to maintaining high-quality inspection services in Namibia's agronomic and horticultural sectors. The achievement will further enhance NAB's credibility and open up new avenues for international trade and continuous improvement, ultimately benefiting the entire Namibian crop industry.



General Manager: Regulatory Services- Mrs. Lorna T. Shikongo-Kuvare highlighted how the NAB accreditation was instrumental in facilitating global trade.

SADCAS CEO, Ms Gadzikwa said, "The accreditation landscape in Namibia is growing rapidly and I would like to commend the Government of Namibia for its dedication and commitment to strengthening the quality infrastructure and reaping the benefits of accreditation. As of 31 May 2024, there are 35 accredited facilities in Namibia including the Namibian Agronomic Board, this is a testimony that Namibia has embraced the accreditation."

She further applauded NAB for its commitment, noting that accreditation is a very rigorous and challenging journey that will certainly bear tremendous amounts of benefits to NAB.

BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE BECOMES 32ND SADCAS ACCREDITED FACILITY IN BOTSWANA



Chief Executive Officer of Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI), Mr. Andrew Madeswi happily receiving the BVI accreditation certificate from SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa.

“The Botswana Vaccine Institute started from humble beginnings in 1978, a government-owned institute that specialises in the manufacturing and exporting of vaccinations nationally and internationally. Furthermore, BVI has a strategic aim of ensuring that Botswana beef

is competitive and exported to global markets i.e., being exported to the European Union through control of strategic transboundary animal diseases as well as diseases of public health concern.”



The event was graced by BVI Board, Management, Staff and Stakeholders.

Through this accreditation, Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) has been granted a unique accreditation number PHAR 005 indicating that BVI is now an internationally recognised testing laboratory accredited to international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The certificate of accreditation which was issued on 09

May 2024 is valid for 5 years until 08 May 2029.

SADCAS attended a Certificate Hand-Over Ceremony that was held on 23rd July 2024 at Botswana Vaccine Institute Premises, Gaborone, Botswana. The Ceremony was officiated by the Minister of

Agriculture, Hon. Fidelis M. Molao. The ceremony was graced by Senior Government officials, the BVI Board, Management, and various stakeholders in the accreditation landscape. SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa officially handed over the accreditation certificate to BVI.



Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Fidelis M. Molao congratulated the entire BVI team for their hard work and dedication during his key remarks.

Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Fidelis M. Molao celebrated BVI accreditation for its Quality Control Laboratory. He highlighted that the prestigious recognition marked a significant milestone for BVI, a key player in producing top-quality livestock vaccines since 1979. Minister Molao congratulated the entire BVI team for their hard work and dedication, emphasizing that this achievement aligns with Botswana's goal of becoming a knowledge-based economy and maintaining a disease-free agricultural sector.



SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa emphasised that Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) accreditation status was a huge achievement that deserved all the accolades

On presenting the certificate to the Minister, SADCAS CEO, Ms. Gadzikwa highlighted, "The accreditation landscape in Botswana is growing rapidly and I would like to commend the Government of Botswana for its dedication and commitment to strengthening the quality infrastructure through the National Quality Policy (NQP) 2022. BVI story highlights the importance of accreditation in facilitating global trade, this accreditation illustrates that BVI contributes to sustainable animal health solutions, consumer protection and the wider goals of Global Health Security."

Ms Gadzikwa further shared that as of 31 May 2024, there were **32 accredited facilities in Botswana including the Botswana Vaccine Institute**, this is a testimony that the Government of Botswana has embraced the benefits of accreditation, but there is still room for growth in increasing these numbers.

ESERA GRANTED ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATE FOR ITS FUEL TESTING LAB



Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, Prince Lonkhokhela proudly holding Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA) high and SADCAS Scheme Coordinator- Testing/ Veterinary/ Proficiency Testing, Ms. Varsha Gungoa (second from left).

"The Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA), is a category A public enterprise established in terms of the Energy Act of 2007. The Authority is mandated to: Administer the Electricity Act, 2007 (Act No. 3 of 2007), with the primary and core responsibilities of exercising control over the electricity supply industry (ESI) and ensuring the security of supply of electricity through the issuance of licenses and the regulation of electricity tariffs and quality of supply and services; Administer the Petroleum Act of 2020, through the licensing and inspection of downstream activities."

ESERA has been accredited by the SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) for its Testing Laboratory on the scope of **CHEMICAL ANALYSIS**. ESERA has been granted the unique accreditation number TEST-5 0088 indicating that Eswatini

Regulatory Authority (ESERA) is now an internationally recognized Testing Laboratory. The facility is accredited in accordance with recognized International Standard **ISO/IEC 17025:2017**. The accreditation certificate was issued on 11 March 2024 and is valid for five (5) years, with an expiry date of 10 March 2029.

SADCAS attended a Certificate Hand-Over Ceremony held on 31 July 2024 at Hilton Garden Inn, Eswatini. The Ceremony was officiated by the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, Prince Lonkhokhela.

Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, Prince Lonkhokhela celebrated Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA) ISO 17025 SADCAS Accreditation with the following remarks:

“This prestigious accreditation is a testament to our unwavering commitment to upholding the highest standards of fuel quality and safety. The Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority is now well-equipped to identify any fuel adulteration, and we urge industry players to avoid such practices, as this would have detrimental consequences. We are confident that industry players will utilise the Eswatini laboratory to test their fuel and maintain the highest standards of fuel quality.”

On presenting the certificate to the Minister, representing the SADCAS CEO, Ms. Varsha Gungoa, Scheme Coordinator-Testing/ Veterinary/Proficiency Testing joined in the milestone by celebrating ESERA by highlighted:

“The accreditation landscape in Eswatini is vibrant and growing rapidly and I would like to commend the Government of Eswatini for its dedication and commitment to strengthening the quality infrastructure through its various initiatives.

As of 31 May 2024, there are 13 accredited facilities in Eswatini including the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority, this is a testimony that the Government of Eswatini has embraced the benefits of accreditation, but there is still room for growth in increasing these numbers- Honourable Minister, I urge you in this regard to preach the gospel of accreditation in your ministry and beyond.”

SADC HOSTS MEETING OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATING FORUM IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA



The 58th SADC Trade Negotiating Forum (TNF) meeting was Chaired by Mr. Alcides Cardoso Luis, Head of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Angola. The meeting was held in a hybrid format and attended by representatives of Member States namely: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. In attendance also were representatives of SACU, SADCAS and SADC Secretariat who contributed to the overall success of the meeting that was hosted in Johannesburg, South Africa from 23-25 May 2024.

In his opening remarks, the Chair

welcomed Member States to the meeting and pointed out that the meeting aimed to review progress on the consolidation of the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) and implementation of the 33rd Committee of Ministers of Trade (CMT) decision. He underscored the importance of the conclusions especially regarding those that were recommended to TNF and asked for contributions of all delegates for the success of the meeting.

Mr. Dhunraj Kasse – Director of Industrialisation and Trade, was in attendance and expressed appreciation to the Member States for their dedication to the SADC regional integration agenda. He pointed out that regional integration exists within a wider context within the Continental and Global spheres and implored

Member States to consider this as they pursue regional integration efforts. He informed Member States of the recent ratification of the Tripartite Agreement by two SADC Member States, Malawi and Lesotho between March and May 2024, which has brought the number of ratifications to 13 and just reached the required 14 Ratifications for the TFTA to enter into force. Director IDT on behalf of the SADC Executive Secretary His Excellency Elias Magosi further extended special thanks to Malawi and Lesotho for their efforts towards enhancing deeper regional integration and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania who have also shown keen interest in ratifying the TFTA.

In respect of Accreditation activities under SADCAS, the SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa represented the organisation at the meeting where, TNF commended some Member States for partially paying their dues for the period 2017 to 2022 strategic period. The meeting also commended Eswatini for being the first to fully pay her contribution for 2022-2027 period and commended Member States for their commitment and support towards SADCAS sustainability for the 2022-2027 period. TNF urged Member States to pay their outstanding contribution towards SADCAS sustainability for the 2022-2027 period and urged them to remit at least their first two tranches (66%) by 31 August 2024 and the totality of the support to SADCAS as approved at 33rd CMT meeting, by the 31 March 2025.

In terms of sustainability of SADCAS, the meeting also noted that SADCAS has developed a Resource Mobilisation and Sustainability Plan which was presented to Members and will be implemented at the end to the current strategic plan 2022-2027.

As SADCAS strives to work towards breaking even through increasing efforts towards accreditations across the SADC Region, it was noted that Government Dependency by SADCAS is now at 15% with effect from 31 March 2024 meaning that, although it has not yet broken even, SADCAS has done extremely well in terms of generating revenue from its operations in its 15th year.

SADCAS was congratulated for successfully servicing the accreditation needs of 14 SADC Member States that do not have their own Accreditation Bodies and its determination to increase its momentum by doubling its accreditation efforts, geographical coverage and scope of accreditation. The meeting noted with appreciation that, SADCAS is now able to deliver services in the 3 official languages of SADC; English, French and Portuguese thus better able to cater for countries like Angola, Mozambique, DRC which have a high potential for accreditation uptake.



SADCA CELEBRATES REGIONAL WAD 2024



SADCAS participated in the 2024 SADCA World Accreditation Day (WAD) regional virtual celebrations held on the 14th June 2024 under the theme; *“Accreditation: Empowering Tomorrow and Shaping the Future”*. The webinar was an opportunity to underscore the role of Accreditation in supporting SDGs, to share experiences from the region through virtual presentations, and to address questions related to sustainability challenges through panel discussions and a follow-up question-and-answer session. The meeting noted that, accreditation contributes to a number of sustainability development goals including SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure and SDG 13 Climate Action. The CEO tackled the following interventions that was moderated by Dr. Ron Josias (AFRAC Chair).

How do ABs contribute to Sustainability issues?

Accreditation alongside other QI can support industry to shift to more sustainable and focused attention on sustainability through climate mitigation and carbon removal;

- Supporting 3rd party accredited conformity assessment services (testing, inspection, certification, validation and verification) ensure compliance of products and systems with the requirements specified or claimed
- businesses and consumers make better choices based on credible test results
- policy makers are supported in terms of biodiversity protection and climate mitigation targets
- Helps nations to be more sustainable, more focused on climate mitigation
- Accreditation underpins competency of CABs to meet changing customer & industry needs in the medical testing field. At SADCAS is supporting *SDG 3 Good Health & Well Being* by offering accreditation services to Medical Laboratory Accreditation and it was

highlighted that so far SADCAS has accredited 130 medical testing laboratories by 31 March 2024.;

SDG 3 Good Health & Well Being - Communicable diseases such as TB, HIV/AIDS, COVID 19, Cholera remain a global phenomenon that requires efficient response to save lives and disease control management, support Laboratory diagnosis, health research, health inspectorate, which contribute towards improving the care and treatment of patients worldwide. Accrediting medical labs to ISO 15189 enables them to demonstrate their competence to deliver accurate and timely results.

SDG 9 -Industry Innovation & Infrastructure

Accreditation is dynamic and innovative in terms of facilitating innovation towards a more sustainable future and SADCAS is serving the manufacturing, construction, mining, Goe-science, Radiation Protection, health by providing innovative solutions;

- **Development of New schemes**
SADCAS is set to introduce new scopes such as Proficiency Testing, Medical Imaging, Validation and Verification in response to present and future market and sustainability needs.
- **Assessor Development Programme**
SADCAS being a multi-economy AB (14 MS) has launched a programme aimed capacity building technical experts who play a critical role as assessors in various scopes and geographical regions and SADC languages to improve accessibility of accreditation services.

What is the Role of Accreditation in enhancing SDGs implementation to empower tomorrow and shape the future?

Under the umbrella of ILAC (MRA) and IAF (MLA) where signatories recognize each other's accreditations as equivalent, accredited CABS provide an essential contribution to the implementation of policies and actions aiming to protect the planet thus supporting SDG 14 Climate Action e.g.

- Ensuring that industry minimizes the use of resources and reduces the amount of waste by implementing
- By confirming the CO2 levels

- comply with specified limits
- Emissions from industry are within acceptable range
- Traceability of organic foods/ pesticide residue is clear
- Air, water and soil pollution are testing
- Environmental management systems and biodiversity schemes are implemented
- Results from accredited laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies do not need to be retested thus saving the business owner lots of money and increasing competitiveness on the global market.

Accreditation hence supports all the SDGs and provides solutions to the problems arising from global

trade. Trade and sustainability are interlinked in delivering value to the consumers in the long-term helping markets to realize **SDG 8- Decent Work and Economic Growth;**

Accreditation which is the process by which an authoritative body i.e., SADCAS gives formal recognition that an organization/person is competent to carry out specific tasks involves the creation of confidence in the work health care service providers. Accreditation therefore gives assurance to users of laboratories that the results are safe and reliable.

- consumer protection (health & safety)
- to be able to respond to dynamic changes affecting global trade
- adopting to new technologies



The role of Conformity assessment in empowering tomorrow and shaping the future

Using accredited measurements, tests, certification, validation and verification services strengthens the global response to the threat of climate change.

By playing a role in energy efficiency programmes, accreditation provide attestation that CABs are impartial, technically competent and in compliance with relevant international standards.

ISI 14065 – General Principles and Requirements for bodies verification and validation environmental information

ISO/IEC 17029 – Conformity Assessment, General Principles for verification and validation bodies

ISO 50001 -Energy management systems

Accreditation therefore contributes to regional and global regeneration plans and bringing safer green solutions to the market aligned to the "Just Energy Transition" at a time the work is transforming to greener and renewable energy solutions.

What is the extent of digitalization in your AB and the relevant advantages and disadvantages associated with it?

Digitalization is an integral and important component of SADCAS as technology drives the efficient delivery of services to ensure better customer experience in line with – **SDG 9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure.**

SADCAS has undertaken a number of transformative initiative to modernize the multi-economy Accreditation Body in response to the needs of the market.

Business Process Optimization

- In 2020 SADCAS introduced Remote Assessment in 2020 in response to COVID 19 pandemic to be able to safely undertake assessments from the office.
- SADCAS also introduced online accreditation related courses which has enabled the organisation to roll out Accreditation related courses Member States in services and as at December 2023 it had undertaken 280 training courses of which 44 were on-line.

Digital Transformation Project started in April 2024

- SADCAS has embarked on the Digital Transformation process, whose successful implementation will leverage technology and result in increased efficiencies, effective service provision, reduced costs to improve customer experience.
- Repetitive processes and procedures are being digitized and automated, thus making more time available for productive work.

Online initiatives

- Website Revamp Project was completed in April 2024 and the new portal is now live, more user-friendly with modern features to improve customer experience and stakeholder engagement.
- Procurement of Zoom and Microsoft Teams platform (collaborative platforms)
- Set up of online training platform (broaden our reach and convenience)
- Multi-media conferencing system set up in Board room (remote working)
- Use of OneDrive to manage records and assessment process
- Social Media platforms launched in April 2024

In conclusion, standards and accredited conformity assessments can contribute to reduce the human impact on the environment. In line with the 2024 WAD theme, accreditation will continue to empower tomorrow and shape the future by providing sustainable solutions to modern day challenges.

HIGHLIGHTS AFRAC MID-TERM MEETINGS

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) mid-term meetings were held in hybrid format from 1 - 8 May 2024. SADCAS was represented at these meetings by Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa, the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager and Mr Victor Mundembe, SADCAS Scheme Coordinator. The meetings were 100% remote with no face-to-face option.

The IAF/ILAC mid-term meetings that were attended by SADCAS representatives are:

1. IAF Technical Committee WG Product Certification, 22 April 2024.
2. IAF Technical Committee WG Management Systems Certification (MSC), 11 April 2024
3. IAF Technical Committee WG Food, 18 April 2024
4. IAF Technical Committee (TC), 29-30 April 2024
5. IAF Database Management Committee (DMC), 11 April 2024
6. ILAC Accreditation Issues Committee (AIC), 10 April 2024
7. ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC), 18 April 2024
8. IAF-IAF Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC), 16 April 2024
9. ILAC Inspection Committee (IC), 19 April 2024

The highlights of the IAF/ILAC mid-term meetings with key issues summarized from discussions and resolutions and related Technical Committee and Working Group or Task Force meetings are as follows:

JDSC Webinar, 16 April 2024

- IAF-ILAC JDSC Chair's Report, Carlos Echeverria, ILAC JDSC Co-Chair
- ISO/IEC 17065 General Awareness Training, Ileana Martinez (TIC Council and Co-Chair IAF TC WG ISO/IEC 17065)
- Webinar is available on You Tube: <https://youtu.be/FknL6f0wOLI>

IAF TC WG on Certification of Products, Processes and Services, 22 April 2024

Systematic Revision of ISO/IEC 17065

- ISO CASCO launched a consultation for the Systematic Review of ISO/IEC 17065.
- The consultation will close June 3, 2024

Liaison Update of WG on the Revision of ISO/IEC 17067

- Current name of standard: "Conformity Assessment: Fundamentals of Product Certification and Guidelines for Product Certification Schemes" Proposed new name: "Conformity Assessment: Fundamentals of and Guidelines for Conformity Assessment Schemes"
- Scheduled WG Meetings
 - October 30-31, 2023 (virtual)
 - January 22-24, 2024 (face-to-face in Geneva, Switzerland)
 - June 3, 2024 (virtual)
- The outcomes of the October 2023 and January 2024 meetings are summarized in the distributed presentation.

Liaison Update of WG on the Revision of ISO/IEC 17007

- Committee Draft currently out for comments until May 3, 2024

Discussion Item

Can a scheme owner prevent a CAB from offering certification to other schemes in the same scope area?
Yes, a scheme owner can include language in the contract/license with a CAB that prevents them from offering

certification to other schemes in the same scope area. This is a business decision of the CAB and would not involve the IAF.

IAF TC WG Management Systems Certification (MSC), 11 April 2024

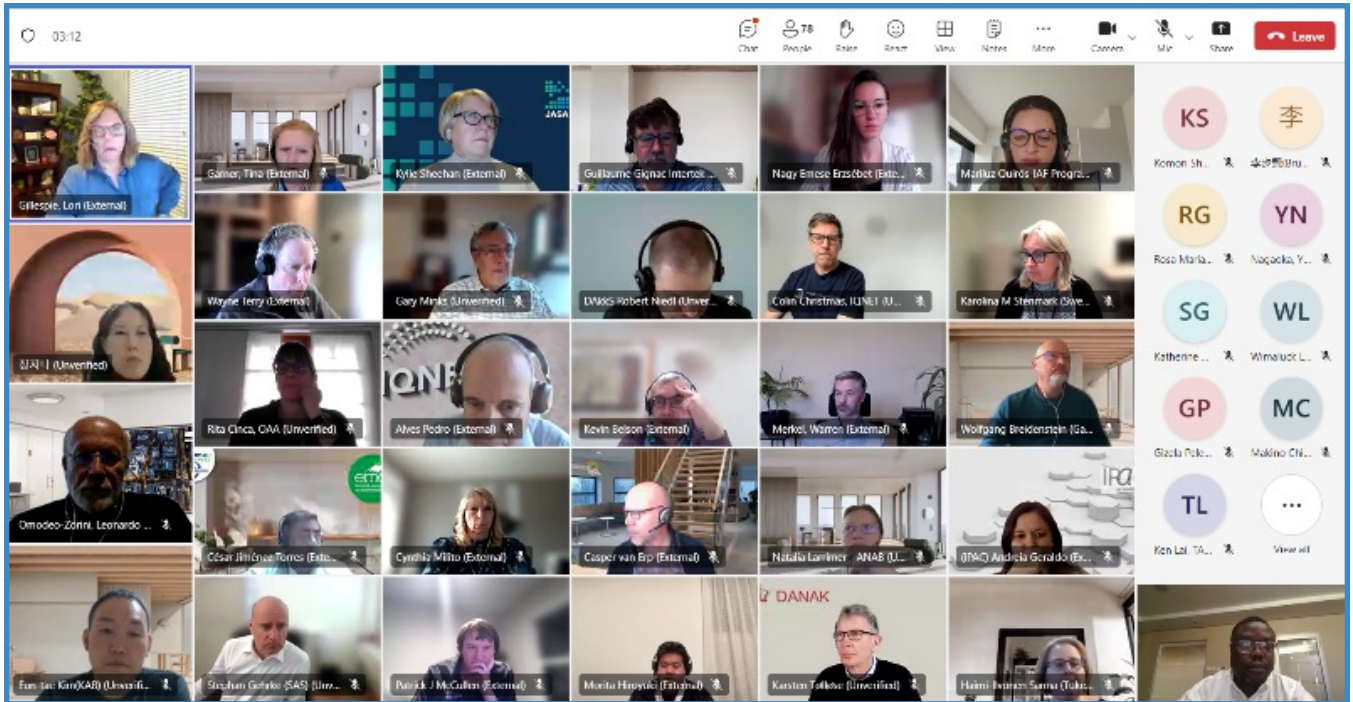
Discussion papers:

- Audit Programme – IQNET Association
- IAF MD22 – JAB – Updated with APAC MS Work Group Discussion Conclusions

Recent Amendments to ISO Management Systems Standards

Follow-up since Publication

- IAF Online Forum Opened 26 Feb 2024 - IAF TC Decision Addition of Climate Change notes to the Management Systems Standards by ISO
- IAF / ISO Joint Communiqué Published 23 Feb 2024 <https://iaf.nu/en/news/iaf-and-iso-publish-joint-communicue/>
- IAF TC Decision 24/11/01 https://iaf.nu/en/general-information/?order=title&search_key=IAF+Technical+Committee



IAF TC WG Food, 18 April 2024

The WG Food is taking care of a continuously dynamic area. Food, Feed and Agriculture are focal points for consumer interest and standardization efforts as well as a major area for sustainability efforts. Food/feed safety, food integrity, organic production control etc are subject of the WG's discussions.

ISO 22000 /Amd 1 Amendment 1: Climate Changes

In support of the ISO London Declaration on Climate Change

<https://www.iso.org/ClimateAction/LondonDeclaration.html>

Two new statements of text being added to clauses 4.1 and 4.2

- Certified organizations should ensure that they have considered Climate Change aspects and risks within the development, maintenance, and effectiveness of their own management system(s)
- Certification Bodies should ensure that all internal and external issues have been determined by the organization as relevant or not and if so, considered in the development and effectiveness of the management system(s), as required by clauses 4.1 and 4.2.

Accreditation Bodies should be, as part of the ongoing accreditation cycle, ensuring that Certification Bodies are confirming that their management systems certified clients have considered Climate Change aspects along with other aspects of clause 4.1 and 4.2.

Update on ISO 22000 APG / AAPG / QMS APG / EMS APG

- Next meeting for ISO 22000 APG will be in May 2024

- Two ISO 22000 APG Papers in Draft (Processes and Leadership)
- Estimated publication of papers H2 2024
- EMS APG drafting a new paper on Processes
- New Paper from ISO 9001 APG - Guidance on Auditing Climate Change issues in ISO 9001
- Proposal for joint APG meeting in Berlin, October 2024

Accreditation Matters Podcasts: Food sub-series (YouTube)

- Episode 1 - Introduction: Role of Accreditation in Food Sector – Available Now!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_WolframHartmann,VaniBhambri,KylieSheehan,SkipGreenaway
- Episode 2 - Importance of Accreditation for the Private Sector –Available Now!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zoNn8DYTDho>
Chryssa Dimitriadis, Aldin Hilbrands, Quincy Lissaur, Amanda McCarthy, Leann Chuboff, Mark Overland
- Episode 3 - Importance of Accreditation for the Public Sector – Recorded & Coming Soon.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WH2-zLTrpMA&t=428s>
Cristina Draghici, Mike O'Neil, Cynthia Woodley, Elias Rafoul
- Episode 4 - Importance of Accreditation for IGO's – Recorded & Coming Soon
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPnQ9ic_TiO
Joseph Wozniak, Dr Margarita Corrales, Ali Badarneh, Steve Wearne

Liaison Updates: ISO TC34/SC17

Call for experts to the revision of ISO 22000:2018

- Doc. ref.: N 848, Date: 2024-02-07
- ISO/TS 22002-3 Part 3: Farming
- The document is confirmed, and the next systematic review will be initiated in October 2024

ISO/DIS 22002-7 Part 7: Retail

- This is on enquiry stage from 2024-04-02 to 2024-06-25.
- The comments from the enquiry stage will be discussed and handled at the next WG11 meeting in October 2024 in Lima, Peru.

Other updates from ISO/TC34/SC20

- ISO/CD 20001 Food loss and waste management system.
- Consultation has closed in February 2024
- Comments will be discussed and handled in April 2024 in Newport, UK

IAF TC WG Digital Transformation, 12 April 2024

Terms of reference

- Ensure IAF documents, rules and policies reflect new technology, digitalization and can enable industry expectations on the use of conformity assessment data.
- ENHANCE IAF documents, policies and procedures to help in the evolution of accredited conformity assessment using digitalization, data and new technologies
- Establish systems to allow IAF to embrace new methods, techniques and technologies for the delivery of conformity assessment – ideally ahead of, but at least in parallel and at the same pace, as the introduction of new methods, techniques and technologies
- Serve as a foresight group to support the above aim ensuring accreditation and conformity assessment develops at the right pace based on future developments
- Coordinate with partners and other organizations to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the evolution of accredited conformity assessment while ensuring consistent application of remote audit/assessment methods and digitalization topics and trends including terminology, standards development supporting accredited certification and best practice sharing.

TF on the Use of AI in Conformity Assessment (ACT)

Draft Terms of reference:

- To identify conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies that currently utilize or are planning to utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- To investigate International, regional and national initiatives to regulate AI
- To investigate the market needs and timeframe for conformity assessment services (e.g for products, systems, and personnel in the domain of AI).
- To liaise and engage with ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 41 (IoT & Digital Twin) and ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42 (AI), IEC CAB TF – AI and other external organizations active on the topic of AI, etc.

- For the purposes of conducting analysis of the risks/opportunities on the use of AI in conformity assessment and generating / updating relevant documentation (Guidance, databases, rules, platforms,...).

Task Force Composition: The Task Force shall consist of representatives from the IAF Working Group – DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION from accreditation bodies, conformity assessment bodies and stakeholders from industry.

The TC agreed:

- to accept the new name: Digital Transformation and new ToRs.
- to ask for the project proposal for the new ID for Remote Auditing Methods for MS according to PR 2 General Procedures for the Development of IAF Documents
- to submit the draft “MD 4: the Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for auditing/ assessment purposes” to members for a 30-day comment period according to PR 2 General Procedures for the Development of IAF Documents.

IAF TC (26th), 29-30 April 2024

The IAF TC develops, maintains and revises, as appropriate, IAF documents (mainly MDs and IDs) on the application of standards and guides and similar to ensure the consistent application of conformity assessment standards. Documents are submitted to the voting members for approval as required. The IAF TC currently advances its work through 12 Working Groups and 17 Task Forces. The following is a summary of the key activities that have taken place or are in progress since the previous TC meeting in November 2023. More detail will be provided in the information /decision reports from the WGs and TFs.

All of the WGs and TFs continue to work diligently to fulfill their responsibilities and progress ongoing activities. The TC continues to monitor and to input to new and changing standards, including those going through systematic review, e.g., **ISO/IEC 17024**, **ISO/IEC 17065**, **ISO/IEC 17067**, and others. The TC has continued to ensure IAF is able to influence standards development through an increase in liaison activities with ISO/CASCO.

Following discussions at the Montreal TC, the **TF Audit Time** has been creating a detailed project definition, it is vital that the TC this clearly defined and agreed as the basis for the ongoing project. A recent call of more members of the group resulted in lots of names being put forward, leading to a good position to progress this work.

Proposed extensions to the MLA

Two standards have been put forward for inclusion in the MLA; ISO 37001 (Anti-bribery management systems) and ISO 37301 (compliance management systems), both have been progressing through a review as required by PL3.

ISO Climate Change additions to MS Standards

On ISO Climate Change additions to MS Standards, the IAF position was formed following detailed discussions between ISO/CASCO and IAF and was subject to a 30-day comment period for TC members. A joint ISO/IAF Communiqué and the IAF Decision is now published in the decision log. There was a discussion regarding that the IAF and ISO Communiqué was drafted on short notice and did not follow the normal procedure for document approval. It was agreed that the TC Chair would raise this issue with the Executive Committee regarding this type of situation.

Liaisons Process improvements.

On liaisons, there are process improvements, there is now a clear process, using the forum system, to identify and appoint liaisons. There is also a work in progress on the liaisons procedure to clarify the role and duties of liaisons once appointed. A new brochure has been developed including the overall process and the expectations of the Liaisons. It was mentioned that the liaisons should promote an IAF position and provide feedback to the TC members. There are more requests to appoint liaisons on the website Forum area, this has improved the transparency of the process. The TC had received criticism in the past, and it has taken action to deal with this issue.

Inclusion of Normative Documents in MS scopes.

On the inclusion of Normative Documents in MS scopes, IAF TC Decision 16/10/03 on "Scopes of Certification" states that "Referencing a standard/ normative document/code of practice that is outside of the scope of accreditation is not allowed. Since that decision was reached several cases (especially in EA) have been highlighted where there is a necessity (sometimes regulatory) to reference a code of practice or other normative document that is fundamental to the certified scope, therefore we should reconsider the decision. There was a discussion among members indicating the TC has identified more cases where it has been necessary to reference a code of practice, there could be a collection of the cases and discussions and a discussion paper could be drafted, and uploaded to the TC forum and make a decision based on the guidance provided by the TC. A new TF can be created if needed. The paper can be discussed on the MSC WG before the GA meetings in Berlin.

The issue is under work in the MS WG and it will be referred to the Product WG, some members mentioned that the revisit should be done carefully, seeing all angles.

The role of IAF TC on decisions

At the previous TC in Montreal, via a technical paper, a discussion on how to reconsider the role of IAF TC on decisions, a process was proposed, if the proposed flow is now acceptable to TC members, it will be further developed and implemented, including timescales.

IAF TF Audit Time

- In Montreal there was an agreement to propose a project to draft a paper plan, this is in progress.
- There was a Forum to request members to join the project and a list was set up.

TF Counterfeit Certificates

- The TF held a meeting on 22 April to review the last draft of the information document (ID): "IAF ID on Risk Policy on Counterfeiting". The TF recommends submitting the draft document for comments to the TC according to the procedure.
- There was a discussion regarding the need for IAF to cooperate with international organizations fighting counterfeiting, and illicit trade and benefit from their initiatives. The TF is asking to submit a proposed draft letter to the Executive Committee for consideration regarding this need. The idea is that the IAF Chair can send it to different international organizations. The convener mentioned that the draft letter and the list of organizations are included in the document papers submitted.
- The TF proposed to create a new WG dealing with integrity incidents and risks. The WG proposed to draft the Terms of Reference, but according to the result of the TC Forum, a decision will be made about creating a new WG.
- According to PR2, the Secretariat will submit the draft ID on Risk Policy on Counterfeiting for the 30-day comment period to TC members.
- The Secretariat will open a TC Forum to analyze the need to establish a new WG to deal with integrity incidents and risks.

New Task Force for Development of a MD for ISO 37001: Anti Bribery Management Systems

Proposal to create a new Task Force (TF) to develop new Mandatory Documents (MD) to cover the accreditation requirements and support the MLA status for ISO 37001: Anti Bribery Management Systems and ISO 37301 – Compliance Management Systems.

The IAF Secretariat will send out a call to the TC members, to create a TF to analyze the need to develop a new IAF MD document for ISO 37001 and ISO 37301 standards.

Liaison Reports

ISO/TC 176, includes SC 1 and SC 2:

- ISO 90001 is being revised, the schedule is now available.
- Key concepts: risk and opportunities, Clarification regarding the supply chain.
- No structural changes.
- No significant changes to the standards.

ISO/TC 207/SC 1, includes WG 15

- ISO 14001 is being revised.

ISO PC 203

- Started to work on the revision of ISO 45001.
- IAF could nominate up to 3 representatives.
- The next virtual meeting will be 12 July 2024, and the in-person meeting will be in October 2024.

IAF Revised Documents:

- **ID13:2024** IAF Medical Device Nomenclature (IAF MDN) Including MD Risk Classifications. Issue date: 24 Jan 2024. Application date: 30 Jan 2017
- **MD7:2023** Harmonization of Sanctions and Dealing with Fraudulent Behaviour. Issue date: 19 Jul 2023. Application date: 21 Feb 2024
- **MD8:2023** Application of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 in the Field of Medical Device QMS (ISO 13485). Issue date: 20 Nov 2023 / Application date 20 Nov 2023.
- **MD9:2023** Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 in the Field of Medical Device QMS (ISO 13485). Issue date: 20 Nov 2023. Application date: 20 Nov 2023
- **MD16:2024** Application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the Accreditation of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies. Issue date: 21 May 2024. Application date: 21 May 2024
- **MD23:2023** Control of Entities Operating on Behalf of Accredited MS Certification Bodies. Issue date: 20 Dec 2023. Application date: 20 Dec 2023on date

IAF New Documents or Documents with New Application Dates

- **ID15:2023** Dealing with Fraudulent Behaviour, Issue date: 20 Nov 2023. Application date 21 Feb 2024
- **MD25:2023** Criteria for Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes. Issue date: 13 Jun 2023. Application date: 07 Jan 2024
- **MD27:2023** Transition Requirements for ISO 22003-1:2022. Issue date: 30 August 2023. Application date 30August 2023.
- **MD28:2023** Upload and Maintenance of Data on IAF Database. Issue date: 26 Oct 2023. Application date 26 Oct 2024
- **MD29:2024** Transition Requirements for ISO/IEC 27006-1:2024. Issue date: 21 May 2024. Application date: 21 May 2024

IAF Document Revisions in Process

- **MD4:2023** IAF Mandatory Document for the Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Auditing/Assessment Purposes. WG Digital Transformation agreed to bring MD 4 to TC for comment and then ballot.
- **MD5** Determination of Audit Time of Quality, Environmental, and Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems – subject to major review by the TF Audit Time.
- **MD11:2019** – IAF Mandatory Document for the Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Audits of Integrated Management Systems. TF work is in progress.
- **MD12** Accreditation Assessment of Conformity

Assessment Bodies with Activities in Multiple Countries – The IAF Secretariat will submit the draft MD 12 for 30 day-comment period to the TC members according to PR 2.

- **MD14:2014** – Application of ISO/IEC 17011 in Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification. TF needs 2 more meetings to finish.
- **MD15** Collection of Data to Provide Indicators of Management System Certification Bodies' Performance – General review and update in progress.
- **MD16** Accreditation of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies – 60-day ballot has been completed earlier this year with almost no comments – 16 technical 3 editorial; Now in 30 day ballot until 2 May 2024, so most likely to be published during May; No transition; MD16 Issue 1 and MD16 Issue 2 will be used in parallel. **Published 21 May 2024.**
- **MD17** Witnessing Activities for the Accreditation of Management Systems Certification Bodies – The TF has met twice and reviewed different versions of the proposed revisions. The TF created a team that is working on a revised draft.

IAF Database Management Committee (DMC), 11 April 2024

IAF DMC Meeting (Virtual) was held virtually during IAF-ILAC Mid-term Meetings

- Around 100 participants attended the meeting
- A status update on the work of DMC and the IAF CertSearch Database was provided
 - Update on IAF **MD28:2023** Upload and Maintenance of Data on IAF Database. Issue date: 26 Oct 2023. Transition period ends 25 October 2024. Application date 26 Oct 2024
 - The MD implements the scope agreed by members via members ballot on August 2022, which is detailed in the current principles "Database Principles (2022) -Annex 1 to IAFDB PL1".
 - 74 IAF MLA signatory ABs to ISO/IEC 17021-1 are participating
 - Over 1600 CBs are participating. 50% of total CBs are currently participating, where multinational CBs are counted independently
 - > 1.4 million certifications have been uploaded
 - Users are growing >110% pa. As at March 2024 users > 34,000 from over 100 countries.
 - Website T&Cs consultation
 - Certificate platform offers benefit in four main user categories
 - Technical update
- The queries raised were responded to.



ILAC Inspection Committee (IC), 19 April 2024

- Review of action list from the 23rd ILAC IC meeting held on 8th November 2023, Montreal
- Report on Workshop on the revision of ISO/IEC 17020, held 8th November 2023, Montreal
- Presentation from the TIC Council, ILCS.
- Feedback received from the regions
 - Written reports from AFRAC, EA, IAAC, ARAC, APAC
- GAFTA update, Sarah Mann,
 - GAFTA MOU - No more comments received on the GAFTA MOU, which will now be progressed for approval from the ILAC membership
- Topic of NDT to be discussed with ILC AIC

ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC), 18 April 2024

- Last ARC report to the ILAC Executive
- ILAC P5 and ILAC R6 were revised and published in November 2023.
 ILAC-P5:11/2023 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Scope and Obligations. <https://ilac.org/?ddownload=125462>
 ILAC-R6:11/2023 Structure of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Agreement and Procedure for Expansion of the Scope of the ILAC Arrangement. <https://ilac.org/?ddownload=125464>

<https://ilac.org/?ddownload=125464>

The next systematic review is scheduled for 2026. Presentation from Erik Wijkstrom, Head, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Section, Trade and Environment Division, WTO on **Guidelines on Conformity Assessment Procedures**

- TF for PXX, ILAC policy for cooperation between ILAC Arrangement Signatories
 - Created a TF made up of 2 members from each region to review the comments from the negative ballot. Region submitted the names of their representatives by 25 November 2023. Where regions have differing opinions, the region will ensure that both opinions are represented.
- Next steps:
 - Hold meeting of TF
 - Review collected TF member comments
 - Develop proposed responses for submission to ILAC EC
 - Develop proposal for next steps with PXX document
 - Share drafted proposals with the ARC for 30-day comment period
 - Draft and submit final proposals to the ILAC EC

HIGHLIGHTS SADC INDUSTRIALISATION WEEK



The 7th SADC Annual Industrialisation Week 2024 was hosted in Harare, Zimbabwe from 28th July- 02 August 2024 in collaboration with SADC Business Council, Government of Zimbabwe, and CZI. The meeting was divided into plenary and break away sessions and created a hive of activity with 16 SADC Member States converging to discuss pertinent issues under the theme; *Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Growth and Development towards an Industrialised SADC.*

Of critical importance was a break-away session relating to; *Elevating Standards: Enhancing Economic Competitiveness through Quality Assurance, Accreditation, and Metrology in the SADC Region.* In this break away session, the need for more support and investments towards upgrading the effectiveness of quality infrastructure in SADC Region, FTA and AfCFTA to facilitate industrial development and trade was underscored as well as creating sustainable linkages with priority sectors and value chains.

One of the other key outputs in this session also was, a presentation on The Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development (QI4SD) Index that was developed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in collaboration with partner organizations of the International Network on Quality Infrastructure (INetQI).

The QI4SD Index is a tool to assess the overall state of the development of a country's Quality Infrastructure (QI) and readiness to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It demonstrates the value of QI for sustainable development, and the importance of investing in it. QI is an important enabler of sustainable development and the QI4SD Index aims to bridge an information gap by being the first tool, which explicitly measures how fit for purpose QI is in meeting sustainable development.



The SADC SIW hosted in Zimbabwe was organised in collaboration with Confederation of Zimbabwe and SADC Business Council Industries (CZI) with the objective to drive industrialisation, showcase investment opportunities, and foster networking among key stakeholders in the industrial sector to promote intra-African trade, develop cross-border value chains, and uncover investment opportunities within the SADC region through public-private partnerships. The week-long event is a precursor to Senior Officer's meetings, Council of Ministers sessions, and the SADC Summit, scheduled from 9-18th August 2024. The SIW also featured factory visit to selected companies and entities in various sectors.



The Role and Importance of Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies in Promoting Competitiveness, Regional Industrialization and Trade in the SADC Member States, FTA, African Continental Free Trade Area & Globally was underscored at the week-long meeting at various platforms represented by priority industry sectors e.g Mining, Agro-processing, Pharmaceutical and Leather Value chains.

SADCAS has accredited a number of testing, inspection, certification and calibration facilities in these sectors within the SADC Region especially including the coal sector laboratories.

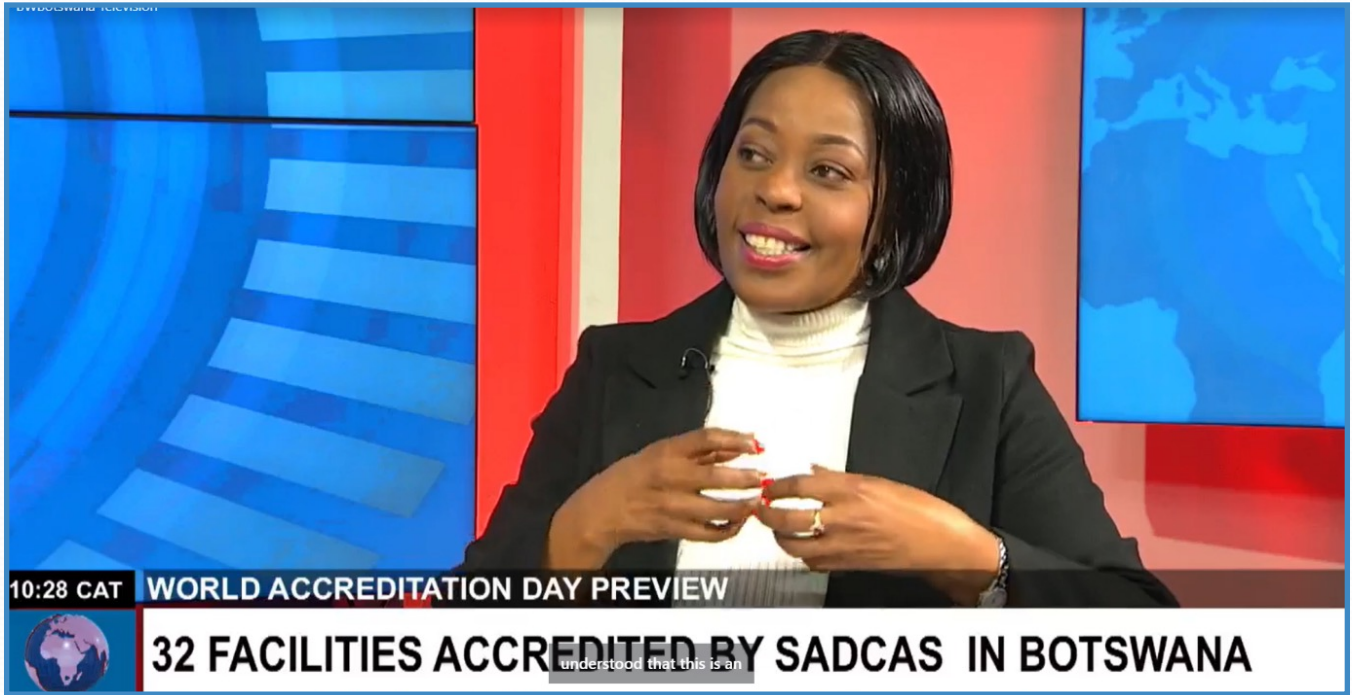
The SWI was therefore an opportunity also to engage with stakeholders from the Mining sector through the Zimbabwe Chamber of Mines at a breakaway meeting that was organised in collaboration with UN Africa Economic Commission for Africa. It was highlighted that, there are many opportunities in the Mining sector for small scale Artisanal Mining Sector as well as large scale Miner. The Mineral Value Chains are transforming at a fast pace from the traditional catalytic converter driven technologies to the modern Lithium Electric Vehicles driven by the high demand for EVs. This transformation driven by manufacturers mainly in China and global demand which

reached 40m EVs in 2023 presents opportunities for R & D, Original Equipment Manufactures and Scientists to meet the required standards.

The 7th Annual SADC Industrialisation Week presented a number of interesting opportunities for producers, manufacturers, those involved in trade in services, policy makers, international cooperating partners and cross cutting service providers like SADCAS that service testing, medical testing, calibration and inspection services. The regional platform was designed with the aim for high level information exchange through the rich discussions that were undertaken throughout the entire week.

As the Region continues to integrate, industrialise and grow, it has become clear that there is need for rapid expansion of the quality infrastructure in terms of Standards, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology if SADC is to continue to be competitive and innovative. SADCAS took advantage of its presence at the SADC Industrialisation Week to engage with its stakeholders e.g. industry players, policy makers, senior government officials from the respective SADC member states, International Cooperating partners such as PTB, UNIDO, Afreximbank and UNECA as well clients / potential clients and professionals in industry to gain a better perspective of their accreditation needs.

SADCAS CEO UNPACKS ACCREDITATION IN BOTSWANA



SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa unpacking Accreditation Status in Botswana and World Accreditation Day 2024

On the 16th June 2024, SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa attended an interview on the national broadcaster, Botswana Television (BTV) on the popular current affairs programme, Botswana Connects. The programme was hosted by veteran journalist, Ms. One Rabantheneng. In the interview, she praised Botswana for embracing the benefits of accreditation in the country, as noted by the 32 SADCAS accredited facilities.

The comprehensive interview unpacked the importance of accreditation in Botswana and globally. Ms. Gadzikwa emphasised on how the Southern African Development Accreditation Service (SADCAS) was a sustainable accreditation body at the cutting edge of providing credible accreditation service delivery. She shared that

SADCAS was a multi-economy accreditation body that is registered in Botswana in terms of Botswana laws and headquartered in Gaborone, Botswana.

Ms. Gadzikwa highlighted that presently SADCAS has issued 310 accreditation certificates to 255 accredited facilities in 13 SADC Member States and 2 non-SADC countries: Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. Of the 255 facilities accredited by SADCAS 29 of these in Botswana (14 Testing, 11 Medical Calibration, 1 Inspection and 1 Vet).

Additionally, she lauded the Botswana Government on the recently launched National Quality Policy which will be instrumental in supporting global trade by removing the technical barriers to trade (TBTs).

Ms Gadzikwa also shared on World Accreditation Day 2024, celebrated under the theme **"Accreditation: Empowering Tomorrow and Shaping the Future"** which unpacks how accreditation plays a crucial role in various aspects of life and examines the impact of accreditation as digitalization, new technologies and sustainability concerns continue to change our world.

WATCH the interview clip here: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=834037551950838

NAFPS CELEBRATES WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY 2024



WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY 2024 CELEBRATIONS IN BOTSWANA



Attendees during Botswana World Accreditation Day 2024 in Ghanzi, Botswana

The commemoration started with the speech by Minister of Trade and Industry, Honourable Mmusi Kgafela, which was aired on Radio Botswana I (RB 1) on 9th June 2024 in the morning at 0630 hours in English and Setswana.

Furthermore, the celebrations were held at Ghanzi on the 28th June 2024. It was attended by **67** participants including the Technical Regulators, Conformity Assessment Bodies, Retail Stores, Filling Stations, Fresh Produce, Heads of Departments from Ghanzi and surrounding areas, Ministry of Trade and Industry officers and media. The commemoration was also graced by dignitaries from the District including the Member of Parliament for Ghanzi North, Councillor, Chief and District Commissioner.



Honourable John Thite highlighted Botswana's dedication to improving the quality infrastructure.

In his key note address, Honourable Thiite emphasised that accreditation boosts customer confidence on products and services produced locally, hence an increase in the revenue as well as global competitiveness. He further noted that Botswana has to ensure that it conforms and aligns with both regional and international commitments by implementing the National Quality Policy which aims to modernize the National Quality Infrastructure and re-engineering of the Technical Regulation regime.

During the commemoration, presentations and exhibitions were undertaken.

The presentations were delivered by: the Director of Industry Development, Ms Ruth G. Baoki who gave an Overview on the National Quality Policy, 2022;

SADCAS representative, Ms Eva Muronda and National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) representative, Dr Leruo Keokilwe who presented on the Topics, "The Role of Accreditation Bodies in Empowering Tomorrow and Shaping the Future" and "The Role of Testing Laboratories in Empowering Tomorrow and Shaping the Future", respectively.

The Director highlighted that, Botswana is lagging behind in accreditation of the National Quality Infrastructure and Technical Regulators. She noted that the accredited institutions/laboratories are mostly government entities. Hence, the need for all stakeholders to collaborate in implementation of the National Quality Policy to ensure that entities from Public and Private Sector are accredited in order to gain international recognition.



Mrs. Eva Muronda, Scheme Coordinator Medical/GLP/GCP/Pharmaceuticals represented SADCAS at the WAD 2024 celebrations.

SADCAS Representative, Mrs. Eva Muronda gave an overview of the Accreditation Body. She cited that it was established in terms of Article 15B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade. It was noted that SADCAS work across industries including agriculture, mining, medical and food products. She cited that Accreditation is the cornerstone of quality assurance and enable entities to demonstrate their confidence, credibility and compliance with internationally recognised standards. She further cited that Accreditation plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety, reliability and trustworthiness of products, services and systems across industries from technology, transportation, sustainable to security as well as inclusivity to innovation.

She highlighted that SADCAS has accredited 34 laboratories in Botswana which includes two (2) Calibration laboratories; one (1) Inspection body; one (1) Veterinary laboratory; and fourteen (14) Medical laboratories. It was noted that accredited conformity

assessment bodies provide a platform to showcase the role accreditation plays in facilitating the international trade. It was further indicated that the accredited facilities contribute towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in particular, SDG NO 9: "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure", which addresses how accreditation contributes to the industry, innovation and infrastructure which is essential for economic growth and enable sustainable future.

Dr Keokilwe explained that NARDI was established through the merger of Department of Research, National Food Technology Research Centre, and National Veterinary Laboratory. It is a leading public sector organisation that is involved in research and development in the agricultural sector. He explained that quality is critical as agriculture is pivotal to the socioeconomic development of Botswana. He cited that NARDI has various laboratories that tests agricultural and food products. It was noted that the National Veterinary Laboratory which is critical to animal

disease management and food (meat and animal products such as milk) laboratory quality in Botswana. He reiterated that quality is crucial in the beef sector starting from what the animals eat up to the end product (meat or milk). Furthermore, traceability throughout the value chain is a key component of the quality assurance mechanism known as "Farm - to - Fork".

Ms Ellen Modisaotsile, Ghanzi District Hospital Laboratory (which is part of the Ghanzi District Health Management Team); Mr Comfort Setumo, Botswana Police Forensic Laboratory; and Mr Kabo Moruakgomo as well as Mr Tshepang Monare, Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA), lead discussions on their mandates with regard to accreditation and quality.

The presenters indicated that despite their entities not being accredited, they have robust quality assurance processes and procedures which are geared towards achieving quality results. It was noted that the processes and procedures includes quality control among others. Furthermore, the machinery and equipment used in the laboratories are calibrated on yearly basis by the calibration laboratories such as Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS). They were confident that their services would be accredited in future.

Ms. Modisaotsile indicated that Medical laboratories follow a robust quality assurance processes including among others, participation in External Quality Assurance (EQA) which allows for comparison of laboratory result with a known result, hence providing a basis for assessing the quality of the laboratory results. It was explained that the medical laboratory also uses reference material as a quality assurance mechanism such as the American Type Culture

Collections (ATCC) among others. ATCC is global biological resource center and standards organization and the leading developer and supplier of authenticated cells lines and microorganism is used at microbiology laboratory.

Mr Moruakgomo and Mr Monare highlighted that BERA regulates energy market including both electricity generation and distribution as well as the fuel including petroleum products such as liquid petroleum Gas (LPG) commonly used for cooking, petrol and diesel. It was noted that BERA aims to protect health and safety of both human and the environment. It was emphasised that Consumer protection is critical in the energy sector. Hence, there are measures in place to ensure quality such as calibration, testing and inspection as well as market surveillance utilised.

It was indicated that BERA has got a fuel testing laboratory (physical) and a mobile testing laboratory which are involved in testing the quality of petrol and diesel sold in Botswana.

It was explained that even though the laboratory is not yet accredited, there are quality assurance measures in place to achieve quality result such as participating in Proficiency Testing schemes administered by various service providers including ASTM which has a PT commonly used in the energy sector and utilising appropriate standards.

Mr Setumo explained that the Forensic Service is a special branch/service of Botswana Police Service. He cited that the Forensic service is made up of the pathology and the laboratory wings that conduct forensic testing for the purpose of collecting evidence as part of Police investigations. He further clarified that the laboratory includes chemistry (for example, drug testing), microbiology and a calibration laboratory among others. Other tests for example, DNA are also conducted in the same laboratory. He explained that BPS is currently working on accrediting their calibration laboratory and to accredit other laboratories in future.

 **2024 WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY IN ESWATINI**



Dignitaries during the WAD 2024 celebrations

The Kingdom of Eswatini joined the rest of the world in celebrating the 2024 World Accreditation Day (WAD) commemoration under the theme **"Accreditation: Empowering Tomorrow and shaping the Future"**. Established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperative (ILAC), WAD highlights the important role of accreditation around the globe. The theme focuses on how accreditation examines the impact of accreditation as digitalization, new technologies and sustainability concerns continue to change our world.



Award Ceremonies for the Best Performing Students.

In alignment with the theme, the Ministry through the National Accreditation Focal Point and the Municipal Council of Manzini collaborated with two local girls' schools (St Michaels High and St Theresa High School) in the Manzini region to celebrate this day. The schools participated in a science fair initiative organized by the Municipal Council of Manzini. The fair aimed to offer students a chance to become motivated by science and to discover scientific research as it encourages innovative thinking, for practical solutions in everyday life. The project represents a step towards a more sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous future, demonstrating the power of scientific inquiry and innovation in shaping a better world for generations to come.

The students were given an opportunity to do the experiment from the accredited laboratory of the Municipal Council. The experiment included identifying and measuring pollutant concentrations in a water sample. Students conducted the experiment and then presented their results to the judges who then evaluated the projects and produced the results which were to be announced during the World Accreditation Day.

A conference was then held at the Millennium Park on the 12th June 2024 as part of the 2024 WAD commemoration celebration. The event kicked off with a tour of the Municipal Council accredited laboratory by the representative

of the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade, Mr Mluleki Dlamini and other dignitaries. A number of participants (75) coming from Government, Industry, local governments, representatives of conformity assessment bodies, businesses, academia, research institutes and other stakeholders were there to grace the occasion.

Three major speeches were delivered and one presentation was made on that day. The first speech was delivered by the Chief Executive Officer from the Eswatini Standards Authority who emphasised the importance of accreditation and the use of standards in driving innovation, enhancing competitiveness and safeguarding public health and safety. He mentioned that one of the key roles that is played by accreditation, is to act as a form of safety net to society. By adhering to the requirements set out in internationally recognised standards confirmed through the activities of accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (such as testing, inspection, certification, validation and verification), organisations can be confident that they are demonstrating best practice in terms of competence, and that they are acting in the best interests of public safety. He was followed by the Chairperson of the National Laboratory Association who requested laboratories to start embracing opportunities provided by emerging technologies.

The 2nd NAFP who was also tasked with introducing the honourable Minister, thanked the Municipal

Council of Manzini for the collaboration and commitment to uphold international standards and promoting sustainable development practices. She thanked the Council for resonating with the theme by empowering and also shaping the future of the Emaswati students which was witnessed by engaging the two schools. She mentioned that Core policy 3 of the National Regulatory and Quality Policy states that: "Eswatini needs to inculcate a quality culture and promote consumer awareness aimed at achieving better social, environmental and consumer, and an enhanced quality of life for citizens" and furthermore Strategy 3.2 states that there should be the inclusion of quality concepts in the educational curriculum for schools and tertiary institutions. She then encouraged other organizations to follow suit.

The representative of the Honorable Minister, Mr Mluleki Dlamini then delivered the key note address. In his speech, he emphasized that Innovation is widely recognised as a driver of business growth and an essential contributor to national productivity and economic and social development. Standards and accredited conformity assessment play a vital role

The World Accreditation Day was further made more interesting by students of both schools reciting accreditation related poems between the Agenda items of the programme. Lastly, results of the experiment were announced and students from both schools were awarded with prizes.



WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY (WAD) CELEBRATIONS 2024 SEYCHELLES



Engaging Open Day Activities During The Seychelles WAD 2024 Celebrations

Seychelles celebrated World Accreditation Day on Friday 7th June 2024. The NAFP office located at the Seychelles Bureau of Standards organized a half-day open-day promoting SADCAS and accreditation. Invitees present were the different conformity assessment body providers in the Seychelles such as representatives from laboratories of the Public Utilities Corporation, laboratories from Ministry of Health, laboratories from Ministry of Agriculture and representatives from different fishing establishments to name a few.

The open day was an interactive session whereby CABs gained information on SADCAS, promotional materials such as brochures about SADCAS and accreditation were shared among the CABs, queries about accreditation were

made clear and invitees could visit accredited laboratories at the Seychelles Bureau of Standards and gain insight on benefits of accreditation and all the necessary procedures that needs to be in place before accreditation is granted. There was great feedback from invitees who attended the open day.

The NAFP office also submitted an article on the occasion of World Accreditation Day 2024 on the Seychelles Nation, highlighting this year's accreditation theme, also mentioning SADCAS and how it is benefiting our country and also making proud the two new entities that recently achieved accreditation; Chemical Analysis laboratory at the Seychelles Bureau of Standards and SOCOMEP, a fisheries quality and quantity control company, in late 2023.

UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR – TLAS

Lungile Lukhele is a Scientist based in Mbabane, Kingdom of Eswatini. She is a member and former Vice Chairperson of the National Laboratory Association of Eswatini. Lukhele was trained as a Technical Assessor by SADCAS. She has performed numerous assessments for the SADCAS and holds her position as Technical Assessor in high regard.



Assessor - TLAS, Ms Lungile Lukhele

She is passionate about quality with over 10 years of experience in laboratory management. Her experience with auditing quality management systems ranges from ISO/IEC 17025 to ISO9001.

She is an excellence-driven individual who holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management from the University of the Witwatersrand, and a B- Tech in Biotechnology (cum laude). Ms. Lukhele has a solid background in water and food testing. She has vast experience in Microbiology and Chemistry and has found her niche and passion in Water Microbiology.

Lukhele has worked in ethanol production at the Royal Eswatini Sugar Corporation and currently manages the Municipal Council of Mbabane laboratory. Her position has cemented her zeal for compliance, and she has assisted many laboratories in getting accreditation through internal audits and peer review.

Ms. Lukhele is not afraid of greatness, and she believes she was born great, as William Shakespeare wrote, "Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them."

UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR – CLAS

Sergio Machava was registered as a SADCAS assessor in September 2023, under the Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS). Mr Machava who is Mozambican, is SADCAS Assessor Portuguese.



Assessor - CLAS, Mr Sergio Machava



It is been a great privilege to be part of SADCAS as Assessor Portuguese, the first Mozambican citizen to hold this position at SADCAS. Before I was appointed as a Technical Assessor, I worked at the National Institute for

Standardization and Quality (INNOQ), as a Metrologist Technician for 14 years, where I gained my qualifications, technical knowledge, technical experience, and competence in carrying out calibrations.

From 2010 to 2018, I participated in various trainings organized by SANAS and SADCAS to be a Technical Assessor, and subsequently received further mentorship from SADCAS at SIRDC NMI Zimbabwe in 2022 (remotely) and 2023 (on-site) at the same facility, before being qualified and registered as a Technical Assessor in September 2023, for Calibration Laboratories according to ISO/IEC 17025.

I conducted my very first on-site assessment as a Technical Assessor in 2023 at the Spectrum Laboratories Namibia CC, a Mass calibration Laboratory, based in Windhoek, Namibia. It was a very fruitful assessment. I worked with Mr Letoke Mahlase from SANAS, who was the Team Leader and Monitor. He was very helpful and gave practical guidance to ensure that the assessment was carried out in the best possible way, according to SADCAS procedures. It was a great experience because the laboratory was able to successfully carry out the first Periodic Assessment (1st POSA). Since then, I have assessed for accreditation of calibration laboratories, according to ISO/IEC 17025 Standard.

"As an Assessor Portuguese at SADCAS, I am responsible for the application processes for accreditation in the Portuguese language. In this regard, I played a key role in organizing the accreditation application process for the first five Mozambican medical laboratories to be accredited by SADCAS. The entire accreditation process was conducted in Portuguese, which marks a significant milestone for SADCAS."



UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR - IBAS

Amen Alan Ntlhaile graduated with a degree in Manufacturing Engineering from the University of Birmingham (England). He also holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the International University of Applied Sciences (Germany). His qualifications and eighteen years of experience in the conformity assessment field make him a great fit as a SADCAS Technical Assessor.



He has conducted global assessments for BOBS in Africa, Asia Europe and the Middle East in the fields of electrical, mechanical, automotive and building products. He completed his SADCAS Technical Assessor Training in 2016 and began working as a SADCAS assessor in 2022, he has since made contribution in assessments of pressure vessels and boilers.

"I would to express my sincere gratitude to SADCAS on the opportunity to become SADCAS Technical Assessor. This has been stimulating and dynamic since it allowed me to impart my expertise on verifying conformity assessment bodies' adherence to their technical specifications in accordance with the SADCAS accreditation procedure. Taking part in the assessments of inspection bodies alongside competent assessors and industry-oriented experts has been a value-adding experience".

Assessor - IBAS, Amen Alan Ntlhaile

UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR - CBAS

Mr. Benjamin van der Merwe is a Mass, Volume, Density, Air flow and Liquid flow Metrologist with 37 years experience. He is a SANAS Lead assessor/Team Leader for Inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020) and a SANAS Technical Assessor Calibration Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025). He represented South Africa at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) Consultative Committee for Mass and Related Quantities (CCM), at SADC MET and AFRIMETS, and was the chair of the AFRIMETS Technical committee for Mass



**Assessor - CBAS,
Mr Benjamin van de Merwe**

He has a versatile portfolio and completed the following training courses; OIML R111 international training (OIML & Swedish National Testing and Research Institute), National Standards System and Precision Measurement (KRISS – Korea), Establishment of a Mass scale (PTB, Germany), Calibration of Volume Standards (Deutsche Akademie für Metrology (DAM)), Calibration of Large Storage Tanks (DAM) and using the ISO "guide to the Expression of Uncertainty of Measurement" (CSIRO – Australia).

He worked at the Directorate of Trade Metrology (Dept. of Trade and Industry), Legal Metrology section at South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) and the National Metrology Institute of South Africa (NMISA). He has provided various metrology related consultancy services, amongst other; Metrology Expert - Market access and Trade facilitation (Swaziland), Metrology Expert - Market access and trade-capacity building and Review and Seychelles - Drafting of Metrology legislation (Metrology Act and Legal Metrology regulations). As an assessor, he has been involved in assessment activities in Tanzania, Seychelles, Mauritius, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.

He retired as the Director of Physical and Electrical Metrology at the National Metrology Institute of South Africa (NMISA), the end of April 2023 and is currently semi-retired as a consultant performing SANAS and SADCAS technical assessments (ISO/IEC 17025) for mass, volume, density liquid and air flow, SANAS (ISO/IEC 17020) lead/systems and technical assessments for inspection bodies and consultancy services in the field of Metrology and Legal Metrology.

"It is a privilege to share my knowledge and experience in the SADC community and SADCAS activities, from assisting SADC NMIs to obtain and maintain SADCAS accreditation to assisting them in successfully submitting Calibration Measurement Capabilities (CMCs) into the Joint Committee of Regional Metrology Organisations database at the BIPM (JCRB- database)."

INVITATION TO REGISTER TECHNICAL EXPERTS - PRIORITIZED SCOPES

SADCAS invites experts with specific technical expertise in the newly introduced Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme (MIAS) and any of the accreditation schemes currently offered by SADCAS to be registered as Technical Experts. A Technical Expert is a person assigned by SADCAS to an assessment team to provide specific knowledge or expertise within the scope of assessment. A Technical Expert works under the supervision of an experienced Team Leader or Technical Assessor.

The following specific areas will be prioritized;

Technical Experts and Registered Assessors in PROFICIENCY TESTING

TECHINAL EXPERTS and Registered Assessors in DIGITAL FORENSICS

MEDICAL IMAGING ACCREDITATION SCHEME (MIAS) – NEW!!

Technical Experts with experience in the following;

- General Radiography
- Ultrasound (US)
- Mammography
- Computerised Tomography (CT)
- Interventional Radiography (IR)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (NM)



Testing Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (TLAS)

Forensic analysis
DNA Testing
Civil Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Radiation Dosimetry
Non-destructive Testing
Textile Testing
Petroleum Products Testing



Medical Laboratories accreditation Scheme (MLAS)

Histopathology
Cytology
Parasitology
Endocrinology
Immunophenotyping
Blood Banking



Veterinary Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (VLAS)

Mycology
Parasitology
Helminthology
Protozoology
Histology
Cytology
Toxicology
Pathology



Pharmaceutical Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (Under TLAS)

Microbiology
Chemical
Toxicity
Medical Devices Testing



Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS)

Product Certification
Personnel Certification
Food Safety Management Systems
HACCP
Environmental Management Systems
Quality Management Systems



Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme (LMAS)

Verification
Repair and Maintenance
Inspection of Products for Sale
Quantity Control
Type Testing
OIML Certification Scheme
Certification of Verifiers
Certification of Repairers



Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (CLAS)

Viscosity
Electrical – DC low frequency
Electrical RF
Fibre Optics
Force/ Hardness/ Torque
Flow
Humidity
Radio Activity
Photometry
Radio frequency
Time and frequency
Wind speed
Acoustics and Vibration
Radiation Dosimetry Metrology

Technical experts from private and public sectors as well as from technical institutions are invited to apply by completing SADCAS F 26: SADCAS Assessor/Technical Expert Information Record which can be downloaded from the SADCAS website link [http://Microsoft Word - SADCAS F 26 - SADCAS Assessors-Technical Experts Information Record \[Issue 5\]](http://Microsoft Word - SADCAS F 26 - SADCAS Assessors-Technical Experts Information Record [Issue 5])

SADCAS will review and evaluate all applications received to ensure that the experts have the requisite qualifications, technical knowledge and experience required by SADCAS.

Applications shall be addressed to:
Mrs Pinkie Malebe SADCAS - Technical Manager
Email:
pmalebe@sadcas.org;
info@sadcas.org

SADCAS CONDUCTS ISO 15189:2022 REQUIREMENTS AND INTERNAL AUDITING COURSE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH SYSTEMS SOLUTIONS – CAMEROON



Participants posing for a picture after the training with facilitator and project coordinator.

Global Health Systems Solutions (GHSS) is an international non-government and not-for-profit organization with a head office in Douala, Cameroon. GHSS has the overall objective of strengthening health systems in resource-limited countries. Within the framework of the implementation of its laboratory systems strengthening program, GHSS with funds from the United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) has been PEPFAR's laboratory implementing partner in Ghana, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo for (14) fourteen years. With the publication of the new ISO 15189 in December 2022, it is important for implementing partners and other stakeholders of health system strengthening programs to be conversant with the new ISO 15189:2022 standard to improve service delivery for better patient care.

The ISO 15189:2022 Requirements and Internal Audit Course was conducted from 03 – 07 June 2024 in Yaoundé,

Cameroon at Girafe Hotel. The course was facilitated by Mr Xavier Mugari, who is a SADCAS registered Trainer and Quality Manager. The sixteen (16) participants comprised of Laboratory Mentors from GHSS and Laboratory professional from Laboratories across Cameroon.

The objective of the course was to provide an understanding of ISO 15189:2022 requirements and practical skills to develop and implement a laboratory quality management system as well as practical skills to conduct internal audits. The course was also organized to provide detailed comparison between the new standard and the previous version i.e., ISO 15189:2012. The Trainer commenced the course by presenting a detailed overview of ISO 15189:2022 highlighting the key changes. He elaborated on the concept of risk-based thinking and stated that the concept of risk, and the requirement of the laboratory to be able to articulate this, is one of the key requirements that accredited

organisations will need to consider when demonstrating compliance with the updated ISO 15189:2022.

He noted that 'Preventive action' which was initially superficially addressing risk has now been effectively replaced by a new clause 'Actions to address risks and opportunities for improvement' which requires that the laboratory is to identify risks and opportunities with a focus to minimise or eliminate risks and to enhance opportunities in a prioritized manner.

The Trainer explained the significant structural changes noting that the standard has undergone realignment of the clause structuring to bring it broadly in line with ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

The importance of impartiality in undertaking laboratory activities was highlighted, together with the need for ensuring that the laboratory is structured and managed to safeguard impartiality.

The roles and responsibilities of the laboratory director with regards to impartiality and application risk management to all aspects of laboratory operations was clearly highlighted and defined. The trainer stated that the revised standard is now patient focused and less prescriptive; allowing laboratories the flexibility to address risk according to their needs, operating environment and resources.

On day 2, the Trainer continued on the clauses related to resource requirements highlighting the requirement for laboratories to specify competence requirements for each function that influence the results of laboratory activities. The various aspects of equipment management, metrological traceability, reagent management and service agreements were explained.

On day 3, the trainer presented clauses relating to process requirements; pre-examination processes, examination processes, post-examination processes, nonconforming work, control of data information and resolution of complaints.

The Trainer introduced the participants to management system requirements and presented the nine (9) main subclauses. Important aspects of control of management system documents, actions to address risk and opportunities, nonconformity and corrective action, evaluation and management review were described. Developing internal audit programmes and schedules taking into consideration identified risk, previous findings, complaints and feedback was particularly discussed. He explained that the revised standard no longer prescribes a quality manual; and that the prescriptive list on control of records was no longer included.

Application of risk management in medical laboratory was also covered on day 3. The presentation was based on ISO 22367. The presentation highlighted the key concepts and pointed on the various processes of risk management; from risk management planning, to risk identification, estimation, evaluation, control and mitigation. The elements to consider for risk acceptability were also explained and how to mitigate, and monitor risks.

On day 4 the trainer elaborated on the audit process, benefits of auditing, attributes of auditor, and on nonconformity documentation. Audit practical was conducted on day 5 where participants were invited to carry out an audit exercise (in groups) applying the principles explained during the course using the internal audit checklists they developed during the training. The participants completed the internal audit checklists and documented all findings during the practical audit session.

During the closing session held on the last day of the course after the examination, the GHSS representative and Project Coordinator (PC), Mr Charles Njumkeng gave closing remarks. He appreciated the trainer for his resilience and efforts in conducting the training for 5 days alone and still being able to maintain the same energy all through. The PC ended by encouraging the participants to endeavour to implement the knowledge gained during the training at their various laboratories so as to strengthen the country's health system.

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 REQUIREMENTS & INTERNAL AUDITING TRAINING FOR SGS MOZAMBIQUE

SADCAS conducted the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing training for SGS Mozambique at the SGS Mozambique training centre in Maputo, Mozambique from 03 to 07 June 2024. A total of twelve (12) participants attended the training which was conducted in Portuguese and Ms Carolina Simbine facilitated it.

The objectives of this training course were:

- To raise awareness of the benefits of quality implantation and the importance of accreditation and the requirements of ISO/CEI 17025: General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
- To train SGS Mozambique staff on the requirements, implementation, and internal auditing in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017: General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
- To provide the path to continuous laboratory improvement

- To learn the fundamentals of the Management System with special reference to its application in laboratories
- To understand the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard in general
- To obtain the knowledge, interpersonal, administrative, and technical skills necessary to become a successful auditor
- To allow the achievement and maintenance of accreditation

On the final day, the training participants sat for an exam to evaluate the effectiveness of the training conducted and to determine whether participants had been imparted with the skills and knowledge to implement the standard effectively. During the closing session on the last day of the course after the examination, the trainer expressed her wish that the participants will be committed to practicing whatever was learnt. She also thanked the SADCAS Training Administrator for the arrangements.

SADCAS CONDUCTS TRAINING ON ISO 15189:2022 & ISO/IEC 17025:2017 REQUIREMENTS & INTERNAL AUDITING FOR GHANA ACCREDITATION SERVICE



ISO 15189 INTERNAL AUDITOR TRAINING FOR MEDIAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS HELD IN HILLVIEW GUEST CENTER, ABOKOBI. FROM 17TH - 21ST JUNE 2024

SADCAS conducted back-to-back training courses on ISO 15189:2022 Requirements & Internal Auditing (17-21 June 2024) and ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing (24-28 June 2024) training for Ghana Accreditation Service (Ghas). The A total of twelve (12) participants attended the training. The training courses were held at Hillview Guest Center in Accra, Ghana and were facilitated by Mr Xavier Mugari.



SADCAS Trainer, Mr. Xavier Mugari facilitating training.

The training courses were attended by twenty-one (21) participants; ISO 15189:2022 Requirements & Internal Auditing and twenty-five (25) participants for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing. This training formed part of the first phase by Ghana Accreditation Service's to training assessors.

The training courses started with pre-training tests that were taken by all participants to determine their current knowledge, skills, and abilities. The pre-training assessment was aimed at identifying participants' knowledge and skills gaps, and use the information to design an effective training program customized to address the knowledge gaps. The main objectives of the training courses were to understand ISO 15189:2022 and ISO/IEC 17025:2017 requirements, identify documents and records required implementation of the standards, to understand risk management and its application, understand

auditing principles, internal auditing process and preparation of audit checklists, to understand the suitability audit (document review) and conformity audit, to understand the formulation of audit findings, to understand preparation of audit report and follow-up on corrective action implementation, to understand auditor attributes, understanding the importance of impartiality, understanding method validation, metrological traceability and measurement uncertainty, understanding the process approach and risk-based thinking, understanding auditing principles, internal auditing process, and preparation of audit checklists.

Mr M. Kumah, the Director General of GHAS opened the training courses with some welcoming remarks and highlighted the importance of the training and noted that the training marked the first stage of assessor training. The training course was interspaced with exercises and

group work. Practical sessions were organized in which participants carried out an internal audit based on selected clauses from the checklists they prepared during the course and to document identified nonconformities. The participants worked in groups to perform the audit and prepare a report of non-conformities identified. This exercise was successfully completed and all groups were given a chance to present on their audit report and findings.

At the end of each training participants had to sit for an exam to determine which individuals were going to progress to the next phase of the assessor training. SADCAS thanked GHAS and its staff for their co-operation in the arrangement of all training courses, and for the hospitality shown during the training.



**ISO/IEC 17025 INTERNAL AUDITOR TRAINING.
HELD AT HILLVIEW GUEST CENTER, ABOKOBI.
JUNE 24-28, 2024.**



TECHNICAL ASSESSOR COURSE BASED ON ISO 15189:2022 IN LUSAKA ZAMBIA



Participants



Trainers Eva Muronda & Monica Peart with and Stakeholders (MOH Zambia and UK Health Security Agency)

Medical Laboratories play a pivotal role in the Healthcare System playing a frontline role in healthcare providing information for patient management, public health, disease control and surveillance. Accreditation of Medical Laboratories to ISO 15189 has numerous benefits that include the facilitation of accurate and rapid diagnostics, efficiency of treatment and reduction of errors in the laboratory process.

Accreditation assessments for Medical Laboratories are carried out by competent assessors with the appropriate technical and professional qualifications. It is essential that all assessors undergo the intensive Technical Assessor Training course to equip Trainees with the knowledge and skills of assessing.

SADCAS conducted the Technical Assessor Course for Medical Laboratory Professionals based on ISO 15189:2022 requirements at Taj Pamodzi Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia from 1 to 5 July 2024. The twenty four participants were from Ministry of Health Zambia who were eager to enhance their knowledge on the ISO 15189:2022; Medical Laboratories – Requirements for Quality and Competence, Accreditation and skills in Assessment Techniques. The trainees were all involved with the Ministry of Health; supporting the development of Medical Laboratory systems countrywide in working with Medical Laboratories towards accreditation in Zambia.

The training course was facilitated by Monica Peart (a registered SADCAS Team Leader with 24+ years direct experience in accreditation) and Eva Muronda (current SADCAS Medical Laboratories Scheme co-ordinator, a registered SADCAS Team Leader & Technical Assessor and has over 20 years direct experience in Medical laboratory testing).

The Objective of the training was to develop assessors that have the knowledge and skills on ISO 15189: 2022, Risk Management, assessment principles and practises and techniques including communication skills appropriate and assessment management skills.

Highlights of the Training

The training session consisted of a mixture of lectures, discussions and group exercises. Group exercises were essential to enable the trainers to evaluate the participants ability to work as part of a team or as team leaders. The attendees showed great enthusiasm and actively participated in the various activities.

The Training programme covered the following key areas covered included:

- Accreditation and the Role of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)
- ISO 15189:2022; Medical Laboratories – Requirements for Quality and Competence
- Application of Risk Management to Medical Laboratories based on ISO 22367
- SADCAS Policy on Metrological Traceability of Measurement Results based on ILAC P10:07/2020
- SADCAS Policy on Proficiency Testing and/or Interlaboratory Comparisons based on ILAC P9:01/2024
- Assessment Techniques
- Conduct of assessments
- Role of Technical Assessors
- Attributes of Technical Assessors
- Reporting of Nonconformities including root cause analysis and corrective action
- Exercise with case study of an imaginary assessment

Conclusion

The Technical Assessor Training session was a resounding success, achieving its objectives and providing participants with valuable skills and knowledge. The training was comprehensive and covered the required areas to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills to proceed to the next level of Mentorship as Technical Assessors in the Medical Laboratories

NEW ACCREDITATIONS, SCOPE EXTENSIONS, SUSPENSIONS AND WITHDRAWALS FROM 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 JULY 2024

	Organizations	ACC Decision	ACCR No.	New Accreditations	Extension within existing scope	New Scopes Accredited	Reassessments	Scope Reduced	Accreditations withdrawals
	TESTING LABORATORIES								
0100	Mutanda mining, DRC	04.04.2024	TEST-5 0090	Mineral Testing					
0383	Botswana Vaccination Institute	09.05.2024	PHAR 005	Microbiology (Vaccines)					
	MEDICAL LABORATORIES								
0402	Laboratório de Maputo, Mozambique	31/05/2024	MED 169	Heamatology					
0403	Laboratório de Tete, Mozambique	31/05/2024	MED 170	Clinical Chemistry, Molecular Biology Heamatology					
0405	Laboratório de Mavalane, Mozambique	31/05/2024	MED 168	Molecular Biology					
0404	Laboratório de Machava, Mozambique	31/05/2024	MED 168	Molecular Biology Microbiology					
0406	Laboratório de Nampula, Mozambique	31/05/2024	MED 171	Molecular Biology					
0413	Nsanje District Hospital Laboratory, Malawi	20/06/2024	MED 172	Molecular Biology					
0346	Songwe Regional Referral Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	20/06/2024	MED 173	Blood Bank Mycobacteriology Parasitology Serology					
0408	Makambako Health Centre Laboratory, Tanzania	7/10/2024	MED 174	Blood Bank Parasitology Serology Mycobacteriology					
0411	Cerba Lancet Eswatini Ezulwini Private Hospital Laboratory	7/26/2024	MED 175	Blood Bank Mycobacteriology Parasitology Serology					
0387	Mzimba District Hospital Lab, Malawi	7/26/2024	MED 176	Molecular Biology					

CERTIFICATION BODIES									
INSPECTION BODIES									
0422	Namibian Agronomy Board	15.04.2024	INSP-15 002	Agronomy Horticulture					
SCOPE EXTENSIONS									
0271	Benjamin Mkapa Hospital Laboratory	7/10/2024	MED 070		Parasitology	Clinical Chemistry			
					Serology				
0047	Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	2024/7/31	MED 003		Microbiology				
0167	Malawi Bureau of Standards - Management Systems Certification	2024/05/22	QMS-CERT 003			FSMS-CERT 004 -		QMS-CERT 003	
0248	Zambia Bureau of Standards -MS	2024/07/31	FSMS-CERT 005			FSMS CIV			
0248		2024/07/31	EMS-CERT 005			EMS 34			
0249	Zambia Bureau of Standards - Prod	2024/07/31	PROD-CERT 001		IAF Code 3 include fresh poultry and dairy products				
ACCREDITATION RENEWALS									
0041	SGS Zambia	02.04.2023	TEST-5 0007				Chemical		
0027	SAZ Harare & Bulawayo	05.05.2023	TEST-5 0006				Chemical		
			TEST-1 0027				Microbiology		
0054	Irvines Zimbabwe	13.05.2024	VET 004				Veterinary		
			TEST-1 0018				Microbiology		
			TET-5 0040		Feeds		Chemical		
0188	BV Moatize	27.06.2024	TEST-5 0041				Coal Testing		

TRAINING CALENDAR FOR 01 SEPTEMBER 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025



1	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing	09-13 September 2024	Virtual	7,900.00	585.00
2	Method Validation & Measurement Uncertainty	23-27 September 2024	Virtual	8,800.00	650.00
3	ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Requirements & Internal Auditing	07-11 October 2024	Virtual	7,900.00	585.00
4	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing	07-11 October 2024	Mbabane, Eswatini	-	750.00
5	ISO 15189:2022 Transition	21-25 October 2024	Virtual	4,750.00	350.00
6	ISO/IEC 17021:2015 Requirements & Internal Auditing	04-08 November 2024	Virtual	7,900.00	585.00
7	ISO 15189:2022 Requirements and Internal Auditing (French)	04-08 November 2024	Virtual	-	585.00
8	ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Requirements & Internal Auditing	18-22 November 2024	Virtual	7,900.00	585.00
10	ISO/IEC 15189:2022 Requirements & Internal Auditing	02-06 December 2024	Virtual	7,900.00	585.00
11	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing	20-24 January 2025	Virtual	7,900.00	585.00
12	Root Cause Analysis	10-12 February 2025	Virtual	4,750.00	350.00
13	ISO 15189:2022 Requirements and Internal Auditing	24-28 February 2025	Windhoek, Namibia	-	750.00
14	ISO 15189:2022 Requirements and Internal Auditing	10-14 March 2025	Virtual	7,900.00	585.00
15	ISO 15189:2022 Requirements and Internal Auditing	17-21 March 2025	Harare, Zimbabwe	-	750.00

THE BUSINESS BENEFITS OF STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION

There are many cases where standards and accredited conformity assessment help businesses of any size and sector reduce costs, increase productivity and access new markets. They can help to:

- **Build customer confidence that your products are safe and reliable;**
- **Meet regulation requirements, at a lower cost;**
- **Reduce costs across all aspects of your business; and**
- **Gain market access across the world.**

Business Benefits www.business-benefits.org is a website jointly developed by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), ILAC, International Organization for Standards (ISO), Independent International Organisation for Certification (IIOC), and International Certification Network (IQNet), that showcases these benefits through case studies, research papers, and supporting materials. The examples published on the site cite tangible financial data to evidence the cost savings achieved whether through resource efficiency or meeting regulation at lower cost, the value of accessing new markets, or savings achieved through recognition from organisations such as insurers, regulators or purchasers. The site contains case studies from multinationals such as IBM, Chrysler, and Hitachi to national companies such as Aberdare Cables and Pretoria Portland Cement Company.

BUSINESS BENEFITS
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MARKETING MESSAGE

COST SAVINGS

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

COMPANY PERFORMANCE

The site was launched in October 2017 at the ILAC and IAF conference in Vancouver. Additional case studies will be added in due course to ensure that the site can be a valuable resource to promote the use of standards and accreditation to the business community. The site aims to mirror the success of **Public Sector Assurance**, a similar site that promotes the value of accreditation to policy makers.