KENYA CREDIT ACCUMULATION AND TRANSFER SYSTEM
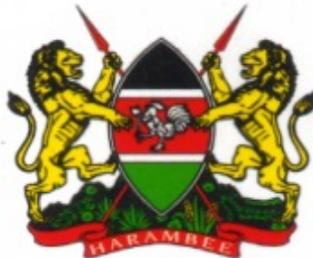
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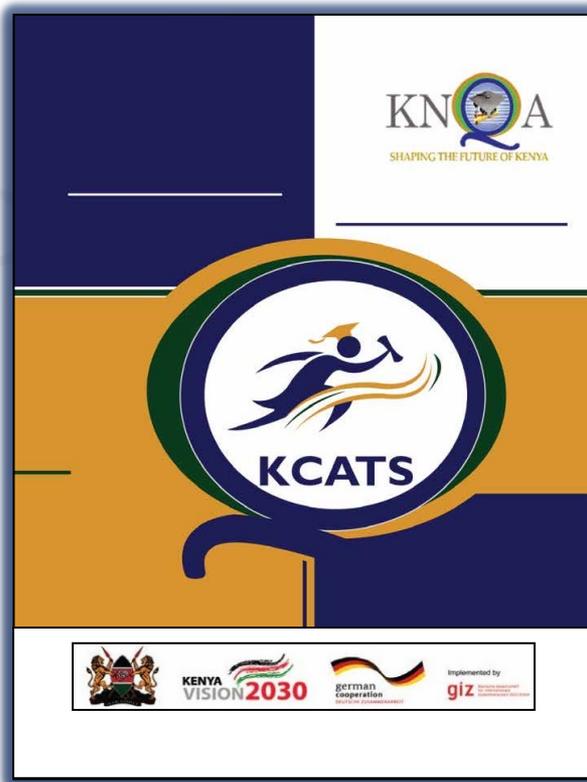
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KENYA VISION 2030

KNQA
KENYA NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

ACQF Training Week
Session 18 – Case study

Kenya Credit Accumulation & Transfer System (KCATS) Policy

Outline

- Background
- Situation analysis
- CAT system
- Objectives and principles
- Policy Approaches & guidelines
- Priority areas
- Benefits and Outcomes
- Conclusion

Establishment of KNQA and KNQF

❑Reforms and Establishment of KNQF :-

1. Harmonize the fragmented qualifications awarding system for fair articulation, classification, registration, quality assurance of qualifications

2. Ensure that Kenyan qualifications meet national and internationally acceptable standards

3. Clarify progression pathways and enable seamless progression, mobility and transferability of learners skills and qualifications

4. Develop national tools to facilitate Lifelong learning

Cont.

❑ Section 8(1)(L) of the KNQF Act, mandates KNQA to facilitate linkages, credit transfers and exemptions and a vertical and horizontal mobility at all levels to enable entry, re-entry and exit;

Building Blocks of Learner Progression :-

1. Levels Descriptors(competences , ELOs)

2. Qualifications levels

3. Credit Accumulation and Transfer system

4. Articulation and exit Pathways

5. Systems to Recognition of Prior Learning

Situation Analysis

Fragmented Kenyan Qualifications Awarding system/learner progression by sector & by level of complexity

Sectors /Sub frameworks

a) Basic

b) TVET

c) University

d) Industrial training

Actors

a) QAI-private, public, foreign

b) Regulatory bodies

c) Training providers

d) Curriculum developers

e) Student placement body

f) Line Ministries

g) Industry

Situation Analysis Cont.

1. Disjointed quality assurance and assessment standards & mechanisms

2. Lack of considerable degree of commonality in curriculum design, credits, translation & packaging of level descriptors into ELO

3. Inconsistency in credit level descriptors

4. Lack of a common understanding and interpretation of credits and qualifications

5. Unclear and cumbersome progression pathways

What is a KCAT System?

A way of describing the Kenyan educational program or qualification by attaching credits to its components, levels

It entails:-

❑ Credit Accumulation-Totaling of relevant credits

❑ Credit transfer:-Vertical, horizontal and diagonal relocation of credits towards a qualification or part qualification

What is the Goal of KCATS policy

❑ To recognize prior learning and ensure seamless progression of learners between qualifications pathways thus enhance equitable access and enabling lifelong learning

CATs in the Context of KNQF

THE KNQF STRUCTURE

KNQF Level	General and Further Education and Training Sub-Framework			Notional hours (minimum)
10	Doctorate Degree			3600 after KNQA level 9
9	Master's degree			2400 after KNQA level 7
8	Post-Graduate Diploma	Professional Bachelor's Degree	Professional Master Craft Person	1200 after KNQA level 7 or 6000 after KNQA level 2
7	Bachelor's Degree		Master Crafts Person –I or Management Professional or HND or CPA III	4800 after KNQA 2 or 2400 after KNQA level 6
6		National Diploma	Master Crafts Person –II/ Professional Diploma or CPA II	2400 after level 2 or 1200 after KNQA level 5
5		National Craft Certificate National Vocational Certificate-IV	Master Craft Person III or CPA I	1200 after KNQA level 2 or 600 after level 4
4		National Vocational Certificate- III/Artisan Certificate	National Skills Certificate –I GTT-I	600 after KNQA level 2 or 300 after level 3
3		National Vocational Certificate-II	National Skills Certificate -II /(GTT – II)	300 after KNQA level 2
2	Secondary Certificate	National Vocational Certificate- I	National Skills Certificate -III /Government Trade Test (GTT-III)	Depending to skills acquisition or Level 1
1	Primary Certificate		Basic Skills/Skills for Life	Birth Certificate

Volume of learning

KN**Q**A

KENYA NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

No.	KNQF Level	KNQF NAME	ENTRY REQUIREMENT	LEARNING HOURS	CREDITS	DURATION
1.	KNQF Level 1	Primary Certificate	Birth certificate	-	-	6 Years
2.	KNQF Level 2	Secondary Certificate or National Vocational Certificate I or GTT III or National Skills Certificate III	Level 1 Qualification	-	-	6 Years (Except for NVC, NSC & GTT III)
3.	KNQF Level 3	National Vocational Certificate II or GTT II or National Skills Certificate II	KCPE (level 1); or KCSE Mean Grade E (level 2)	300-599	30-59	3 Months
4.	KNQF Level 4	Artisan Certificate or National Vocational Certificate III or GTT I or National Skills Certificate I	KCSE Mean Grade E or level 3 Qualification	600-1199	60-119	6 Months
5.	KNQF Level 5	Craft Certificate or National Vocational Certificate IV or CPA I or Master Crafts person III	KCSE Mean Grade D or level 4 Qualification	1200-2399	120-239	One Year
6.	KNQF Level 6	National Diploma or CPA II or Master Craft person II	KCSE Mean Grade C- or level 5 Qualification	2400-4799	240-479	Two Years
7.	KNQF Level 7	Bachelor's degree or CPA III or CPS or Master crafts person I or Higher National Diploma (HND)*	KCSE Mean Grade C+ or level 6 Qualification	4800	480	Four Years
8.	KNQF Level 8	Post Graduate Diploma or Professional Master craft person or Professional Bachelor's Degree	level 7 Qualification	1200	120 / 600	One Year
9.	KNQF Level 9	Master's Degree	level 8 Qualification	2400	240	Two Years
10.	KNQF Level 10	Doctorate Degree	Level 9 Qualification	3600	360	Three Years

* MUST CARRY 240 CREDITS OR MORE

Summary of the Kenya National Qualification Framework Requirements

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRESSION PATHWAYS IN KENYA

KNQA Level 10	Doctorate		
KNQA Level 9	Masters	Professional Master Crafts Person	Lifelong Lerarning
KNQA Level 8	Postgraduate Diploma/ Professional Bachelors Degree (5-6 Yrs)		Articulation Horizontal and diagonal
KNQA Level 7	Bachelors		Articulation credits, credit transfer RPL, also additional qualifications that facilitate mobility and access
KNQA Level 6	Diploma/ NVC V	MC-I	
KNQA Level 5	Craftperson/ NVC IV	MC-II	
KNQA Level 4	Artisan/ NVC III	MC-III	
KNQA Level 3	NVC II	GTT- I /NSC-I	
KNQA Level 2	Secondary Education/NVC I	GTT- II /NSC-II	
KNQA Level 1	Primary Education/ Basic Skills/ Life Skills	GTT- III /NSC-III	

MC- Master Crafts Person, NVC National Vocational Certificate GTT - Government Trade Test, NSC National skills certificate

Policy Context

International context

❑ AU Agenda 2063

❑ Continental Education Strategy for Africa(CESA)

❑ UN SDG No. 4

❑ UNESCO Global Convention on Recognition of Qualifications

❑ Addis Convention on recognition of qualifications-2014

❑ EAC Vision 2050

(A tool to recognize qualifications and enable LLL)

Scope of KCATS Policy

❑ All qualifications and part qualifications ie certificates, diplomas degrees and professional qualifications across accredited institutions

❑ Formal

❑ Informal

❑ Non formal

❑ Foreign qualifications

Purpose and Objectives of KCATS Policy

❑Provide an overarching framework for implementing CAT

❑Promote seamless student mobility between pathways, sub frameworks world of work and LLL

❑Facilitate development of a credible, efficient and transparent CAT process

❑Define the various institutional frameworks and their specific roles

KCATS Credit Weighting Approach

☐ Notional study hours/learning hours-estimate of the time spent by an average full time equivalent student to master a unit of learning

☐ All learning activities of a student, inclusive of contact time, self study, projects/research, attachment, assignment and examinations

Assumptions of NH Approach

❑ 10 notional study hours = one credit

❑ An average student accumulates 8 study hours per day amounting to 40-hours/week

❑ Undergraduate programmes (30-week full-time academic year amounts to 1200 hours/year

Key Features of KCATS:-

☐ **Credit**s can only be obtained after successful completion of the work required and appropriate assessment of the learning outcomes achieved

☐ **Students workload/Volume of learning** -time for attending lecturers, seminars, independent and private study, projects and examinations

☐ **Expected Learning outcomes** - what a students is expected to know, understand or be able to demonstrate at the end of a process of learning

Common Denominators for Transferring Credits

- ❑ Programme aims & ELO/level descriptors

- ❑ Value of credits, workload/Volume of learning

- ❑ Unit of competence covered /Minimum Body of Knowledge

- ❑ Appropriate QA and assessment criteria

Documentation/statistics of Students Performance Degrees and Diplomas

Grading -%, Grades, GPA

Ranking -1st Class, 2nd upper, 2nd lower, pass, fail for degrees &

Distinction, Upper credit, Lower credit, Pass for Diplomas/certificates

Requirements for Credit transfers

For inclusion in the KCATS:-

- ❑ QAI is accredited by relevant regulator
- ❑ Program leading to the award is accredited
- ❑ Student presenting the qualification meets the entry requirement for that qualification
- ❑ Volume of learning is aligned to the KNQF

Benefits and Outcomes of KCATS Policy

❑ Creating a single integrated national roadmap/ framework to guide learner progression

❑ Facilitate access, mobility and seamless progression within, education, training and career paths

❑ Enhancing transparency, efficiency, recognition and quality of education and training

❑ Accelerating the redress of past unfair discrimination in access to education, training opportunities

Benefits Cont.

❑ Enhances compatibility and transferability of skills

❑ Enables realization of International, Continental and National Agenda

❑ A Common currency of exchange of knowledge, skills and competences –AfCFTA, EAC,

❑ Mutual recognition and agreements on implementation of CAT systems promotes quality, collaborations and linkages

KCATS Guidelines

1. Applicant must have acquired ELO

2. Credits can only be transferred once -up to 49%

3. Age:-qualifications taken within the last four years

4. Foreign qualifications shall be recognized, and equated first

5. Post graduate programmes, credit transfers may be approved for course work only

6.   No credit transfer shall apply to a certificate acquired from a qualification in Law
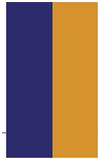
Guidelines Cont.

❑ Credit transfer shall not apply to the common core units, project work, attachment, teaching practice and research

❑ The transferred credits must be indicated on the student's transcript (*)

Guidelines Cont.

KNQF Qualification	Volume of Learning	Learner Performance	Progression levels	Entry year
Certificate	2400+	Distinction	KNQF 6	2nd
Certificate	2400+	Credit & below	KNQF 6	1st
Diploma	3600+	Credit+	KNQF 7	3rd
Diploma	3600+	Below Credit	KNQF 7	2nd
Diploma	2400	Credit	KNQF 7	2nd
Diploma	2400	Below credit	KNQF 7	1st
Bachelors	1200+	Ongoing	KNQF 7	Same
Masters	1200+	Ongoing	KNQF 9	Same
Doctorate	1200+	Ongoing	KNQF 10	Same
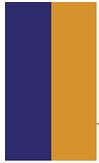
KCATS Policy Priority Actions

❑Promote commonality in curriculum development

❑Promote collaboration, partnerships and linkages

❑Integrate CATs policy in existing legal & regulatory frameworks of education and training in Kenya

❑Strengthen quality assurance systems in qualifications sector

❑Awareness creation and publicity campaigns to promote ownership and commitment

❑Strengthen and build capacities

Conclusion

❑Implementation of the KCATs policy:- Sector-Wide CAT system (Agriculture)

❑Map out qualifications in other sectors

THANK YOU