

QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION							SECTION A
QUALIFICATION DEVELOPER		BAISAGO UNIVERSITY					
TITLE	Master of Science in Ecotourism				NCQF LEVEL	9	
FIELD	Agriculture and Nature Conservation			SUB-FIELD	Tourism Conservation		
New qualification	✓	Review of existing qualification					
SUB-FRAMEWORK	General Education			TVET		Higher Education	✓
QUALIFICATION TYPE	Certificate			Diploma		Bachelor	
	Bachelor Honours			Master	✓	Doctor	
CREDIT VALUE					255		
RATIONALE AND PURPOSE OF THE QUALIFICATION							
<p>Rationale</p> <p>The environment has always been a habitat for several species and despite the environment presenting natural aesthetic beauty; the human activities (tourism activities inclusive) have exposed the environment to actions that compromised its ability to provide its abilities through destruction of cultural landscape and homogenisation of biodiversity. To echo the significance of ecotourism and conservation qualification, it is noted that through implementation of Community Based Natural Resources Management programme and the tourism sector's diversification strategy where several community based projects are developed in order to create economic benefits for the communities, there is employment creation and conservation of natural resources (Ministry of Finance and Development, 2016).</p> <p>The government further acknowledges the role played by the tourism sector in the growth and employment creation; hence, creation of an enabling environment for investment and operations of tourism businesses (Ministry of Finance and Development, 2016). With a remarkable progress in the expansion of the tourism sector during the NDP 10 period, the need for human capital with expertise in the ecotourism and environmental conservation is indispensable. Subsequently, Environmental Protection Professionals (such as conservationist) are listed under code 2133 as top occupations in high demand (HRDC, 2016); therefore, this calls for enhanced skill human capital development with occupation specific qualifications that match the labour market as echoed by the Human Resource Development Council's approach of achieving industry driven oriented personnel (Human Resource Development Council, 2017). As the key sector in diversifying Botswana's economy, Botswana has to be vested with researchers in the field to ensure that sustainable practices are incorporated (Ministry of Finance and Development, 2016). The multi-disciplinarily approach</p>							

on ecology, environmental conservation and tourism present both opportunities and challenges which need an integrated approach in order to enjoy proceeds while the environment is not compromised.

Furthermore, the stakeholder consultation was conducted with various organisations who had direct and indirect interaction with ecological and tourism issues who gave outstanding suggestions and recommendations for the betterment of the qualification. The stakeholder consultative report indicated that 69% highlighted that the qualification was relevant and a great initiative based on the fact that Botswana was driving towards a diversified economy and tourism was among the diversification pillar. The stakeholders noted that, with tourism operating under the ecological spheres, sustainability, biodiversity conservation, policy implementation and address of climate issues were very imperative.

Purpose

The purpose of the qualification is to equip learners with knowledge, skills, and competences to:

- Develop and integrate ecotourism on biodiversity conservation in an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable manner.
- Carry out empirical and practical researches on tourism, ecology, climate, and environmental conservation; thus, generation of scientific knowledge necessary to inform decisions in sustainable Ecotourism and conservation.
- Manage challenges presented by the interaction between human's economic livelihood strategies such as tourism and the environment.
- Evaluate the role that human beings play on environmental biodiversity and tourism's sustainability.
- Apply environmental impact assessment on ecological tourism projects.
- Develop and apply appropriate intervention strategies for sustainable ecological conservation and tourism.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (including access and inclusion)

- i. NCQF Level 8 (Bachelor Science (Honors) in Environmental Science/Environmental Management/Life Sciences) or any other related field will be eligible for admission into the qualification.

OR

- ii. Applicants who do not meet the requirements above may be considered through RPL and CAT policies for access and inclusion as per BQA/ national policy.

QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION	
SECTION B	
GRADUATE PROFILE (LEARNING OUTCOMES)	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
1. Evaluate critically the role human being play on environmental biodiversity and tourism's sustainability.	1.1 Detect human activities affecting environmental sustainability. 1.2 Critique the principles in the field of ecotourism and biodiversity conservation. 1.3 Evaluate the human-environment interactions. 1.4 Examine the occupational health and safety implications of ecotourism projects on local communities and beyond.
2. Apply environmental impact assessment (EIA) on ecological tourism projects to ensure environmental sustainability and preservation of key sites.	2.1 Critique the proposed ecotourism projects that have undergone EIA 2.2 Assess the EIA documents and processess 2.3 Evaluate critically the impact EIA processes have on the operations of operational projects.
3. Measure the impact of climate change on natural habitats and ecological tourism systems.	3.1 Analyze characteristics and behaviours of wild animal species. 3.2 Investigate wildlife populations and land carrying capacity. 3.3 Assess benefit of ecological tourism to local communities. 3.4 Evaluate the community land management approaches. 3.5 Assess critically the influence of climate change on natural habitats.
4. Implement appropriate intervention strategies (ecotourism policies, paradigms and frameworks), for sustainable ecological conservation and tourism.	4.1 Apply relevant theories and conceptual frameworks to critique key policies on ecological conservation and their effect on tourism industry. 4.2 Employ environmental and or ecological paradigms and frameworks to mitigate the impacts posed by complex human -environmental interactions. 4.3 Formulate and apply policies that guide towards environmental management and or biological conservation. 4.4 Design, measures and strategies to promote sustainable ecotourism.

	<p>4.5 Conduct capacity building and public education (stakeholder consultation and engagement) on community based natural resource conservation.</p> <p>4.6 Monitor the implementation of intervention strategies aimed at managing ecotourism and the environment.</p>
<p>5. Integrate the ethics, community cultural values, principles and norms on conservational interventions of ecological tourism resources and key sites.</p>	<p>5.1 Determine ethics and communal values that promote community based natural resource conservation.</p> <p>5.2 Design projects and processes that have respect for socio-cultural heritage of the host community.</p> <p>5.3 Develop long term projects with economic and environmental benefits fairly distributed to all stakeholders while protecting the natural heritage and the biodiversity.</p>
<p>6. Synthesize human-wildlife conflicts records and statistical data therein to ensure strategized environmental management and uncompromised habitats</p>	<p>6.1 Examine land use and land cover change on lands populated by both humans and wild animals.</p> <p>6.2 Undertake an in-depth critical exploration of human –wildlife conflicts.</p> <p>6.3 Analyze the trend and patterns emanating from data used.</p> <p>6.4 Interpret and infer the findings to help in sustainable co-existence of ecotourism and environmental conservation.</p>
<p>7. Formulate ecotourism development plans and environmental conservatory strategies.</p>	<p>7.1 Design conceptualized community engagement tools in wildlife conservation (participatory approaches).</p> <p>7.2 Develop viable environmental conservation codes to yield reduced environmental degradation from tourism.</p>
<p>8. Conduct a research to contribute to the body of knowledge about the field of ecotourism and environmental conservation.</p>	<p>8.1 Carry out an in-depth research project</p> <p>8.2 Analyze and evaluate the results from research project.</p> <p>8.3 Present the findings through a dissertation/ thesis and an oral presentation to examiners.</p> <p>8.4 Communicate effectively the findings to appropriate stakeholders.</p>

QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE			
SECTION C			
FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENT	Title	Level	Credits
Subjects / Units / Modules /Courses	Research Methods	9	15
CORE COMPONENT	Principles of Ecotourism	9	15
	Biodiversity Conservation	9	15
	Strategic Environmental Management	9	20
	Ecotourism and Rural Development	9	20
	Ecotourism Policy and Development	9	20
	Strategic Ecotourism Marketing	9	20
	Waste Management	9	20
	Dissertation	9	80
	Foundations in Heritage Management	9	15
ELECTIVE/OPTIONAL COMPONENT	Introduction to Geographical Information Systems	9	15
	Climate Change and Sustainable Development	9	15
	Biostatistics	9	15
Subjects / Units / Modules /Courses Choose 1			
Rules of combinations, Credit distribution (where applicable):			
Level 9 consists of 255 credits			
Total Credits = 255			
The credit combination for this qualification consists of 15 credits of fundamental component, 225 credits of core component and 15 credits from the elective components, where candidates will choose one elective module; and passing these modules and attaining these credits shall lead to an award of Master of Science in Ecotourism certificate.			
ASSESSMENT AND MODERATION ARRANGEMENTS			
Assessment			
Formative Assessment			
The weighting of formative assessment is 60 % of the Final assessment mark.			

Summative Assessment

The weighting of summative assessment is 40 % of the Final assessment mark.

Internal moderation requirements

- i. All assessment instruments should be internally moderated before administration
- ii. All marked scripts should be moderated internally
- iii. The preparation of the moderation should be accompanied by the Assessment Matrix.

External moderation requirements

External moderation is a final check, by external subject experts, that the examination and marking is at the right standard for the type and level (with NCQF Level 9) of the qualification.

Reports and associated documents to be in place for external moderation should include but not limited to:

- Qualification document;
- Assessment Instrument;
- Assessment design and alignment matrix;
- Marking guide;
- Internal Moderation report;
- List of candidates and scores attained;
- Examination Attendance register.

Assessment and moderation will be carried out by BQA registered assessors and moderators in line with BQA/national policies.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (if applicable)

There will be provision for awarding of the qualification through RPL in line with the national RPL Policy. RPL will be implemented as per guidance from the relevant ETP and national policies as well as guidelines for RPL.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS (LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT)

Learning Pathways

Horizontal Articulation:

- Master's Degree in Ecotourism and Environmental Conservation
- Master's Degree in Wildlife Conservation and Management
- Master's Degree in Natural Resource management
- Master's Degree in Environmental Management;
- Master's Degree in Environmental Science.

Vertical Articulation:

Student's graduating with this degree can easily articulate into the following:

- Doctor of Philosophy in Ecotourism and Environmental Conservation
- Doctor of Philosophy in Wildlife management and Conservation
- Doctor of Philosophy in Natural Resource Management
- Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Management
- Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science.

Employment Pathways

Students who graduate with the Master of Science in Ecotourism may be absorbed in some of the following organisations and industries or hold the following positions, respectively:

- Tourism Organisation Manager
- National Parks and Wildlife Manager
- Environmental consultancy Officer
- Academic Researcher
- Wildlife Management Officer
- Chief of the Biodiversity Units
- Conservation Analysis Programme Leader

QUALIFICATION AWARD AND CERTIFICATION

Candidates must acquire a minimum of 255 credits of core (225 credits), electives (15 credits) and fundamentals (15 credits) modules, to be awarded with a Master of Science in Ecotourism certificate. Candidates meeting the prescribed requirements will be awarded the qualification certificate in accordance with the qualification composition rules and applicable policies. To be eligible for the award of certificate, candidates must have successfully completed all fundamental modules and core modules and passed examinations in accordance with regulations set by the provider.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

The proposed Master of Science in Ecotourism has been benchmarked against the following qualifications offered by various institutions:

International Qualifications

University of Kent in the United Kingdom is offering Master of Science in Conservation and Tourism at level 9 with a credit value of 355. The degree is offered on a taught basis. Assessment is carried out primarily through coursework with written examinations for some modules. The research dissertation is written in the format of a paper for publication. The qualification produces postgraduates equipped with abilities to play leading roles in the field of international conservation and biodiversity management. Furthermore, it develops opportunities for learners to gain an interdisciplinary perspective on biodiversity conservation issues through collaborative processes. The MSc in Conservation and Tourism offers a critical engagement with the subject of conservation and tourism, not only by exploring the wide range of environmental, social and economic impacts, but also through considering difficult questions that might be asked on the role of conservationists. For instance, in relation to the underlying values that might introduced into different cultures around the world.

University of Portsmouth in United Kingdom

The qualification is arranged into separate units, each worth fifteen credits. A Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) is awarded for 120 credits. A Master of Science degree is awarded for 180 credits. In both cases, 120 credits are achieved through 8 taught units. In addition, MSc students complete a research dissertation, worth 60 credits. The qualification equips learners with capabilities to examine the environmental, social, economic and cultural issues associated with Ecotourism. In addition, it focuses on enhancing skills on the management of natural and built resources for tourism purposes. In this respect it provides a much-needed supply-side perspective on tourism management and development. The graduates play an important role in improving the integrity of this rapidly growing tourism industry.

University of Adelaide in Australia offers a two year Masters of Science (Ecotourism) worth 69 credits. Ecotourism is a blend of science and tourism which draws together aspects of biology, geology and ecology for students to understand and be able to communicate the science underpinning tourists' experience on natural environment. As a comprehensive science-based ecotourism qualification it is designed to meet the industry need to respond to tourism ecotourism nationally and internationally. This qualification enhances research qualification techniques and the electives expose the learners to law, wine science, marketing and entrepreneurship skills. This qualification enriches students with capabilities to work in areas such as in

government, wineries, regional councils, policy and strategy, marketing, consulting and management of ecotourism companies.

Regional Qualification

National University of Science and Technology offers a Master of Science in Eco-Tourism and Biodiversity Conservation at level 9. The qualification aims at developing an understanding of the advanced principles in the fields of eco-tourism and biodiversity conservation. The qualification will enable students to become competent in-depth research, analysis and generate interpretive technical reports in an industrial or academic environment in relation to ecological tourism. This knowledge will enable them to find practical solutions of real problems in applied Eco-tourism and Biodiversity Conservation. The qualification emphasizes aspects of ecology, tourism, law, business and environmental management, as well as developing professional level practical skills in tourism marketing, report writing, environmental and social assessment, scientific research and analysis. The scope of the qualification is based on local, regional and international experiences, and teaching is delivered by means of lectures, case studies, tutorials, field visits and a research project. This qualification is comparable to the proposed qualification.

The qualifications assessed and examined for benchmarking generally followed similar structure and covered relatively similar content addressing the implications of interactions between ecology and tourism industry. These institutions provide qualifications which relatively match with this proposed qualification, especially with key compulsory modules. The slight variation in content coverage ensured varied representativeness and diversity of institutions and it allows uniqueness and competitiveness of both the provider and the qualification offered.

REVIEW PERIOD

Every 5 years

Other information – please add any supplementary information to help the application for this qualification for NCQF Registration.

N/A

1. Human Resource Development Council. (2017). *National and Sector Human Development Planning Information Booklet*. Gaborone
2. Ministry of Finance and Development. (2016). *National Development Plan 11: April 2017 – March 2023*, Vol 1. Gaborone, Botswana.
3. Human Resource Development Council. (2016). Top Occupations in Demand.
<https://www.hrdc.org.bw/sites/default/files/Top%20Occupations%20Jan%202017.pdf>
4. Statistics Botswana (2015) 2008 Botswana Standard Classification of Occupations - December 2015.
<http://www.statsbots.org.bw/sites/default/files/documents/2008%20Botswana%20Standard%20Classification%20of%20Occupations.pdf.pdf>
5. https://www.adelaide.edu.au/degree-finder/2019/mscec_mscecot.html#df-acc-further_info_parent
6. <http://www.botswanaturism.co.bw/sites/default/files/publication/BTO%20EcoTourism%20Best%20Practices%20Manual.pdf>
7. https://www.nust.ac.zw/efw/msc_ecbc.php
8. <https://www.postgrad.com/university-of-kent-school-of-anthropology-and-conservation-conservation-and-tourism/course/>
9. <https://www.educaedu.co.uk/msc-ecotourism-masters-19487.html>