

Ministerial Concerns

- Lack of capacity in ICT
- Brain drain
- Inadequate access to tertiary education



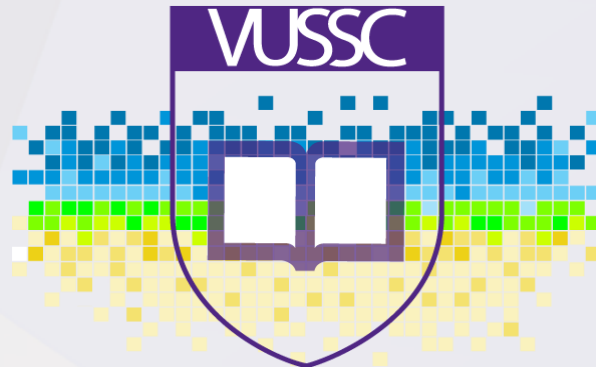
The Idea: a Virtual University for Small States

- Conference of Commonwealth Ministers of Education, Halifax, Canada 2000
- Endorsed by Ministers of Education in 2003, at 15 CCEM, Edinburgh, Scotland
- COL assigned the responsibility



The Vision: VUSSC Must Be Unique

- Enable small states to be contributors as well as consumers
- Strengthen existing institutions
- A flexible model
- Enable delivery in different formats: print & ICT

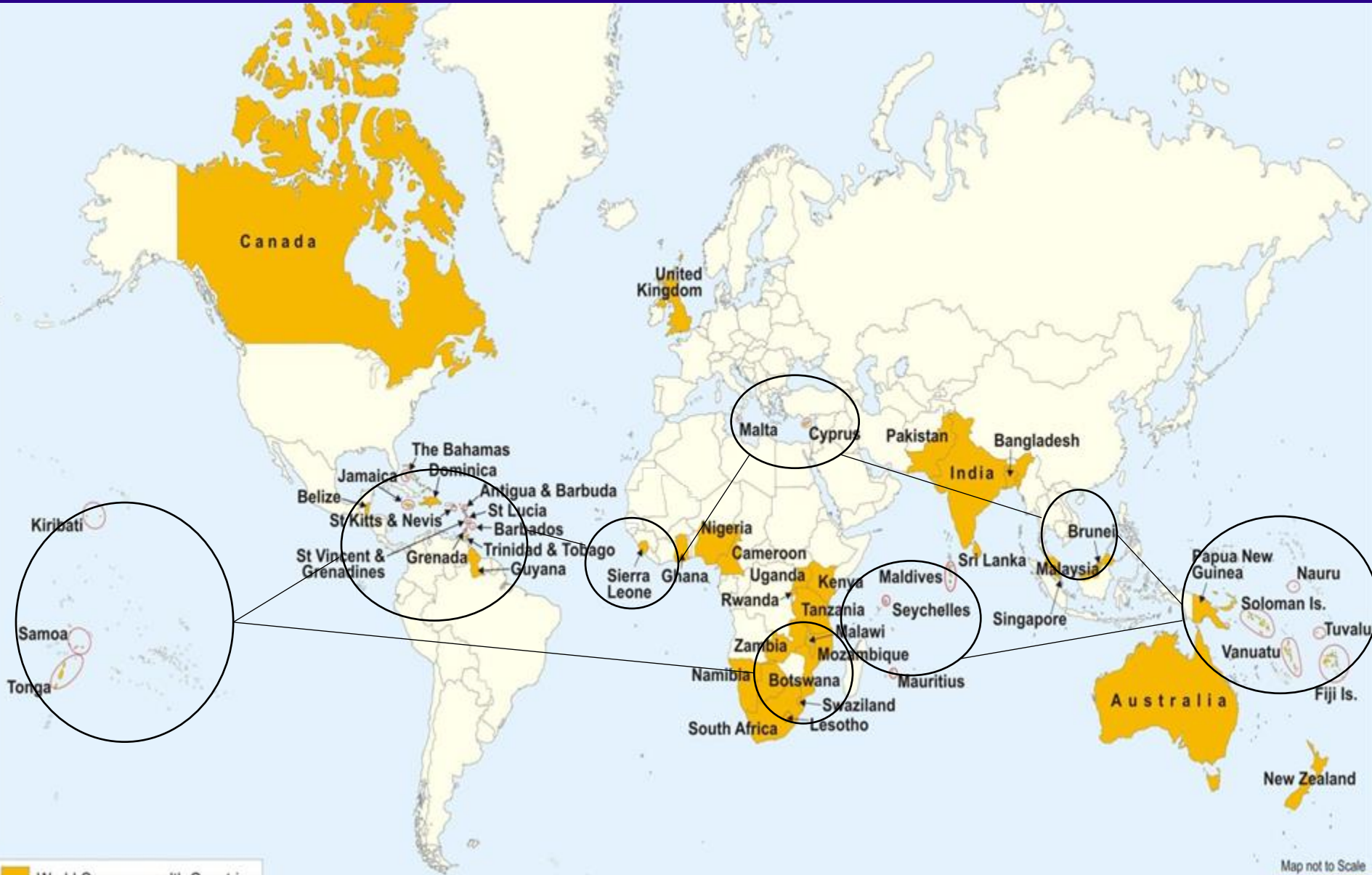


The Concept

- A network rather than an institution
- Strengthen the capacity of national institutions
- Use online technologies
- Create and share content



VUSSC: A Network



Management Committee

- Asia and the Pacific
 - George Maeltoka, **Vanuatu**
- The Caribbean
 - Karen Best, **The Bahamas**
 - Pauleen Finlay, **Grenada**
- Africa and the Mediterranean
 - Daniel Tau, **Botswana**
 - Heroldt Murangi, **Namibia**
- TQF Chairperson
 - Franz Gertze



What has the VUSSC Achieved?

1. Professionals trained in ICT skills
2. Courses offered
3. Open Educational Resources (OER) developed
4. VUSSC Website and online Learning Management System



Professionals Trained: 28 institutions in 20 countries



Antigua State College



College of The Bahamas



Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic,
Barbados



University of Belize



Botswana Open University (formerly
BOCODOL)



Dominica State College



Caribbean Maritime Institute, Jamaica



National University of Lesotho,
Lesotho College of Education



Maldives College of Higher Education;
Maldives National University



University of Mauritius,
Open University of Mauritius



Namibian Open Learning Network;
Polytechnic of Namibia



University of Papua New Guinea



National University of Samoa



Seychelles Agricultural Agency; Seychelles
Maritime Training Centre; University of Seychelles



Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, St. Lucia



Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College, St. Kitts & Nevis



St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community
College and St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Teachers College



University of Swaziland



Tonga Institute of Higher Education



Vanuatu Institute of Technology



Courses offered: 23 institutions in 14 countries



Antigua State College



Barbados Community College



Belize Teachers' College



Botswana College of Open and Distance Learning



RADA



National University of Lesotho



Villa College



Open University of Mauritius, Mauritius Institute of Training & Development, Sir Gaetan Duval Hotel School, University of Mauritius and Mauritius Qualifications Authority



Courses offered:

23 institutions in 14 countries



Namibian College of Open Learning



National University of Samoa



University of Seychelles, Seychelles Tourism Academy, Seychelles Institute of Management and Seychelles Institute of Teacher Education



Solomon Islands National University



University of Swaziland



University of The West Indies (Open Campus)



Policy Academy and Caribbean Public Health Agency



14 Programmes

- Sustainable Tourism
- Disaster Management
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Educational Leadership
- Environmental Management
- Quality Assurance
- Diplomacy

NAVIGATION

- Home
- My home
- Site pages
- My profile
- Current course
 - Tourism 002
 - Participants
 - Badges
 - Course Information
 - Course Introduction
 - Unit 1: Introduction to Sustainable Tourism
 - Unit 2: The Impact of Tourism
 - Unit 3: Carrying Capacity as a Management Tool
 - Unit 4: Scope of Sustainable Tourism
 - Course Summary
 - Courses

ADMINISTRATION

- Course administration
- Turn editing on

Course Information

This section is used to introduce your instructor and as a place for Course News/Announcements forum. You can also communicate with your instructor.

- Your Instructor
- Instructor Expectations
- Course News and Announcements
- Class Cafe
- Course Chat Room

Course Introduction

This unit provides an introduction to your course and a list of links to other course resources.

- Course Description, Assignments & Schedule
- Student Introductions
- Course References

Welcome to BBE



Welcome to the Bachelor of Business & Entrepreneurship (BBE) programme. This section describes the BBE and its curriculum. It also includes programme and course news and announcements and a chat line you can use to connect with online peers.

Educational Leadership

- Module 1 : Higher Education in a Global World: The Context of Quality Assurance
- Module 2 : External Quality Assurance
- Module 3 : Operating an External Quality Agency

VJSC

COURSE MANUAL

Introduction to Disaster Management



Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

VJSC

COURSE GUIDE

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
IN SMALL STATES



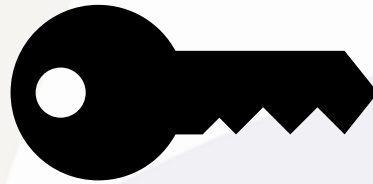
Graduation



- First cohort completes Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture and are in full time employment: Samoa
- Learners graduate from the Bachelor in Business and Entrepreneurship: Botswana

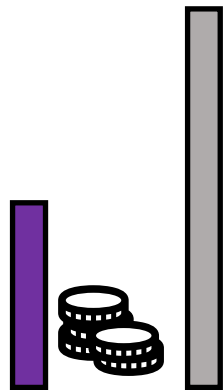


Comparative Study of VUSSC and Campus Students

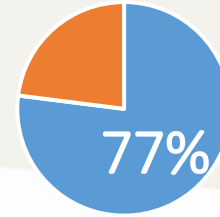


All of the ODL/VUSSC students surveyed were **first-generation university students**

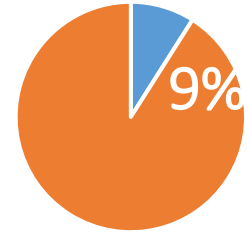
Reduced Costs



69% less direct cost to the VUSSC students in tuition fees



77% of VUSSC students work while studying compared to only 9% of campus-based students



As a result, VUSSC students were able to earn on average

\$ 595 USD more per month

than the face-to-face-students while studying

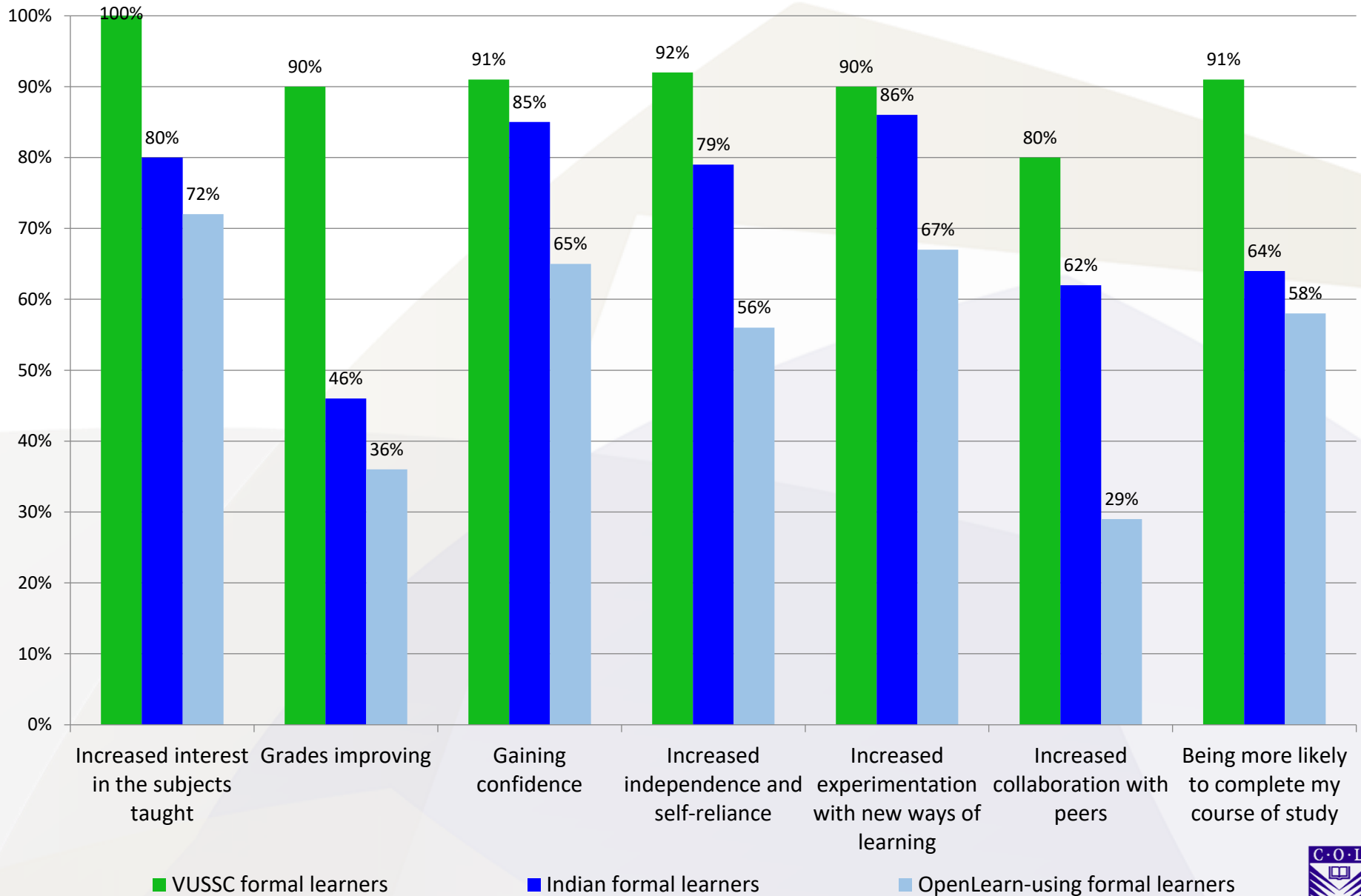
Reduced Learner Carbon Footprint



Learning related carbon emissions
of the VUSSC students were

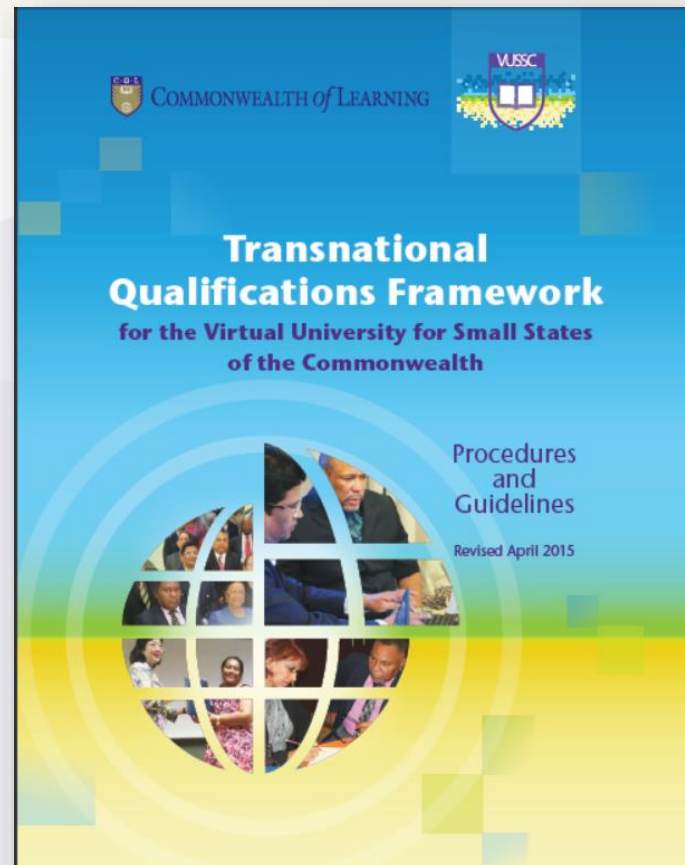
$1/3$ that of the campus-based
students

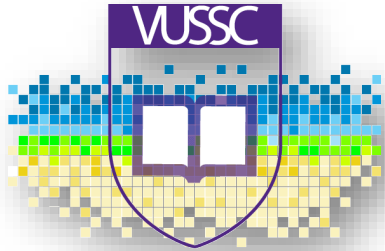
Impact of VUSSC on Formal Learners



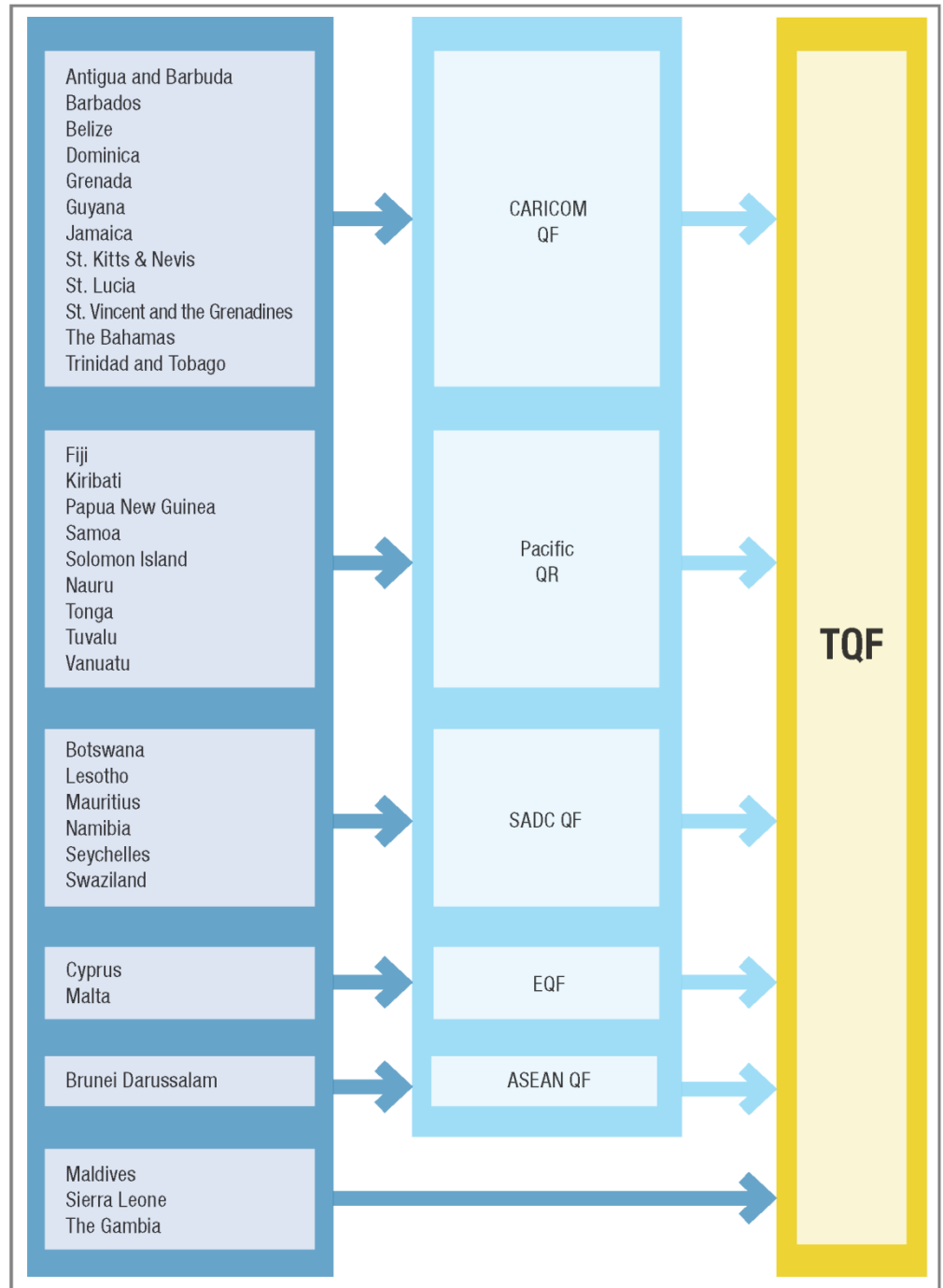
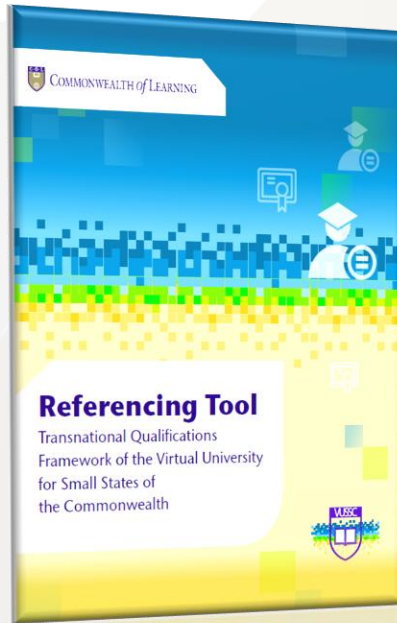
Development of a Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF)

- Recognition of small states qualifications
- Improve credit transfer and
- Promote learners' mobility





Referencing of the TQF



Qualifications Registered on TQF



Bachelor in Business and Entrepreneurship

Master in Educational Leadership



Bachelor in Business Entrepreneurship (Honours)

Certificate in Tour Guiding



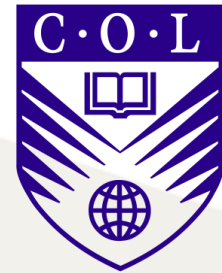
Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture for Small States



Bachelor in Environmental Science

COMSEC-COL-UWI

Fostering Collaboration



- Diploma in Youth Development Work
- Degree in Youth Development Work
- Launched by the President of Uganda, at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting, 2017.
- Sixteen universities from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Europe are participating.



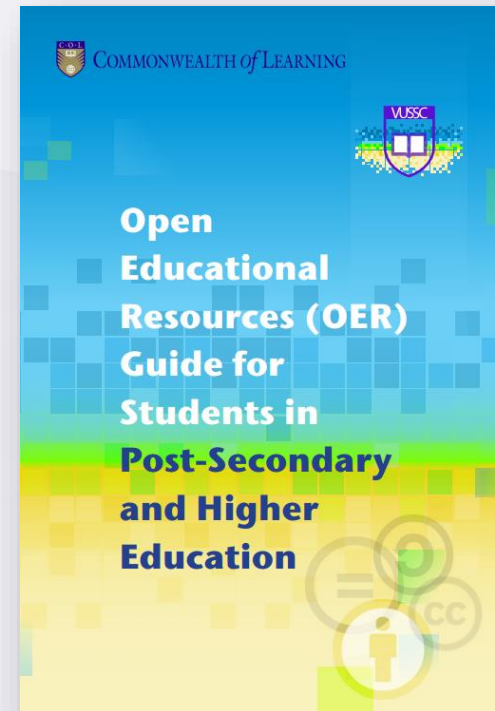
The Commonwealth





University of Swaziland

- OER Policy
- Students' Guide to OER
- Capacity building
- Bachelor of Nursing





University of Seychelles



- Understanding the Blue Economy: free online course

Blue Economy
Research Institute





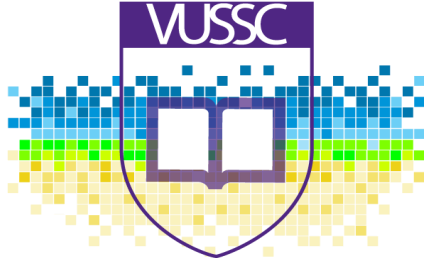
Inspire Tomorrow, Today.

- Certificate in Small Business
- Bachelor in Business and Entrepreneurship
- Certificate in Disaster Management
- Bachelor in Business Administration Leadership and Change Management
- Postgraduate Diploma in Research and Evaluation
- Postgraduate Diploma in Quality Assurance
- Master in Educational Leadership
- More than 1000 students enrolled



VUSSC – The Future

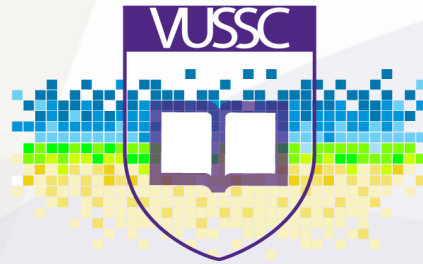
- Promote access to **quality** tertiary education
- Build institutional **capacity** for sustainable development
- Contribute to Commonwealth **cooperation**



Key Questions

- What more needs to be done?
- How can we enhance our engagement?
- How can VUSSC support your agenda of ‘learning for sustainable development’?

Thank You



col.org



The contents of this presentation, except logos/ graphics which are property of the respective owners, is made available under [Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International \(CC BY-SA 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).