SADCAS went through a re-evaluation and scope extension from 27 May to 1 June 2019. The purpose of the re-evaluation was to determine whether SADCAS can maintain international recognition status for the testing and calibration laboratories achieved in 2015 and the medical laboratories and inspection bodies accreditation schemes achieved in 2017; to extend scope of international recognition to IAF Multilateral Arrangement (MLA) in the main scope Management Systems Certification, Sub- scope Quality Management Systems (QMS); and to determine whether SADCAS has fully transitioned from ISO/IEC 17011: 2004 to ISO/IEC 17011: 2017.

The evaluation was conducted in accordance with, and against the requirements specified in AFRAC M001 and IAF/LAC A2, by a team of 5 members namely: Mr Moslem Barrak as the team leader and member responsible for certification [Main Scope (ISO/IEC 17021-1) and Sub-scope Quality Management Systems (QMS) (ISO/IEC 17021-3)]; Mr Marcel Gbaguidi (Deputy Team Leader and team member responsible for Testing (ISO/IEC 17025); Mr Adel Rezk, team member responsible for Calibration (ISO/IEC 17025); Mrs Shelli Turner as the team member responsible for Medical Testing (ISO 15189); and Mrs Susannah Munyiri-Ochieng as the team member responsible for Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020). Two trainee evaluators also participated in the peer evaluation with Mr Mahesh Koolwont as Trainee evaluator for Testing and Ms Meseret Tessema as Trainee for Medical Testing.

The peer evaluation started off with an opening meeting on Monday 27 May 2019. The opening meeting was attended by all SADCAS staff. The office evaluation was undertaken at SADCAS Offices in Gaborone on 27, 31 May and 1 June 2019 whilst the witnessing was undertaken in Botswana and Zimbabwe from 28 to 31 May 2019. The closing meeting was held on Saturday, 1 June 2019 with the team recommending that:

• The international recognition of SADCAS for Testing and Calibration laboratories accreditation schemes according to ISO/IEC 17025 and for medical testing accreditation according to ISO 15189 be continued;
• The international recognition of SADCAS for inspection accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020 be continued;
• The international recognition of SADCAS in the main scope Management Systems to ISO/IEC 17021-1 in the Sub-scope QMS to ISO/IEC 17021-3 be granted;
• The transition of the SADCAS management system from ISO / IEC 17011: 2004 to ISO / IEC 17011: 2017 has been successfully completed; and
• That the next full re-evaluation of SADCAS takes place no later than 1st June 2023.

subject to clearance of the findings raised during the re-evaluation. The team raised only 2 nonconformities and a number of concerns and comments.

During the re-evaluation, the team noted that all the SADCAS personnel met and interviewed had been very transparent, fair and collaborative; SADCAS permanent staff are skilled and satisfactorily technically qualified for the functions they perform, and the organization has a good foundation of accreditation experience; the competence of the assessment teams witnessed was high; that SADCAS has access to a sufficient number of well qualified, experienced and competent Team Leaders, Technical Assessors and Technical Experts; and that the SADCAS accreditation process appears to be very effective.

Speaking during the closing meeting the SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen Mutasa was very happy with the outcome noting that this was the 1st re-evaluation of SADCAS which also included scope extension as well as transition from ISO/IEC 17011: 2004 to ISO/IEC 17011: 2017. She then thanked Team SADCAS for their hard work and dedication towards goal achievement and the peer evaluation team for a thorough and value adding evaluation. Since all the findings raised are in SADCAS control, the CEO advised the Team that SADCAS will start working on root cause analysis and propose corrective action to address all the findings raised soon after the peer evaluation with the hope of having a decision made on signatory status at the 10th AFRAC General
Assembly scheduled to be held in September 2019 in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire and the ILAC and IAF meetings scheduled to be held in October 2019 in Frankfurt, Germany.

On 1 June 2019 SADCAS hosted a dinner at the Rodizio Restaurant in Gaborone, Botswana which was attended by all the peer evaluators and SADCAS Management and Scheme Coordinators.