

SOUTH AFRICAN SYMBOLS AND ORDERS

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS EXHIBIT

The focus of this exhibit is on the symbols and orders of our country since 1994.

In September 2016 Brand South Africa wrote the following:

A country's symbols-seal, motto, flag, anthem, coat of arms and natural symbols tell its story and play a crucial role in building pride and a sense of belonging.

South Africa's national symbols are rich in heritage and tell the stories of the country's abundant natural and cultural diversity.

The Department of Arts and Culture is the custodian of all our national symbols and it is tasked with educating all South Africans in their meaning and history, especially during the Annual National Heritage month, held during September.

SCOPE OF EXHIBIT

The exhibit will include stamps, postcards, first day covers and illustrations on the Constitution, Coat of Arms, Flag, Anthem and National Orders which have all changed since 1994. Languages have not changed but all eleven are now official.

The five national symbols, fish, flower, tree, animal and bird also included have not changed.

EXHIBIT PLAN

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RESEARCH AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

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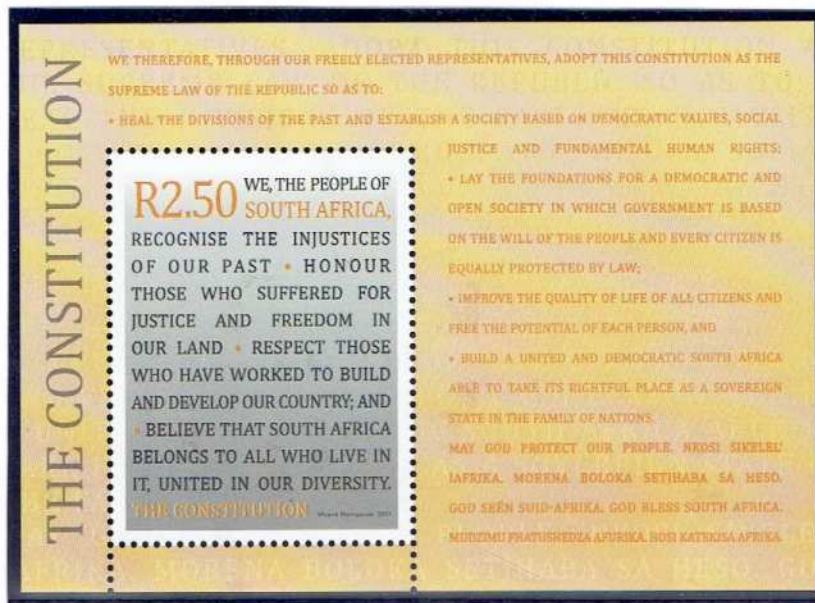
Government Communication and Information Systems

NEW DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION



PHILATELIC SERVICES PRESS RELEASE

The Republic of South Africa's New Democratic Constitution is the Supreme Law of our Country. The Constitution provides the legal foundation for the existence of South Africa and sets out the duties and rights of its people and defines the structure of the Government. All Organs of State are governed by the Constitution, which has been called the "Birth Certificate" of a free and democratic South Africa. This is the Country's fifth Constitution and was drawn up in 1994, promulgated by President Nelson Mandela on 18 December 1996 and came into effect on 4 February 1997.



The New Democratic Constitution



The New Constitutional Assembly Logo

NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS



National Coat of Arms



South African Social Security Agency Card



Standard Postage Stamp

The National Coat of Arms is the emblem of the State, its highest visual symbol and is part of The Great Seal, which confers absolute authority on all documents bearing it.

On Freedom Day, 27 April 2000, the new Coat of Arms created by designer Iaan Bekker was launched. The Coat of Arms is a series of elements in two distinct circles placed on top of one another.

The Motto - Written in the Khoisan language, literally meaning: Diverse People Unit.

The Rising Sun - Symbol of the source of life, of light and the ultimate wholeness of humanity.

The Secretary Bird - The uplifted wings are the emblem of the ascendance of our Nation, whilst simultaneously offering us its protection.

The Protea - Symbolises the holistic integration of forces that grow from the earth, nurtured from above.

The Spear and Knobkierie - Symbol of defence and authority, but they are lying down to indicate peace.

The Human Figures - The figures face each other in a position of greeting to symbolise unity and goodwill.

The Shield - Shaped like a drum and has a twofold meaning- namely fertility and spiritual defence.

The Ears of Wheat - Symbolise agriculture, fertility and growth, as well as the development, potential and nourishment of the people.

Elephant Tusks - Symbolise wisdom, strength, moderation and eternity.



Bank Note and Coin showing National Coat of Arms

NATIONAL FLAG



POSTCARD OF NATIONAL FLAG

The National Flag was adopted on Freedom Day, 27 April 1994, and was first flown on 10 May 1994 the day former President Nelson Mandela was inaugurated. The flag was designed by the former State Herald Frederick Brownell and incorporated Nelson Mandela's idea of convergence and unification as a theme in the design. The flag is the only national flag in the world with 6 colours in its primary. The Y form can be interpreted as the convergence of divergent elements of SA Society that proceed on the road to unity together. Some have given the colours symbolic meaning, (gold for mineral wealth, green for land, red for blood, blue for sky, black and white for its people), but the late Frederick Brownell said the colours simply represented the country's flag history.

Black, yellow and green appear in the flags of liberation organisations such as the ANC, PAC and INKATHA. White, red, blue and green represent the British and Dutch (later Afrikaner) influence. The colour also appeared in the old South African flag.



Telkom Phone Card



R2 Coin



Postage Stamp



Lapel Badge

NATIONAL ANTHEM



PHIATELIC SERVICES PRESS RELEASE

A proclamation issued by the State President on 20 April 1994 in terms of the Constitution of South Africa, 1993 stated that the country would have two national anthems. They were, The Call of South Africa (Die Stem van Suid Afrika) and Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. In terms of Section 4 of the Constitution of South Africa, 1996 and following a proclamation gazetted, a shortened, combined version of Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika and The Call of South Africa is now the national anthem of the country.

The national anthem combines two well known pieces of music – The Call of South Africa (Die Stem van Suid Afrika) written in 1918 by poet and author C.J. Langenhovan and Enoch Sontonga's Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. In 1921 the Rev ML de Villiers composed the music to the The Call, which had been the anthem since 1952 and the afrikaans version since 1957. Enoch Sontonga, a methodist school teacher composed Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika (God Bless Africa) in 1897. He was born in Uitenhage, Eastern Cape and was a composer, photographer and lay preacher. Sontonga posthumously received The Gold Order of Meritorious Service.



Postage Stamps, Control Block of Four



Control Block of Four of Enoch Sontonga Composer of Anthem



National Anthem of South Africa on Postcard



Three Stamps of C.J. Langenhoven,
 Composer of the National Anthem "Die Stem"

NATIONAL LANGUAGES



Miniature Sheet of eight stamps, each with a different language

South Africa is known as The Rainbow Nation and is a country with diverse cultures and its people are proud of their various cultures and heritage with eleven official languages spoken. We use language to communicate with each other and includes speech, sign and written words.

The Constitution recognises eleven official languages that are part of the country's multi cultural heritage with each of the nine provinces having their unique language profile. Some languages are widely spoken whereas others are spoken in defined areas. Many other languages are spoken but are not officially recognised, they include San, Khoi and Nama, sign language and those of immigrant communities such as French, German, Greek, Hindi and Portuguese to name a few. Religious languages such as Hebrew (Judaism), Arabic (Islam) and Sanskrit (Hinduism) are also used and studied.

The eleven official languages of South Africa are:

Zulu: Zulu's are the largest ethnic group in South Africa. This is the most spoken home language, mainly in Kwazulu-Natal and contains click sounds.

English: This is the dominant education and business language. Spoken with several different accents used as a primary form of communication.

Swati/Siswati: Spoken mainly in Mpumalanga and is one of the four large Ngoni languages and is closest to Zulu.

Venda/Tshivenda: Spoken mainly in Limpopo.

Tswana/Setswana: Spoken mainly in the North West Province.

Northern Sotho/Sepedi: Spoken mainly in Limpopo. The Sotho language also include South Sotho and Tswana.

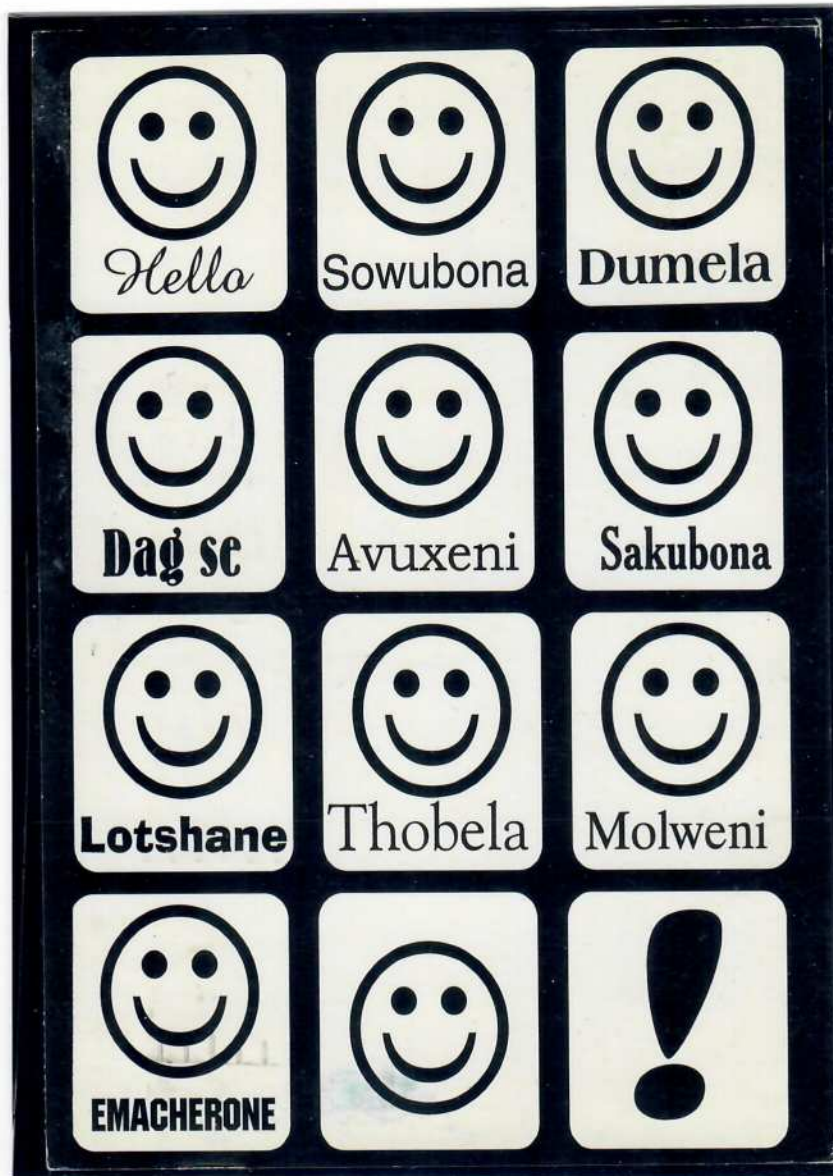
Tsonga/Xitsonga: Spoken mainly in the Limpopo River Valley. It is neither a Sotho nor a Nguni language, it is considered a Tswa-Ronga language.

Ndebele/Isindebele: Spoken mainly in Mpumalanga and Gauteng. These people are known for the way they decorate the exterior of their homes and for their colourful beadwork.

South Sotho/Sesotho: Spoken mainly in the Free State. It was used in the first African translation of the Bible.

Afrikaans: The third most spoken language in the country and recognised as an independent official language in 1925. Spoken mostly in the Western and Northern Cape.

Xhosa/Isixhosa: The second most spoken language in the country. Spoken mainly in the Eastern and Western Cape. One of the most famous Xhosa people was the late President Nelson Mandela.



Postcard with the word "hello" in all eleven official languages



Miniature sheet of 10 stamps showing unique hand signs used by the taxi industry. This is an unwritten language which is used every day

NATIONAL ORDERS

These are the highest awards a country, through its President, bestows on its citizens and eminent foreign nationals. The Director-General in the Presidency is the Chancellor of the National Orders and assists the President. The current National Orders feature Indigenous Designs and were issued for the first time in 2002. Gold Mameŧja, who works as an Industrial Designer at the C.S.I.R. in Pretoria was the designer of the National Orders.



THE PRESIDENCY
DEPARTMENT: ARTS, CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM

A NEW SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ORDERS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

National Orders are the highest awards that a country, through its President, bestows on its citizens and eminent foreign nationals. The President as the fount (holder, cradle, main source) of honour in the country bestows these orders and decorations.

CONTEXT
South Africa has taken many strides away from its past of exclusion and discrimination on the basis of sex, colour and creed. The country has been steadily moving forward in a direction that reasserts our humanity. In this march towards humanity, a new culture of human rights and a respect for the dignity of the human spirit have become characteristics of South Africa.
One of the symbolic moments of the exodus from the past was the raising of the new flag in 1994. This moment aptly affirmed the pride and dignity of an unfolding country and a celebration of humanity. Another was the unveiling of a new Coat of Arms on 27 April 2000 that embraced the collective historical essence of the people of the country. In so doing, a new aesthetic that takes consideration of Africa and her symbols becomes part of the new culture that informs a South African rebirth.
The new National Orders have been conceived in the spirit of that rebirth.

**GOLD MAMEŧJA:
DESIGNER OF THE NATIONAL ORDERS**

Orders. The young designer from The Oaks in Limpopo works as an industrial designer at the CSIR in Pretoria. He lives in Kempton Park with his wife and two children.

Gold Mameŧja has a fortunate name that underpins his talents. His designs were selected among dozens of other designs submitted after the GCIS invited jewellery designers to submit designs for the new

Press release from Government Communication and Information System



The Order of the Baobab

Named after a Tropical African Tree. Awarded for outstanding service in Business and Economy, Science, Medicine, Technology and Community Service.



The Order of Mapungubwe

Named after a Kingdom that existed about 2000 years ago. Awarded for Great Achievements.



The Order of the Companions of O.R. Tambo

Named after the late Oliver Reginald Tambo who played a central role in the Freedom Struggle against Apartheid. Awarded to important people from other countries for showing Special Support and Friendship towards South Africa.



The Order of Luthuli

Named after the late Chief Albert Luthuli and symbolises his vision for African people to participate fully in the Socio Economic and Political Development in South Africa. Awarded to South Africans who have made a special contribution to the struggle for Democracy, Human Rights, Nation Building, Justice and Peace.



The Order of Ikhamanga

Named after the Ikhamanga flower commonly known as the Strelitzia and symbolises the unique beauty of the achievements of South Africans. Awarded to South African citizens who excelled in Arts, Culture, Literature, Music, Journalism and Sports.



The Order of the Mendi Decoration for Bravery

Named after the ship, SS Mendi which sank in the English Channel with more than 600 black volunteer soldiers from South Africa on board en route to assist the allied war effort in France during The First World War. Awarded to South Africans who perform acts of Bravery which would have placed their lives in great danger or may have lost their lives in their effort to save lives or property.

Philatelic Services First Day Cover with Postage Stamps of orders



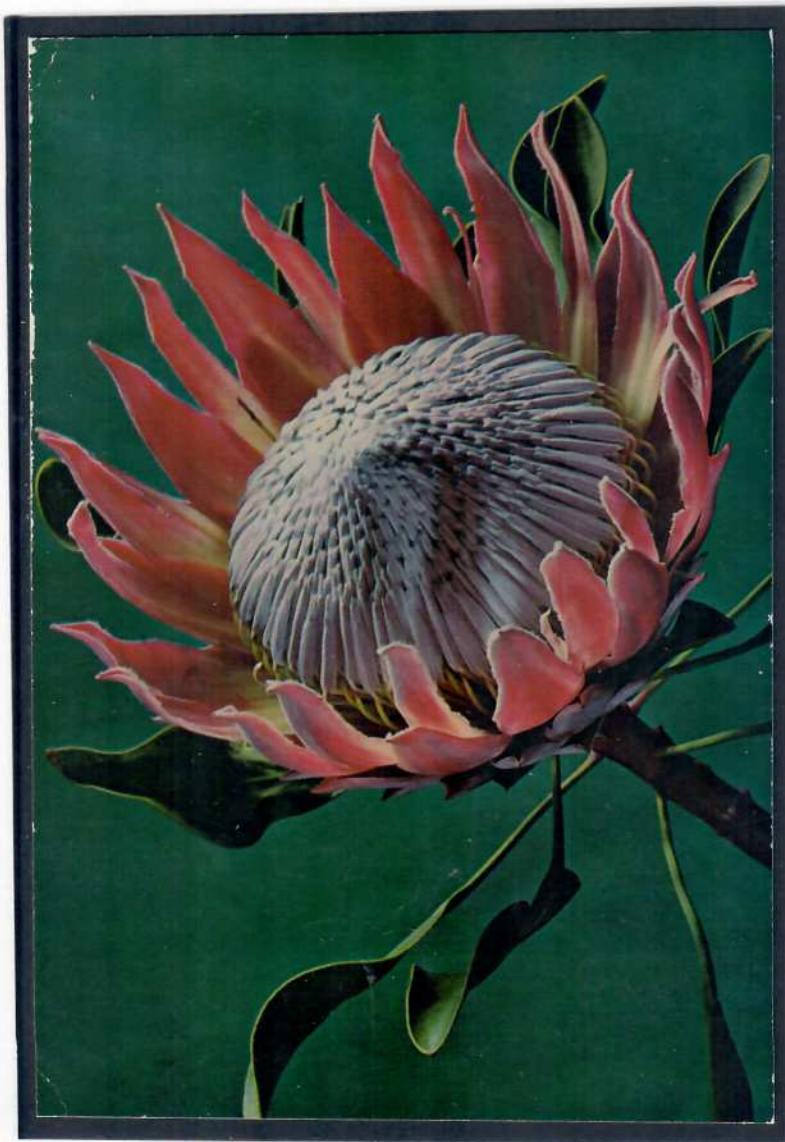
NATIONAL FLOWER

The King Protea (*Protea Cynaroides*) was proclaimed the Official National Emblem of South Africa in February 1976. It is sometimes referred to as the King Sugar Bush or Honey-pot and is set apart from other flowers as within its long, colourful, spiky sepals at its apex, the flower measures almost 30cm across and the plant itself can grow to be up to 2m high.

The Dutch Settlers at the Cape would collect the nectar by shaking it off the flower head, boiling it into Bossiestroop (Bush Syrup), which they used as a medicinal cough syrup.

The King Protea can be found all the way from the Cederberg in the Western Cape to Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape, from sea level to 1500m above it.

In 1735, Carous Linnaeus officially gave the Protea its western name after the Greek Sea God Proteus.



Postcard - Protea Cynaroides



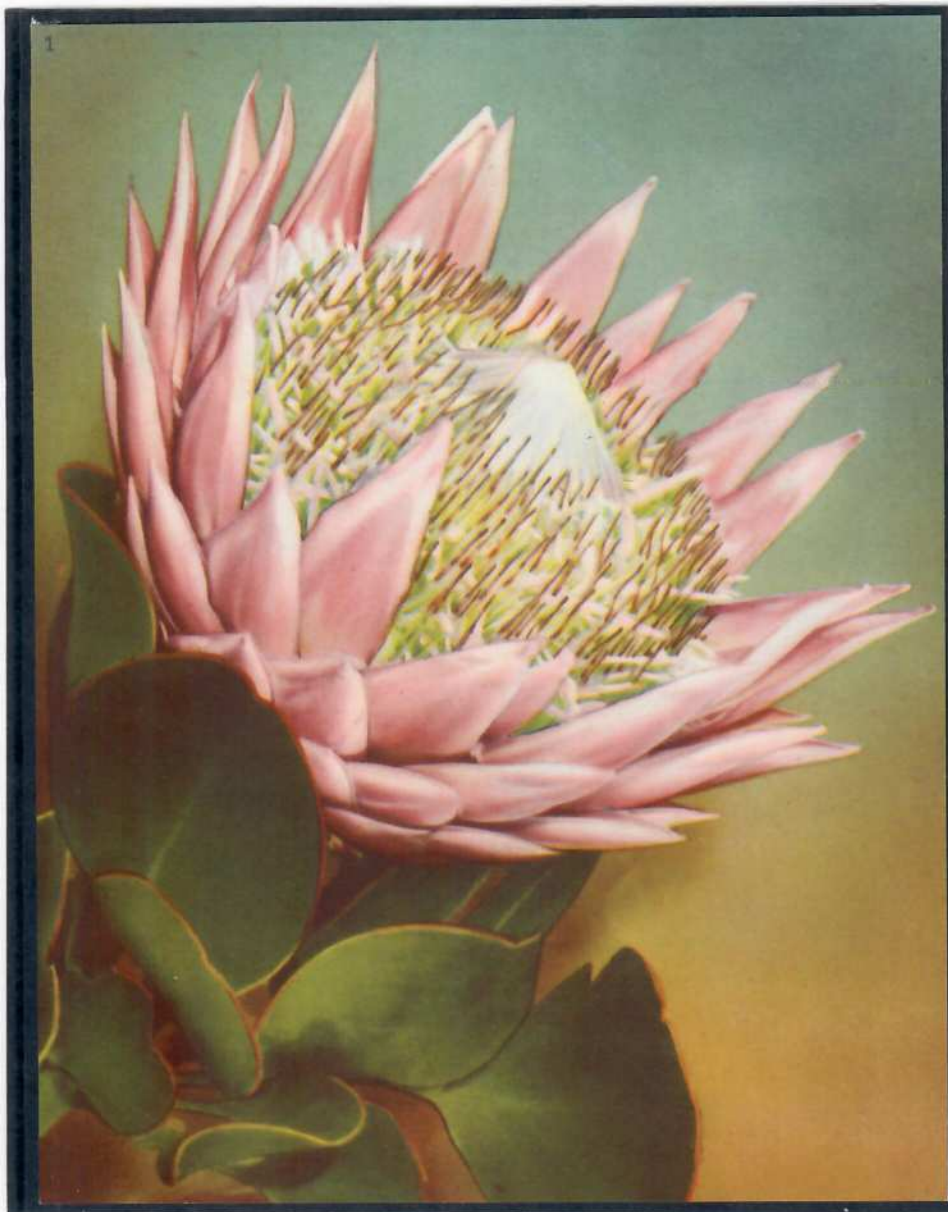
Original Card from Coca-Cola
to commemorate
Kirstenbosch Golden Jubilee, 1963



Postage Stamp



South African Coins



Original Illustration from the publication
Our South African Flora edited by
R.H. Compton Director of Kirstenbosch, Cape Town



Sticker used on school books



South African postage stamps and coin

NATIONAL ANIMAL



Postcard of the Springbok (*Antidorcas Marsupialis*)

The Springbok (*Antidorcas Marsupialis*) is a medium sized antelope and is the South African National Animal. They are found in the Karoo and as far as the West Coast, the Free State and the North West. The Springbok has a unique form of behaviour called “pronking, stotting or leaping”. Springboks weigh between 37kg and 50kg and stand about 75cm high. Both sexes have horns, but those of the rams are rougher and thicker. The South African National Rugby team is also known as “Die Bokke” or “The Boks”.



The wrapper of a chocolate bar with the image of the Springbok was sold at the South African Mint and in retail outlets to promote the sale of the Krugger Rand.

NATIONAL BIRD



Postcard with pair of Blue Crane (*Anthropoides Paradiseus*)

The Blue Crane (*Anthropoides Paradiseus*) are found almost only in South Africa and is the country's National Bird. To the Amakhosa they are very special and are known as "Indwe". The birds weigh between 4-5.5kg, with a wingspan of 1.8-2m, height of 110-120cm and fly at a speed of 60-70km/h. Blue Crane are common in the Karoo but are also seen on the Highveld and in the grasslands of Kwazulu-Natal. All Cranes dance, performing several movements and emit a high-pitched and rattling croak. The first Airbus A320 purchased in March 1992 by South African Airways was named "Blue Crane".



South African Coin

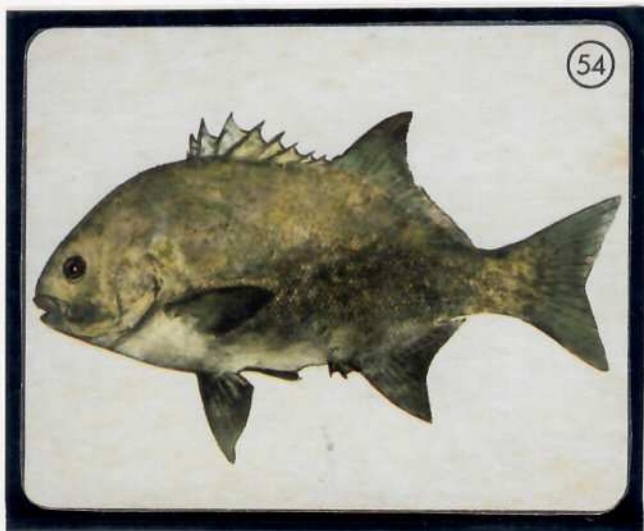
Control block of South African Postage Stamps

NATIONAL FISH



Control block of South African Postal Stamps

The Galjoen (*Dichistius Corensis*) is found only along the South African coast from Durban to as far as Namibia and is the country's National Fish. The late Margaret Smith, who, at some time, was a Director of the JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology in Grahamstown suggested that the Galjoen should be our National Fish. In Kwazulu-Natal it is also known as Blackbream or Blackfish. Close to rocks the fish look almost completely black whereas in sandy areas they appear silver bronze. The recorded size is about 55cm in length and 7kg weight, with the average being much smaller.



Original card from the Weet-bix album
of South African Fishes



South African
Postage Stamp

NATIONAL TREE



South African
Postage Stamp

The Yellowwood (*Podocarpus Latifolius*) is believed to have existed for more than 100 million years in this part of Africa and is the Country's National Tree. These trees can be found from Table Mountain, along the South and East Cape coast, in the gorges of the Drakensberg and as far as the Soutpansberg and Blouberg in Limpopo. In forests trees grow up to 40 metres in height with the base of the trunk up to three metres in diameter, whereas trees that grow in unsheltered places like mountain slopes, are short bushy and gnarled. It is a slow growing tree with hard wood which is used mainly for furniture and panelling. The wood is yellow and the bark is khaki-coloured to grey when it is old, deeply split and peels off in strips. The glossy green leaves are long and narrow.

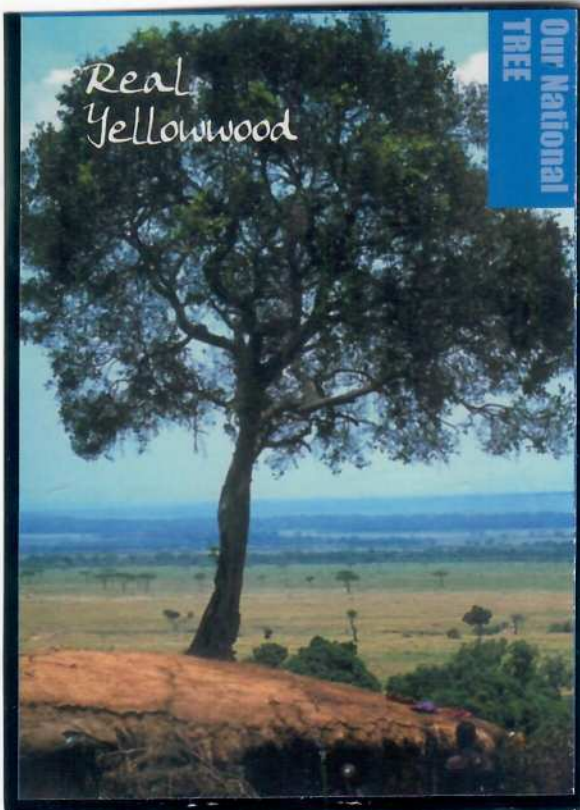


Photo of a real yellowwood tree
from a Pick 'n Pay in-house magazine



The bark, seeds and leaves
of a yellowwood tree