

SECOND SAPOA JOINT ISSUE

NATIONAL ANIMALS

Issued 9th October 2007

This is the second joint issue with five participating countries – Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Each country issued a miniature sheet, with stamps showing each country's national animal. First day covers were released in each country but only showing the stamp depicting that country's national animal.

All stamps were printed by lithographic process by Enchedé of The Netherlands. The stamps were designed by Anja Denker, who was also responsible for many Namibian stamps.

(The following was extracted from a leaflet produced by Namibian Stamp Centre, and distributed by Zimpost)²



Z: Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*)

National animal of Zambia

Buffalo are very large, heavily built animals, ox-like in appearance. Old males are black and females never attain the same degree of blackness and usually show a tinge of reddish-brown. Juveniles are reddish-brown, the colour darkening with age. Juveniles are also well-haired while the adults only have a sparse coating. In old adult males, horns are massive, arising from broad, heavy bosses which meet in the centre. They swing outwards and downwards, narrowing from the lowest point from which they curve upwards and inwards and slightly backwards towards the tips. The horns of the males are lighter in build, with flatter bosses. Buffalo stand about 1,4m at the shoulder, with adult males having a mass of up to 800kg and females up to 750kg. The habitat requirements of the buffalo include a plentiful supply of grass, shade and water. They are predominantly grazers, but do not frequent wide open grassland or floodplain far away from trees, which they require for resting up in during the hotter part of the day. Mud wallowing is regularly engaged in and is important to them in thermo-regulation. Buffalo are gregarious, and can occur in herds of even up to several thousand.



A & \$100,000: Nyala (*Tragelaphus angasii*)

National animal of Malawi and Zimbabwe

Nyala are medium-sized antelopes, with the adult males standing about 1,12m at the shoulder with a mass of 108kg. The females are distinctly smaller with heights at the shoulder of about 97cm and a mass of 62kg. The males and females also differ remarkably in appearance; with the adult males being slatey-grey, varying to dark brown and in the field -depending on how the light strikes them -they even may look black or tan. They have a white chevron between the eyes and two or three white spots on the side of the head and a white dot on each side of the base of the tail. In younger males there are up to 14 white stripes on the body, which are reduced in older individuals to three or four or may be totally absent. At a glance, the male may be mistaken for a kudu or bushbuck, but neither of these two species has the magnificent chest fringe of the nyala. The female nyala lacks the impressive horns of the male and is coloured a handsome bright chestnut. The vertical stripes may number up to eighteen. Nyala are not territorial and normally choose a habitat of dense bush close to water, but, where they feel secure, will also venture into the open in broad daylight. They are predominantly browsers, living on the leaves, twigs, flowers and fruit of a wide variety of plants.

(The Zimbabwean coat of arms has two kudu supports, surely this is the national animal?)



E: Burchell's Zebra (*Equus burchelli*)

National animal of Botswana

This species was named after the well-known traveller and naturalist, W. J. Burchell. As a rule, Burchell's zebra may be distinguished from the two mountain zebras by the possession of yellowish or greyish shadow stripes between the black on the hindquarters, the lack of the 'gridiron' pattern on the top of the hindquarters, from in front of the pelvis to the tail, and the absence of a dewlap, which are featured on the mountain zebra. Zebras usually appear to be in prime condition, with well-rounded bodies and shiny coats. Adult Burchell's zebras stand about 1,36m at the shoulder, with a mass of about 320kg and there is no difference between stallions and mares. The stallions can usually be recognized in that their necks are thicker than those of the mares. They are savanna species partial to open areas of woodland, open scrub and grassland where water is available. Burchell's zebras are gregarious, living in herds made up of small family groups consisting of a stallion, and one or more mares and their foals. They have a carefully planned strategy for surviving a possibly lethal attack by a predator; they run at only half their potential speed, which enables the group to bunch together tightly, with the mares and young foals in front and stallions at the rear. Stallions can give a hefty, defensive kick with their powerful hindlegs, which, if connected properly, can easily break a lion's jaw.

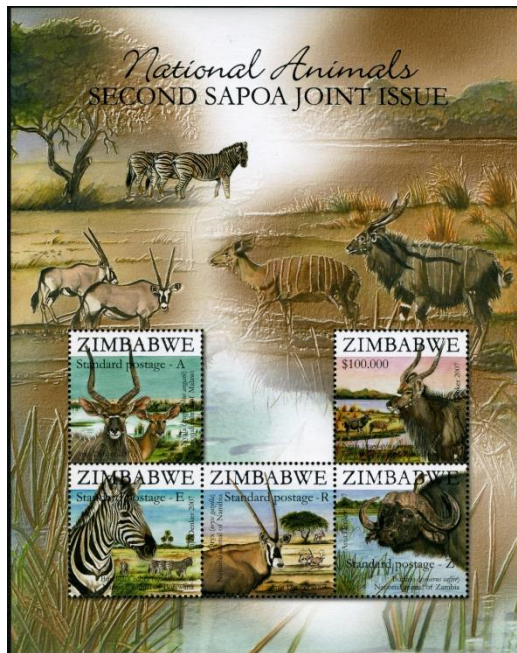


R: Oryx/Gemsbok (*Oryx gazella*)

National animal of Namibia

These antelope are a very striking and handsome species with their distinctive markings and long, straight horns. In the adults, at a distance, the dark brown markings of the face and the lower part of their flanks appear black, and contrast with the pale fawn-grey of the body and particularly the white of their face. The straight, cylindrical horns are ringed for about one third of their length, the remainder is smooth, and are lighter in build in the females than the males. Males stand about 1,2m at the shoulder and have a mass of up to about 240kg; the females are slightly lighter at about 210kg. They occur in mixed herds, nursery herds and solitary males, which are territorial. Oryx are essentially a grazing species. They occur in open grassland, open bush savanna and light open woodland. Oryx are also found in sand dune and desert habitat, which only has a sparse cover of vegetation, like the Kalahari Gemsbok Park. They are able to tolerate temperatures of up to 45 C, due to the fact that the temperature control centre in the brain called the hypothalamus, is protected by a feature called the carotid rete. This feature consists of a maze of fine blood cells which, together, acts as an effective heat exchange unit. Warm, arterial blood flowing from the heart to the brain passes through the network, which is surrounded by veins that carry blood cooled through evaporation in the nasal area. This interaction between the warm and cool blood lowers the temperature by a few degrees before entering the brain.

The Stamps



(50% of normal size)

Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1244	659	Z	Buffalo (Zambia)
1245	660	A	Nyala (Malawi)
1246	661	E	Burchell's Zebra
1247	662	R	Oryx/Gemsbok (Namibia)
MS1248	MS19		Miniature sheet with all values se-tenant in block

Technical details

Stamp size:	Sheet Stamps: 35 x 35 mm Miniature sheet, 133 x 170 mm
Sheet Size:	10 stamps (5 rows of 2 stamps),
Artist:	Anja Denker
Paper:	Paper provided by Joh Enschedé. Fluorescent front and back
Perforations:	SG 14, ZSC 13¾ Sheet stamps: All margins, perforated through Miniature sheet: all margins imperforate, Harrow perforator
Printer:	Joh. Enschedé Security Printers of Haarlem, the Netherlands
Printer's Imprint:	"Enschedé Stamps", bottom margin below R5/2
Designer's Imprint:	"Designed by Anja Denker", bottom margin below R5/1
Cylinder numbers:	None
Colour register:	Series of small dots running down left margin opposite R1/1, colours reading downwards – cyan, magenta, yellow, black and gold
Sheet Value:	None.
Sheet Number:	None
Print numbers:	Sheet stamps unknown Miniature sheet 10,000 First day covers 2,000
Issue date:	9 th October, 2007

Postal Rates

The postal rates applicable at the date of issue were those effective from 27th August 2007, as follows:

Z	\$7,500	A	\$29,000	E	\$35,000	R	\$45,000
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The \$100,000 stamp was not applicable to any particular postal rate whether local, surface or air mails to any destination.

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been noted.

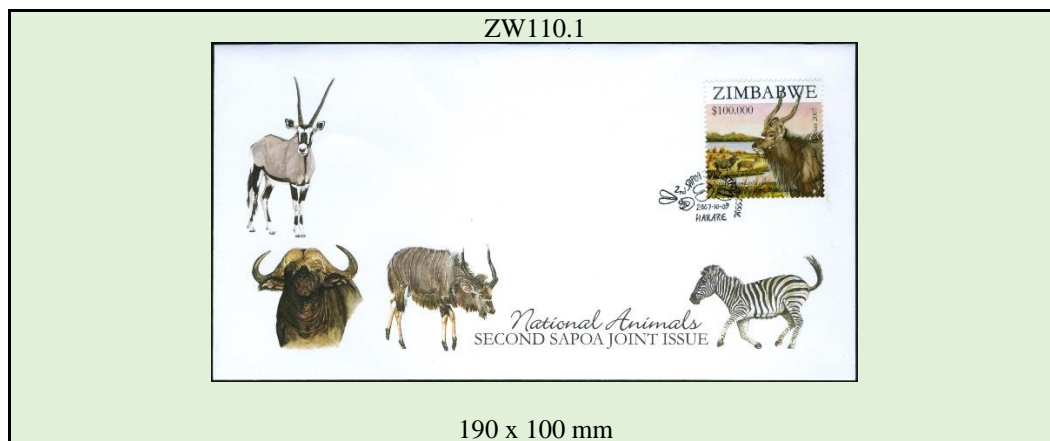
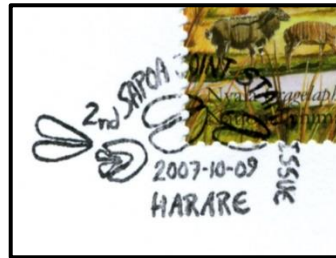
Unlisted Varieties

No variations have been reported.

First Day Cover

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear.

A pictorial first day of issue canceller was produced for this issue and was used by the Philatelic Bureau. The first day cover and canceller were not produced locally. Other first day cover cancellers continued to be used at main post offices.



1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear
2. Leaflet produced by Namibian Stamps Centre, Windhoek