TREES OF THE YEAR

Issued 1st December, 2006

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 7 of 2006)[2]

The "Tree of the Year" concept was launched in 2002 by the Forestry Commission, the concept is that a tree species of special significance is chosen and promoted for planting and managing throughout the year. The idea is to educate the nation about the range and uses of indigenous trees.

This tree is chosen based on the criteria that it is indigenous to Zimbabwe, it has important food and/or medicinal properties, that it has potential to significantly contribute to the socio-economic well-being of the country and that Zimbabwe can generally benefit from the widespread propagation of the species. Some are identified because they are rare and can possibly become extinct.[3]

National Tree Planting Day is designated as the first Saturday of December[3], when a special ceremony is held to plant the first seedling of the designated species for that year. In the first three year the ceremony was officiated by the President, Robert G Mugabe

Within the Bulletin, in the foreword the states that the first tree nominated is was *Ziziphuus mauritania* (Shona – Musau) at the first ceremony in 2002. In brackets in the description of that tree the Bulletin indicates that it was the Tree of the Year for 2003/04. Unable to find any further information form the internet. It was noted that the Tree of the Year for 2006/2007 was *Ziziphuus mucronate* or Buffalo Thorn.

The species name for the $600 stamp is incorrectly spelt within the bulletin and on the stamp, the correct scientific name is *Sclerocarya birrea* and not *Schlerochras birrea.* The local names for the trees are also indicated on the stamps, with the first being Shona.

As the stamps show a closeup of the leaves and fruit of each tree, the pictures below show the fruit when it is ripe, or near ripening.



$ 150: *Ziziphuus Mauritania*
Musau/Umphapha
Tree grows in the northern parts of Zimbabwe and southern parts of Mozambique. Probably introduced from Middle East or India. Fruits have a high Vitamin C content, four times that of citrus fruits. Fruits are edible and used to make sweets, porridge, stock feed and alcohol. Fruits also used to brew alcohol in the lower Zambezi valley. Contributes to the livelihoods of people in the lower Zambezi valley escapement.

Tree of the year for 2003/04.



$600: *Sclerocarya birrea*
Marula/Mupfura/Umganu

Grows in the southern and northern parts of the country. Grows up to 15m in medium to low altitudes in open woodlands and bush. The tree is amongst the most highly valued indigenous fruit trees. Its fruits are delicious, fleshy when ripe, contain four times the amount of Vitamin C as oranges do, can be fermented into a richly scented wine (amarula wine/mukumbi*)* and used for making wines, jam and medicine. Almost all parts of the tree have some important traditional uses. Its bark is used for treating dysentery and diarrhoea. Used to brew beer in traditional ceremonies by the Tonga people. Protected tree species in South Africa and has great potential for commercial use.

Tree of the year for 2004/05.



$750: *Jatropha carcus*

Grows in dry marginal areas of the country. Widely used as hedges in the Mashonaland province. Seed used for soap making and non-edible oils. Oil from seed can be blended to make diesel.

Tree of the year for 2005/06.



$1,000: *Uaparca kirkiana*
Muzhanje/ Mobula

Has a spherical rusty fruit when ripe from October to December. Bark used as dye.
Fruits are either eaten as raw or are used to make jam. Contributes to the livelihoods of people in communal areas.

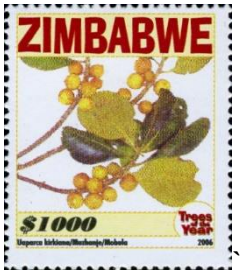
At the date of issue of these stamps, this tree had not been designated as a Tree of the Year.

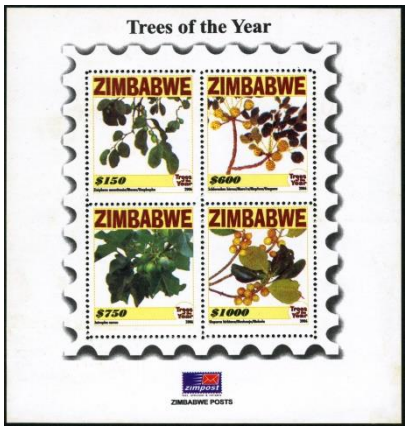
The Stamps











(Reduced to 50% of size)

Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	Description
1206	625	$150	*Ziziphuus mauritania*
1207	626	$600	*Sclerocarya birrea* (correct spelling)
1208	627	$750	*Jatropha carcus*
1209	628	$1,000	*Uaparca kirkiana*
MS1210	MS16		Miniature sheet (se-tenant pair of stamps)
	a.		Imperforate, horizontal perforations missing

Technical details

Stamp size: Sheet stamps: 30 x 35 mm
Miniature sheet: 105 x 110 mm (sheets have been found measuring 107 x 120 mm.

Sheet Size: 50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes per printed sheet

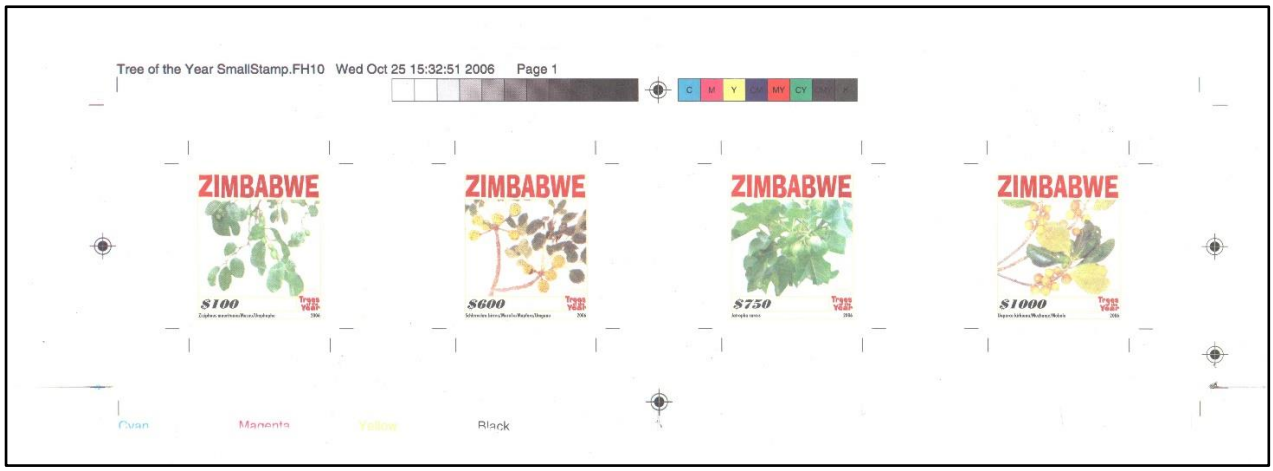
Artist: Lucia Marisamhuka – Terrie Lue Graphics

Paper: ZSC paper type J: paper described by Zimpost as "Chancellor Litho PVA Gummed Postage Stamp Paper". This paper is produced by Tullis Russell Coaters of Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland. Under UV there

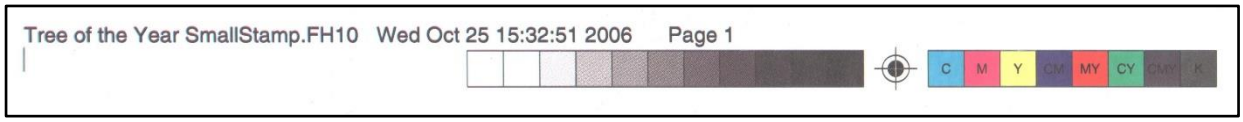
	is no fluorescence either front or back, the stamp appears to be very dark
Print colours:	Cyan, magenta, yellow & black
Perforations:	Sheet stamps and miniature sheet: SG 14 x 14½, ZSC 14 x 14¼ Left margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate Miniature sheet: Imperforate margins
Printer:	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe
Printer's Imprint:	Sheet stamps only: Bottom Margin, below Row 5 Columns 5 & 6. Imprint printed in black
Cylinder numbers:	Sheet stamps only: Bottom margin below R5/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black
Colour register:	Sheet stamps only: Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R5/1. Colours reading down **–** cyan, magenta, yellow, black
Sheet Value:	Sheet stamps only: Bottom margin, below R5/10, printed in black
Sheet Number:	Sheet stamps only: Type SN 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R5/10, reading down
Print numbers:	\$150 1,000,000 \$600. 20,000 \$750 20,000 \$1,000. 20,000 Miniature sheet 5,000
Issue date:	1st December, 2006

Postal Rates

The external stamps reflect the correct postal rates for airmail rates for the usual destinations, but the \$150 stamp does not reflect the local postal rate of \$100. The stamp does however reflect the local rate for letters between 20 and 100 grammes. Why this occurred is not known. Below are some Natprint presentation cards, the lowest proof value is \$100.

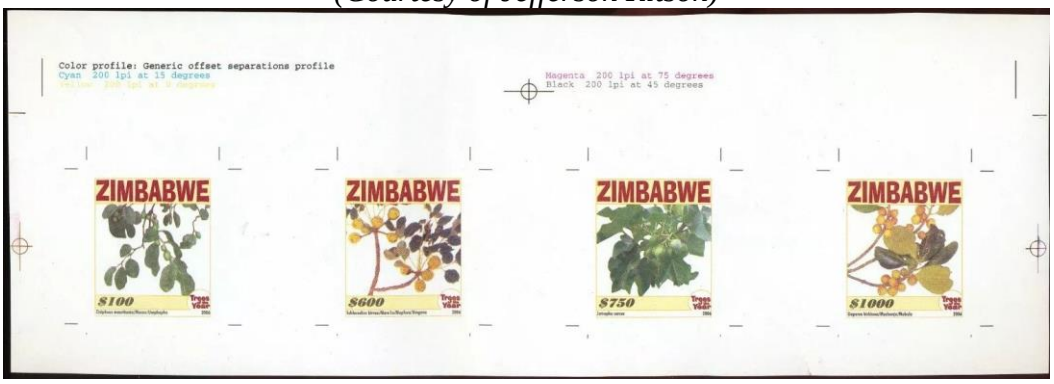


Print out of the designs of each value on a single sheet. Each design has two black lines in each corner giving the size of the stamps. On the bottom left are the words "cyan, magenta, yellow, black" in the respective print colours.



Above is a magnification of the top of the sheet, giving the date of the print out of 25 October 2006. In addition, there as intensity chart in different shades of black and a colour charter. Each square of the colour chart has a letter, the first four being the basic print colours of CMYB. The other squares have two letters, e.g. MY being a combination of magenta and yellow and CY a combination of cyan and yellow.

(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)





Print out of designs with different annotations

(Source eBay May 2024)

Listed varieties

Miniature sheet: Imperforate horizontal rows **ZSC MS16a**	 (reduced to 50% of size)

Unlisted Varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds. Some colour variations have been noted for this issue, this is considered normal.

 **$150:** Double printing of black ink to right	 **$150:** Double printing of black ink to left *(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)*
 **$150:** Magenta line bottom right corner. Cylinder 1B, row 1 column 10	



$150: Smudging of country's name
Cyl 1B Row 1 column 5
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



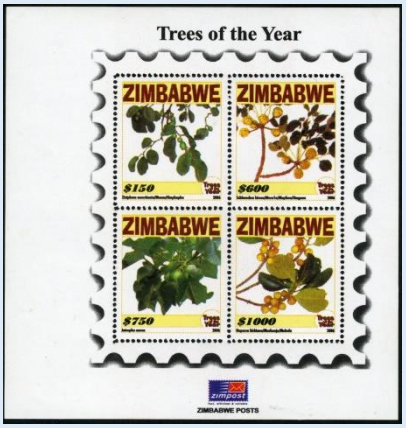
$150: Movement of perforations to the right



$1,000: Magenta mark on leaf above 'Trees'
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



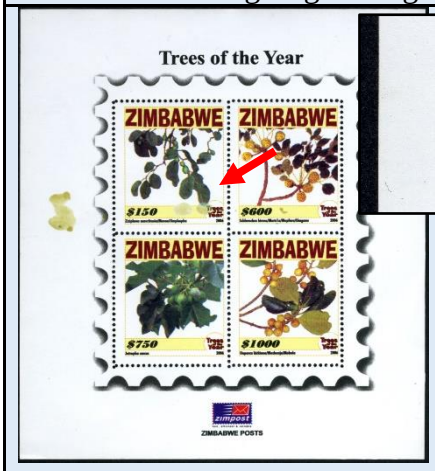
Miniature sheet, significant double black printing, see base of sheetlet

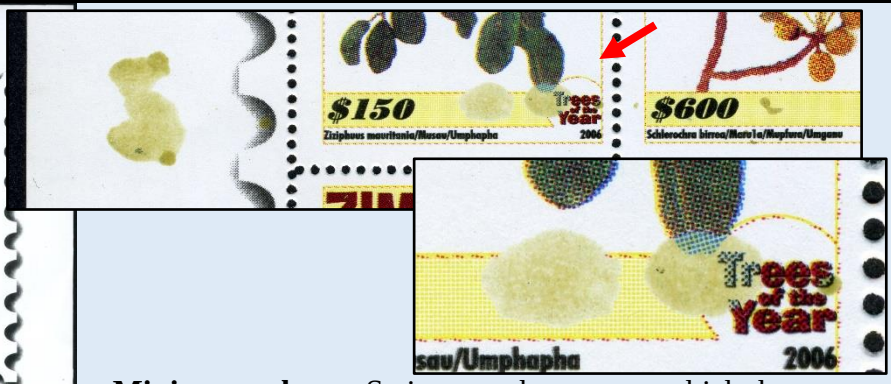


Miniature sheet: Mis-cut of sheetlet – wider margin to left than right.



Miniature sheet: Additional perforations through right margin





Miniature sheet: Stains on the paper, which has prevented the printing of the yellow and magenta inks. Uncertain how this occurred.

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 issued and was used by the Philatelic Bureau. Other first day cover cancellers continued to be used at main post offices.

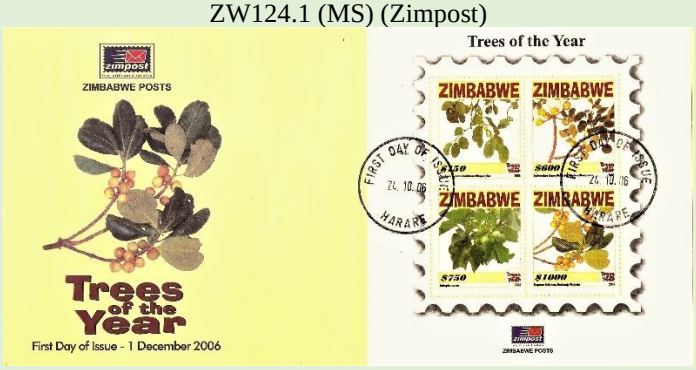


ZW124.1 (Zimpost)



Cover with set of stamps, placed on cover using Autophix machine and
Printed pictorial cancellation
220 x 110 mm

ZW124.1 (MS) (Zimpost)



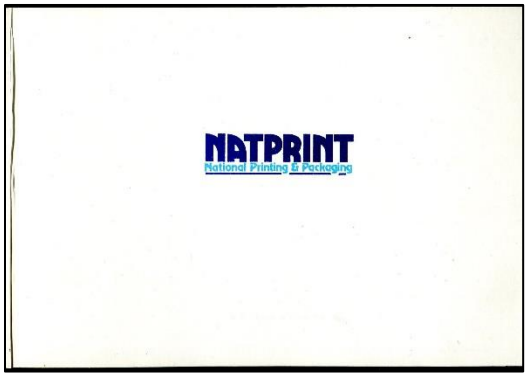
Miniature sheet with hand struck
First Day of Issue, Harare, cancellation for 26.10.06

Related Material

Natprint Proof Presentation Cards

Presentation cards produced by Natprint with imperforate proofs of the stamps to be issued. The presentation cards were forwarded to the PTC for approval of the final product. The lowest proof value of $100 correctly reflects the postal rate as at the date of issue. The value was however changed for the issued stamp

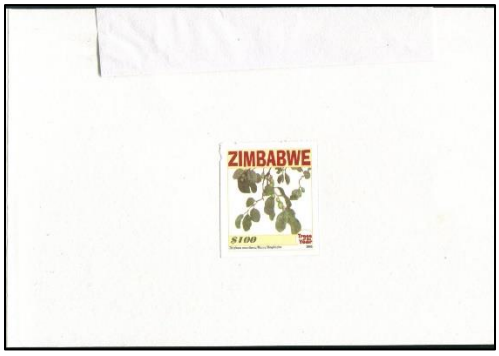
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



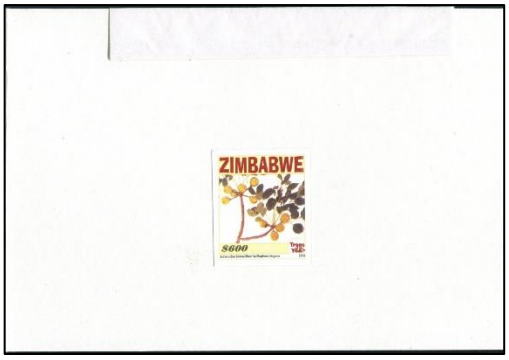
Front cover



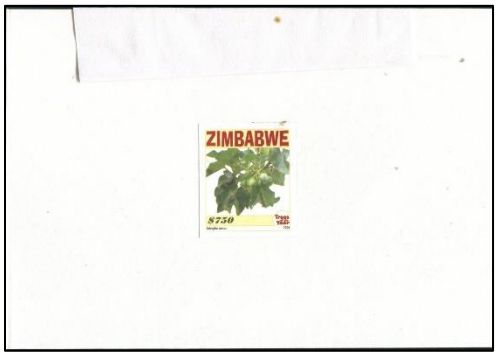
Inside front cover



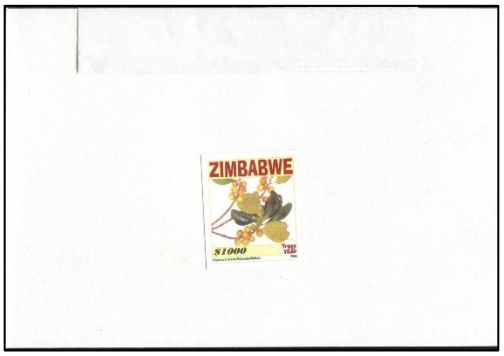
$100 stamp (changed to $150)



$600 stamp



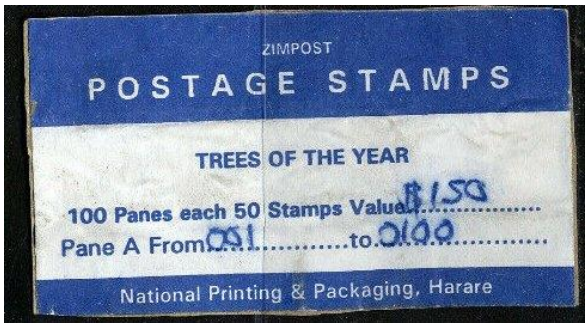
$750 stamp

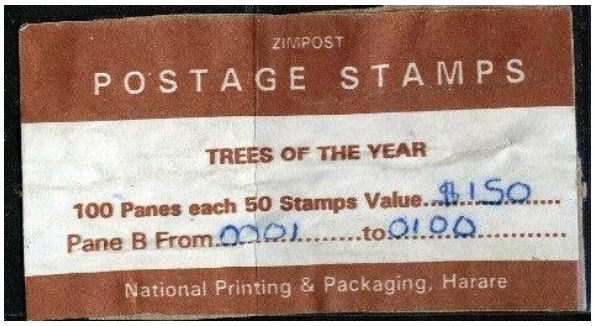


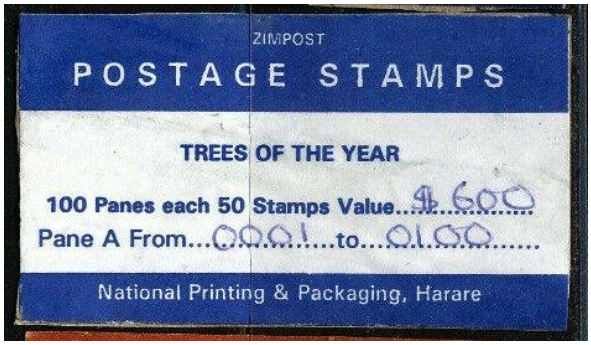
$1,000 stamp

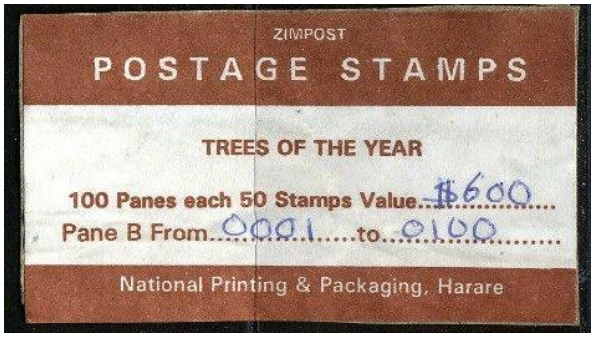
Delivery labels

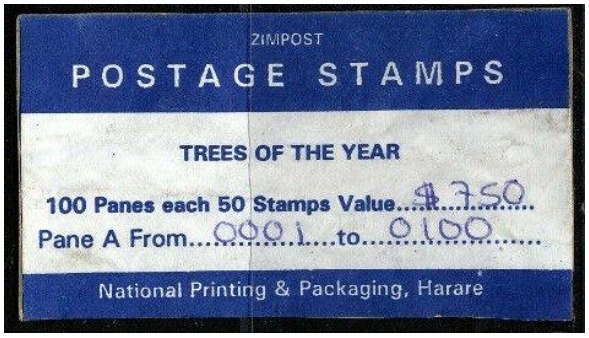
Delivery Labels from packaging containing sheets of 100 stamps. All the values are represented below with the Cylinder 1A on blue labels only and 1B on brown. All labels are for sheet numbers 0001 to 0100. *(Source EBay)*

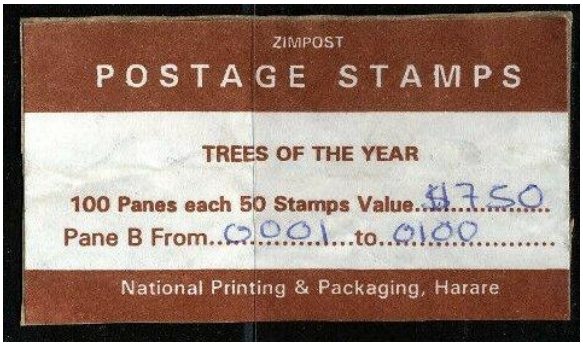


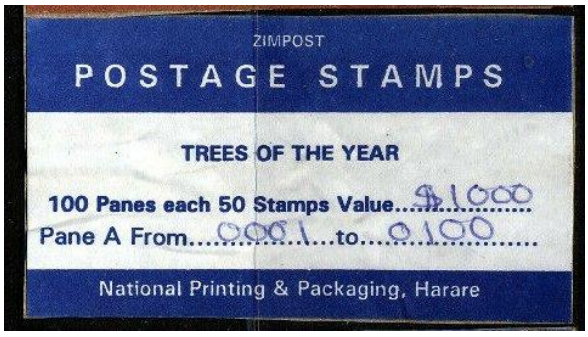


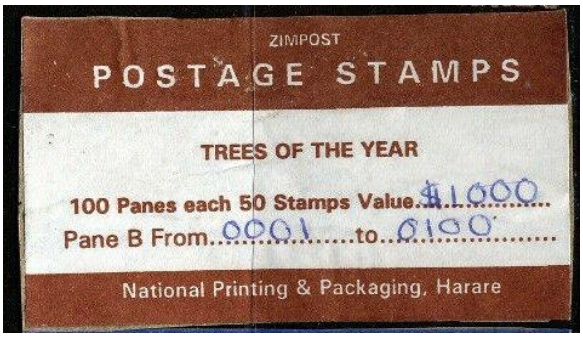












Bibliography:

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. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 6 of 2006
3. Forestry Commission of Zimbabwe website – forestry.co.zw

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
3/2022	Design print out of stamps
12/2022	Miniature sheet sizes – 105 x 110 and 107 x 120
8/2024	Deign print out with different annotations