

Upgraded Mandela banknotes and the fourth decimal coin series



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SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK



Introduction

In 2023, the South African upgraded Mandela banknotes and fourth decimal coin series became legal tender in South Africa.

Our currency serves not only as a medium of exchange but as a window into South Africa and its people, heritage and culture.

Currency, often regarded as second only to the national flag, reflects a nation and its people's pride and aspirations. Our upgraded banknotes and redesigned coins will connect the old and the new, the young and the old, representing a tradition founded on solid values while remaining open to multilateral and dynamic collaboration with other institutions and the public.

The upgraded banknotes consider technological advancements, security enhancements and print efficiencies. South Africans are encouraged to transact with the banknotes and coin and to check that their banknotes are genuine through the look, feel and tilt features.

All current banknotes and coin remain valid, legal tender and will co-circulate with the upgraded banknotes and fourth decimal coin series.

Upgraded Mandela banknotes

Look features

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Upgraded Mandela banknotes

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Upgraded Mandela banknotes

Look features



Front theme of the banknotes

The main motif is the portrait of former president Nelson Mandela printed on the front of all the banknotes.





Back theme of the banknotes

The Big 5 animals appear on the back of the banknote, enhancing the family feel. The printed animals have **security elements** and **microstructures** on all the denominations, which add **security and complexity** to the banknotes, while allowing the public to interact with the banknotes.



R10	Rhino
R20	Elephant
R50	Lion
R100	Cape buffalo
R200	Leopard

The Big 5 animals are linked to the five SARB values:



Accountability

The most endangered of the Big 5, demanding that we protect our shared future.



Respect and trust

A majestic animal, building social bonds, inspiring stability and confidence.



Excellence

A prominent leader of the kingdom, iconic in its valiant protection and guidance of its pride.



Open communication

A fiercely protective creature, this animal calls the herd together in unity.



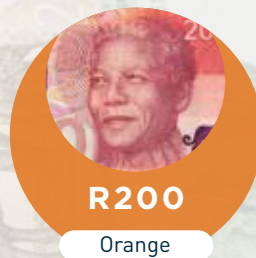
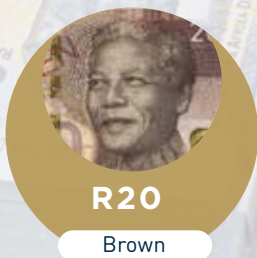
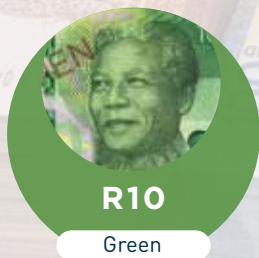
Integrity

An animal of nobility, courage and honour, the leopard reflects independence and integrity.

03

Dominant banknote colours

The colours on the banknotes have been subtly enhanced to improve visual differentiation between the denominations.







Banknote sizes

The sizes of the **upgraded Mandela banknotes** are the same as the previous banknotes in circulation.



	Height	Width
R10	70mm	128mm
R20	70mm	134mm
R50	70mm	140mm
R100	70mm	146mm
R200	70mm	152mm





Watermark

The watermark appears to the left of the image of former president Nelson Mandela. When a **banknote is held to the light, a shadow image of the Big 5 animal**, unique to each denomination, is seen together with its denomination numeral. The watermark on the upgraded Mandela banknotes have higher levels of tonality than the previous series which makes the watermark striking to the eye.





Denomination numerals

The denomination numerals found on the **front and back** of all the denominations are printed in positive and negative text.

The differently printed numerals on each denomination aid in identification by **visually impaired** and **partially sighted** persons.



Front



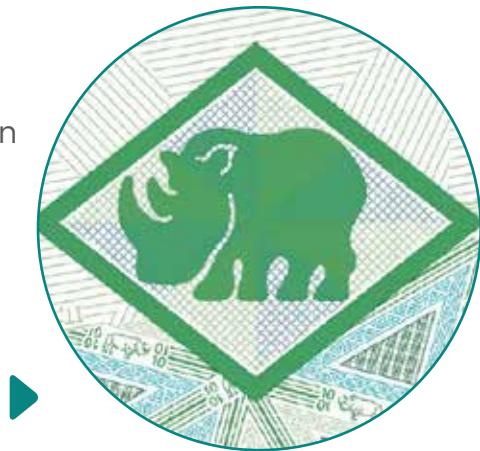
Back





See-through perfect print registration

The see-through perfect print registration feature appears on the **front and back** of the banknotes where two parts of an image are perfectly matched. When the banknote is held to the light, the complete featured animal can be seen. The elementary shape of the outer image is unique for each denomination to assist the partially sighted community, as follows: diamond on the R10, rectangle on the R20, circle on the R50, hexagon on the R100 and oval on the R200.







The South African flag

The South African flag is incorporated into the banknotes and is seen between the watermark and the main portrait on the front of the banknote. The flag is also seen on the back of the banknotes behind the denomination numeral.

Front



Back





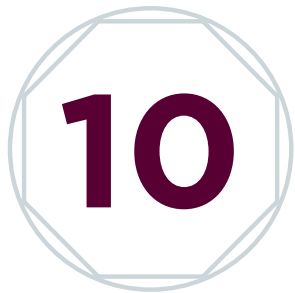
Unique serial numbers

A unique matching serial number on the back of the banknotes comprising letters and numbers is printed **vertically on the left side** of the banknote in red and **horizontally on the top right side** of the banknote in black. Unlike on the previous banknote series, the serial numbers are all printed in the same size.

The letter at the end of the serial number indicates the denomination as follows:

- A – R10
- B – R20
- C – R50
- D – R100
- E – R200





The 11 official languages

The **11 official languages** affirm the diverse heritage and cultural identity of South Africa. The languages appear as raised printing and can be felt.

English appears **on the front** of all the banknote denominations.



The following languages appear on the back of the banknote denominations:

R10	Afrikaans and Siswati
R20	Setswana and isiNdebele
R50	isiXhosa and Tshivenda
R100	Sesotho sa Leboa/ Sepedi and Xitsonga
R200	isiZulu and Sesotho





Micro-lettering

The preamble to the South African Constitution appears as **micro-lettering** on the front of the banknote denominations to the **left and right** of the **main motif and around the watermark**. The wording is visible in concentric circular lines in decreasing font sizes, and the abbreviation **SARB** is **repeated** on similarly curved lines.

The different-sized fonts allow the public to examine their banknotes with their **naked eye** or by means of a **magnifying glass**.





Ultraviolet feature

On the front of the banknote, the **South African flag, basket area** and the **denomination numeral** can be seen under a UV light.

On the back of the banknote, **the see-through perfect print registration, South African flag, basket area** and the **denomination numeral** can be seen under a UV light.



Front



Back



50 RAND

30



Upgraded Mandela banknotes

Feel features



Raised print on the front of the banknotes

The **Coat of Arms**, the words **South African Reserve Bank**, the **Governor's name and signature**, the **main motif** and the **denomination numeral** are in raised print on the front of all the denominations.

A spear crossed with a knobkierie, symbolising defence and authority, can be seen in the Coat of Arms. The powerful legs of the secretary bird laid down in the Coat of Arms represent peace.

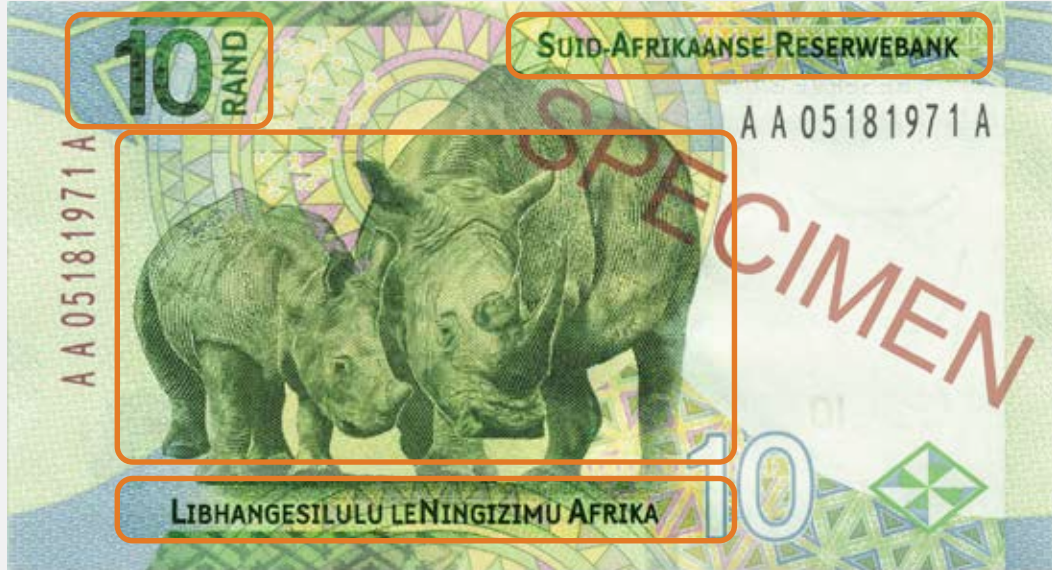






Raised print on the
back of the banknotes

The words **South African Reserve Bank** in two of the 11 official languages, **the denomination numeral** and the **Big 5 animals** are in raised print on the back of all the banknotes.





Visually impaired feature

The tactile marks to **support the blind and partially blind** communities to identify the banknote denominations are included using the spear symbol in the Coat of Arms.

The tactile marks are repeated along the short edge of the R10 and R20 denominations and on the long edge of the R50, R100 and R200 denominations in different patterns. The gaps between the sets of tactile marks are counted to determine the denomination of the banknote.



	Edge	Gaps
R10	Short	One
R20	Short	Two
R50	Long	One
R100	Long	Two
R200	Long	Three





Substrate

The banknotes have a **distinctive** feel and produce a **cracking sound** when snapped between the fingers.







Upgraded Mandela banknotes

Tilt features



The **colour-changing ink** with a spin circle feature is a bright ring that spins and changes colour as the banknote is tilted.

SPARK[®]Live Truspin



Animal

Colour

R10

Rhino

Green to azure

R20

Elephant

Gold to jade

R50

Lion

Magenta to green

R100

Cape
buffalo

Green to magenta

R200

Leopard

Magenta to green

R10

Green to azure



R20

Gold to jade



R50

Magenta to green



R100

Green to magenta



R200

Magenta to green





Security thread

The colour change on the security thread matches the colour change of the SPARK®Live Truspin.

The abbreviation **SARB**, the **denomination numeral** and the **Big 5 animal** unique to each denomination are visible on the security thread when the banknote is tilted.



	Animal	Colour
R10	Rhino	Green to azure
R20	Elephant	Gold to jade
R50	Lion	Magenta to green
R100	Cape buffalo	Green to magenta
R200	Leopard	Magenta to green





Latent image

The denomination numeral appears as a **latent image or hidden image on each banknote**. This latent image can be seen by tilting the banknote almost horizontally to your eye. The latent image appears as a shadow image of the denomination numeral to the right of the image of former president Nelson Mandela.





Fourth decimal coin series

The fourth decimal coin series became legal tender on 1 January 2023. This coin series is based on the theme of deep ecology, an ecological philosophy that considers humankind as an integral part of its environment.

As with the previous coin series, all of South Africa's 11 official languages are used on the fourth decimal coin series. On the R1 coin only one language is used, while three languages appear on the R5 coin and two on the R2, 50c, 20c and 10c coins. To ensure the use of all 11 languages, the coins will be minted over a set period on a rotational system basis. Over the next 10 years, the languages will be alternated annually.



Design features



Front

The obverse of the coin depicts the **national Coat of Arms**, the **minting year** (2023) and the words **South Africa** written in two languages – Tshivenda: Afrika Tshipembe and Siswati/isiZulu: INingizimu Afrika.



Back

The reverse of the coin depicts the **Cape honey bee** (*Apis mellifera capensis*) and the **denomination numeral** 10c.

Technical features

Diameter	: 16mm
Mass	: 2.0g
Material	: Copper-plated steel
Landing	: Eight-sided
Coin edge	: Fully serrated



The Cape honey bee



20c

Design features



Front

The obverse of the coin depicts the **Coat of Arms**, the **minting year** and the words **South Africa** written in two languages - English: South Africa and Afrikaans: Suid-Afrika.



Back

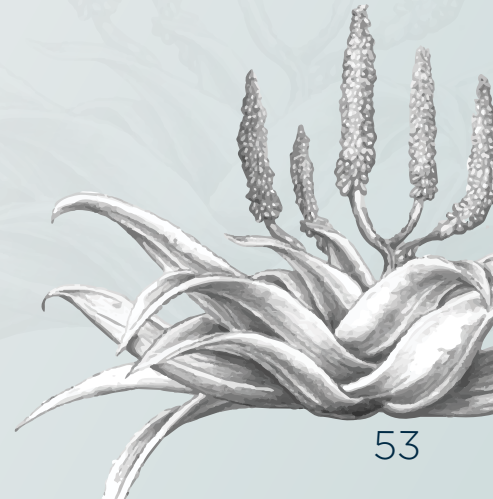
The reverse of the coin depicts the **bitter aloë** (*Aloe ferox*) and the **denomination numeral** 20c.

Technical features

Diameter	:	19mm
Mass	:	3.0g
Material	:	Bronze-plated steel
Landing	:	Seven-sided
Coin edge	:	Fully serrated



The bitter aloe



50c

Design features



Front

The obverse of the coin depicts the **Coat of Arms**, the **minting year** and the words **South Africa** written in two languages - Sesotho: Afrika Borwa and Sepedi: Afrika-Borwa.

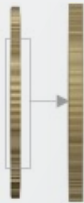


Back

The reverse of the coin depicts the **Knysna turaco** (*Tauraco corythaix*) and the **denomination numeral** 50c.

Technical features

Diameter	:	22mm
Mass	:	4.5g
Material	:	Bronze-plated steel
Landing	:	Six-sided
Coin edge	:	Fully serrated



The Knysna turaco





Design features



Front

The obverse of the coin depicts the **South African flag**, the **minting year** and the words **South Africa** written in one language - Setswana: Aforikaborwa.



Back

The reverse of the coin depicts the **king protea** (*Protea cynaroides*), the **denomination numeral** 1 and the word **RAND**.

Technical features

Diameter	: 20mm
Mass	: 5.0g
Material	: Nickel-plated steel
Landing	: Five-sided
Coin edge	: Partially serrated (the design allows for the visually impaired community to differentiate between the various denominations by feel).



The king protea





Design features



Front

The obverse of the coin depicts the **Coat of Arms**, the **minting year** and the words **South Africa** written in two languages - isiNdebele: yiSewula Afrika and Xitsonga: Afrika-Dzonga.



Back

The reverse of the coin depicts the **springbok** (*Antidorcas marsupialis*) family along with its habitat, the **denomination numeral** 2 and the word **RAND**.

Technical features

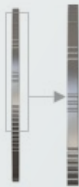
Diameter : 23mm

Mass : 6.5g

Material : Nickel-plated steel

Landing : Four-sided

Coin edge : Partially serrated (the design allows for the visually impaired community to differentiate between the various denominations by feel).



The springbok





Design features



Front

The obverse of the coin depicts the **Coat of Arms**, the **minting year** and the words **South Africa** written in three languages - Tshivenda: Afrika Tshipembe, Siswati/isiZulu: INingizimu Afrika and isiXhosa: uMzantsi Afrika.



Back

The reverse of the coin depicts the **southern right whale** (*Eubalaena australis*) along with a school of galjoen - South Africa's national fish - the **denomination numeral** 5 and the word **RAND**.

Technical features

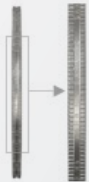
Diameter : 26mm

Mass : 9.5g

Material : Bi-metallic (copper-nickel outer ring with aluminium-bronze core)

Landing : Circular

Coin edge : Reeded with an inscribed groove



The southern right whale





Security features

Reeding on the edge and an inscribed groove displaying **SARB R5.**





Micro-lettering **SARB** on the inner circle of the landing

Latent image
RAND/FIVE



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