

NATURA SERIES COINS

The Natura series was South Africa's first fine gold (24 carat) series and was first released by the South African Mint in 1994. The designs are inspired by South African wildlife and each edition showcases an animal native to South Africa. Natura coins are produced in four sizes: 1 oz, ½ oz, ¼ oz, and ⅒ oz.

The obverse design of a Natura series gold coin usually consists of an animal, the mintage year, and the inscription 'SOUTH AFRICA'. The reverse design varies each year, sometimes displaying the weight and purity. The engraving 'NATURA' forms part of the design.

The **'Big Five'** depicts South Africa's most famous animals: the lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino.



The **'Monarchs of Africa Series'** includes the kudu, sable and oryx (2001). The next edition featured **'Wildcats of Africa - The Last Waltz'**, including the cheetah, and the lion.



NATURA SERIES COINS (CONTINUED)

The next edition featured **'Wildcats of Africa - The Desert Lynx'**.



'The Giants of Africa' series depicted the hippo, giraffe, eland and the elephant. The **'Safari through Africa'** edition portrayed the white rhino and the black rhino.



NATURA SERIES COINS (CONTINUED)

A new chapter in the award-winning Natura series introduced palaeontology, in recognition of South Africa's significance to this field and study of plant and animal fossils. The first instalment of the palaeontology-themed coins focused on **'Rise of the Dinosaurs - Archosauria'** over the five 24ct gold coins.



The second instalment of the palaeontology theme features the **'Cradle of Humankind - Hominids'**. Every coin in this series is a miniature ambassador that tells the story of the origin of humans and South Africa as the birthplace of humankind.

