



UNIVERSAL
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 28 July 2003

International Bureau Circular

269

Côte d'Ivoire (Rep.) – illegal postage
stamp issues

Dear Sir/Madam

The postal administration of **CÔTE D'IVOIRE (REP.)** asks me to inform you of the following:

"We would like to inform Universal Postal Union member countries and the World Association for the Development of Philately of the piracy carried out against Côte d'Ivoire Post through the issue and sale of illegal postage stamps bearing the words **'Republic of Côte d'Ivoire'**.

"We are shocked and horrified by the fraudulent issue of a series of postage stamps (listed in Annex 1), aimed at philatelists, and disseminated by unscrupulous individuals via various websites and in some promotional publications.

"This situation is even more deplorable since the stamps feature images or logos of certain prominent figures and international organizations, which could have serious consequences for Côte d'Ivoire Post.

"For your information, there are at least three hundred illegal postage stamps. Most of them are presented in perforated formats comprising 6 x 3.00 USD stamps and 9 x 4.00 USD stamps.

"As the only body authorized to issue and disseminate postage stamps under Ivorian law, Côte d'Ivoire Post cannot ignore this attempt to usurp its rights and blatantly violate UPU agreements.

"We therefore denounce and condemn these reprehensible actions which undermine the reputation and the financial and economic situation of our administration.

"We also call on the solidarity of all Union stakeholders to vigorously tackle this phenomenon which has a disastrous effect on the postal industry.

"Furthermore, we ask the UPU International Bureau to inform the exploited bodies of these incriminating facts so we can disclaim all responsibility.

"Annex 2 lists the postage stamps issued by Côte d'Ivoire Post since 1991.

"Finally, we should point out that, since 2002, all our postage stamps are registered and can be viewed on the UPU website (wmsstamps.ch).

Philatelists wishing to purchase stamps should contact:

Abidjan Philatelic Centre
Production Directorate
Côte d'Ivoire Post
01 B.P. 4056 ABIDJAN 01
CÔTE D'IVOIRE (REP.)

Fax: + 225 20 32 24 82

Our official representative in France
Théodore Champion SA
68, Rue d'Hauteville
F-75010 PARIS
FRANCE

Tel: + 33 1 42 46 07 38 (Mail order customers)

Tel: + 33 1 42 46 70 32 (Business and retail customers)

Fax: + 33 1 48 24 08 27"

Yours faithfully,

K J S McKEOWN
Director of Markets

*Annex 1***Illegal postage stamp issues produced in the name of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire****Shells**

Two miniature sheets* comprising six postage stamps, each representing different groups of shells. The value shown on each stamp is 100 F, and each stamp is inscribed with the year 2002 and the Rotary International emblem.

Fauna (dogs, butterflies)

Two miniature sheets* comprising six postage stamps, each representing different dog breeds. The value shown on each stamp is 100 F, and each stamp is inscribed with the year 2002 and the World Scout Emblem.

Two miniature sheets* comprising six postage stamps, each representing different species of butterfly. The name of each species is featured on each stamp. The value shown on each stamp is 100 F, and each stamp is inscribed with the year 2002 and the World Scout Emblem.

Flora

Two miniature sheets* comprising six postage stamps, each representing different species of orchid. The name of each species is featured on each stamp. The value shown on each stamp is 100 F, and each stamp is inscribed with the year 2002. One site describes the orchids simply as flowers.

Prominent figures

Two miniature sheets* comprising six postage stamps, each featuring a different picture of the actor Elvis Presley, either alone or with other people. "25th Anniversary of Elvis Presley" is inscribed at the top of each sheet. The value shown on each stamp is 100 F, and each stamp is inscribed with the year 2002.

One miniature sheet* comprising six postage stamps, each featuring a different picture of the actress Marilyn Monroe, either alone or with other people. "40th Anniversary of Marilyn Monroe" is inscribed at the top of each sheet. The value shown on each stamp is 100 F, and each stamp is inscribed with the year 2002.

Two miniature sheets* comprising nine postage stamps, each featuring a different picture of the actress Marilyn Monroe, either alone or with other people. "40th Anniversary of Marilyn Monroe" is inscribed at the top of each sheet. The value shown on each stamp is 100 F, and each stamp is inscribed with the year 2002.

Sport (motorbike racing, table tennis)

Two miniature sheets* comprising six postage stamps, each featuring a picture of a different motorbike race. The value shown on each stamp is 100 F, and each stamp is inscribed with the year 2002 and the Rotary International Emblem.

One miniature sheet* comprising six postage stamps, each featuring a different picture of table tennis players. The value shown on each stamp is 100 F, and each stamp is inscribed with the year 2002.

Vehicles (fire engines, trains)

Two miniature sheets* comprising six postage stamps, each featuring a different picture of a vintage fire engine. The value shown on each postage stamp is 100 F, and each stamp is inscribed with the year 2002. One website describes the vehicles as vintage fire engines while another describes them as vintage cars.

Four souvenir sheets each comprising one postage stamp and featuring a different train; each stamp is inscribed with the year 2002 and the emblem of a specific organization.

Four miniature sheets each comprising six postage stamps and featuring a different train; each stamp is inscribed with the year 2002 and the emblem of a specific organization.

* These miniature sheets are listed in dollars on one website at a very high price (19.95 USD) for the perforated format for the two sheets and at double the price (39.80 USD) for the imperforated format. The same miniature sheets are listed on another website at a much cheaper price (e.g. 3.00 USD each).

Annex 2

List of available postage-stamps

Date of issue	Stamp motif	Face value in CFA
December 1991	History of coins	155, 195
February 1994	Commemorative tribute to President Félix Houphouët-Boigny	450, 600
April 1994	50th Anniversary of Raoul Follereau's world leprosy campaign	150
November 1994	Women carrying baskets	5, 25, 40, 50, 75, 150, 300
November 1994	Stained-glass windows of the Notre-Dame de la Paix basilica in Yamoussoukro Souvenir sheet	25, 150 600
16.5.1995	Women carrying baskets	30, 180
23.6.1995	Snakes	10, 20, 100, 180
8.9.1995	Mushrooms	50, 250
	Miniature sheet	2040
8.12.1995	Butterflies	550
24.5.1996	Picturesque scenes of transport in Abidjan	180, 280
21.6.1996	Fish	50, 100, 700
12.7.1996	Flowers	40, 200
19.7.1996	Centenary of Olympic Games Atlanta '96	200, 280, 400, 500
20.9.1996	Ceremonial canes	180, 200, 280
20.6.1997	Aquatic flowers	50, 700
2.7.1997	Notre-Dame de la Paix basilica in Yamoussoukro	660 (180, 200, 280)
22.8.1997	Traditional finery	50, 100, 180
31.10.1997	Stone heads	100, 500
28.11.1997	Traditional tools	180, 280, 300
19.12.1997	Endangered species	180, 280, 400
10.6.1998	France '98 Football World Cup	180, 280, 400, 500
26.6.1998	Mushrooms	50, 180, 280
10.7.1998	Native plants	40, 100, 180
13.11.1998	Traditional costumes	180, 280

Date of issue	Stamp motif	Face value in CFA
26.2.1999	Trains of Africa Souvenir sheet Côte d'Ivoire 1892–1982 T.P. (Michel N. book)	180, 280 500 6480 FCFA or 64.80 FF
28.5.1999	40th anniversary of the Council of the Entente	180+20
25.6.1999	Stamp day – 125th anniversary of the UPU	180+20, 280
2.7.1999	Animals	180+20, 250, 280, 400
27.7.1999	Flowers	100, 180+20, 200, 280
6.8.1999	Ahouakro's tourist sights 150th anniversary of the first French stamp	180+20, 280, 400 280
29.10.1999	Birds	50, 180+20, 280, 300
19.11.1999	Fish	100, 180+20, 280
10.12.1999	Côte d'Ivoire's challenges in the third millennium	100, 180+20 200, 250, 280, 400
30.6.2000	Masks	50, 180+20, 400
14.7.2000	Edible plants	30, 180+20, 300, 400
4.8.2000	40th anniversary of national independence – Côte d'Ivoire's transition to peace and reconciliation	180+20, 400
25.8.2000	Definitives: Cacao tree	5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 100, 180+20, 300, 350, 400, 600
30.8.2000	30 years of the national lottery LONACI	180+20, 400
8.9.2000	Sydney 2000 Olympic Games	180+20, 400, 600, 750
22.9.2000	African braids	180+20, 300, 400, 500
6.10.2000	10th anniversary of the release of Nelson Mandela	300
10.11.2000	Historic monuments	180+20, 400, 600
8.12.2000	50th anniversary of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)	400

Date of issue	Stamp motif	Face value in CFA
14.5.2001	Abokouamékro animal park	50, 100, 180+20, 400+20
18.6.2001	20 carved columns at the National Museum	100, 180+20, 300+20, 400+20
7.8.2001	41st anniversary of national independence	180+20,
21.8.2001	2002 Football World Cup qualifying matches	180+20, 400+20, 600+20, 700
9.10.2001	Dialogue among Civilizations	400+20
26.10.2001	1st anniversary of the Second Republic	180+20
27.11.2001	Traditional art: Korhogo pictures	100, 180+20, 400+20
21.12.2001	First stamp publicizing Côte d'Ivoire's hosting of the 23rd UPU Congress in Abidjan 2004 Souvenir sheet	180+20, 400+20, 600+20 1000
14.2.2002	St. Valentine's Day (booklets of 8 stamps)	180+20
19.4.2002	40th anniversary of Jean-Mermoz International College	180+20, 400+20
6.6.2002	Football World Cup Korea/ Japan 2002 Booklet of 10 stamps of 400+20 Souvenir sheet	180+20, 300+20, 400+20, 600+20 4200 1000
4.12.2002	Decentralization	180+20, 400+20