

Banco de la República, the Central Bank of Colombia, wishes to nominate for the Excellence in Currency Awards, its new set of coins issued on June 13th, 2012, for the Best New Circulating Coin Series.

A new family of coins: the outstanding Colombian biodiversity and the commitment of the Bank with the environment and sustainability (please watch this video <http://www.banrep.gov.co/en/node/32381>)

Introduction

The Constitution of Colombia has officially delegated the responsibility of producing and distributing the local currency to Banco de la República. In order to fulfill this Constitutional obligation, the Institution has taken important steps to increase the productivity of its industrial plants, through technological changes and process improvements. These adjustments have contributed to a reduction in both raw materials and natural resources consumption, while effectively satisfying currency availability on the country's economy.

The convergence of these objectives: commitment to sustainability, care for the environment and currency production and distribution, with the best cost/benefit ratio, was the Bank's guidance to issue a new family of coins, which began to circulate from June 13, 2012. These coins not only highlight our country's rich biodiversity in their designs, but they also meant a cost reduction in its production.

NOMINATION FOR THE BEST NEW CIRCULATING COIN SERIES

We are proud of nominating our new circulating coin series, which consists of five denominations: 50, 100, 200, 500 y 1000 Colombian Pesos, issued on June 13th, 2012, as mentioned earlier:

I. - Environmental consciousness

The engraving of this new coin series highlights the importance of environmental resources, especially water, the leitmotif of all denominations. That valuable resource is represented explicit or implicitly on the new pieces, not only to facilitate coin recognition within the public but also to reinforce the educational intention on environmental awareness. In this way, it contributes to awake the interest in the conservation of the environment.

In addition, this initiative highlights several representative species of the rich Colombian biodiversity. It aims to also contribute to the education and public awareness about the need to take care of the country's typical flora and fauna.

II. - Issuing costs reduction

It is known that due to the metal price raise on the international market since the middle of the last decade, the cost of producing coins in Colombia, like in many other countries, has increased significantly. This led to rethink the materials and alloys used in coinage, as well as redefine the coin size. Significant savings in production costs were achieved by changing alloys and reducing the size of 50, 100 and 200 Pesos coins.

In addition, the coin of 1000 Pesos was reintroduced (with new security features) in order to lessen the general issuing costs of currency, since it will replace in the short term, the note of the same denomination, which life span is about twelve months, while the coin could reach twenty years of lifetime.

In 2012 there was a reduction of coin production costs of 32% in comparison to the production costs of the former coins.

On the other hand, the size and weight reduction has meant not only less use of non-renewable natural resources, such as metals (652 ton), but also a reduction of storage and transportation costs for all economic operators that require currency for running their businesses.

III. - Security features

Currency counterfeit has been a challenge in Colombia, with delinquents developing new techniques to counterfeit national or foreign coins and banknotes. This was precisely one of the reasons why people lost confidence in previous 1000 Pesos coin some years ago. In risk situations like this, the institution, aware of the damage this may cause to the Bank and the country, always respond quickly and boldly. In this sense, security features in the new family of coins do not fall short in the fight to prevent this scourge.

The reintroduction of a coin of 1000 pesos, for example, arises after studying the safety devices that are at the global forefront. In particular, it stands out the bimetalism in this coin as well as in the 500 pesos (greatest denominations), in addition to the latent image and the edge groove. In fact, engravings with very fine details in its relief and complex and flawless layout features do help to counteract the counterfeiters' actions.

Theme of the New Circulating Coin Series

As mentioned before, there is a consistent design theme through all five coins in the new series of native Colombian fauna and flora, which is intended to reflect the country's biodiversity. The coins also feature images of water, which is seen as essential to the country's ecological heritage. These designs have confirmed the interest of the Bank in promoting and preserving the country's natural resources for a sustainable future.

The specific features of each denomination of the new series (at <http://www.banrep.gov.co/es/node/30499> it is possible to watch a video with the specifications of each coin; the video's script in English is attached)



The new 1,000 Pesos coin

It is a **bimetallic coin** with a silver colored centre and gold outer

Design and security features



It features an image of a loggerhead turtle entering the water¹. The following are the most important security features of the coin obverse:

¹ The *Loggerhead turtle* is a highly migratory marine species for nesting; one of the sites of choice for this process and the foraging are the Colombian beaches of the Caribbean and the Pacific. Its population has been significantly affected due to hunting for its shell, the collection of their eggs, the invasion of spawning beaches and the incidental catch by trawlers in the shrimp industry

Multilevel Image: Turtle named “CAGUAMA” located on the left side of the coin and partially covers the center field. The turtle is created by multilevel to generate volume and three-dimensionality. The turtle has fine details in its design, making it a complex image with different reliefs and high definition.

Field: located in the center and the ring of the coin. It is flat and brilliant.

External and internal beading: made up of a dots string in high relief and high definition

Circumscribed text: the word “agua” (water) in high relief, repeated seven times in consecutive and inverted form each one with respect to the previous one.

External waves: lines in different reliefs which displacement covers the ring and the center. They are interrupted by the text with the name of the turtle

On the reverse of the coin it is possible to observe:



Latent image that allows displaying two images: at an angle BRC letters (initials of Banco de la República de Colombia) and in other angle the word MIL (thousand), in both views the appearance of waves giving continuity to the design.

Circumscribed micro text: the words “CUIDAR EL AGUA” (take care of water) in high relief, repeated four times in consecutive and inverted form each one with respect to the previous one.

Rim: circular, followed by a stepwise nonagon (nine sides) rim.

Edge: with a groove

Wavelike lines at 90 degrees with very fine parallel lines

The 500 pesos coin

Design and security features

A bimetallic construction has been retained for the 500 Pesos, this time with a gold colored centre and silver outer. The rim of the 500 is a combination of striations and plain sections.

For the 500 Pesos a “crystal frog”² (from the foothills area in the Andes) has been chosen as the main image on the front, beneath which is another series of undulating lines. These are also used on the reverse of the coin, around its outer edge.

The following are the most important security features of the coin obverse



Multilevel Image: Frog named “Rana de Cristal” located on the left side of the coin and partially covers the center field. The frog is created by multilevel to generate volume and three-dimensionality. The frog has fine details in its design, making it a complex image with different reliefs and high definition.

Field: located at the top of the coin and the background of the frog, it is flat and shiny

External waves: lines in different reliefs which displacement covers the ring and the center.

Rim: circular, followed by a stepwise heptagonal (seven sides) rim.

² Unique amphibian of tropical America. It is particularly diverse in Colombia Andean cloud forests. It causes curiosity the transparency of its skin and muscles in the front of its body (in some species in the back also), what allows to observe all of their internal organs. It should be remembered that Colombia is one of the richest country in species of amphibians in the world and the frog is an important animal for pest control and monitoring environmental, due to the fragility of their populations with respect to ecosystem amendments

The 200 Pesos coin

It is a monometallic silver colored coin. It features a “scarlet macaw”³

Design and security features

The following are the most important security features of the coin obverse:



The Image: it is a macaw named “**guacamaya bandera**” located in the center of the coin. The bird is made with volume, fine detail and high definition in its design

Fine horizontal lines in the left bottom in high relief, whose distance is widening on the right

Field: in the upper semicircle of the coin, it is flat and shiny

Rim: circular, flat and with high definition.

The 100 pesos coin

It is a plated steel gold colored coin. It features a “frailejón”⁴

³ Species of bird that is scattered from Mexico to Bolivia and Brazil, but due to hunting by their colorful plumage and its imitation of words, its population has been dramatically reduced, so much so that in several regions of Central America do not existing specimens in the wild

⁴ Species of endemic flora (it grows in Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador) found in the climate of upland places of the Andes and surrounding mountain areas. Its main feature is the great height that can reach in relation to the common vegetation in this type of weather, as well as its slow rate of growth; it is also a refuge for various species of insects, vital for the environment



Design and security features

The following are the most important security features of the coin obverse

Image of a plant named “frailejón” located in the center of the coin, made with volume and fine detail in its design, with reliefs and high definition.

Field: in the upper semicircle of the coin, it is flat and shiny

Fine horizontal lines in the left bottom in high relief, whose distance is widening on the right

Rim: circular, flat and with high definition.

The 50 pesos coin

It is a plated steel silver colored coin. It features a “spectacled bear”⁵



⁵ It is the only bear in South America, is icon of national wildlife. Its population is strongly threatened by invasion and the destruction of their ecosystem

Design and security features

The following are the most important security features of the coin obverse

Image of a spectacled or Andean bear, named “oso de anteojos”, located in the center of the coin, made with volume and fine detail in its design, with reliefs and high definition.

Field: in the upper semicircle of the coin, it is flat and shiny.

Rim: circular, flat and with high definition.

Fine horizontal lines in the left bottom in high relief, whose distance is widening on the right

A reverse features in common for the \$50, \$100, \$200 and \$500 coins

The designer created a common reverse features for all these four denominations in conjunction with the central theme of the 1000 coin (water)



Field: background of the coin, flat and shiny

Rim: circular, flat and with high definition.

Wavelike lines: in high relief which form a circle.

Dimensions and specifications of the coin set are presented in the table, below:

DENOMINATION	ALLOYS	THICKNESS mm	WEIGHT g	DIAMETER mm	RIM HEIGHT mm
\$ 50	Nickel Plated Steel AISI 1006	1,17 ± 0,10	2,00 ± 3 %	17,00 ± 0,10	1,30 ± 0,10
\$ 100	Brass Plated Steel AISI 1006	1,35 ± 0,10	3,34 ± 3 %	20,30 ± 0,10	1,50 ± 0,10
\$ 200	White CuNiZn	1,39 ± 0,10	4,61 ± 3 %	22,40 ± 0,10	1,60 ± 0,10
\$ 500	Center CuAlNi	2,10 ± 0,10	7,14 ± 3 %	17,00 ± 0,10	2,20 ± 0,10
	Outer - White CuNiZn			23,70 ± 0,10	
\$ 1000	Center - White CuNiZn	2,20 ± 0,10	9,95 ± 3 %	17,50 ± 0,10	2,70 ± 0,10
	Outer - Yellow CuNiZn			26,70 ± 0,10	

Complete information of the coins specifications is available at the website of the Central Bank of Colombia:

http://www.banrep.gov.co/sites/default/files/billetes_monedas/multimedia_monedas/base.html