



## OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

PAPU/OTC/PPG/01/2025 - Doc No. 3

### PROMOTION OF PHILATELY WORKING GROUP

21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2026 (VIRTUAL)      TIME: 09:00 (GMT)

### AFRICAN PHILATELY WORKSHOP REPORT

<b>1. Subject:</b> African Philately Workshop Report	<b>References/Paragraphs</b>
<b>2. Decisions expected</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adopt the Report;</li><li>• Take note of the recommendations.</li></ul>	

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In pursuit of implementing the Promotion of Philately Working Group Action Plan for the 2025/2026 financial year, the African Philately Workshop was held virtually on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025.

#### 2.0 MAIN AREAS COVERED IN THE REPORT

The main areas covered in the report on the Workshop are:

- i) Objectives of the Workshop
- ii) Opening Ceremony
- iii) Workshop proceedings – Presentations
- iv) Recommendations

#### 3.0 REPORT SUBMISSION

The detailed report for the Workshop is annexed herewith.



## **AFRICAN PHILATELY WORKSHOP REPORT**

**21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2025 (ONLINE)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The African Philately Workshop was held virtually on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025. The Workshop, held under the theme “Connecting Heritage with Technology: Africa’s Leap into Digital Philately,” aimed to provide a comprehensive platform for stakeholders to explore the vast potential of crypto stamps in promoting philately, enhancing security, generating revenue for postal operators, and fostering economic development.

### **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE**

The Overarching Objective of the Workshop was to further equip postal officials with knowledge and skills to effectively handle, authenticate, and promote crypto stamps, ensuring their secure distribution and sale.

The specific lessons of the Participants from the Workshop included the following:

- a) To have in-depth knowledge of different Digital Philatelic concepts and definitions: crypto stamp, NFT stamp, digital stamp, cyber stamp.
- b) To be acquainted with the work of the World Association for the Development of Philately.
- c) To be exposed to the existence and objectives of the UPU Digital Philately Academy.
- d) To understand philately market developments: prices, numbers, sales successes, techniques, revenue models.
- e) To recognize the impact of legislation and regulation on crypto stamps: Cases for Africa, international, and national markets.
- f) Implementation and printing techniques: booklets, stamp sheets, private and secret codes, QR codes, NFC chips, packaging, and security.
- g) To appreciate and assimilate technical possibilities and demonstrations: stamps + NFT, sound, video, AR, VR, XR, and AI.
- h) To learn how to create good designs using digital technology: step-by-step plans, AI application, idea, and visual generation.
- i) To invest in capacity building to achieve the digitalization of philatelic products in Africa in line with global trends.

### **3. PARTICIPATION**

The Workshop was attended by over seventy (70) participants from twenty-two (22) African countries namely: **Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.**

## **4. WORKSHOP FACILITATION**

The Workshop facilitators were:

- i) Mr. Stephane Cuennet: Universal Postal Union (UPU) Philately Development and Documentary Heritage Programme /World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) Secretariat.
- ii) Mr. Patrick Terranea: Ciphers.me

## **5. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP**

### **5.1 Promotion of Philately Working Group Chairperson**

The Promotion of Philately Working Group Chairman, Mr. Banks Worimegbe, the Nipost General Manager Philately, officially opened the Workshop at 12:10 Hours (GMT). The main points from his opening remarks were the following:

- ☐ Introduced himself and informed participants that he took over from Mrs. Funmilayo Esiri, who retired in October 2025;
- ☐ He thanked the membership of the Promotion of Philately Working Group for supporting Nigeria in leading the Working Group.
- ☐ He expressed gratitude to other members of the Working Group Bureau, namely, Morocco as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Tunisia, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and South Africa as the Rapporteur, for their unwavering support;
- ☐ He pointed out that the Bureau was mainly indebted to the Secretary General and the General Secretariat for their support during the cycle and, in particular, for organizing the workshop aimed at fostering the digitalization agenda of our philately business;
- ☐ The Chair thanked the valued partners, the Universal Postal Union and Ciphers.me for sparing their time to share their expertise with Africa.
- ☐ Mr. Worimegbe noted with satisfaction the issues that were lined up for discussion during the workshop, which touched on key aspects for the digitalization of philately by Designated Operators.
- ☐ The Chair implored participants to participate actively in and contribute to the discussions during the Workshop.

### **5.2 PAPU Secretary General**

The PAPU Secretary General, Dr. Sifundo Chief Moyo, delivered welcome remarks during the Conference. In his speech, he emphasized the following points:

- ☐ The SG greeted and welcomed participants from PAPU Member States;
- ☐ He welcomed and expressed gratitude to the Philatelic Partners from UPU and Ciphers.me who had spared time to be part of the workshop;
- ☐ He thanked the Chairperson of the PAPU Promotion of Philately Working Group, Nigeria, for availability, guidance, and leadership in support of the implementation of philatelic activities in Africa throughout the cycle;

- He acknowledged and appreciated the leadership of Mrs. Funmilayo Esiri, who led the Working Group and recently retired in October 2025, and has been replaced by Mr. Banks Wesco Worimegbe, the Nipost General Manager of Philately.
- The SG underscored that the world has witnessed a rising trend in digital technologies that have resulted in the production, sales, and collection of digital philatelic products & services.
- He recalled that the 3rd African Philately Conference held in March 2025 provided a pivotal platform for industry experts to converge, share knowledge, and explore innovative solutions to revitalize the philatelic sector in Africa since its deliberations underscored the importance of harnessing the potential of digital technologies, fostering innovation, and developing digital products and services.
- He pointed out that PAPU's 2025-2026 Action Plan prioritized the adoption of cutting-edge technologies and innovative solutions, including crypto stamps, to enhance the competitiveness, sustainability, and relevance of postal services in Africa;
- Against this backdrop, the workshop was being held under the theme, "Connecting Heritage with Technology: Africa's Leap into Digital Philately";
- He pledged the PAPU General Secretariat's necessary support to the Member States and their Designated Operators, vide the Promotion of Philately Working Group, to guarantee the development and sustainability of the philatelic sector in Africa.

## **6. WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS**

### **6.1 UPU Presentation 1: Work of the World Association for the Development of Philately**

Mr. Stéphane Cuennet from the UPU Philately and Documentary Heritage Programme, which also serves as the Secretariat of the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP), made a presentation on the Work of the WADP. The main points from the presentation were:

- UPU through the WADP helps Designated Operators (DOs) implement digital stamps;
- Membership of WADP is free for active WADP Numbering System (WNS) members;
- Annual subscription is CHF 1500 for non-WNS members;
- Twelve (12) PAPU Member States are members of the WADP;
- Implored other Designated Operators to join the WADP and benefit from the following activities and services:
  - ✓ Participate and vote in the WADP General Assembly;
  - ✓ Participate in WADP activities (forums, round tables, conferences, training workshops);
  - ✓ Participate in the UPU Philately Competition Class;
  - ✓ Access to the WADP's remote assistance, coaching, and expertise free of charge;
  - ✓ Participation in the WADP Working Groups;
  - ✓ Benefit from B2B meetings;
  - ✓ Benefit from the WADP's promotion.
- WADP offers its members B2B opportunities with reputable companies in the philatelic industry. These companies become WADP Associate Members after signing the Philatelic Code of Ethics and specific guidelines.

- The WNS, which was established in 2002, ensures that DOs' legally issued stamps are registered, making it easier to identify the illegal issues. It therefore serves as a primary reference tool for checking postage stamp issues, helping to safeguard the philatelic industry against illegal issuances.
- UPU Competition Class, which is exclusive to WADP members, has been organized every year since 2008;
- WNS 2.0 - an AI-powered application that can be used on all smartphones has been developed for use by collectors, the public, Customs, and the post to verify the authenticity of stamps;
- WNS 2.0 Pro is available at the industrial level to cater to sorting centres as a powerful tool to protect mail postage.

## 6.2 UPU Presentation 2: WADP Digital Philately Academy

The second presentation from UPU covered general information on crypto/NTF stamps and the WADP Philately Academy (WADPA), which was launched in September 2025 at PhilaKorea 2025, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

The main points from the presentation were:

- Five (5) African countries have been identified as having issued crypto /NTF stamps. They are Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Namibia, and Seychelles.
- Results of a survey carried out by UPU indicate the following on Africa:
  - i. 61% of Designated operators believe that Crypto and NTF stamps have a substantial impact on their national philatelic industry;
  - ii. 45 % are planning to issue crypto or NTF stamps in the near future;
  - iii. 67% believe crypto and NTF stamps can attract new collectors.
- Taxonomy of philatelic products:
  - i. **Digital stamp** - any stamp issued in digital format by or on behalf of a Designated Operator
  - ii. **NTF stamp** – a stamp issued in digital format with or without a physical counterpart.
  - iii. **Crypto Stamp** - A physical stamp with a digital counterpart in blockchain
- The WADP Digital Academy's goal is to empower postal innovation through knowledge and dialogue.
- It is a collaborative initiative to help Designated Operators, Regulators, and stakeholders navigate the ever-evolving world of digital philately.
- Established with the support of UPU WADP and Industry partners, the Academy acts as a neutral non-profit knowledge hub providing tailored guidance, technical resources, and collective expertise.
- The WADP study on Pains and Challenges of the Posts covers:
  - ✓ Legal knowledge
  - ✓ Legal and Regulatory Framework
  - ✓ Technological Knowledge
  - ✓ Standardization and interoperability

- ✓ Security;
- ✓ Market Knowledge
- ✓ Strategic and commercial policies
- ✓ Budgetary resources
- ✓ Crypto Labelling.

### 6.3 Ciphers.me presentation: Crypto Stamps - The Ultimate Guide for Postal Organizations

Mr. Patrick Terranea, the Founder and Web3 Strategist from Ciphers.me made a presentation which covered the following main points:

- Digital philatelic Concepts and Definitions, which covered digital philately, crypto stamp, NTF stamp, digital stamp, cyber stamp, and AI stamp;
- Legislation and Regulations:
  - ✓ There are no international legal and regulatory frameworks governing NTFs as physical twins of physical goods. However, several international domains and frameworks are relevant and could form the compliance backbone for any phigital (physical + digital) product strategy;
  - ✓ When trading NTFs twin, e.g., crypto stamp, verification of users and transactions in line with local Anti-Money Laundering (AML) rules is necessary;
  - ✓ Securities and Financial Instruments regulations apply;
  - ✓ Consumer protection and fair trading to be observed;
  - ✓ Define Intellectual Property (IP) and Copyrights in the NTF's smart contract and in the platform's terms and conditions;
  - ✓ Observe data protection and privacy policies by treating blockchain data as potentially personal;
  - ✓ Taxation and Value Added Tax (VAT) laws apply depending on where the buyer is and where the sale is executed.
- A compliant NTF digital twin project balances the following dimensions:
  - ✓ Legal clarity (ownership and rights)
  - ✓ Technical integrity (secure token link)
  - ✓ Customer transparency (trust and authenticity)
- Market developments covering prices, numbers, sales successes, techniques, and revenue models;
  - ✓ Crypto stamp market is forecast to grow by 22% from 2023 to 2030
  - ✓ Austrian Post was the first to issue a crypto stamp in 2019;
  - ✓ 21 Designated Operators issued crypto stamps from 2019 to date;
  - ✓ Total value of crypto stamps is estimated at approximately 30 million euros since 2019;
- Implementation and printing techniques include booklets, stamp sheets, private and secret codes, QR codes, Credit card models with code pairs, NFC chips, different packaging, and security features.
- Technical possibilities and demonstration covering stamps+ NTFs, sound videos, Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), Extended Reality (XR), and Artificial Intelligence (AI), Collector engagement and gamification, Marketing and education, creating long-term value, etc.

- Design and technology: how to create good designs using digital technology;
- Framed and pragmatic guidance on the issuance of Africa's first crypto joint stamp.

#### **TAKEAWAYS:**

- a) Crypto stamps and NTF stamps represent an innovation in philately to offer entirely new philatelic products in digital stamp art collectables, philatelic stamp collectables, or philatelic stamps;
- b) The innovative value lies in the security features of the digital philatelic products, their overall design, value-added attributes, and the digital environments where the products reside.
- c) When issuing crypto stamps, the following is crucial to guarantee success:
  - ✓ Rarity
  - ✓ Scarcity
  - ✓ Digital engagement
  - ✓ Customer experience
  - ✓ Pricing strategy
  - ✓ Marketing to both traditional and crypto collectors
  - ✓ Making the stamp attractive and collectable.
- d) By blending national storytelling, creative collaboration, and public engagement. A Designated Operator can generate authentic, future-ready ideas that make its first crypto stamp both collectable and culturally meaningful.
- e) Africa has immense symbolic richness, visual diversity, and storytelling power that could make its first continental crypto stamp collaboration both culturally significant and globally collectable.

#### **7. CONCLUSION**

The Workshop was successfully concluded. It was insightful and allowed the participants to learn from the Philately Experts through interactive presentations and discussions.