



The UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws is the principal tool to inform Member States of national laws related to movable cultural heritage. It is an international gateway to national laws on the protection of cultural heritage. The UNESCO Database aims to protect cultural heritage by fighting against looting, theft, illegal export and import, illicit trafficking of cultural property, as well as against other threats to cultural heritage.

A pioneer initiative in this field, the Database:

- publishes UNESCO Member States' laws on cultural heritage protection including laws that govern the movement of cultural objects
- enables any individual or entity (i.e.: governments, customs officials, dealers, organizations, lawyers, buyers, etc.) to access cultural heritage laws currently in force, as well as relevant previous laws
- allows for rapid consultation of relevant national laws

History of the Database

Approved by the UNESCO General Conference in 2003 and officially launched in 2005 by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation, as of the end of 2009 the Database contains more than 2000 laws from over 170 countries in 42 languages.

"INTERPOL welcomes the creation of UNESCO's Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws and its user-friendly online access. For the international law enforcement community, this database constitutes an important and useful tool that helps speed up investigations on an international level and make the international co-operation more effective. That is why INTERPOL recommends to its 187 member countries to contribute to UNESCO's cultural heritage laws database and regularly update its information."

KARL-HEINZ KIND, WORKS OF ART UNIT,
INTERPOL GENERAL SECRETARIAT

"The World Customs Organization (WCO) and UNESCO have been working together for many years in the fight against the trafficking of cultural property. The efforts made by UNESCO in developing the Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws represent a significant step forward in raising public awareness about the need to protect our cultural heritage. The Database is, moreover, a fundamental tool for customs and indeed all law enforcement agencies engaged in the fight against crime involving cultural property."

KUNIO MIKURIYA, SECRETARY GENERAL,
WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws
www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws



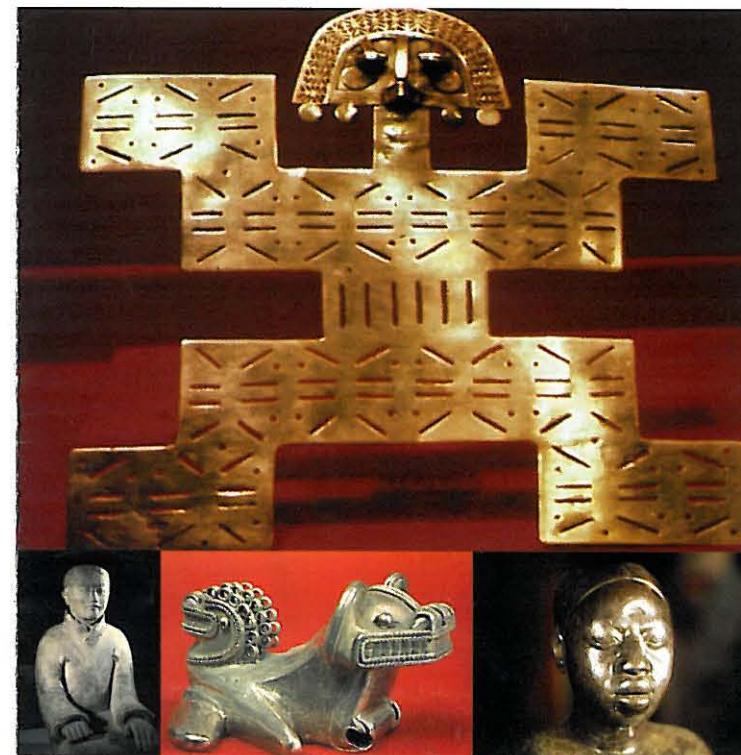
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UNESCO DATABASE

OF NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE LAWS



www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO's Policies to Protect Cultural Heritage

- **Standard-setting activities** concerning the preparation and implementation of international legal instruments and acting as Secretariat for these activities
- **Technical and scientific assistance** and support for training and capacity-building
- **Policies to combat illicit trafficking** and promote the return and restitution of cultural property
- **Technical assistance** in conservation practices and promotion of museums as stewards of cultural heritage through collections management, exchange and outreach
- **Policies to promote, educate and inform** aimed at the general public, professionals and governments



Who Are the Users of the Database?

- **Law- and policy-making institutions** (states, other governments and international intergovernmental organizations)
- **Institutions preserving and promoting cultural heritage** (museums and non-profit cultural heritage organizations)
- **Law enforcement bodies**
- **Research centers and**

researchers (universities, scholars, archaeologists, students and legal experts)

- The **global market in antiquities** and other cultural property (dealers, importers, exporters and collectors)

What Information is Stored in the Database?

- **National laws** related to cultural heritage in general (in their original language, with an official or unofficial English translation, as specified)
- **Import/export procedures** and model certificates (available on request)
- **Contact information** for national authorities responsible for the protection of cultural heritage
- **Official cultural heritage web site addresses** for countries that have provided national laws

How to Search the Database?

Available free of charge on UNESCO's website, the Database is user-friendly and offers quick access to national cultural heritage laws. Simply follow these three steps:



1. Choose the type of search

Free search: To search rapidly for one or more items of your choice (use "and/or" to expand or limit the search)

Closed search: To search specific fields: country, geographical region, keyword, theme, category of cultural heritage, type of normative instrument, language, year, type of document, translated document

Combined search: To search using both free and closed criteria together

2. Enter or select country, region and period

3. Click on search

Search results are displayed in three columns: country, year and title. Results are sorted by ascending alphabetical order by State name (country), by descending order by year (from the oldest to the most recent) and by ascending alphabetical order by document title (in the same country and the same year).

More detailed instructions for searching the Database are available online in English, French, Spanish, Chinese and Russian.



How to add Laws to the Database?

All UNESCO Member States are invited to submit their national cultural heritage laws to UNESCO for inclusion in the Database. The following information should be sent by e-mail or on CD-ROM to the UNESCO Section of Museums and Cultural Objects (see contact information on the back of this brochure):

1. Relevant laws currently in force on cultural heritage irrespective of its source (law, decree, order, etc.) and its geographic scope of application (federal or national laws, and cantons or provinces, where appropriate)
2. Import/export certificate(s) currently in force (they will be made available on request)
3. Historical references of laws regarding legal exportation and ownership of cultural objects
4. Official translation(s) of these documents into English
5. Contact details (name, address, telephone, fax and e-mail address) of the relevant national authorities responsible for cultural heritage protection
6. Official web site address for national cultural heritage protection
7. Official written authorization from the appropriate national authority permitting UNESCO to reproduce the laws on its web site (www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws) and to establish an automatic link from the "UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws" to the official government web site
8. Please remember to submit copies of new or updated laws in order to keep the Database relevant and useful