

November 14th, 2020

The Sahel celebrates

International Day against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property

Commemorated for the first time around the world, this day reminds us that theft, looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property robbing people of their culture, identity and history, and that we have to work together to combat this crime.

‘An antique for sale
can hide a dark truth’

#TheRealPriceOfArt



Sanite mask, Côte d'Ivoire
©IFAN, photo credit UNESCO Dakar



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

**Dakar
Regional Office**

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“

West Africa's Sahel has a rich movable cultural heritage that needs to be protected - **ancient manuscripts, palaeontological remains, ethnographic pieces...** - which can be found in **museums, libraries, archaeological sites or even in communities.**

”

#TheRealPriceOfArt



Ancient manuscript, ©IHERI-ABT Mali,
photo crédit UNESCO Mali/M. Bagayoko



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Do you know the heroes of cultural heritage? They are **heritage actors, but also law enforcement and security forces such as customs officers and police officers** who work in the field to protect cultural property.

”

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Terracotta, Benin ©IFAN,
photo credit UNESCO Dakar



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We can all contribute to the protection of heritage and **slow down the illicit trafficking of cultural property** in the Sahel. Let us all commit ourselves, **citizens, tourists, young people**, and become **heroes of heritage**.

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Skeleton of a tyrannosaurus,
Niger, H>2m, exposed at the inter-
national airport
Diori Hamami,
©photo credit UNESCO Dakar

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