



UNESCO 1970 Convention
Annual meetings, 9.SC
28 May 2021

*‘Fighting illicit trafficking of cultural goods:
the international museum community’s
engagement & ICOM’s actions’*



*Sophie Delepierre
Head of Heritage Protection Department*

Worldwide cooperation

With International partners:



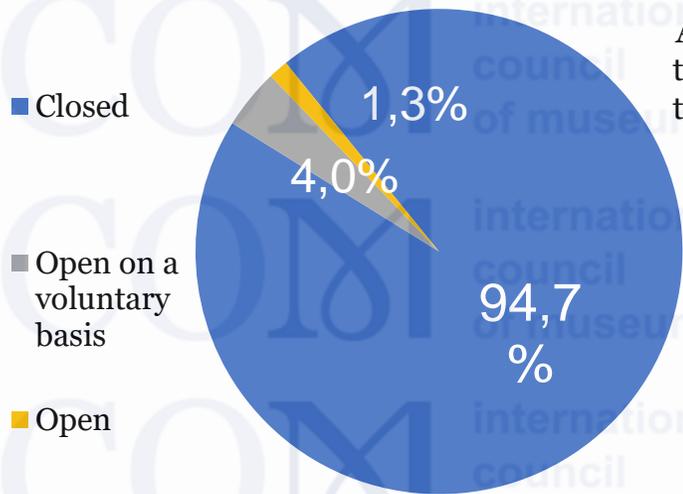
& National partners:

- Ministries
- Law enforcements agencies (polices & customs)
- NGO's
- Academics, etc.

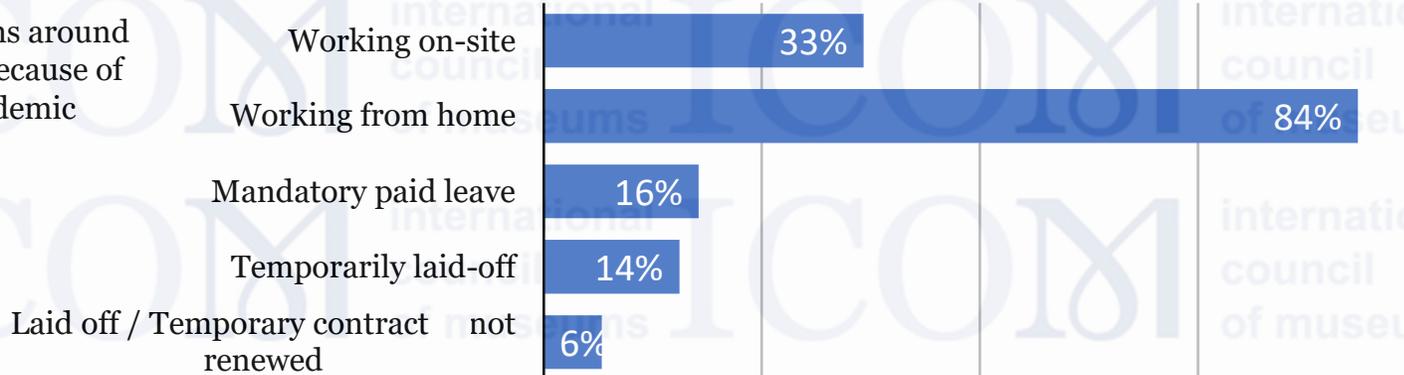
“Museums have no borders, they have a network”

Museums and Covid-19

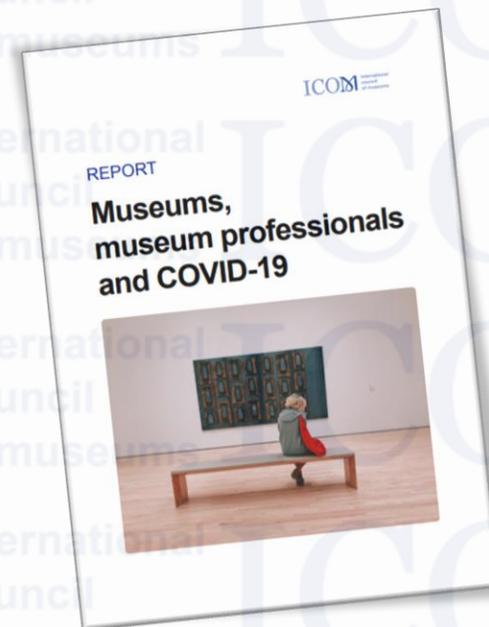
Studies



Almost all museums around the World closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic



HELP US ASSESS THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MUSEUMS



Integral reports available online
<https://icom.museum>

Museums and Covid-19

Recommendations



April 23, 2020

Ensuring cultural heritage security during lockdown: a challenge for museum professionals and police services

[More](#)

- Check security and alarm systems
- Adapt procedures
- Communicate with police services on regular basis
- Collaborate with other cultural institutions that face the same difficulties
- Involve neighbours and the local community

Museums and Covid-19

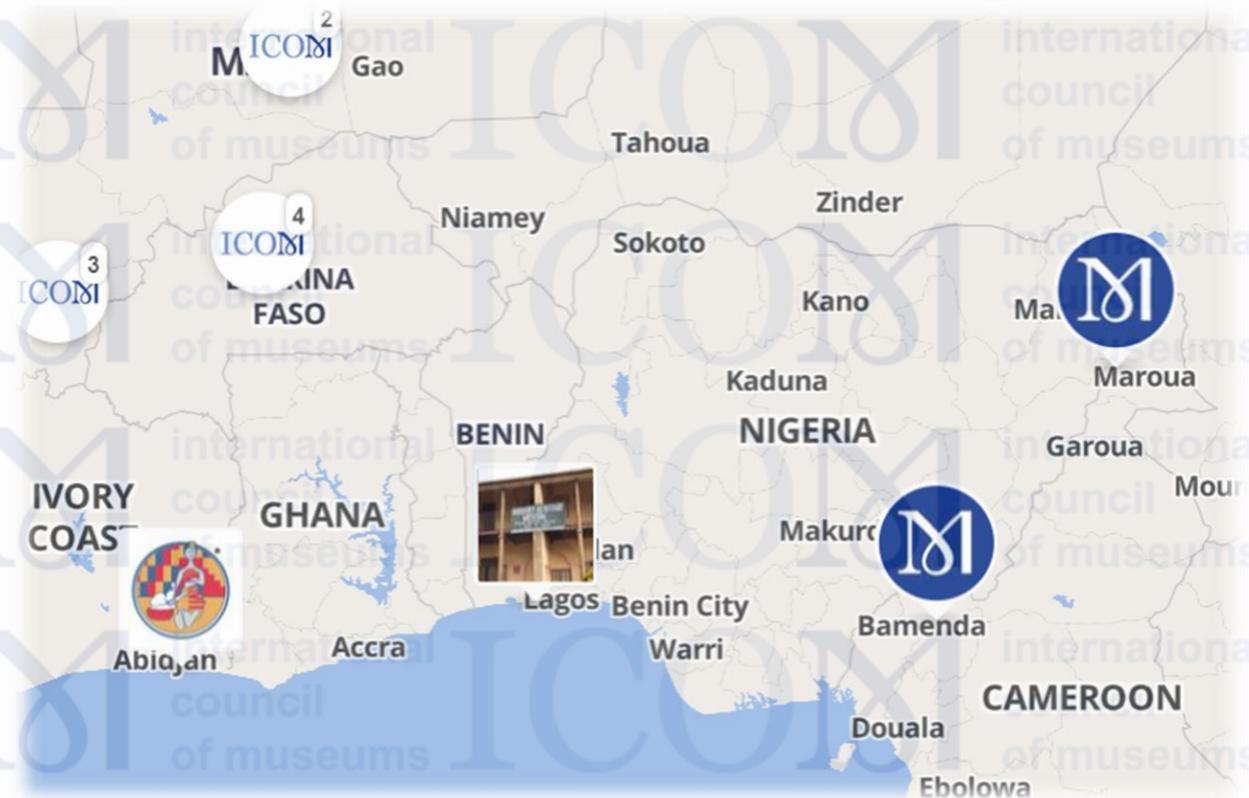
Projects

Partnership with ALIPH

Execution of 5 projects supporting 14 museums, made possible through the ALIPH Covid-19 Action Plan

Focus on actions for cultural institutions, located in the regions of West and Central Africa, in particular Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Nigeria.

Aim to improve museum security, staff capacity building as well as the on-site and off-site digital accessibility of collections.



Inventorying *Object-ID*



OBJECT ID CHECKLIST

- TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS**
Photographs are of vital importance in identifying and recovering stolen objects. In addition to overall views, take close-ups of inscriptions, markings, and any damage or repairs. If possible, include a scale or object of known size in the image.
- ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:**
 - Type of Object**
What kind of object is it (e.g., painting, sculpture, clock, mask)?
 - Materials & Techniques**
What materials is the object made of (e.g., brass, wood, oil on canvas)? How was it made (e.g., carved, cast, etched)?
 - Measurements**
What is the size and/or weight of the object? Specify which unit of measurement is being used (e.g., cm., in.) and to which dimension the measurement refers (e.g., height, width, depth).
 - Inscriptions & Markings**
Are there any identifying markings, numbers, or inscriptions on the object (e.g., a signature, dedication, title, maker's marks, purity marks, property marks)?
 - Distinguishing Features**
Does the object have any physical characteristics that could help to identify it (e.g., damage, repairs, or manufacturing defects)?
 - Title**
Does the object have a title by which it is known and might be identified (e.g., *The Scream*)?
 - Subject**
What is pictured or represented (e.g., landscape, battle, woman holding child)?
 - Date or Period**
When was the object made (e.g., 1893, early 17th century, Late Bronze Age)?
 - Maker**
Do you know who made the object? This may be the name of a known individual (e.g., Thomas Tompion), a company (e.g., Tiffany), or a cultural group (e.g., Hopi).
- WRITE A SHORT DESCRIPTION**
This can also include any additional information which helps to identify the object (e.g., color and shape of the object, where it was made).
- KEEP IT SECURE**
Having documented the object, keep this information in a secure place.



- Standardised procedure
- 9 categories
- 4 steps
- Free
- Available in:

-Select your language- ▼

Select your language-

Arabic
Chinese
Czech
Dutch
English
French
German
Hungarian
Italian
Korean
Norwegian
Polish
Portuguese
Russian
Slovenian
Spanish
Ukrainian



Recently used by INTERPOL
for its new ID-Art



In times of crisis

Beirut

Rebuilding Beirut Museums

Suzy Hakimian
Chair, ICOM-Lebanon



Thursday, 27 August 2020
16:00 h Beirut time



ICOM @IcomOfficiel · 23h
For our first stop we were joined by @MuseeLouvre and @ifporient to visit the National Museum of Beirut. Although its precious collections have not been damaged, the building needs urgent repairs to secure them.
#BeirutHeritage



Museums and collections in Beirut: The aftermath

Elsa Urtizverea
Heritage Protection Coordinator



ICOM @IcomOfficiel · 6h
Our second day with @ALIPHFoundation and @ICOMOS began with a visit to the Archaeological Museum of @AUB_Lebanon. Its glass collection suffered some damages following the #BeirutBlast

ALIPH Foundation @ALIPHFoundation · 7h
The Museum of Archaeology, @AUB_Lebanon, was founded in 1868. This morning, its Director, Nadine Panayot, showed the #ALIPH, @IcomOfficiel & @ICOMOS delegation around the museum.
[Afficher cette discussion](#)



ICOM WEBINAR SERIES

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR MUSEUMS

FOCUS: LEBANON

4 November, 2020 16:00 Paris time

MODERATOR
Hanna Pennock
Senior Advisor
Cultural Heritage
Agency of
the Netherlands

SPEAKERS
Marta Lourenço
Director
National Museum of Natural
History and Science of the
University of Lisbon

Suzy Hakimian
Chair
Mineral Museum
Beirut, Lebanon

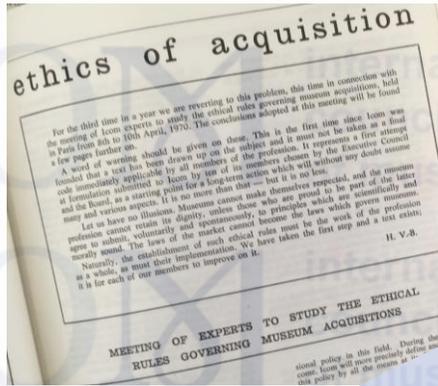
Samuel Franco
Director
Casa Ripien, Cultural
Rescue Center
Antigua, Guatemala

Elsa Urtizverea
Heritage Protection
Coordinator
ICOM Secretariat
Paris, France



Checking Provenance – Due diligence

ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums



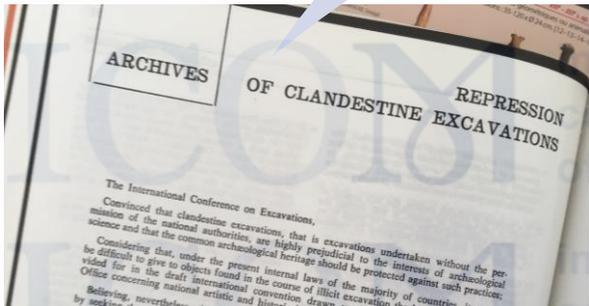
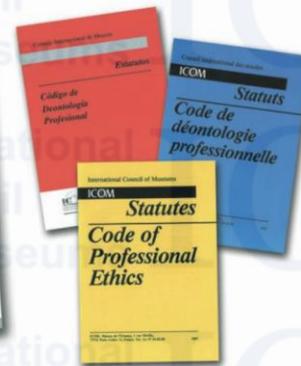
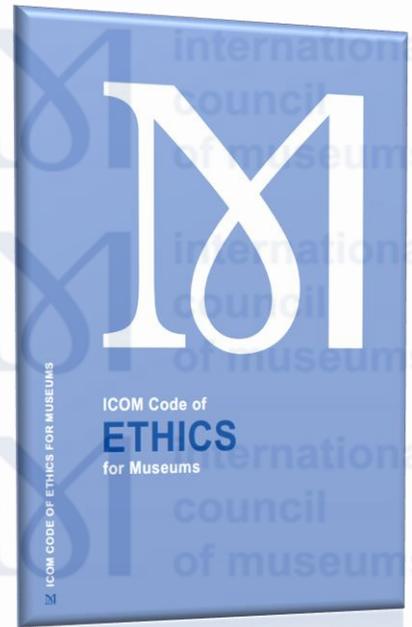
Recommendations of the Ethics of Acquisition

1947

1970

1986

2004

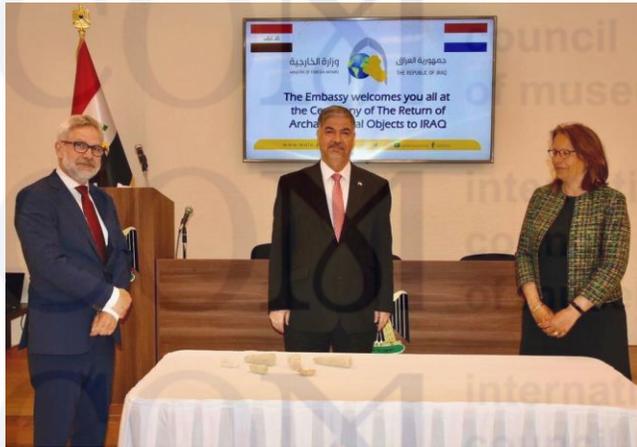


Checking Provenance – Due diligence

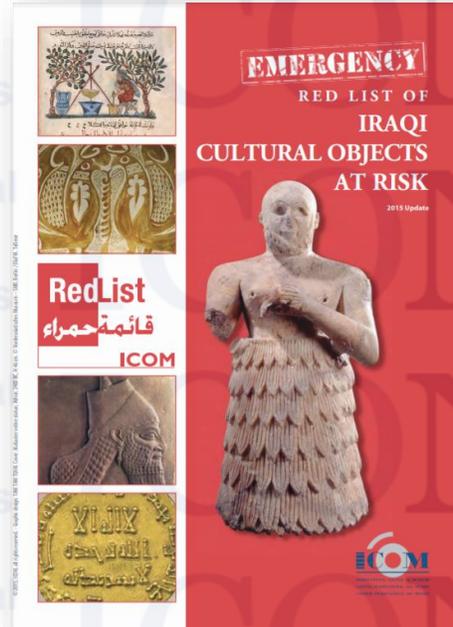
ICOM Red Lists – Example of best practice



News >



© Information and Heritage Inspectorate



The Netherlands is cooperating in the return of archaeological objects to Iraq

News item | 06-05-2021 | 14:30

Today Arjen Uijterlinde, Ambassador for International Cultural Cooperation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Barbara Siregar, Director of the Information and Heritage Inspectorate, are returning 7 archaeological objects to the Iraqi ambassador, Mr Hisham Al Alawi. The objects came to light when they were offered to an auction house by a Dutch private collector. The Information and Heritage Inspectorate began an investigation after receiving a report from a concerned individual. The Dutch collector is voluntarily giving up possession of the objects so that they can be returned to Iraq.

The foundation cones, a clay tablet and two rare figurines are all Mesopotamian. An investigation by the Information and Heritage Inspectorate and an expert from the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities confirmed that the objects came from Iraq. The Iraqi government contributed to this investigation and requested the Dutch government to return the objects. The private collector who gave up the items was not aware of their exact origin, and now wants to see them given back to Iraq. All the objects are protected under Iraqi cultural heritage legislation, and all are listed on the International Council of Museums' red lists. These lists give examples of objects that are vulnerable to theft, plundering and illegal export from their countries of origin.

Mesopotamian objects

- Foundation cones
- a clay tablet
- And 2 rare figurines



Checking Provenance – Due diligence

ICOM Red Lists – currently in preparation

Red List Southeast Europe =

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovenia

To be published in Autumn 2021 in

- English
- *French (**thanks to French Ministry of Foreign Affairs*)
- *Croatian (**thanks to Croatian Ministry of Culture*)

Other languages (fundraising ongoing)

RedList isteRouge

ICC



Checking Provenance – Due diligence

ICOM Red Lists – next projects

The 19th ICOM Red List

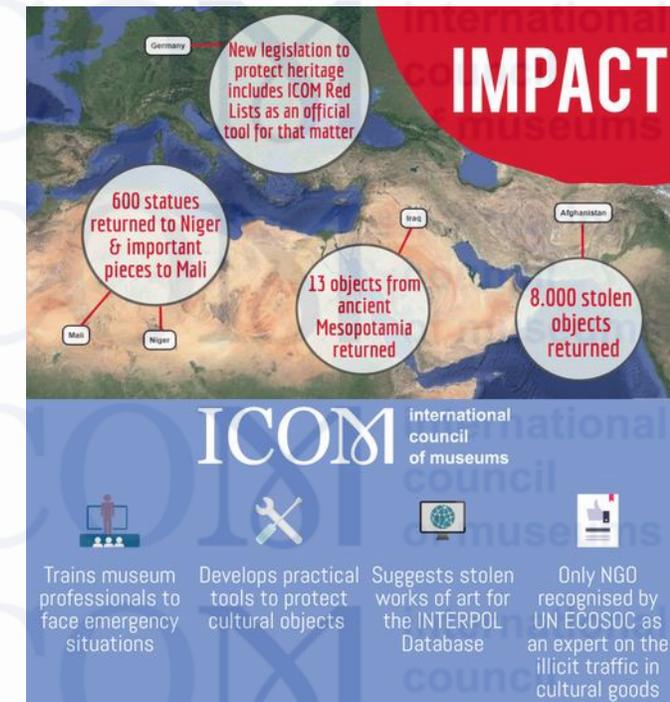
- will be a Red List for Brazilian Cultural Objects at risk

Translations

- In Swedish, thanks to ICOM Sweden and the National Museums of World Culture in Stockholm



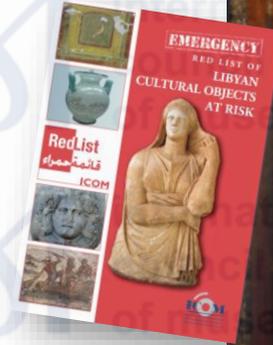
ICOM's Red Lists classify the endangered categories of cultural goods in the most vulnerable areas of the world to prevent them from being illegally sold or exported.



Sources: ICOM, Key aspects of the new Act on the Protection of Cultural Property in Germany. For more information visit www.icom.museum.

Checking Provenance – Due diligence

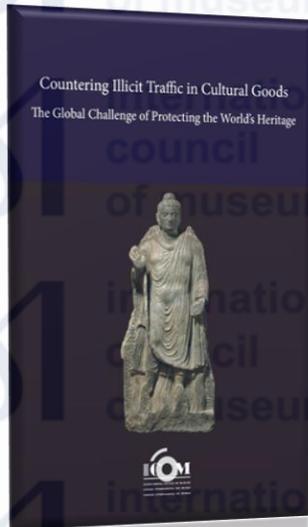
ICOM Red Lists – Example of best practice



Raising awareness

ICOM Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods

- Available online <https://www.obs-traffic.museum/>
- Free
- Thousands of resources
- International collaborative platform & network
- Information & resources database



@ObsTraffic

The image shows a screenshot of the ICOM Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods website and its Twitter profile. The website header includes the logo and navigation links: Welcome, Observatory, Partners, and ICOM. A large image of a green ceramic vase with gold inlay is featured. Below the header, there are sections for 'On illicit traffic' (with a 'read more' link), 'ICOM tools' (with a 'read more' link), and 'Search'. A sidebar on the left contains a 'Glossary' section with links for 'Good practices', 'Case studies', 'Contribute', and 'Lorem ipsum'. The Twitter profile below shows the account name 'Obs Traffic' with 1,691 tweets, a navigation menu (Home, Explore, Notifications, Messages, Bookmarks, Lists, Profile), and a bio: 'International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods. Created by ICOM Secretariat. Tweets by Heritage Protection Dept. Likes/Retweets ≠ endorsement'. The location is Paris, France, the website is obs-traffic.museum, and it was joined in October 2013. It has 320 following and 1,402 followers.

**You are playing an
essential role with the
cultural property
protection!**

<http://icom.museum>

   @IcomOfficiel