



**RedList**  
**ListeRouge**  
**ICOM**



**EMERGENCY**

RED LIST  
OF HAITIAN  
CULTURAL OBJECTS  
AT RISK



# EMERGENCY RED LIST OF HAITIAN CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK

The *Emergency Red List of Haitian Cultural Objects at Risk* is the first part of ICOM's programme for the protection of the cultural heritage of the Island of Hispaniola. It will be followed by the *Red List of Endangered Cultural Objects of the Island of Hispaniola*, which will present categories of cultural objects particularly at risk in both the Republic of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.



The Art Center in Port-au-Prince. © UNESCO/Fernando Brugman

## *Introduction*

The exceptionally rich cultural heritage of Haiti includes vestiges of the pre-Columbian, colonial, and national eras, contemporary artistic creation, cult objects and crafts. It is vital to the Haitian national identity.

Despite the protection afforded by both national and international legislation, the cultural heritage of Haiti remains severely affected by illicit traffic, which is fuelled by international demand and by the extreme poverty of the country. The earthquake of 12 January, 2010 has rendered the situation particularly dire, leaving Haitian heritage sites unprotected and vulnerable to looting, theft, and destruction.

The *Emergency Red List of Haitian Cultural Objects at Risk* is ICOM's first response to the increased risk in illicit trafficking, meeting the request of Interpol, the World Customs Organization (WCO), and UNESCO. Given the importance of cultural heritage as a unifying force among the Haitian people today, the protection of these objects and the prevention of their dispersal are essential to the ongoing reconstruction effort.

## *Objective*

The *Emergency Red List of Haitian Cultural Objects at Risk* is designed to help customs officials, police officers, and heritage professionals identify the categories of objects most targeted by illicit traffic. The categories depicted are protected by legislation which prohibits their trade and exportation. However contemporary artistic creation and artisanal crafts are not protected by laws which relate to cultural heritage; these objects and works of contemporary creation are included in the *Emergency Red List* because the earthquake has rendered them particularly vulnerable to looting and theft.

Potential buyers of an object resembling any of those presented in the *Emergency Red List*, as well as customs and law enforcement agents, are advised to vigilantly check its provenance and relevant legal documentation.

The *Emergency Red List of Haitian Cultural Objects at Risk* is by no means exhaustive, and any object that may have originated from Haiti should be subject to careful scrutiny. The *Emergency Red List* does not aim, however, to discourage the legal trade in contemporary Haitian cultural goods, which is vital for the livelihood of artists and for the economic reconstruction of the country.

## *The cultural heritage of Haiti is protected by:*

*The following legislation has been validated by Haitian officials.  
This list was under review at the time of printing, and should therefore not be considered exhaustive.*

### *CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI OF 10 MARCH, 1987*

#### *NATIONAL LEGISLATION*

*Law of 23 April, 1940*

*on the historical, artistic, natural and archaeological heritage*

*Law of 1 July, 1983*

*creating the Haitian National Institute of Culture and Arts*

*Law of January, 1995*

*creating the Ministry of Culture and Communication*

*Law-decree of 31 October, 1941*

*creating an Office of Ethnology*

*Decree of 4 August, 1950*

*on the National Museum*

*Decree of 10 May, 1989*

*creating the National Heritage Commission*

*Ministerial order*

*classifying the building and objects of the Printing House Museum (project)  
as belonging to Haitian national heritage*

### *INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS*

*UNESCO Convention*

*on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illegal Import, Export and Transfer  
of Ownership of Cultural Property (Paris, 14 November 1970)*

*UNESCO Convention*

*concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage  
(Paris, 16 November 1972)*

*OAS Convention*

*on the Protection of the Archaeological, Historical and Artistic Heritage  
of the American Nations, the so-called San Salvador Convention  
(Santiago, 16 June 1976)*

*United Nations Convention*

*on the Law of the Sea (Montego Bay, 10 December 1982) and the  
Agreement of 28 July, 1994 relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention*

*UNESCO Convention*

*on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (Paris, 2 November 2001)*

*UNESCO Convention*

*for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Paris, 17 October 2003)*

*UNESCO Convention*

*on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions  
(Paris, 20 October 2005)*

*If you suspect an item may have been illicitly acquired, please contact:*

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**This Red List is the eighth in the series published by ICOM to date:**

*Red List of African Archaeological Objects, 2000*

*Red List of Latin American Cultural Objects at Risk, 2003*

*Emergency Red List of Iraqi Antiquities at Risk, 2003*

*Red List of Afghanistan Antiquities at Risk, 2006*

*Red List of Peruvian Antiquities at Risk, 2007*

*Red List of Cambodian Antiquities at Risk, 2009*

*Red List of Endangered Cultural Objects of Central America and Mexico, 2009*



The International Council of Museums (ICOM) is the main international organisation of museums and museum professionals committed to conserving and communicating to society the world's natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible.

With over 28,000 members in 137 countries, ICOM is an international network of museum professionals specialised in a wide variety of disciplines.

Created in 1946, ICOM is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) maintaining formal relations with UNESCO and having a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural objects is among the top priorities of ICOM. The *Emergency Red List of Haitian Cultural Objects at Risk* was developed after the earthquake of 12 January, 2010 in order to prevent the dispersal of the Haitian cultural heritage resulting from illicit traffic. These exceptional circumstances have rendered the Haitian heritage more exposed than ever to risks of looting, theft, and destruction. This *Emergency Red List* is the first of two steps designed to contribute to the protection of the cultural heritage of the Hispaniola Island. This publication is the latest in ICOM's series of *Red Lists* which have already been published for Africa, Latin America, Iraq, Afghanistan, Peru, Cambodia, and Central America and Mexico.

<http://icom.museum>

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# EMERGENCY RED LIST

## OF HAITIAN CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK

THE RED LIST INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF OBJECTS:

(The photographs reproduced do not depict stolen objects; they illustrate the categories of cultural objects that are vulnerable to illicit traffic.)

### Pre-Columbian art

**1/ Stone tools and ceremonial objects:** polished axes, pestles, pendants, beads and larger objects such as stone rings, or three-pointed stones, sculpted heads and fragments of cave art with geometric or human motifs. [illus. 1-2-3]



1. Ceremonial axe, 800-1500 A.D., 16.8 x 15.3 x 3.6 cm. © Musée du Quai Branly
2. Axe, 800-1500 A.D., 16.3 x 6.6 x 2.7 cm. © Musée du Quai Branly
3. Beads, 1200-1500 A.D., site of En Bas Saline, ca. 1 x 1 cm. © Florida Museum of Natural History's Historical Archaeology Collections

**2/ Ceramics:** figurines, plates, bowls and bottles, or fragments of objects (handles), plain or decorated with geometric motifs or human or animal heads. [illus. 4-5-6]



4. Ornament from vessel, 800-1500 A.D., 6.8 x 7.6 x 2.4 cm. © Musée du Quai Branly
5. Bowl with decorated handles, 1200-1492 A.D., Dominican Republic, 10.3 x 19 x 16.4 cm. © Musée du Quai Branly
6. Ornament from vessel, 800-1500 A.D., site of El Cabo, Dominican Republic, 5 x 5 cm. © Leiden University/Museo del Hombre Dominicano

**3/ Shell ornaments:** small, smooth, decorative white plaques, pendants and beads of different forms, usually made of conch. [illus. 7-8]



7. Pendant in the form of a face (*guaíza*), 800-1500 A.D., site of En Bas Saline, 4.25 x 4 cm. © Florida Museum of Natural History's Historical Archaeology Collections
8. Decorative conch shell plaque, 800-1500 A.D., site of El Cabo, Dominican Republic, 4.8 x 1 cm. © Leiden University/Museo del Hombre Dominicano

**4/ Wooden objects:** human or animal figures, containers and stools in old, polished brown or black hard wood. [illus. 9-10]



9. Ceremonial stool (*duho*), 800-1500 A.D., Hispaniola, 42.4 x 30.4 x 71.5 cm. © Musée du Quai Branly
10. Large wooden cylinder, 800-1500 A.D., Gonâve Island, 91.4 x 45.7 cm. © National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution

## Cult and spiritual objects

Large diversity of objects, essentially voodoo and Christian (and sometimes Freemason). The voodoo objects are often decorated and made from vegetal elements, textiles, metals, clay or cement. They are functional, figurative or abstract: sculpture, furniture, containers, jewellery and clothing. [illus. 11-12-13-14-15-16]



11. Drum (*asòto*) made of wood and skin, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century, 142 x 52 cm.

© Musée du Panthéon national haïtien (MUPANAH)

12. *Saint Jacques* flag, cloth embroidered with sequins, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century, 79 x 77 cm.

© Fondation pour la préservation, la valorisation et la production d'œuvres culturelles haïtiennes (FPVPOCH)

13. Ritual maraca (*asson*) and bell, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century, *asson*: 29 x 10 cm. © FPVPOCH

14. Wooden *Bawon* cross, glass, cloth and metal, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century, height: 122 cm. © FPVPOCH

15. Altarpiece painted by Wilson Bigaud, ca. 1960, 160 x 196 cm. © Eglise épiscopale d'Haïti

16. Iron cross from the old Cathedral of Port-au-Prince, ca. 1850, 138 x 99 cm. © MUPANAH

## Historical documents

Archives, manuscripts, maps, ancient books, rare printed materials, relating to the history of Haiti. [illus. 17-18-19-20]



17. Map of *La Spagnuola* (Hispaniola) in folio, paper, 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century, 43.2 x 26.7 cm.

© Chatillon Collection, Musée d'Aquitaine, 1999



18. Map and view of the Cap-Français, engraving painted in watercolour on paper, 1728, ca. 35 x 24 cm.

© Chatillon Collection, Musée d'Aquitaine, 1999



19. Letter signed by the president Tirésias Augustin Simon Sam, paper, 1902, 17 x 30 cm.

© Collection of Jacques de Cauna. Iconography of Haiti, 1980



20. Postcard representing the monument to Alexandre Pétion, ca. 1905, ca. 15 x 10.5 cm.

© Centre international de documentation et d'information haïtienne, caribéenne et afro-canadienne (CIDIHCA)

## Coins, medals, stamps...

Instruments of exchange or commemoration, in a variety of materials such as gold, silver, copper, or paper. [illus. 21-22-23]



21



22



23

21. Silver coin worth fifty cents (*Liberté*), 1895, Ø 2,9 cm. © Musée de la Banque de la République d'Haïti

22. Medal from Puerto Real in enameled bronze, early 16<sup>th</sup> century, Ø 3,5 cm. © Ayizan Velekete Foundation

23. Stamp representing a painting by Geo Remponeau, paper, 1946, ca. 3.1 x 2.5 cm. © Private collection

## Equipment and tools

Utilitarian objects in metal or wood, originating from military or industrial facilities, plantations, or domestic life, such as weapons, parts of uniforms, diverse utensils, and slave chains. [illus. 24-25-26-27-28-29]



24



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24. Cavalry pistol offered to Toussaint Louverture by the Executive Directory of the French Republic, 1790-1800, wood, steel and copper, 39 x 17.5 x 4.5 cm. © MUPANAH

25. Iron slave chains and shackle, 18<sup>th</sup> century, length: 150 cm. © Musée d'Aquitaine, 2009

26. Iron rod and foot shackles, 18<sup>th</sup> century, length: 80 cm. © Musée d'Aquitaine, 2009

27. Canon in cast iron of the Citadel Henry, 18<sup>th</sup> century, length: 343 cm. © Institut de sauvegarde du patrimoine national (ISPAN), 2009

28. Terra cotta sugar-loaf mould, 18<sup>th</sup> century, 40 x 15 cm. © Musée d'Aquitaine, 2009

29. Terra cotta molasses container, 18<sup>th</sup> century, 45 x 30 cm. © Musée d'Aquitaine, 2009

## Architecture and urbanism

Construction elements, bells, historic furniture, commemorative plaques, stelae and funerary ornaments, fountains. [illus. 30-31-32-33]



30



31



32



33

30. Stone plaque from the main house of a colonial coffee plantation, 18<sup>th</sup> century, 50 x 25 cm. © ISPAN, 2010

31. Colonial fountain by Ducommun, 18<sup>th</sup> century, 230 x 80 cm. © Collection of Jacques de Cauna. Iconography of Haiti, 1980

32. Fountain *Ti Amélie* painted in oil, 19<sup>th</sup> century, figure: ca. 90 cm. © CIDHCA

33. Bronze Liberty bell, 1791, 47.5 x 40 cm. © MUPANAH

\* Within the categories of Haitian cultural objects presented on grey background, the objects and works of contemporary creation are not protected by laws which relate to cultural heritage but have been rendered vulnerable to looting and theft after the earthquake.

## \* Crafts and popular traditions

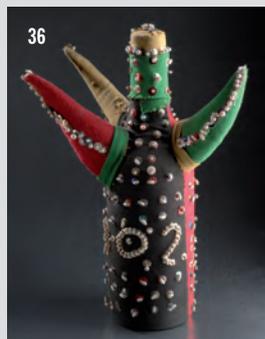
Costumes, musical instruments, toys, and domestic and work-related objects, generally decorated and colourful. [illus. 34-35-36]



34



35



36

34. *Rara* costume, cloth embroidered with glass beads and sequins, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century, 71 x 72 cm. © FPVPOCH

35. *Danbala Laffanbo* jar, painted terracotta, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century, 69 x 53 cm. © FPVPOCH

36. Decorated bottle, glass, cloth and glitter, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century, 25 x 8 cm. © FPVPOCH

## \* Fine arts

Traditional or contemporary works, by self-taught or trained artists.

**1/ Paintings and other images:** naturalistic or imaginative narrative images, often in bright, shimmering colours, on a variety of supports such as canvas, cardboard, or hardboard. [illus. 37-38-39]



37



38



39

37. Portrait of Léger-Félicité Sonthonax, oil on canvas, late 18<sup>th</sup> century, ca. 60 x 45 cm. © MUPANAH

38. Portrait of Louise Chancy, oil on canvas, ca. 1816, 94 x 75.5 cm. © MUPANAH

39. Hector Hyppolite, *Promenade sur mer* [Promenade by the sea], oil on cardboard, ca. 1947, 48.3 x 66 cm.

© Musée d'Art haïtien du collège Saint Pierre

**2/ Sculptures:** made of iron, bronze, clay, or wood, classical or other, religious or secular. [illus. 40-41-42]



40



41



42

40. Bust of Toussaint Louverture, sculptured in bronze by Edmond Laforestrie, ca. 1870, 77 x 63 x 69 cm. © Palais national, Port-au-Prince

41. Georges Liautaud, *La sirène diamant* [The Diamond Mermaid], forged and rolled iron, ca. 1960, 45.7 cm. © Musée d'Art haïtien du collège Saint Pierre

42. Jean Baptiste and Joseph Maurice, *Femme* [Woman], mahogany wood, 1970, 86 x 15.2 x 30.5 cm. © Musée Nader