EMERGENCY

RED LIST

OF HAITIAN CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK

RedList
ListeRouge
ICOM
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.

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI OF 10 MARCH, 1987</th>
<th>INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NATIONAL LEGISLATION</strong></td>
<td><strong>UNESCO Convention</strong></td>
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<td>Law of 1 July, 1983 creating the Haitian National Institute of Culture and Arts</td>
<td>on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 16 November 1972)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministerial order classifying the building and objects of the Printing House Museum (project) as belonging to Haitian national heritage</td>
<td>UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Paris, 20 October 2005)</td>
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<td><strong>RED LIST OF LATIN AMERICAN CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK, 2003</strong></td>
<td>on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 16 November 1972)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EMERGENCY RED LIST OF IRAQI ANTIQUITIES AT RISK, 2003</strong></td>
<td>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)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Ministry of Culture and Communication**
Contact: Mr. Stéfan MALEBRANCHE, Director General
Tel: +(509) 3701 4001
E-mail: directiongenerale@mcc.gouv.ht

**Musée du Panthéon national haïtien (MUPANAH)**
Contact: Mr. Robert PARET, Director General
Tel: +(509) 2222 8337
Fax: +(509) 2222 3177
E-mail: robertparet@yahoo.fr

**General Customs Administration**
Contact: Mr. Jean Jacques VALENTIN, Director General
Tel: +(509) 3701 7372
E-mail: jeanjacques.valentin@douane.gouv.ht

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

Background image: A church in Port-au-Prince. © UNESCO/Fernando Brugman
Cover: Painted cement figure, representing Bosou Twa Kôn with clay pipe, 78 x 24 x 16 cm. © FPVPOCH
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.

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This Emergency Red List was developed with the generous support of:

U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
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 (guaiza), 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, 19th-20th century, 142 x 52 cm. © Musée du Panthéon national haitien (MUPANAH)

12. Saint Jacques flag, cloth embroidered with sequins, 19th-20th 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, 19th-20th century, asson: 29 x 10 cm. © FPVPOCH

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


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, 16th-17th 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


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. Silver coin worth fifty cents (*Liberté*), 1895, Ø 2.9 cm. © Musée de la Banque de la République d’Haiti

22. Medal from Puerto Real in enameled bronze, early 16th 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. 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, 18th century, length: 150 cm. © Musée d’Aquitaine, 2009

26. Iron rod and foot shackles, 18th century, length: 80 cm. © Musée d’Aquitaine, 2009

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

28. Terra cotta sugar-loaf mould, 18th century, 40 x 15 cm. © Musée d’Aquitaine, 2009

29. Terra cotta molasses container, 18th 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. Stone plaque from the main house of a colonial coffee plantation, 18th century, 50 x 25 cm. © ISPAN, 2010


32. Fountain *Ti Amélie* painted in oil, 19th century, figure: ca. 90 cm. © CIDIHCA

33. Bronze Liberty bell, 1791, 47.5 x 40 cm. © MUPANAH
Crafts and popular traditions

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

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]

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

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.