



RedList
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RED LIST OF WEST AFRICAN CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK

EMERGENCY
MALI



ICOM international
council
of museums

Main regulations and agreements protecting West African cultural heritage (non-exhaustive list)

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

The Hague Convention of 14 May 1954

for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

Ratification: Côte d'Ivoire (1980)

Accession: Mali, Nigeria (1961) – Burkina Faso (1969) – Niger (1976)
Senegal (1987) – Benin (2012)

First Protocol (14 May 1954)

Accession: Mali, Nigeria (1961) – Niger (1976)
Burkina Faso, Senegal (1987) – Benin (2012)

Second Protocol (26 March 1999)

Ratification: Nigeria (2005)

Accession: Niger (2006) – Benin, Mali (2012)

UNESCO Convention of 14 November 1970

on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

Ratification: Niger, Nigeria (1972) – Senegal (1984)

Burkina Faso, Mali (1987) – Côte d'Ivoire (1990)

UNESCO Convention of 16 November 1972

concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Ratification: Nigeria (1974) – Senegal (1976) – Côte d'Ivoire (1981)

Benin (1982) – Burkina Faso (1987) – Guinea-Bissau (2006)

Acceptance: Niger (1974) – Mali (1977) – Togo (1998)

UNIDROIT Convention of 24 June 1995

on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects.

Ratification: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire (1995) – Senegal (1996)

Accession: Nigeria (2005)

UNESCO Convention of 2 November 2001

on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

Ratification: Nigeria (2005) – Benin (2011) – Togo (2013)

NATIONAL REGULATIONS

BENIN

Decree No. 35/PR/MENJS *concerning the protection of cultural property* (1 June 1968).

Article 10 of the Constitution of 11 December 1990.

Law No. 91-006 *implementing the Cultural Charter in the Republic of Benin* (25 February 1991).

Law No. 2007-20 *concerning the protection of cultural heritage and natural heritage of a cultural character in the Republic of Benin* (17 August 2007).

BURKINA FASO

Decree No. 2007-816/PRES promulgating the Law No. 024-2007/AN of 13 November 2007 *relating to the protection of cultural heritage in Burkina Faso* (3 December 2007).

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Law No. 87-806 *concerning the protection of the cultural heritage* (28 July 1987).

Article 7 of the Constitution of 23 July 2000.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Article 17, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of 16 May 1984.

MALI

Decree No. 203/PG-RM *instituting a National Cultural Heritage Protection Commission* (13 August 1985).

Decree No. 275/PG-RM *regulating archaeological excavations* (4 November 1985).

Law No. 86-61/AN-RM *concerning dealers in cultural goods* (26 July 1986).

Decree No. 299/PG-RM *regulating the prospecting, marketing and export of cultural properties* (19 September 1986).

Article 70 of the Constitution of 27 February 1992.

Interministerial Order No. 94-7968/MCC-MAT *to regulate the profession of dealers in cultural property, prospecting, marketing and export of cultural property* (18 July 1994).

Order No. 96-1591/MCC-SG *to repeal and replace Order No. 0003/MSAC-DNAC of 12 January 1989 to set up and define the operating procedures of regional and local Cultural Heritage Protection Commissions* (14 October 1996).

Law No. 10-061 amending Law No. 85-40/AN-RM of 26 July 1985 *relating to the protection and promotion of the national cultural heritage* (30 December 2010).

NIGER

Law No. 97-002 *relating to the protection, preservation and enhancement of national cultural heritage* (30 June 1997)

and Decree No. 97-407/PRN/MCC/MESRT/IA *establishing the procedures for its implementation* (10 November 1997).

Article 82 of the Constitution of 18 July 1999, revised 13 May 2004.

NIGERIA

Decree No. 77 *on the National Commission for Museums and Monuments* (28 September 1979).

Article 60b of the Constitution of 29 May 1999.

SENEGAL

Law No. 71-12 *governing the management of historic monuments and of excavations and discoveries* (25 January 1971).

Decree No. 73-746 *for the application of Law No. 71-12 of 25 January 1971 governing the management of historic monuments and of excavations and discoveries* (8 August 1973).

TOGO

Law No. 90-24 *on the protection of national cultural heritage* (23 November 1990).

Article 40 of the Constitution of 12 September 1992, revised in December 2000.

Decree No. 2010-173/PR *on the National Commission for Cultural Heritage* (15 December 2010).

BILATERAL AGREEMENT

Mali/United States (1997, 2012).

RED LIST

OF WEST AFRICAN CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK

AND **EMERGENCY** MALI

Why a Red List?

Throughout history, West Africa has suffered extensive losses of its cultural heritage. ICOM, thanks to the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the U.S. Department of State, is publishing the *Red List of West African Cultural Objects at Risk*. Even though they are protected by national legislation and international agreements, the types of objects on this List are at risk of being traded in the illicit art and antiquities market.

The fight against illicit traffic in cultural goods requires the enhancement – and the enforcement – of legal instruments as well as the use of practical tools.

The purpose of the West African Red List, drafted in close cooperation with a team of national and international experts, is to ensure the right of future generations to this heritage.

Protecting cultural heritage

Museums, auction houses, art dealers and collectors are urged not to acquire objects similar to those presented on the List without having carefully and thoroughly researched their origin and all the relevant legal documentation. Any cultural artefact that could have originated from this region should be subjected to detailed scrutiny and precautionary measures before any transaction is conducted.

We wish to remind everyone that ICOM does not provide certificates of origin or authenticity. Only national government authorities are authorised to issue any type of document related to the export and import of cultural goods.

If you suspect a cultural object from West Africa has been stolen, looted or illegally exported, please contact:

International Council of Museums (ICOM)
22, rue de Palestro - 75002 Paris - France
Tel.: +33 1 47 34 05 00 - Fax: +33 1 43 06 78 62
E-mail: illicit-traffic@icom.museum

IMPORTANT NOTE

A Red List is NOT a list of actual stolen objects.

The cultural goods depicted are inventoried objects within the collections of recognised institutions. They serve to illustrate the categories of cultural goods most vulnerable to illicit traffic.

ICOM wishes to thank all of the institutions and individuals who provided the photographs presented in this Red List.

RED LIST / WEST AFRICA

EMERGENCY

MALI

Writing

12th – 18th century AD

Steles (12th – 18th c. AD): Stone plaques (marble, sandstone) with Arabic writing. [1]

Manuscripts (13th – 17th c. AD): Parchment, paper. From Timbuktu, Djenné, Gao, Kayes and Ségou. Mostly written in Arabic. Individual pages or entire books, sometimes leather-bound, with or without illuminations. [2–3]



1. White marble funerary stele, Sané necropolis (Gao region), 12th – 13th c. AD, 88 x 44 cm. © Musée national du Mali



2. Parchment manuscript, Timbuktu, 13th – 17th c. AD, 26.5 x 41 cm.

© Musée national du Mali



3. Leather-bound paper books, Timbuktu, 13th – 17th c. AD, 22 x 18 cm.

© Musée national du Mali

Sculptures

11th – 16th century AD

Terracotta statues and statuettes. Tellem/Pre-Dogon or Niger River Valley civilisations.

11th – 15th c. AD: Geometrically-shaped; elongated body; square shoulders; pointed breasts; sculpted and/or incised stomach; long, slender, parallel arms and legs. Height: 30-50 cm. [4–5]

12th – 16th c. AD: Anthropomorphic, may have almond-shaped eyes, incised eyelashes, eyelids with concentric engravings, elongated nose and neck. Figurines with long, slender bodies, either seated or standing. Bodies may be smooth or covered in round pastilles or snake motifs. Measurements: 10-60 x 10-40 cm. [6–7–8]



4. Terracotta statuette, Djenné (Niger River Valley), 12th – 15th c. AD, 37 cm.

© Musée national du Mali

5. Bankoni-style terracotta anthropomorphic female statuette, Bougouni region,

14th – 15th c. AD, 48 cm. © Musée national du Mali

6. Terracotta statuette covered in pastilles, Djenné-Djeno (Niger River Valley), 13th c. AD, 17 cm. © Musée national du Mali

7. Terracotta statue, Djenné (Niger River Valley), 13th c. AD, 27 cm.

© Musée national du Mali

8. Terracotta animal statuette, Ténenkou Cercle (Inner Niger Delta), 14th – 15th c. AD, 38.5 cm. © Musée national du Mali

Miscellaneous objects

8th – 17th century AD

Jewellery (8th – 17th c. AD): Metal (copper, brass, bronze, iron, silver), copal, coral, stones (granite, quartz), shells, glass. Sculpted and/or braided. Rounded or oval pearls, in various colours, often pierced and sometimes shell-shaped or decorated with human, floral or geometric motifs. [9]

9. Collection of bronze earrings and ring, Inner Niger Delta, 8th – 15th c. AD. © Musée national du Mali



RED LIST / WEST AFRICA

Tellem bed legs and headrests (10th – 14th c. AD): Terracotta, wood. Small columns with a concave neck. Concave platforms, either rectangular or square. Often decorated with incisions, crosshatching and/or parallel bands. Measurements: 10 x 20 cm. [10–11]

10. Terracotta bed legs, Zone Lacustre, 10th – 12th c. AD, 34.5 x 25 cm.
© Musée national du Mali

11. Wooden Tellem headrest, Sangha caves (Dogon Country), 11th – 14th c. AD, 10.5 x 19.5 cm.
© Musée national du Mali



Vessels and containers

8th – 16th century AD

Terracotta. Particularly from the Niger River Valley. Spherical, sometimes decorated with geometric or animal motifs. Jars and small vases with incised decorations. Possible traces of paint. Measurements: 35-120 x Ø 24 cm. [12–13–14–15]

12. Terracotta bottle, Inner Niger Delta, 8th – 13th c. AD, 34 cm.
© Musée national du Mali

13. Carinated cup, Mema region, 9th – 14th c. AD.
© Laboratoire de Préhistoire-Protohistoire de l'IFAN/UCAD, Senegal

14. Terracotta vase with zoomorphic motif (snake), Natamatao (Thial - Inner Niger Delta), ca. 12th – 14th c. AD, 35 cm.
© Musée national du Mali

15. Terracotta globular vase with anthropomorphic head, Banamba-Koulikoro, 46 cm. © Musée national du Mali



BENIN - BURKINA FASO - CÔTE D'IVOIRE - GUINEA BISSAU NIGER - NIGERIA - SENEGAL - TOGO

Vessels and containers

AD 300 – mid-20th century AD

Terracotta. Human- or animal-shaped vases; oval-shaped body and decorations resembling a pregnant woman, with elongated necks and/or topped by a statuette or head. Phallic-shaped funerary urns. Vessels decorated with geometric incisions. Measurements: 10-80 x Ø 10-60 cm. [16–17–18–19–20–21]



16. Terracotta vessel, Diorom Boumak, AD 300 – 1500, 20.5 x 0.9 x Ø 28.5 cm.
© Laboratoire de Préhistoire-Protohistoire de l'IFAN/UCAD, Senegal

17. Terracotta funerary vessel with a human figure, Bura culture, Niger, ca. 4th – 13th c. AD, 57.15 x 23.5 x 17.78 cm. © Yale University Art Gallery, USA

18. Terracotta bowl decorated with concentric circles and parallel lines, Calabar (Cross River State), 6th – 7th c. AD, Ø 33.5 cm. © National Commission for Museums and Monuments / Old Residency Museum, Nigeria

19. Terracotta chalice, Sinthiou Bara, 9th – 12th c. AD, 11.5 x 0.9 x Ø 8 cm.
© Laboratoire de Préhistoire-Protohistoire de l'IFAN/UCAD, Senegal

20. Terracotta funerary vase with ringed neck, belly and a hole in the base, Ebré people, 17th c. AD, 32 x 16 cm.
© Musée des Civilisations de Côte d'Ivoire / Alecian Frédéric Djamel

21. Human-shaped terracotta funerary vase with arm-shaped handles and a hole in the base, Akyé people, 17th c. AD, 33.5 x 20 cm.
© Musée des Civilisations de Côte d'Ivoire / Alecian Frédéric Djamel

Sculpted objects

900 BC – early 20th century AD

Terracotta, clay, stone, metal. Monoliths, plaques, statues and statuettes. Standing or seated figures. Possible traces of patina or paint. Round or oval heads, often large compared to the rest of the body. Prominent eyebrows. Well-defined, sometimes open, mouths. Large ears. Ringed necks.

Bearded men. Women with smooth or sculpted hair, with chignons or braids. Arms extended alongside the body, bent or folded across the chest. Drooping breasts. Scarified body. Prominent navel. May be wearing jewellery or accessories, sometimes sculpted on the material itself. [22–23–24–25–26–27–28–29–30–31]



22. Terracotta human head, Nok culture, Nigeria, ca. 900 – 300 BC, 21 x 16.5 x 14.6 cm. © Yale University Art Gallery, USA

23. Terracotta male figure (fragment), Sokoto culture, Nigeria, 500 BC – 200 AD, 46.4 x 30.5 x 20.3 cm. © Yale University Art Gallery, USA

24. Terracotta Owo oba (king) figure (fragment), Igbolaja (Ondo State), 15th c. AD, H 25 cm. © National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Nigeria

25. Clay M'ma statuette covered with plant tar representing a figure with raised arms and elongated eyes, Agni and Akan peoples, 17th c. AD, 35.5 x 19 x 19.5 cm. © Musée des Civilisations de Côte d'Ivoire / Alecian Frédéric Djamel

26. Stone Akwanashi (monoliths), Bakor people, Ikom (Cross River region), AD 200, H 113 and H 174 cm. © National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Nigeria



27. Laterite Taha (sculpted head) with flat top, nose and mouth sculpted in relief, Gohitafla, pre-17th c. AD, 26.5 x Ø 19 cm.

© Musée des Civilisations de Côte d'Ivoire / Alecian Frédéric Djamel

28. Soapstone Esie statue of a seated human figure, Igbomina (Kwara State), 19th c. AD, H 75.5 cm. © National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Nigeria

29. Brass Ife head, Wumunije (Osun State), 14th – early 15th c. AD, H 24 cm.

© National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Nigeria

30. Brass plaque depicting an oba (king) with attendants, Edo people, Kingdom of Benin - Nigeria, 16th c. AD, 43.5 x 41 x 10.7 cm.

© The Trustees of the British Museum, UK

31. Brass commemorative head of an oba (king), 18th – 19th c. AD, H 40.5 cm.

© National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Nigeria

Miscellaneous objects

20,000 BC – 19th century AD

Jewellery and ornaments: Metal (copper, bronze, silver, gold, alloys) or ivory. Bracelets and anklets, necklaces and goldweights. Helmets and hair ornaments. May be human-shaped or bear geometric motifs. [32–33–34–35–36–37]



32. Iron bracelet, Bura culture, Niger River Valley (Niger), 3rd – 11th c. AD, Ø 9.53 cm.
© The Metropolitan Museum of Art, USA

33. Copper alloy torque (necklace), Bura culture, Niger River Valley (Niger), 3rd – 11th c. AD, Ø 18.73 cm. © The Metropolitan Museum of Art, USA

34. Bronze human pendant head, Igbo Isaiah (Igbo-Ukwu, Nigeria), 9th – 10th c. AD, 7.6 x 4.10 x 5.5 cm.
© The Trustees of the British Museum, UK

35. Bronze helmet, Senufo culture, Tiebissou, pre-17th c. AD, 12 x 19.4 cm.
© Musée des Civilisations de Côte d'Ivoire

36. Yoruba bronze bracelets, Ogboni society, Ijebu (Nigeria), 18th – 19th c. AD, 12.7 x 11 cm.
© Yale University Art Gallery, USA

37. Eight-toothed ivory comb with four circular perforations and one in the shape of a cross, early 19th c. AD, 8.5 x 4 cm.
© Musée des Civilisations de Côte d'Ivoire / Alecian Frédéric Djamel

Weapons and tools: Terracotta, wood, bone, stone, iron. Neolithic hunting and fishing tools and axe heads (polished stone). Arrowheads, possibly serrated. Metal daggers. Braiding discs, may be decorated with geometric incisions. Triangular wooden pulleys, topped by a head or sculpted scene. [38–39–40–41]



38. Bone axe, Khant Neolithic site (St. Louis), 5000 – 3000 BC, 8.1 x 3.7 x 2 cm.
© Laboratoire de Préhistoire-Protohistoire de l'IFAN/UCAD, Senegal

39. Bone harpoon and fishhook, Khant Neolithic site (St. Louis), 5000 – 3000 BC, harpoon: approx. 10 x 1.5 cm; fishhook: 5 x 3 x 0.8 cm.
© Laboratoire de Préhistoire-Protohistoire de l'IFAN/UCAD, Senegal

40. Terracotta braiding disc, Aroundou (Tambacounda), 10th – 11th c. AD, 2.4 x Ø 8.6 cm.
© Laboratoire de Préhistoire-Protohistoire de l'IFAN/UCAD, Senegal

41. Iron Eben (ceremonial sword), Edo people, Kingdom of Benin - Nigeria, 19th – mid-20th c. AD, 96.52 x 17.78 x 20.32 cm. © Yale University Art Gallery, USA

Miscellaneous items: Terracotta, wood, metal. Copper bells, may be decorated with motifs. Pillars, doors and other pieces of traditional furniture. Carved or moulded pipes and other terracotta objects. [42–43–44]

42. Cupreous metal bell, Sinthiou Bara, 9th – 12th c. AD, 6.3 x 0.8 x Ø 5.4 cm.
© Laboratoire de Préhistoire-Protohistoire de l'IFAN/UCAD, Senegal

43. Wooden agba (ceremonial stool) for an oba (king) with metal tacks, Edo people, Kingdom of Benin - Nigeria, 19th c. AD, 36.8 x 63.5 x 34.3 cm.
© The Metropolitan Museum of Art, USA

44. Traditional wooden door, village of Barsoloko (Moaga), mid-19th c. AD, 124 x 83.5 cm.
© Musée National du Burkina Faso



ICOM AND THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The International Council of Museums (ICOM), created in 1946 to represent museums and museum professionals worldwide, is committed to the promotion and protection of natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible. With a unique network of over 40,000 members in 138 countries and territories (2018), ICOM is active in a wide range of museum-and heritage-related disciplines.

ICOM maintains formal relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and has a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as an expert in the fight against illicit traffic in cultural goods. ICOM also works in collaboration with organisations such as INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO) to carry out some of its international public service missions.

The protection of heritage in the event of natural disaster or armed conflict is also at the core of ICOM's work, carried out by its Disaster Risk Management Committee (DRMC) and through its strong involvement in the International Committee of the Blue Shield. ICOM has the ability to mobilise expert networks in the field of cultural heritage from all over the world thanks to its numerous programmes.

In 2013, ICOM created the first International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods in order to reinforce its action in fighting illicit traffic.

The Red Lists have been designed as practical tools to fight the illegal trade in cultural objects. ICOM is grateful for the unwavering commitment of the experts and institutions who generously contribute to the success of the Red Lists.

The Red Lists can be consulted at the following address: <http://redlist.icom.museum>

With the generous support of:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

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Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Office of Culture FOC



*Union Économique
et Monétaire
Ouest Africaine*

For the "Mali Emergency" section:



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Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
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