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Fake ICOM certificates

ICOM have been alerted to a scam offering fake certificates for cultural objects.



SCAM ALERT

In return for a fee, some websites claim to provide certificates of authenticity permitting the unrestricted import and export of African cultural heritage. The certificate supposedly releases the bearer from requiring any other documents such as the title deed, export certificate and license, certificate of expertise, certificate of authenticity, etc.

These are fraudulent websites which imitate ICOM institutional website but are not operated by or authorized by ICOM. ICOM does not provide certificates of expertise, origin or authenticity. These certificates must be obtained from the relevant national Government authorities.

Many people have already fallen victim to the scam, particularly concerning Cameroon. Please exercise vigilance, with respect to relevant national and international legislation, when taking part in transactions involving cultural heritage property.

Examples of fake UNESCO and ICOM certificates published on UNESCO website <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/scam-alert/gallerie-de-photos-exemples-de-faux-certificats-de-lunesco-et-de-icom/>

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