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Against illicit traffic of cultural objects, Launch of the Red List of Cambodian Antiquities at Risk



The International Council of Museums (ICOM) has published the Red List of Cambodian Antiquities at Risk (2009), the sixth Red List in ICOM's Programme to combat illicit trafficking in cultural property.

This tool has been drawn up by an international group of experts in archaeology and ethnology of Cambodia, thus certifying the scientific value of the publication. The Editorial Committee of the Red List has selected 29 categories of objects appearing frequently on the art market, according to their material of production and a chronological scale extending from Prehistory to the post-Angkor period.

The Red List has been designed as an aid to identify categories of cultural items which are particularly vulnerable to illicit traffic. It is disseminated to police and customs

departments worldwide, as well as museums, auction houses, art dealers and collectors. ICOM appeals to potential buyers to refrain from purchasing objects coming from Cambodia without first checking thoroughly their origin and corresponding legal documentation.

Because of the intense looting that affects the cultural heritage of the Cambodian people, the Red List does not pretend to be exhaustive and aims therefore to raise broad public awareness of the irreparable damages caused by illicit traffic.

The project has been implemented with the support of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.