



**RedList**  
**ListaRoja**  
**ICOM**



RED LIST OF  
**COLOMBIAN**  
**CULTURAL OBJECTS**  
**AT RISK**



# RED LIST OF COLOMBIAN CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK

Illegal excavation of archaeological sites (*guaquería*) severs the connection between an object and its context, preventing proper identification of the artefact and diminishing its cultural meaning. As a result, the scientific study of looted sites is very limited since information essential for reconstructing ways of life has been destroyed.

Thefts from museums, churches, libraries and archives irreparably damage the integrity of collections, leaving gaps that distort the historical record.

Colombia's *National Campaign against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property* seeks to protect Colombian heritage from such criminal acts, implementing its strategies through national and international agreements. It provides both courses and on-line training dedicated to spreading knowledge about movable cultural heritage, and to enhancing its appreciation, conservation and use. It also aims to strengthen legislation, and to publish guides, posters and informative brochures. ICOM contributes to these efforts with this *Red List*.



Three thousand pre-Columbian items seized in 2004, by the Administrative Department of Security, from a U.S. trafficker living in Colombia.  
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If you suspect that a cultural object from Colombia may be stolen, looted or illegally exported, please contact:

Ministry of Culture,  
Directorate of Heritage

Carrera 8 No. 8-09, Bogotá  
Tel: (57-1) 342 4100  
E-mail:  
[patrimonio@mincultura.gov.co](mailto:patrimonio@mincultura.gov.co)  
[www.mincultura.gov.co](http://www.mincultura.gov.co)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Department of Cultural Affairs

Carrera 5 No. 9-03, Bogotá  
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[www.minrelext.gov.co](http://www.minrelext.gov.co)

National Police, Cultural Heritage  
Criminal Investigative Unit

Av. Eldorado No. 75-25, Bogotá  
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## *Introduction*

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Through several of its institutions, the government of Colombia has enhanced and strengthened the legal framework for the protection of the nation's cultural heritage. Despite these efforts, however, cultural objects, especially those from pre-Hispanic and Colonial periods, remain subject to illicit trafficking at national and international levels.

Theft, looting, and illegal trade and export are constant threats to cultural heritage preservation. The fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property is therefore a policy priority of Colombia.

Archaeological heritage, including underwater heritage, is the most endangered category, especially in remote regions of Colombia. Clandestine excavation and smuggling are responses to demand created by the international antiquities market, which has expanded recently, fuelled by Internet sales and other factors.

Other vulnerable objects are those of a religious and documentary nature, which are frequently stolen from churches, museums, archives and libraries.

Illicit trafficking in cultural property causes irreparable damage to the identity of the Colombian people and is a serious loss to the memory of mankind.

## *Purpose*

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This *Red List* is intended to help museums, art dealers, collectors, customs and police officials identify objects that may have been illicitly exported from Colombia. In order to facilitate identification, the *Red List* describes various categories of cultural items that are likely to be illegally bought and sold.

Colombian law prohibits the export and sale of these object types. Therefore museums, auction houses, art dealers and collectors are encouraged not to acquire them without having thoroughly checked their origin and relevant legal documentation.

Due to the great diversity of objects, styles and periods, the *Red List of Colombian Cultural Objects at Risk* is not exhaustive. Any antiquity that could have originated in Colombia should be subjected to detailed scrutiny and precautionary measures.

## *Legislation protecting Colombian movable cultural property:*

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### POLITICAL CONSTITUTION OF COLOMBIA, 1991

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#### NATIONAL LAWS

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Law No. 103, 1931

Law No. 163, 1959

Law No. 80, 1989

Law No. 397, 1997 amended by Law No. 1185, 2008

Law No. 594, 2000

#### REGULATIONS

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Decree No. 833, 2002

Decree No. 763, 2009

Resolution No. 0395, 2006

Resolution No. 0983, 2010

### INTER-ADMINISTRATIVE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

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*for the Execution of Administrative Functions  
to Counter Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property*

### INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

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UNESCO Convention of 14 November 1970  
*on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing  
the Illegal Import, Export and Transfer  
of Ownership of Cultural Property* (Law No. 63, 1986)

The Hague Convention of 14 May 1954  
*for the Protection of Cultural Property  
in the Event of Armed Conflict* (Law No. 340, 1996)  
and the second Protocol of 26 March 1999  
(Law No. 1130, 2007)

Decision of the Andean Community No. 588, 2004

UNIDROIT Convention of 24 June 1995  
*on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects*  
(Law No. 1304, 2009)

### BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

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Peru (Law No. 16, 1992), Ecuador (Law No. 587, 2000),  
Bolivia (Law No. 1018, 2006),  
United States of America (2006), Panama (2007),  
Paraguay (2008), Uruguay (2008), Switzerland (2010).

# RED LIST OF COLOMBIAN C

## THE RED LIST INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

(The photographs do not depict stolen objects; they serve only to illustrate the categories of objects which are particularly vulnerable to illicit traffic.)

## PRE-HISPANIC PERIOD

(16,000 BC - 1600 AD)

### Stone

Carved artefacts made of stone of various kinds and colours.

- a) **Tools** such as axes, awls/punches and grinding stones.
- b) **Ritual objects** such as necklace beads, masks and pectorals. [illus. 1]
- c) **Monolithic sculptures** of various sizes. [illus. 2]
- d) **Rock art fragments**, both pictographs and petroglyphs.

### Ceramics

Objects made of baked clay, of various shapes, functions and finishes.

- a) **Utensils** such as spindle whorls, graters, strainers and vessels. [illus. 3-4]
- b) **Sculptures and containers** of human, animal or plant shape. [illus. 5]
- c) **Ritual objects** such as decorative stamps, seals and funerary urns.

### Wood

Hardwood anthropomorphic sculptures and other objects, mainly stools and chairs, canes, needles, shuttles, sarcophagi, and swords of palm tree wood. [illus. 6]

### Human remains

- a) **Mummies** wrapped in textiles or covered with masks. [illus. 7]
- b) **Bones** found separately or in ceramic funerary urns.

Note: some skulls show intentional deformation.

### Paleontological remains

Fossils and petrified plant or animal matter. [illus. 8]



1. Zoomorphic pectoral, Tairona, 1000-1500 AD, 24 x 5 cm.

2. Monolithic statue, San Agustín, 1-900 AD, 106 x 70 cm.

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4



5

3. Container with external painting, Nariño, 850-1500 AD, 25.5 x 15 cm.

4. Bowl with internal and external painting, Muisca, 600-1600 AD, 28 x 28 cm.

5. Fragment of anthropomorphic figure (head), Tumaco, 500 BC-500 AD, 19 x 11 cm.

© ICANH



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6. Stool, Calima, 600-300 BC, 50 x 45 cm.

© ICANH



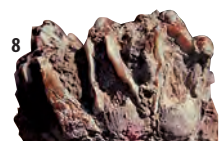
7

7. Mummy, Muisca, 600-1600 AD, 76 x 65 cm.

© Museo del Oro, Banco de la República de Colombia - Clark M. Rodríguez

8. Mastodon molar, Los Patios (North Santander), 16,000-10,000 BC, 12 x 9 cm.

© ICANH

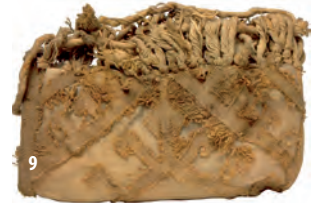


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## Textiles

Textiles with geometric designs. They mainly come from funerary offerings. [illus. 9]

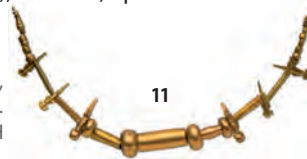
9. Cotton bag (*mochila*), Guane, 1300-1600 AD, 30 x 20 cm. © ICANH



## Metalwork

Ornaments of gold, *tumbaga* (copper and gold) and other alloys, either cast, hammered or welded, with representations of animal, human or plant shapes. They include pendants, hoops or ear ornaments, pectorals, nose rings, necklace beads, cane heads, disks, miniature sculptures, masks, *poporos* (containers for lime used in chewing coca), needles, spirals and buttons. [illus. 10-11-12]

11. Necklace with gold bird-shaped beads, Quimbaya, 500-900 AD, 23.4 cm. © ICANH



10. Gold nose ring, Tairona, 1000-1500 AD, 8.2 x 4.6 cm. © ICANH

12. Gold diadem with bird figures, Muisca, 600-1600 AD, 15.7 x 23 cm. © ICANH



## COLONIAL AND REPUBLICAN PERIODS (16<sup>th</sup> century - mid-20<sup>th</sup> century)

### Ceramics and glass

Pieces decorated with initials, captions and images of scenes or portraits; sculpted and coloured glassware. They include crockery, trays, ewers, washbowls, chamber pots, spittoons, pharmacy jars, centrepieces, lamps and vases. [illus. 13]

13. Bavarian porcelain, ca. 1850, soup tureen: 28 x 38 x 15 cm. © Museo Mercedes Sierra de Pérez "El Chicó"



### Painting

On canvas, wood, metal or ivory. Wooden frames, carved, gilded, inlaid with bone, nacre or shell.

**a) Secular images** such as portraits, miniatures, military scenes, landscapes and still-lives. [illus. 14-15]

**b) Religious images** of virgins, angels, saints and representations of Christ. [illus. 16-17]



14. Oil on canvas, by José María Espinosa, ca. 1850, 81 x 121 cm.



15. Watercolour on ivory, by José Gabriel Tatis Ahumada, 1857, 8 x 6 cm.

© Museo Nacional de Colombia



16. Oil on canvas, by Gregorio Vásquez de Arce y Ceballos, 1697, 156 x 118 cm.

© Museo Colonial de Bogotá

17. Oil on wood, anonymous, ca. 1700, 44.5 x 63.8 cm. © Museo Nacional de Colombia



## Sculpture

**a) Figures of carved wood**, articulated, undressed or with glued textiles, with polychrome floral and plant decorations. Representations of the Virgin, Christ Child, Christ, saints, and nativity figures. They may have metal masks, glass eyes and silver accessories. [illus. 18-19]

**b) Figures of plaster, marble and metal**, with allegorical and commemorative subjects. [illus. 20]



18. Immaculate Conception figure, by Bernardo de Legarda, 18<sup>th</sup> century, 64 x 20 x 38 cm. © Museo Colonial de Bogotá

19. Crucifixion, anonymous, ca. 1750, 98.5 x 74.5 x 24.5 cm. © Museo Nacional de Colombia



Plaster figure, by Dionisio Cortés, undated, 37 x 41 x 25 cm.  
© Museo del Siglo XIX - María Antonieta García Restrepo

## Documents, books and maps

Manuscripts, typed and printed documents on paper or parchment. They may be loose pages or bound, sometimes in leather or skin, and bearing the seal of the depository archive or library.

**a) Books, scores and choir books** illustrated in colour or in black and white, or without illustrations. [illus. 21-22]

**b) Maps and plans** drawn or printed, in colour or in black and white. [illus. 23-24]

**c) Documents:** folios with seals, signatures or letterheads. [illus. 25]



21. Bible, translated by Casiodoro de Reina, printed in Basel, 1569, 26 x 18 cm.



22. Book, by Nikolaus Joseph Freiherr von Jacquin, printed and illuminated in Vienna, 1763, 48 x 24 cm.

© Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia



23. Map of Pandi, Cunday and Melgar boundaries, anonymous, 1776, 41.7 x 30.8 cm.



24. Map of Colombia, drawn by J. Finlayson and engraved in colour by J. Yeager in Philadelphia, 1822, 44 x 56 cm.



25. Manuscript certificate of release of a slave, signed by the Governor of Ocaña, 1851, 35 x 23 cm.

© Archivo General de la Nación

## Graphic and photographic works

Themes are religion, everyday life, landscapes, caricatures and portraits.

**a) Plates, drawings, sketches, watercolours, illustrations and engravings** on paper. [illus. 26-27]

**b) Photography** on metal and glass (daguerreotype and ambrotype). [illus. 28]



26. Lithograph in colour, by Ramón Torres Méndez, 1878, 27 x 35.5 cm.  
© Museo Nacional de Colombia



Watercolour on paper, by Manuel María Paz, 1855, 23 x 31 cm.  
© Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia



28. Ambrotype, anonymous, ca. 1870, 7.3 x 12.5 cm.  
© Museo Nacional de Colombia

## Metals

Objects of iron, copper, bronze, silver and gold, hammered, engraved, embossed or cast; for liturgical or daily use, such as monstrances, incense burners, ciboria, chalices, sceptres, crowns, wings, rays of light, halos, rosaries, crescents, candlesticks, vessels, cutlery, stirrups, boxes, canons and bullets. [illus. 29-30]



29. Silver lectern, New Granada Workshop, 18<sup>th</sup> century, 35 x 31 x 30 cm.  
© Museo Colonial de Bogotá



30. Gold civic wreath offered by the people of Cuzco to the Liberator Simón Bolívar, Chungapoma, ca. 1825, 7.5 x 22 cm.  
© Museo Nacional de Colombia

## Furniture

Furniture made of carved and assembled wood, sometimes decorated with inlaid ivory, bone or shell. It may be upholstered in textile, leather, Gobelin tapestry or silk. It includes Spanish desks (*bargueños*), chests, boxes, sewing boxes, writing desks, mirrors, tables, chairs, folding screens and altarpieces. [illus. 31-32]



31. Writing desk, 18<sup>th</sup> century, 42 x 67 x 29 cm.  
32. Writing desk (*arquilla*), 18<sup>th</sup> century, 41 x 27 x 44 cm.

© Museo Colonial de Bogotá

## Textiles

a) **Liturgical garments** decorated with plant designs and Christian symbols, metallic and silk embroidery, and precious stones. They include chasubles, dalmatics, stoles, capes, banners and altar cloths. [illus. 33]

b) **Flags and accessories for military use.** [illus. 34]



33. Silk chasuble, 18<sup>th</sup> century, 114 x 76 cm.  
© Museo Colonial de Bogotá - Universidad Externado de Colombia

34. *Gran Colombia* flag of the Battalion of the Hussars of the Centre, ca. 1824, 73 x 78 cm.  
© Museo Nacional de Colombia

## Numismatics

a) **Coins** of gold, silver, copper and alloys, hammered or stamped, sometimes with irregular edges, marked by the mints with abbreviations such as NR (*Nuevo Reino de Granada*) and P or Pn (*Popayán*), symbols used by the Spanish Crown or representations of the Republic. [illus. 35-36]

b) **Medals** minted in different metals, commemorative of a historical event.

c) **Banknotes or State-issued notes**, of different sizes, with allegorical engravings. [illus. 37]



35. Gold coin worth one *peso*, Bogotá Mint, 1826, Ø 1.7 cm.  
© Museo Nacional de Colombia

36. Silver coin worth eight *reales*, New Kingdom of Granada Mint, 1762, Ø 3.8 cm.  
© Banco de la República



37. Banknote worth twenty-five *pesos*, National Bank, 1895, 7.6 x 18.2 cm.  
© Museo Nacional de Colombia

## Instruments and equipment

For scientific, technological and industrial use. For example, medical, optical, and weighing and measuring instruments, barometers, plumb bobs, compasses, chronometers, astrolabes, octants, sextants, scales, telegraphs and telephones. [illus. 38-39]



38. Solar sextant, ca. 1823, 33.5 x 41 x 6.2 cm.

39. Telegraph transmission model, ca. 1865, 19.5 x 22 x 5.7 cm.  
© Museo Nacional de Colombia

## 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, thanks to its Disaster Risk Management Committee (DRMC) and through its strong involvement in the international 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 curb 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 are available at the following address: <http://redlist.icom.museum>

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