



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

RED LIST OF CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK – TÜRKİYE



RedList
Kırmızı Liste

ICOM

PRESS KIT

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WHAT IS ICOM?

ICOM international
council
of museums

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) is an international organisation of museums and museum professionals which is committed to the research, conservation, continuation and communication to society of the world's natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible.

As a network of experts, comprising over 60 000 professionals in 139 countries and territories, ICOM makes recommendations on issues related to cultural heritage, promotes capacity building and advances knowledge.

ICOM is the voice of museum professionals on an international stage and raises public cultural awareness through global networks and co-operation programmes. ICOM is the only global organisation in the museum field.

ICOM TÜRKİYE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

ICOM Türkiye is one of ICOM's 120 National Committees. Founded in 1956, the committee's mission is to represent and elevate Turkish museums and the museum profession to international status.

To achieve these goals, ICOM Türkiye establishes relationships with ICOM's international committees, undertakes collaborative initiatives in the field of museums, and produces museum-related publications. It participates in decision-making processes by participating in ICOM's General Assembly, Advisory Board, and General Conference meetings, as well as organising meetings, conferences, and workshops related to museums in Türkiye.

ICOM international
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Türkiye

WHAT IS AN ICOM RED LIST?

The Red List is a key tool developed by ICOM that plays an active role in combatting the illicit trafficking of cultural property and raises international awareness on this issue. This list is not a list of stolen objects, but rather represents the type of cultural assets (archaeological artefacts, religious objects, manuscripts, carpets, sculptures, etc.) that are most likely to be stolen and are of national importance. The Red Lists are used by civil servants, law enforcement officials, as well as museum and art market professionals.



*Library of Celsus,
Ancient City of Ephesus, Izmir*



*Göbeklitepe
Şanlıurfa*

The Red List also supports the implementation of the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Emergency Red Lists are prepared in direct response to crises at national or international levels as they arise helping support the work of protecting cultural heritage. The Red Lists complement a range of resources and initiatives developed by ICOM to build museum preparedness to emergencies and thus build resilience in the fight against illicit-trafficking. These include Object ID, a standardised tool to describe cultural objects, the ICOM Code of Ethics which sets standards and guidelines for the museum profession as well as several international partnerships and projects including ANCHISE, PRISM and the International Observatory on Illicit Trafficking.

EMERGENCY RED LISTS AND RED LISTS

EMERGENCY RED LISTS

- Emergency Red List - Egypt
- Emergency Red List - Libya
- Emergency Red List - Haiti
- Emergency Red List - Syria
- Emergency Red List - Yemen
- Emergency Red List - Ukraine
- Emergency Red List - Iraq



RED LISTS

- Red List - Afghanistan
- Red List - Africa
- Red List - Brazil
- Red List - Cambodia
- Red List - Central America and Mexico
- Red List - China
- Red List - Colombia
- Red List - Dominican Republic
- Red List - Latin America
- Red List - Peru
- Red List - Southeast Europe
- Red List - West Africa
- Red List - Greece



ICOM RED LIST – TÜRKİYE



Bronze Bull Cart

Museum of Anatolian Civilizations

To date, ICOM has published Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk for many countries, including Greece, Cambodia, Central America–Mexico, China, and Ukraine. In addition to countries experiencing war or civil unrest, countries with rich heritage, such as Türkiye, can be targets of illicit trafficking and are considered "countries of origin." ICOM's Red Lists also include countries vulnerable to this risk.

An agreement was signed between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, ICOM, ICOM Türkiye and ARIT (The American Research Institute in Türkiye) on 24 October 2023 to create a list for Türkiye to prevent the illicit trafficking of historical and cultural artifacts.



Mother Goddess Statuette,

*Museum of Anatolian
Civilizations*

This guide includes images representing Türkiye's cultural heritage and lists the relevant laws protecting cultural heritage in Türkiye. It will be an important resource for museums, collectors, law enforcement, customs officials, and art market professionals. A working group of museum professionals selected the objects that feature on the List. The production of the List was finalised through work carried out in coordination with ICOM.

PRESERVING TÜRKİYE'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

Türkiye boasts a rich cultural heritage due to both its history and geopolitical position. Türkiye has been home to numerous civilizations, from Çatalhöyük to Hattusa, Ephesus to Mount Nemrut.

This multilayered heritage encompasses more than just archaeological remains; it also includes moveable cultural assets, including funerary steles, figurines, religious icons, manuscripts, and metal objects. Unfortunately, these unique artefacts are threatened by illegal excavations and illicit trafficking. The removal of these artefacts from their context is not merely the loss of an object; it creates an irreparable loss in Anatolia's historical memory.

ICOM's Red Lists aim to raise awareness for the protection of these valuable cultural assets.



Okeanus and Tethys Mosaic
Zeugma Mosaic Museum

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS IN COMBATTING THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

EDUCATIONAL AND AWARENESS-RAISING IN COMBATTING THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Türkiye regards education and awareness-raising as a primary tool for the protection of cultural heritage. Awareness for future generations is possible only through a strong culture of preservation. To ensure that this responsibility is fulfilled in a sustainable manner, education and awareness activities in Türkiye are carried out in a way that encompasses all parts of society. Projects conducted to transform the concept of protecting cultural assets into public consciousness do not address only specialists, but extend to everyone – from students to local communities.



Cultural Guardians Logo



"Did Someone Say
Archaeologist?" Book Cover



Karagöz – The
Shameless Mad
Thief of Cultural
Heritage



Artemis' Journey

INITIATIVES TARGETING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Türkiye employs creative methods to capture the interest of children and youth. Through the "Custodians of Cultural Heritage" Education Programme, awareness is raised in museums, schools, and festivals by means of games, workshops, and visual materials. Resources such as the storybook "Did Someone Say Archaeologist?", the shadow play "Karagöz – The Shameless Mad Thief of Cultural Heritage", and the comic book "Artemis' Journey" not only enable children to learn about cultural heritage in enjoyable ways, but also help build awareness of the fight against cultural property trafficking.

INITIATIVES TARGETING ADULTS

Different communication tools are employed to raise public awareness and strengthen the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property. Public service announcements reach wide audiences through television and digital platforms, while posters serve an informative role, especially in regions with limited internet access. The exhibition “No Way Out” conveys the stories of artefacts repatriated to Türkiye, reinforcing public perception of the fight against trafficking. In addition, through “Village Talks”, experts engage directly with local communities, fostering public participation in combatting the illicit trafficking of cultural property



No Way Out
Exhibition Poster



PSA Poster Cover

INITIATIVES TARGETING PROFESSIONALS

Regular trainings are organised for museum professionals, law enforcement officers, judges, and prosecutors. Handbooks help establish a common language in the fight against cultural property trafficking, while face-to-face and online programmes strengthen coordination among different institutions. In this way, both the prevention of trafficking and the capacity for rapid and effective intervention when it occurs are enhanced.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND RED LIST DISTRIBUTION

Copies of the Red List will be distributed by ICOM and its National Committee to its partners in museums and institutions, law enforcement agencies, and all customs offices. Announcements will be made to all customs offices and security units worldwide. Additionally, the Red List of Cultural Objects at Risk - Türkiye and other lists can be downloaded from the ICOM website by scanning the QR code below.



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CONTRIBUTING MUSEUMS

Istanbul Archaeological Museums
Afyon Museum
Van Museum
Antalya Museum
Erzurum Museum
Anatolian Civilizations Museum
Çorum Boğazköy Museum
Gaziantep Museum
Edirne Museum
Istanbul Hagia Sophia History Museum
Tunceli Museum
Istanbul Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum