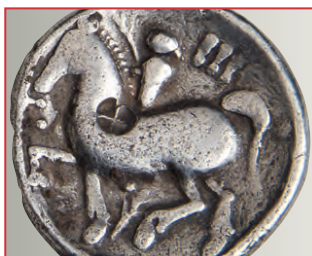


RED LIST OF SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK

October
2021



RedList

ICOM



RED LIST OF SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK



ICOM international
council
of museums

P R E S S K I T

Every day, cultural objects are subjected to smuggling and illicit trading. As these objects disappear, so do the entire chapters of humanity's history.

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ICOM (the International Council of Museums) was established in 1946 to represent museums and museum professionals worldwide. ICOM is committed to the promotion and protection of natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible. With a unique network of nearly 50,000 members in 115 countries and territories (2020), ICOM is **active** in a wide range of **museum and heritage related disciplines**.

Since its creation, ICOM has been speaking out **against the illegal movement of cultural goods**, and ICOM has used its network of experts to develop **tools and best practices** to help museum professionals protect heritage. In the event of a crisis, ICOM can also mobilise this global network of experts.

We declare ourselves strongly opposed to the illegal excavation and exportation, without the authority of the State, of objects which are considered of primary importance and of specific and unique national interest.

**Point 6, Resolution No. 4
ICOM General Assembly 1947**

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ICOM is a **major actor** and the only NGO in the expert network of six organisations recognised by the United Nations in the fight against illicit traffic in cultural goods, along with UNESCO, UNIDROIT, INTERPOL, WCO (World Customs Organisation) and UNODC (UN Office on Drugs and Crime).

In 2000, the WCO and ICOM concluded a Memorandum of Understanding acknowledging the important role Customs plays in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property. In view of our common objective, the WCO welcomes this new Red List for Southeast European Cultural Objects at Risk as another important and practical tool to help frontline Customs officers in executing controls on the cross-border movement of cultural goods.

Mariya POLNER
Senior Policy Advisor,
Enforcement and Compliance
SubDirectorate


WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

FIGHTING ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN CULTURAL GOODS



Every day, somewhere in the world, objects are either stolen or looted in order to be **illegally sold** on the market, resulting in the irreparable **loss of cultural material** of great historical and scientific value. In recent years, illicit trafficking in art and antiquities has become a **serious global security issue** which transcends borders and whose impact reaches far beyond the loss of cultural heritage.



ILLICIT TRAFFIC...



... is a very large and lucrative criminal activity.



... involves transnational illegal networks and markets.



... finances other crimes.



... generates a loss of heritage.

Object ID



Fighting illicit traffic has become a real challenge, which requires a long-lasting involvement, complementary cooperative actions and the development of **effective instruments and tools**.



Among the solutions advocated by experts, awareness-raising and control measures are essential in **protecting movable heritage**. This is why ICOM has designed the now world-renowned indispensable instruments in the preservation of the world's cultural heritage: the **Red Lists of Objects at Risk**.



FIGHTING ILLICIT TRAFFIC REQUIRES...



... awareness raising.



... strong legislation.



... cross-sectoral cooperation.



... control measures.



... practical tools =

ICOM's Red List

ICOM's RED LISTS

The **Red Lists** have become a **major instrument in the fight against illicit traffic in cultural goods**. They are internationally recognised, used and appreciated as an awareness raising and educational reference tool. Since 2000, ICOM has published Red Lists that detail categories of endangered cultural goods from all over the world. Among others: Latin America, Iraq, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Haiti, China, Egypt, Syria, West Africa, Yemen. Today ICOM has published **17 Red Lists** which cover **47 countries across four continents**.



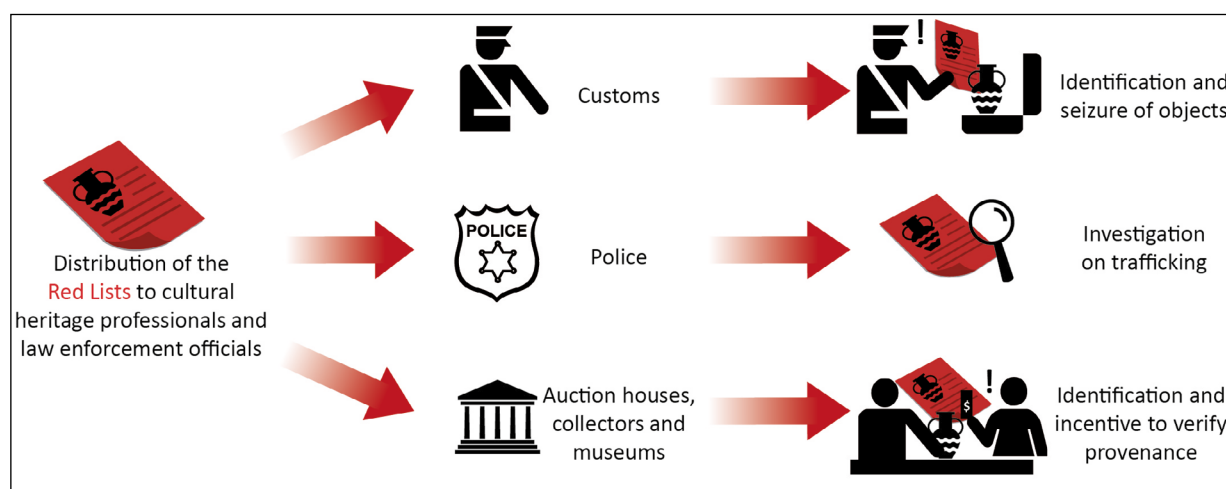
Red Lists have been published for:

Afghanistan (2006); **Africa** (2000) (which includes Burkina Faso, Chad, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria); **Cambodia** (2009); **Central America and Mexico** (2010) (which includes Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama); **China** (2010); **Colombia** (2010); **Dominican Republic** (2013); **Egypt** (2011); **Haiti** (2010); **Iraq** (2003, updated in 2015); **Latin America** (2003) (which includes Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, French Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay, Venezuela); **Libya** (2015); **Peru** (2007); **Syria** (2013); **West Africa and Mali** (2016) (which includes Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo); and **Yemen** (2018)



The **Red Lists** are **practical tools** designed by ICOM’s museum and heritage experts which aim to help art and heritage professionals, law enforcement officials, and private citizens alike, identify cultural objects that are protected by national and international legislation for a country or a region.

In order to facilitate identification, the **Red Lists** illustrate the categories or types of cultural items that are most likely to be illegally traded for a given region. **Red Lists** are not lists of stolen objects, and all images featured in **Red Lists** are of inventoried objects within the collections of recognised institutions worldwide.



ICOM distributes **Red Lists** to heritage professionals, universities, auction houses, military forces but mainly to police and customs officers. Any member of the public can download the **Red Lists** free of charge from the ICOM website.

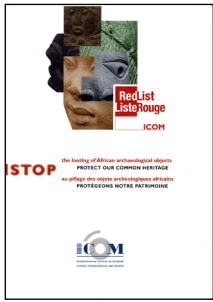
In combination with our existing tools, such as the ID-ART App and the Stolen works of art database, this new ICOM Red List for Southeast Europe is yet another tool at the disposal of INTERPOL and police officers that can help us to protect cultural heritage. ICOM Red Lists are necessary to help identify cultural objects at risk in countries or regions.

By circulating this information and awareness-raising, **Red Lists** contribute significantly to the identification, seizure and restitution of objects and the arrest of illegitimate operators.

Corrado Catesi
Coordinator, Works of Art Unit,
INTERPOL



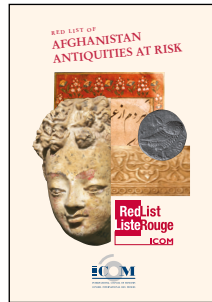
RED LISTS



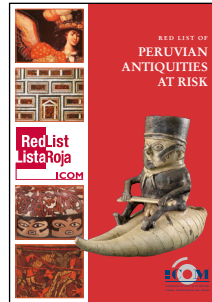
2000



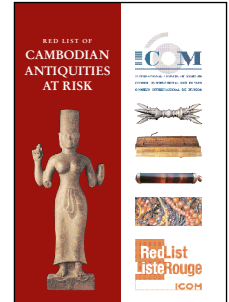
2003



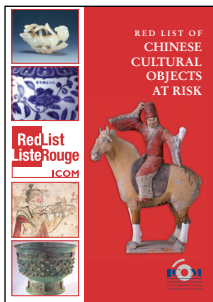
2006



2007



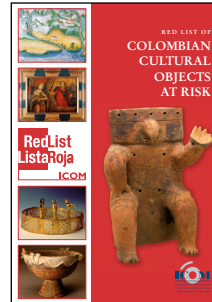
2009



2010



2010



2010



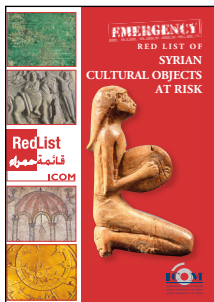
2010



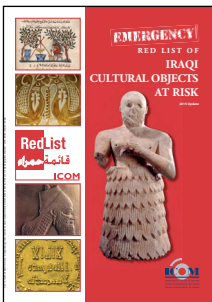
2011



2013



2013



2015



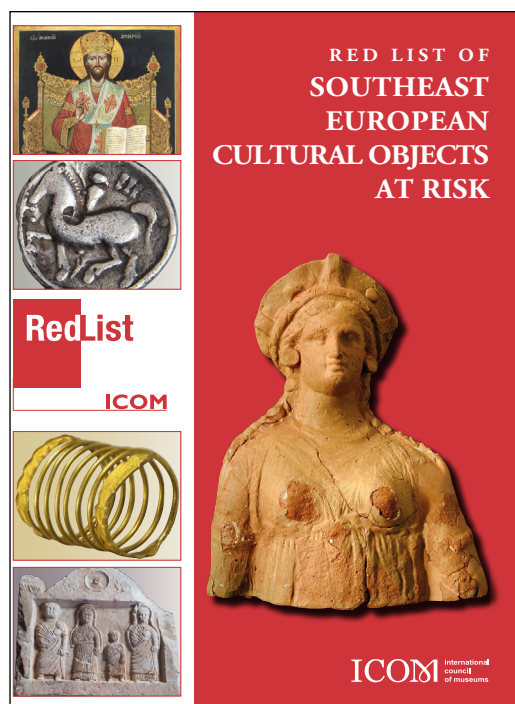
2015



2016



2018



2021

Over the last decade, the seizure and return of **thousands of stolen objects** by police and customs officials have been credited to the use of the **Red Lists**.

Recent examples include:

- [HSI Pacific Northwest investigation, CBP seizure result in transfer of 51 ancient coins to University of Washington for historical research \(19 Feb 2021\).](#)
- [The Netherlands is cooperating in the return of archaeological objects to Iraq \(6 May 2021\).](#)



Due diligence is an important process in the legal acquisition of all cultural objects, and a key feature of the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention. ICOM Red Lists are important not only because they raise awareness to illicit trafficking, but because they constitute a precious tool to implement provenance research and due diligence, just as describe in Article 4 (4) of the Convention. UNIDROIT and ICOM are long standing partners in the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural objects and we look forward to continuing our collaboration to set standards and disseminate tools to our own members and the wider public. With this new Red List for Southeast European Cultural Objects at Risk – the first ICOM Red List to focus on part of the European continent – ICOM also reminds that no region is untouched by illicit trafficking.

Marina SCHNEIDER

Principal Legal Officer & Treaties Depository



UNIDROIT

International Institute for the Unification of Private Law
Institut international pour l'unification du droit privé

PRESERVING SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

While the recent history of Southeast Europe has seen conflict and political upheaval which also led to the destruction and loss of cultural heritage, the contemporary and ongoing **loss of heritage** from the region caused by thefts and illegal excavations is something altogether different and **no country has been spared**. Despite strong national laws and enforcement, museums and other cultural institutions have been victims of theft, and archaeological sites have experienced unregulated excavations and looting.

The creation of the **Red List of Southeast European Cultural Objects at Risk** was decided following a series of **expert workshops** on the protection of cultural goods in the **Southeast Europe region**. These seminars concluded that ICOM's **Red Lists** would benefit the countries of this region, highlighting the need for **regional-level tools and actions** to combat illegal trafficking in cultural goods.

The **Red List of Southeast European Cultural Objects at Risk** was designed in cooperation with **ICOM experts from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova,**

Romania, Serbia and Slovenia, and features objects from recognised cultural institution from all these countries to illustrate the types of cultural goods under threat throughout this region.

The essential purpose of this **Red List of Southeast Europe Cultural Objects at Risk** is to contribute to the **protection of cultural heritage** by focusing on the areas most affected by illicit traffic. The dissemination of this **Red List** is also critical to the success of the project. This is the reason why the **Red List** will be widely distributed by ICOM and its National Committees, both **in print and digital format**.

UNESCO recognizes that ICOM Red Lists are a fundamental tool to fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property and to raise awareness about our global responsibility to protect cultural heritage. This global responsibility demands continuous efforts regarding training, the development of inventories, the use and improvement of existing tools. ICOM is a key partner of UNESCO and through our joint cooperation we will continue to strengthen the implementation of the UNESCO 1970 Convention.

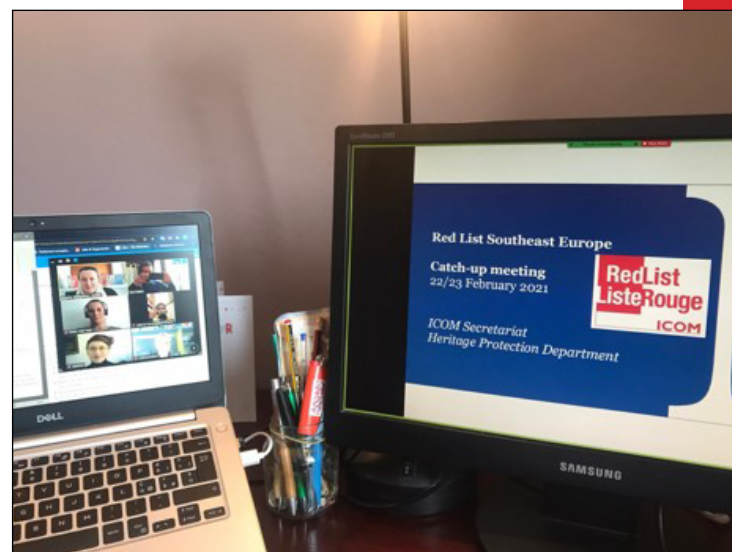
Lazare ELOUNDOU ASSOMO
Director, Culture and
Emergencies, Culture Sector,
UNESCO



FROM DESIGN TO LAUNCH

Supporting publication of a **Red List** is a **concrete action** to protect cultural objects at risk, and a **clear message** sent to the international community on the shared commitment **to preserve a region's memory and heritage**. And in a perfect indication of the expert's dedication to this project, and their united commitment to protect cultural heritage more broadly, work on this **Red List** continued online throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21.

This **Red List** features over **110 objects**, from over **40 registered cultural institutions across Southeast Europe**. This **Red List** will be ICOM's 18th **Red List**, and when translated into ICOM's three official languages, as well as other envisioned languages, it is expected to be **the most translated ICOM Red List ever**. As well as ensuring increased awareness raising, and maximising the potential to protect heritage, the translated versions of the **Red List** will also carry the logo of the sponsors who will in turn benefit from this increased visibility. The translations already confirmed in Croatian and French will be carry the logo of the following institutions that accepted to contribute to these translations:



Croatian version
Croatian Ministry of Culture



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Ministry of
Culture and Media

French version
French Ministry of Foreign Affairs



MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

The launch of a **Red List** is a high-profile event accompanied by **an important press campaign and public events**.

The Red List of Southeast Europe Cultural Objects at Risk will be officially launched online together with events in countries involved in this project.

ICOM'S PARTNERS, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE RED LIST

Copies of this **Red List** will be distributed by **ICOM and its National Committees** to our partners in museums and cultural institutions, police, and customs across the ten countries in the region. This **Red List** will also be available to download, free of charge, from **the ICOM website** (www.icom.museum).

To share information and promote this tool, ICOM can also count on its partners in this work, including **Interpol, UNESCO, UNIDROIT and WCO**.

To respond to the illicit trafficking of cultural property, Customs needs tools and know-how. This new Red List for Southeast European Cultural Objects at Risk, when deployed within the framework of the WCO PITCH training and disseminated through the specialized WCO ARCHEO platform – represents not just an important awareness raising exercise for countering illicit trafficking of cultural property, but is another practical tool that will help Customs in the field to protect heritage from looting and plundering.

Mariya POLNER
Senior Policy Advisor,
Enforcement and Compliance
SubDirectorate



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