



EMERGENCY

RED LIST OF
CULTURAL
OBJECTS AT RISK

YEMEN

RedList

قائمة حمراء

ICOM



ICOM international
council
of museums

EMERGENCY RED LIST OF CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK - YEMEN

Why a Red List for Yemen?

Armed conflict in Yemen has brought instability to the country and has caused damage and destruction to its cultural heritage. Numerous sites and museums have been affected by the fighting and archaeological objects have been reported stolen or illegally excavated. The cultural heritage of Yemen is protected by national legislation and international agreements, nevertheless, the conflict is endangering the country's cultural objects that are now at risk of being illegally trafficked.

Thanks to the support of the U.S. Department of State and the scientific contribution of experts, ICOM is publishing an Emergency Red List of Cultural Objects at Risk for Yemen in order to provide law enforcement and cultural heritage professionals with a practical tool to identify the cultural objects of Yemen most at risk, with an aim of preserving them for future generations.

Protecting cultural heritage

Museums, auction houses, art dealers and collectors are urged not to acquire objects similar to those presented in the List without having carefully and thoroughly researched their origin and all the relevant legal documentation. Any cultural artefact that could have originated from Yemen should be subjected to detailed scrutiny and precautionary measures before any transaction is conducted.

We wish to remind everyone that ICOM does not provide certificates of origin or authenticity. Only national government authorities are authorised to issue documents related to the export and import of cultural goods.

If you suspect a cultural object from Yemen has been stolen, looted or illegally exported, please contact:

International Council of Museums (ICOM)
22, rue de Palestro - 75002 Paris - France
Tel.: +33 1 47 34 05 00 - Fax: +33 1 43 06 78 62
E-mail: illicit-traffic@icom.museum

IMPORTANT NOTE

A Red List is NOT a list of actual stolen objects.

The cultural goods depicted are inventoried objects within the collections of recognised institutions. They serve to illustrate the categories of cultural goods most vulnerable to illicit traffic.

ICOM wishes to thank all of the institutions and individuals who provided the photographs presented in this Red List.

The cultural heritage of Yemen is protected by national and international laws

The cultural heritage of Yemen is protected by national legislation. Article 29 in the Chapter 6 of the law on antiquities N. 21/1994 forbids the commerce or the free disposal of movable archaeological objects. According to the article 33 and 34 of the same section, it is forbidden to export movable archaeological objects—unless a temporary permission is given by the authorities. Yemeni authorities will ask for the retrieval and the repatriation of illegally exported objects.

Yemen has also ratified the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict as well as the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Law on Antiquities N. 21/1994 Modified by law N. 8/1997

Chapter six, Article 29

It is **forbidden** to engage in the **commerce of movable archeological objects** or to **freely dispose of national cultural heritage objects**—whether or not they are registered by the Organization—or **to transfer their property** in violation of the dispositions of this law.

Chapter six, Article 33

It is **forbidden to export archeological objects**, and notwithstanding this it is permitted—by decision of the President of the Organization—to authorize the exportation of archeological, cultural or natural samples for the purpose of being able to examine them and—by decision of the Minister—to export archeological and cultural materials for the purpose of maintaining and restoring them, or to lend them temporarily [...].

Note: English translation of the law N.8/1997 taken from the "UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws"

For the complete list of Yemeni national legislation for the protection of cultural heritage and the list of conventions ratified by Yemen, visit the website of the International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods or scan the QR code.

<http://obs-traffic.museum/national-data/yemen>



Writing

Ancient alphabet, Arabic or Hebrew writings on stone or metal plates; on wooden sticks; on paper or parchment, with calligraphy or illuminations.



1. Copper alloy plaque, Yemen (Amran), 1st c. BC-2nd c. AD (probably), 31.8 x 17.8 x 2 cm. © Trustees of the British Museum
2. Limestone block, South Arabia, 1st c. AD, 30.5 x 26.5 x 11.5 cm. © Musée du Louvre, dist. Grand Palais/Thierry Ollivier
3. Wooden stick, Yemen, 3rd-5th c. AD, 23.7 x Ø 2.6 cm. © The National Museum, Sanaa

4. Hebrew manuscript, Yemen (Sanaa), 14th-15th c., 27.5 x 20.9 cm. © Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)
5. Illuminated Arabic manuscript, Yemen, 27 x 16 cm. © Dar al-Mahtutat, Sanaa

Sculpted objects

Stelae: Funerary stelae carved in stone.



6. Limestone stele, Yemen (Hadhramaut), late 3rd/early 2nd millennium BC, 80 x 34 x 13 cm. © Al-Mukalla Museum. Photo: Philippe Maillard/akg-images
7. Calcite travertine bust, Yemen, 3rd c. BC-1st c. AD, 21.4 x 16.2 x 12.4 cm. © Freer and Sackler, The Smithsonian Institution
8. Calcite-alabaster miniature stela, Yemen, 13.7 x 6.6 x 2.8 cm. © Trustees of the British Museum
9. Calcite-alabaster stela, Yemen, 3rd c. BC-3rd c. AD, 19 x 10.6 x 5.5 cm. © Trustees of the British Museum

10. Limestone funerary stela fragment, South Arabia, 1st-3rd c. AD, 31.5 x 33.5 x 8 cm. © RMN - Grand Palais (Musée du Louvre)/Franck Raux
11. Alabaster, stucco and bitumen head, Yemen (Wadi Bayhan), 1st c. BC-mid-1st c. AD, 30.2 x 18.2 x 17.3 cm. © Freer and Sackler, The Smithsonian Institution
12. Calcite-alabaster stela, Arabian Peninsula, 1st c. BC-1st c. AD, 32.1 x 23.3 x 3.5 cm. © The Walters Art Museum
13. Limestone, calcite-alabaster and gypsum stela, Yemen (Marib), 3rd-1st c. BC, 102 x 24 x 18 cm. © The Marib Museum. Photo: J. Kramer/Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI)

JURAL OBJECTS AT RISK - YEMEN

Statuettes: Statuettes and figurines representing human beings or animals in metal or stone.



14

14. Sandstone sculpture, Southwestern Arabia, 3rd-2nd millennium BC, 27 x 13.9 x 10.9 cm. © The Metropolitan Museum of Art



15

15. Bronze statuettes, Yemen (Sirwah), 1st c. BC-3rd c. AD, 10.4 x 2.7 cm; 8.9 x 3.3 cm. © I. Wagner/Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI)



16

16. Copper alloy statuette, Yemen (Marib), 1st c. BC-2nd c. AD, 21 x 28 x 9.7 cm. © Trustees of the British Museum



17

17. Yellow stone statue, Yemen, 3rd c. BC-3rd c. AD, 20 x 8.3 cm. © Trustees of the British Museum

Statues and busts: Human beings or animal statues or busts made of metal or stone.



18

18. Alabaster funerary statue, Yemen, 1st c. AD, 45.5 x 13.3 x 10.3 cm. © RMN - Grand Palais (Musée du Louvre)/Hervé Lewandowski



19

19. Bronze relief, Yemen, 1st c. BC, 67 x 70 x 9.5 cm. © The National Museum, Sanaa. Photo: Musée du Louvre, dist. Grand Palais/Thierry Ollivier



20

20. Bronze bust, Yemen (Jabal al-'Awd), 3rd-2nd c. BC, 23 x 14 cm. © General Organization of Antiquities and Museums (GOAM); CASIS Project, University of Pisa



21

21. Bronze statue, Yemen (Al Baida), 6th-5th c. BC, 140 cm. © The National Museum, Sanaa. Photo: Musée du Louvre, dist. Grand Palais/Anne Chauvet

Architectural elements

Carved stone, altars, architectural decorative elements and reliefs; carved wooden panels. Ancient inscriptions on stelae or architectural fragments of buildings.



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22. Alabaster fragment relief, South Arabia, 1st-2nd c. AD, 19.7 x 32 x 4.6 cm. © RMN - Grand Palais (Musée du Louvre)/Franck Raux



23

23. Limestone frieze, Yemen (Wadi Bayhan), early 1st c. AD, 34 x 39.5 x 27.5 cm. © Freer and Sackler, The Smithsonian Institution



24

24. Calcite alabaster corner block, Yemen (Wadi Bayhan), early 1st c. AD, 12.7 x 11.9 x 7.9 cm. © Freer and Sackler, The Smithsonian Institution



25

25. Limestone inscribed stela, Yemen (Marib), ca. AD 549, 250 x 66 x 40 cm.
© The Marib Museum. Photo: Philippe Maillard/akg-images



26

26. Limestone libation table, Yemen (Marib), 10 x 123.5 x 69 cm. © General Organization of Antiquities and Museums (GOAM); CASIS Project, University of Pisa



27

27. Alabaster slab, Yemen (Marib region ?), ca. 700 BC, 96.5 x 59 x 15 cm.
© RMN - Grand Palais (Musée du Louvre)/Hervé Lewandowski

Vessels and containers

Metal, wood, stone and clay vessels and containers, can be decorated and can bear ancient or Arabic writings.



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28. Calcite alabaster vessel, Southwestern Arabia, ca. mid-1st millennium BC, 5.25 cm, diameter of base 7.1 cm. © The Metropolitan Museum of Art



29

29. Earthenware vessels, Yemen, late 8th-late 6th c. BC, 9.4 x 12.2 cm; 7.5 x 12.8 cm. © Freer and Sackler, The Smithsonian Institution



30

30. Earthenware jar, Yemen (Wadi Bayhan), 10th-7th c. BC, 8 x 7.8 x 7.2 cm. © Freer and Sackler, The Smithsonian Institution



31

31. Copper alloy "magic cup", Yemen?, 13th c., 54 x Ø 18.7 cm.
© RMN - Grand Palais (Musée du Louvre)/Franck Raux

Coins and seals

Coins from pre-Islamic and Islamic periods. Stamps and ring seals, made of metal or stone.



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32. Gold coin, Yemen (North of Aden), ca. AD 450-500, Ø 0.17 cm.
© Trustees of the British Museum



33

33. Silver coin, Yemen © Trustees of the British Museum



34

34. Silver coin, Yemen, AD 1254.
© Trustees of the British Museum



35

35. Gold oval seal, Yemen, Ma'rib?, 1st c. BC, 2.8 x 1.8 cm.
© RMN - Grand Palais (Musée du Louvre)/Franck Raux



36

36. Red brown agate stamp seal and modern impression, Southwestern Arabia, ca. 7th-6th c. BC, 2.2 x 1.4 x 1.25 cm.
© The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Accessories and tools

Incense burners, astrolabes and lamps: Made of metal, stone or clay, of various shapes and forms.



37. Limestone incense burner, South Arabia, late 3rd c. AD, 25.5 x 18 x 16 cm.
© RMN - Grand Palais (Musée du Louvre)/Franck Raux

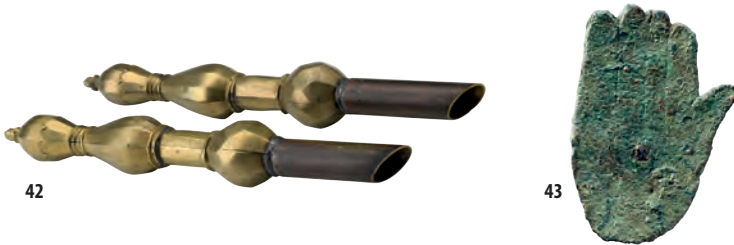
38. Copper alloy incense burner or lamp, Yemen, 1st-2nd c. AD.
© Trustees of the British Museum

39. Brass astrolabe, Yemen, AD 1291, 19.4 x Ø 15.6 cm.
© The Metropolitan Museum of Art

40. Bronze incense burner, Southwestern Arabia, ca. mid-1st millennium BC, 27.7 x 23.7 x 23.2 cm. © The Metropolitan Museum of Art

41. Copper alloy lamp, Yemen (Hadramawt), 2nd-3rd c. AD, 20 x 18.7 x 8.7 cm.
© Trustees of the British Museum

Ornaments: Metal hands, Torah sticks (finials) in different shapes and materials.



42. Brass Torah finials, Yemen, 19th-20th c., 25.7 cm.
© Carolina Center for Jewish Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

43. Bronze votive hand, South Arabia, 1st-7th c. AD?, 10.4 x 7 x 0.5 cm.
© Musée du Louvre, dist. Grand Palais/Raphaël Chipault

Weapons: Ancient metal swords and metal daggers (jambiyas) with handles made of ivory.



44. Bronze dagger, Yemen (Sirwah), 2nd half 1st millennium BC, 34.7 x 3.7 cm
© I. Wagner/Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI)

Jewellery

Earrings, pendants, rings, bracelets, necklaces and anklets made of gold or silver; can be beaded.



45. Gold pendant, Yemen (Marib ?), 1.42 x 1.31 cm.
© Trustees of the British Museum

46. Gold strip, Yemen (Marib ?), 1.21 x 4.04 cm.
© Trustees of the British Museum

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 37,000 members in 141 countries, 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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