

CULTURAL GOODS

Every nation, every country has its history and cultural goods of great artistic, historical or archaeological value, which also means they are of a considerable financial value. They are however part of a country's cultural heritage, a testimony to the evolution of a nation's identity and thus need to be respected, preserved and protected against damage, theft, clandestine excavations, illicit import, export and transfer of ownership and trafficking.

What are Cultural Goods?

Cultural Goods are all archaeological objects, parts and remains of historical monuments, ancient manuscripts, scrolls and books, artwork, collections and antiques, etc. Anything that a country considers to be part of its cultural heritage.

One of three most lucrative forms of organised crime

The demand for cultural property is causing a rise in art crime, making it more and more common. Valuable artworks, sculptures and archaeological artefacts are often illegally obtained, sold and imported into the EU from conflict zones. With a high potential of profit and a relatively low level of risk, the black market for artworks is one of the three most lucrative forms of organised crime. Paintings, statues, religious items, relics, coins, buttons, vases, books, swords and many other pieces of art are in high demand, with profits from their trade being used in financing of terrorism, organised crime and for money laundering.

As the 1954 Hague Convention states: "Damage to cultural property belonging to any people whatsoever means damage to the cultural heritage of all mankind", making the protection of cultural heritage our collective responsibility.

It might be happening right now and it might be happening in front of your very eyes. Be aware of the signs, prevent Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Goods, be vigilant and observant and help spread the word: NO HERITAGE TO GO!

#noheritagetogo



ICOM Red Lists Database



HEY, WHAT DO YOU HAVE THERE?

Fight together against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Goods



SHOULD YOU BE SUSPICIOUS?



PERSON AND TRAVEL

1. Unusual behaviour

- Is the person exhibiting an unusual behaviour?

2. Person's country of origin

- Is it uncommon that a national of that origin country arrives to that BCP?

3. People with criminal records

- Has the person ever been convicted or associated with trafficking, smuggling, theft or falsification?

4. Travel itinerary (to/via/from culturally rich countries)

- Are there any anomalies with the travel itinerary of the person?
- Is the person arriving from a culturally rich country?
- Has the person been to a culturally rich country during his trip?
- Is the person traveling frequently to same locations, specifically the culturally rich countries?

5. Destination country

- Is the person traveling to a country known for cultural trade?



ITEMS

1. List of most commonly smuggled cultural goods

- Is the person in possession of any of the following items: Coins, sculptures, ceramics, icons, books, jewelry?
- Is the person traveling from a country of cultural heritage with an ICOM red-listed item?

2. Items in possession are dirty, unclean, wet, muddy

3. Questionable documentation

- Does the person lack official documentation or a viable explanation (evidence) on the origin of the item in possession?
- Is the documentation for the item in possession handwritten?
- Does the person possess documentation which does not correspond to the items in possession?

4. Origin of items

- Does the person claim the item came from the archaeological sites, galleries or a museum?

5. Identification of known national archaeological areas

- Has the person acquired an item in a place (region, city) that does not have any known excavation sites, or culturally relevant institutions?

6. Unusual transportation of items

- Is the person's appearance or means of transportation in contradiction with the value of goods being transported (check documentation on the item if available)?
- Is a person transporting an item in an inappropriate way such as paintings being rolled-up, bagged items not being marked properly?



POSSESSION OF EQUIPMENT

1. Possession of maps, books with marked pages or sketches of an area

- Does the person have more literature (printed and/or digital) or other means of detecting cultural goods than it is usual for travellers?

2. Possession of excavation equipment

- Does the person have items such and similar to metal detectors, shovels, brushes, buckets, digging equipment, etc.?

