

4th Cultural Heritage Conservation Forum: Preventive Conservation of Collections
2nd UNESCO-ICCROM Task Force Meeting: Museum Storage Reorganization
IDEA / Caracas, Venezuela. 9-17 February 2009

A great impact on applied research and innovative approaches in preventive conservation was achieved during the 4th Cultural Heritage Conservation Forum in Caracas, Venezuela in February 2009. The forum was organized by the Cultural Heritage Conservation Foundation with the Institute of Advanced Studies in Caracas, the United Nations University Programme Biotechnology for Latin America and the Caribbean, and ICCROM. Conservators and conservation scientists from Latin America, USA, Europe, Africa and Middle East offered presentations about preventive conservation in museums and archival collections, introduced ways of education and training, but also new strategies in the preventive preservation of modern architecture. Within these field experts from Latin American countries took a leading role and the modern city of Caracas provided a unique case study.

Prior to the forum a student-workshop on reorganization of museum storages was done by Gaël de Guichen (ICCROM). The implemented methodology for storage reorganization was also the central topic for the following 2nd ICCROM-Task Force meeting in Caracas, which was generously hosted by IDEA. The goal of the meeting was to produce and improve a common methodology for storage reorganization in small and middle sized museums. The international group of task force members worked intensively on the methodology. Two pilot projects in Argentina and Iran regarding the condition survey were already started and are waiting for the next phase of designing the plan of implementation. Further evaluation will be done within this year until the methodology can be offered to the public, any interested museum or as teaching material for trainers and consultants in the conservation field.

The UNESCO-ICCROM Task Force members want to thank the hosting institutions in Caracas, especially Prof. Álvaro Gonzalez and his organizing team, for the meeting opportunity, the professional preparations, the funding and the overwarming hospitality.