



CONSERVING CULTURE
Promoting Diversity



What is ICCROM?

ICCROM is the only institution of its kind with a worldwide mandate to promote the conservation of all types of cultural heritage. We are an intergovernmental organization at the service of our member states.

In an age in which economies, cities and ideas are rapidly evolving within a globalized world, cultural heritage provides roots and a sense of identity to communities and individuals. It is the essence of what makes us human and is a part of our daily lives.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims, "Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits." Caring for cultural heritage ensures this right and promotes societal wellbeing.

ICCROM contributes to this endeavour by providing knowledge, tools and training to those who are working hard to conserve culture. We work at the international and governmental level, and with institutions and professionals on the ground. Through selected outreach activities, we aim to engage and inform new generations of upcoming professionals and the general public with an interest in heritage.

We also maintain an active, engaged network of professionals from around the world who are passionate about heritage and its protection.

We fulfil our mandate by



collecting and disseminating information



coordinating research



offering consultation and advice



providing advanced training to emerging and mid-career professionals

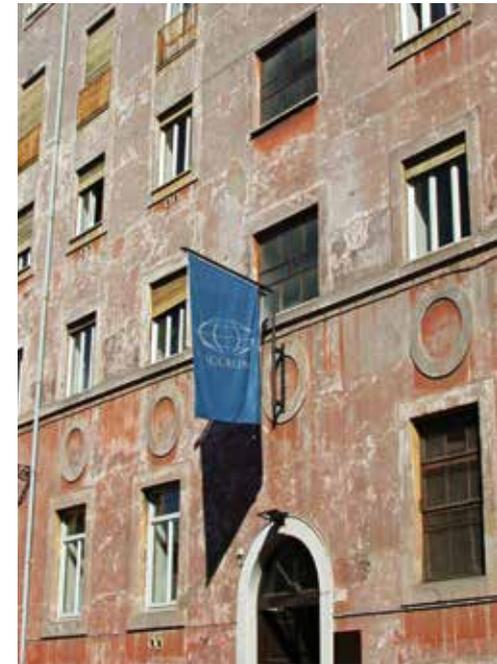


promoting awareness of the value of preserving cultural heritage



I have discovered a new dimension to conservation as an essential tool to preserve the soul of a nation.

– Visitor to ICCROM



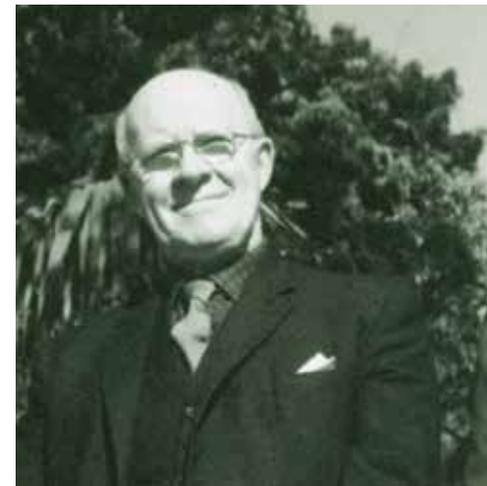
Our story

Over nearly 60 years we have built a solid reputation for responding to the needs of our member states while shining a spotlight on new trends.

ICCROM's story begins in the wake of the Second World War, where the world witnessed the mass destruction of cities and the pillaging of art and antiquities. In 1956 in New Delhi, countries came together for the Ninth UNESCO General Conference, and decided to create the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property. Their aim was to increase awareness and scientific knowledge about the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage and offer a place where specialists could come together, share their experiences, and compare and debate ideas.

In 1959 the Centre opened its doors in Rome with Harold J. Plenderleith, renowned Keeper of the British Museum conservation laboratory as its Director. Shortly thereafter, the Library was created and courses began to be offered for conservators coming from around the world.

Thanks to our distinctive international and culturally diverse approach, we are able to provide tools, methods and new insights into caring for and about heritage.





We learned not only to preserve objects but also to build bridges, between countries, cultures and people.

– Participant of our course on
First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis



Since its beginnings, ICCROM has shaped thinking in the world of cultural heritage conservation

- **ACTIVE** in the salvage of heritage in emergency conditions, from the rescue operation to save the temples of Abu Simbel in Egypt in 1966, to emergency training in Nepal following the 2015 earthquake.
- **KEY ROLE** in the drafting of international documents, charters and conventions to protect and provide guidelines for cultural heritage protection.
- **ADVISORY BODY** to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention since its creation in 1972 and actively engaged in World Heritage activities.
- **PRESENT** in every region of the world through capacity building programmes tailored to address specific needs and perspectives in common cultural and geographical areas.
- **TRAINED** thousands of mid-career professionals on a vast range of topics and issues.
- **LIBRARY** boasts a key collection of conservation literature with world-wide scope and in over 60 languages.



Our programmes

ICCROM has developed programmes for capacity building, research and the dissemination of information in these thematic areas:

Disaster and Risk Management

We play an active role in coordinating post-disaster efforts of the international heritage community and in promoting data collection and exchange. We provide training opportunities for cultural heritage professionals and humanitarian workers.

At the same time, we promote the development and diffusion of tools to safeguard collections through preventive conservation. We create tools and initiatives for reorganizing museum collections in storage and offer training on risk management and decision making.

Integrating Material Science and Technology with Conservation

We work to foster strong relationships between scientists in cultural heritage research and other conservation professionals with the aim of broader collaboration across continents and disciplines. We also promote and offer training on the conservation of specific collections and materials, from stone to paper to digital media.

Improving Conservation and Management Practices in World Heritage

As an advisory body to the World Heritage Convention, we are in a unique position to help countries improve the conservation and management of their World Heritage sites, in addition to a wider range of heritage places.

Promoting People-Centred Approaches to Conservation

Heritage affects and touches the diverse aspects of human life in many ways. ICCROM has pioneered new approaches to conserve and manage community uses of heritage: conserving the sacred, the “living heritage” approach, and assessing values of collections as a basis for conservation decision making.

Building Regional Collaboration

Regional activities focus on cultural practices, materials and problems common to geographical areas. We promote regional collaboration by highlighting common needs, strengthening networks and addressing focused conservation and heritage management strategies in depth. Every regional strategy is developed with local partners.

- We are currently running programmes in the Arab states through our regional centre operating out of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.
- We offer training and discussion fora in Asia and the Pacific regarding both immovable heritage (buildings and sites) and museum collections.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, we are creating a network of exchange for professionals.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, we currently work in partnership with the *Ecole du Patrimoine Africain*, a regional centre co-founded by ICCROM in Benin.



Our courses

ICCROM courses are an opportunity to enhance knowledge and skills in the various themes we cover. They are also a source of inspiration for participants who go back to their home countries and institutions infused with new energy. Their fresh ideas and perspectives can only come from bringing together people from a wealth of cultural and professional backgrounds and experiences.

We rely on our network of top-quality partner institutions and resource people from around the world to contribute their knowledge and expertise to our courses.

Every year, we typically organize over 10 courses in Rome and around the world, benefiting hundreds professionals in our various programme areas.

We consider our alumni one of our greatest resources. The goal of our training is for participants to return to their home countries and institutions, sharing what they have learned. In this way, our training makes for a tangible and felt impact.

Interns and Fellows at ICCROM

ICCROM offers recent graduates the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and contribute to the implementation of our programmes and services. Our internships are aimed to prepare emerging professionals from our member states for careers in caring for cultural heritage.

ICCROM also encourages senior conservation professionals from member state institutions and organizations to apply for our fellowships. Candidates undertake their own research in one of the fields of study of interest to ICCROM.



After participating in ICCROM's First Aid to Cultural Heritage course, Abdel Hamid Salah co-founded the Egyptian Heritage Rescue Team (EHRT), a group of professionals dedicated to the protection of culture in emergency situations. This group formed as a direct result of ICCROM training initiatives. When Cairo's Museum of Islamic Art was badly damaged by a nearby car bomb in 2014, this team was among the first to be called upon by the Egyptian authorities to enter the site and recover the damaged collections. Today, the EHRT is a key resource for training in emergency situations both nationally and internationally.

Knowledge and information

OUR LIBRARY

ICCROM has one of the world's leading conservation libraries, with over 100,000 catalogue entries giving access to books, reports and over 1,800 journal titles in more than 60 languages. The Library is located in ICCROM's headquarters in Rome and is open to the public from Monday to Friday, 10:00 – 17:00.

The Library offers researchers a comfortable reading room and open stacks, facilitating researchers' direct access to the materials. For those who cannot visit Rome, the Library offers distance reference by email and document delivery, in addition to an online searchable catalogue.

OUR PUBLICATIONS

ICCROM publications contain forty years of international experience on conservation and theory of practice. As we strongly believe in open access to conservation literature, we make our PDFs available for free download on our website.

OUR ARCHIVE

The ICCROM archive maintains records on ICCROM's history and role in conservation activities worldwide. It houses paper, image and audiovisual collections, available to researchers upon written request.

OUR WEBSITE AND E-NEWS

The ICCROM website provides updated and accurate information on our many projects and activities. It is also a valuable source of information on the field of conservation, including events, training and employment opportunities taking place around the world.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Our social media activities are geared towards raising awareness about cultural heritage of all types. We are constantly putting up fresh content to spark interest and foster debate about the importance of heritage, how diverse it can be and why it is important to all of us. Keep up to date with our activities and have fun doing it!

Thanks to ICCROM for having an active and fun Facebook page; it's one of the best pages out there!

– Facebook user from Australia



Have you signed up to receive our e-News?

Sign up online at www.iccrom.org/newsletter for our monthly digest of ICCROM news, course announcements and events from around the world.



get involved

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