We work to protect all forms of cultural heritage, in every region of the world.
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PHOTO: Shoreline at Senya Baraku, Ghana. ©Nipping, Creative Commons License (Creative Commons CC0)/Pixabay
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For more than six decades, ICCROM has partnered with Member States to support them in safeguarding heritage within their borders and beyond. Working at the international and governmental levels, and with institutions and professionals on the ground, the organization engages and informs new generations of professionals and the general public with an interest in heritage.

The only institution of its kind in the world, ICCROM is small and agile, enabling it to respond swiftly to the needs of its Member States. At the same time, as an intergovernmental organization with a vast network of conservation experts, ICCROM relies on formal institutional collaborations with organizations such as UNESCO, both Headquarters and Regional Offices together with its World Heritage Committee to which ICCROM is an Advisory Body; non-governmental organizations such as ICOMOS, ICOM, ICA and IIC; and scientific institutes and universities in Member States.

Those working on the front lines of heritage preservation, including scientists, conservators, museum curators, site managers, archivists, researchers and archaeologists, rely on ICCROM for its world-class initiatives in conservation training, information, research, cooperation and advocacy.

*Image: Torii gates in Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kyoto, Japan. ©trak/Shutterstock.com*
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2017 HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY
- Roundtable on Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Historic Cities, Louvre-Lens, France

FEBRUARY
- UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova visits ICCROM-Sharjah, UAE

MARCH
- ICCROM participates in G7 Culture Meetings, Florence, Italy

APRIL
- Collaboration Agreement with Ibermuseos, Latin America

MAY
- RE-ORG Nigeria Workshop, Jos, Nigeria

JUNE
- Linking Nature and Culture Course, Røros Mining Town, Norway

JULY
- SOIMA Course, Accra, Ghana

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER
- Annual Japanese Paper Conservation (JPC) Course, Tokyo, Japan

SEPTEMBER
- Kizhi Wooden Architecture Conservation and Restoration Course, Kizhi Pogost, Russian Federation

OCTOBER
- UNESCO Memorandum of Understanding, Paris, France

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER
- 30th General Assembly, Thematic Discussion on Post-Conflict Reconstruction Recovery and Community Involvement, Rome, Italy

by the Numbers

62 NETWORKING ACTIVITIES ATTENDED
2.1m€ VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS RAISED FOR 2018
21 INTERNATIONAL LECTURES GIVEN
5 EXPERT MEETINGS ORGANIZED
195 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS
28 TOTAL COURSES
36 INSTITUTIONAL VISITS RECEIVED
36 ADVISORY SERVICES PROVIDED
28 EVENTS ATTENDED IN ITALY

All statistics cited are provisional and subject to change.

PHOTO: Chinoiserie vase by Fischer Ignác (1884-5), Museum of Applied Arts, Budapest (MAAB), Hungary. Andrew Moore (andryn2006), Creative Commons License (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)/Flickr

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ICCROM’S
Added Value for Partners

Our programmes and strategy rely on strong partnerships, with common understandings and common goals. We value collaboration, and offer in exchange:

- A recognized global brand in the conservation sector
- An established reputation for quality
- A one-of-a-kind network, with access to governments, universities, institutions, civil society and our expanding alumni of heritage professionals
- Impartiality and neutrality as an intergovernmental, non-profit entity
- Innovative and up-to-date solutions
- Agility to mobilize rapidly for emergency needs
- A voice that speaks to high-level decision makers, heritage conservation professionals, local communities and the general public
- A platform for global outreach through our Member States
- A worldwide mandate for cultural heritage conservation and management, improving the well-being of societies.

In this biennium, 135 Member States have contributed to ICCROM’s mission, vision and mandate. We thank you all for your support.

Certain Member States have distinguished themselves by providing significant regular contributions, through extra-budgetary donations, or both. This support level has enabled important programmes and activities. We honour these Member States for their vital contributions, which ensure ICCROM’s continued global relevance. Their generous support benefits both the conservation community and the larger society.

We encourage more Member States to fund ICCROM’s programmes through extra-budgetary contributions. Your investments will yield concrete results by improving professional capacities and societal well-being across our Member States and throughout the world.
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LEADING CONTRIBUTING STATES

Australia
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
China
France
Georgia
Germany
Italy
Japan
Korea (Republic of)
Mexico
Monaco
Netherlands
Norway
Peru
Russian Federation
Spain
Switzerland
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States of America

LEADING CONTRIBUTING STATE
MEMBER STATE
NON-MEMBER STATE
MESSAGE FROM OUR OUTGOING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The year 2017 was my last as Director-General of ICCROM. During my mandate, I pushed to transform the organization, strengthening it to be prepared to address changing needs and future challenges of the sector. Over six years, we’ve worked to restructure our financial tools and set-up to assure that ICCROM is on par with the United Nations and other international organizations. We are debt-free, a prerequisite for resource mobilization, and our financial structure is reliable, credible and sustainable, with quality assurances. ICCROM today is an ideal partner organization because we can now interact with donors in a credible way.

We’ve reduced the fragility of ICCROM’s financial situation by implementing systems and modalities that stabilize the organization. These include collaborative conservation projects made possible by extra-budgetary contributions from individual Member States, and pooling mechanisms that permit multiple Member States, private donors or foundations to contribute to shared projects. These tools make ICCROM’s action sustainable, with the understanding that new projects are likely to be transnational, with multiple entities contributing.

Another vital step has been ensuring that activities in our Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2018–2019 are connected to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This linking of culture and care for heritage to the SDGs is key to ICCROM’s future, a future involving a joint effort with UNESCO to adhere to the SDGs more dynamically and drive messaging around the importance of culture and heritage in today’s world.

The ICCROM I leave is branching out beyond technical restoration to assume a more formal role in cultural diplomacy. This constitutes an enlargement of the organization’s mandate and an essential change in its core work. Nonetheless, this cultural diplomacy function reinforces a role ICCROM has had since its inception: encouraging dialogue between stakeholders and Member States, offering a place where challenges and solutions can be addressed frankly in a spirit of cultural diversity. This openness and inclusivity spur international collaboration and promotes social inclusion, especially in cases of shared heritage.

On a more personal note, I extend heartfelt congratulations to my successor, Webber Ndoro, and wish him well as he begins collaborating with the Member States, colleagues and partners who have made the past six years so fruitful for me. It was my intent to share knowledge and opportunities with the sector in a spirit of humility and openness. In a constantly changing world, the values of ICCROM, the ethics of the conservation profession, must remain our constant and guiding principles.

Stefano De Caro

MESSAGE FROM OUR INCOMING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

ICCROM is an organization with an outstanding reputation globally for pioneering approaches to conservation of cultural heritage. I am excited to join the organization at this critical moment in its history: sixty solid years in its wake, infinite possibilities on its horizon.

To ICCROM’s collaborators old and new, I assure you that we will continue with our traditional capacity building programming over the next few years. We will also move forward on new themes identified in the 2016–2017 biennium: addressing pressing global concerns, creating a diverse and inclusive global network, prioritizing Africa and Latin America and further transforming ICCROM for the future. To make all this possible, we must acknowledge that conservation today is inextricably linked to social and economic development and sustainability. Civil society, local communities, indigenous peoples and religious groups have all increased their engagement with activities related to the conservation of cultural heritage.

For ICCROM, this means that our training, advocacy and dissemination should embrace and promote diversity and people-centred approaches. Indeed, engaging communities and considering societal needs links ICCROM with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It also increases the number of players in conservation to include heritage and non-heritage players, state and non-state actors. The wider the community, the more inclusive the impact.

One of the most important tenets of ICCROM is to ensure that Member States feel part of our global mandate and that their needs are reflected in the programmes and our work. They own ICCROM, and with that ownership comes rights as well as responsibilities. For ICCROM to provide for our Member States, we must ensure that we are a global, expert and scientifically driven standard-setting organization, while at the same time making certain that regional issues of importance to Member States are addressed. In turn, Member States must keep us abreast of evolving realities, needs and opportunities for collaboration.

The organizational changes that my predecessor set in motion have put ICCROM on a path of growth, resilience and increased relevance. To honour those efforts and people around the globe who look to us and the larger conservation community to help preserve what is sacred, we must soldier on. It is our duty to ensure that ICCROM is an international organization whose programmes allow for continued exchange internationally while promoting the conservation of cultural heritage for peace, social cohesion and sustainable development.

Webber Nhoro
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Webber Ndoro
SECTION 1

Our WORK

Training / Knowledge / Cooperation / Public Information and Advocacy

SPECIAL FEATURES: Wooden Architecture, URBS, Culture and Communities in African Landscapes, The Value of Cultural Diplomacy

SECTION 1

Our WORK

Training / Knowledge / Cooperation / Public Information and Advocacy

SPECIAL FEATURES: Wooden Architecture, URBS, Culture and Communities in African Landscapes, The Value of Cultural Diplomacy

Training

Overview of Activities

Training heritage professionals in conservation and restoration is at the heart of ICCROM's work. The 2017 training programme was designed to meet the traditional and emerging needs of conservation professionals. This approach included a deepened engagement around RE-ORG, the methodology developed with UNESCO to help museums regain control of and protect collections in storage. And the annual International Summer School on Communication and Teaching Skills in Conservation and Science innovated new methods to teach conservation and science, moving learning from the laboratory to the everyday world.

In 2017, ICCROM and partners launched the first course of the pioneering World Heritage Leadership Programme (WHLP). The programme, devised in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Norway, aims at fortifying linkages between natural and cultural heritage. All the while, ICCROM continued delivering its signature courses on materials (paper, wood, stone), sound and image collections, people-centred approaches to conservation and disaster risk management. The ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Office forged ahead in its service to the rich heritage of the Arab region, including in areas where conflict has put that heritage at imminent risk. Taken together, these activities signal a commitment both to ICCROM's past and to a dynamic and demanding future.

Projects in Focus

Disaster and Risk Management

Workshop on Preventive Conservation Held in Teheran

On 8–12 January, 34 museum professionals from six countries gathered at the National Museum of Iran in Teheran for the International Training Workshop on the Museum Environment and Preventive Conservation. The workshop, organized by the Research Centre for Conservation of Cultural Relics (RCCCR), ICOM National Committee for Iran and ICCROM, introduced preventive conservation, strengthened regional collaboration and built a professional network to ensure protection of heritage collections.

Out of Storage with the Geneva Ethnographic Museum

The Geneva Ethnographic Museum (MEG) hosted a RE-ORG workshop on 1–2 February. Its collection – one of the largest in Switzerland, with over 70,000 items – will be transferred in 2018 to a shared storage facility. To prepare for the move, curators and administrators worked with ICCROM to leverage the RE-ORG methodology to improve use of and access to MEG collections while ensuring long-term preservation.

Chile Commits to Nationwide RE-ORG Strategy

On 13 March, more than 200 Chilean heritage professionals attended a public lecture by preventive conservation expert Gaël de Guichen entitled "Storage: A Priority Location to Enliven Museums," at the National Centre for Conservation and Restoration (CNCR) in Santiago. This event marked the launch of the Chilean RE-ORG strategy, which will be implemented over 2017–2019. RE-ORG Chile is an initiative of the Direction of Libraries, Archives and Museums (DIBAM) and CNCR.

On 13–17 March, conservators from CNCR and collection managers from DIBAM participated in a RE-ORG mentor training workshop at the Gabriela Mistral Education Museum. There they learned RE-ORG essentials along with communication and team-building. The next project phase includes selecting museums to participate in the national workshop and preparing the workshop programme and the mentoring strategy for 2018.

Iraqi Specialists Delve into Preventive Conservation in Jordan

On 9–16 July, the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Office, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office for Iraq and the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) in Iraq, launched a training course called Introduction to Preventive Conservation for Museum Collections for Iraq. Twenty-two specialists and employees of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) in Iraq participated in this course in Amman, Jordan. The course provided a systematic approach to assess, prevent, eliminate or reduce risks to collections, using locally available resources and maintaining a focus on the Iraqi context. Course activities included lectures, group exercises and discussions, participant presentations, and site visits to Jordanian museums.
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Training heritage professionals in conservation and restoration is at the heart of ICCROM’s work. The 2017 training programme was designed to meet the traditional and emerging needs of conservation professionals. This approach included a deepened engagement around RE-ORG, the methodology developed with UNESCO to help museums regain control of and protect collections in storage. And the annual International Summer School on Communication and Teaching Skills in Conservation and Science innovated new methods to teach conservation and science, moving learning from the laboratory to the everyday world.

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All the while, ICCROM continued delivering its signature courses on materials (paper, wood, stone), sound and image collections, people-centred approaches to conservation and disaster risk management. The ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Office forged ahead in its service to the rich heritage of the Arab region, including in areas where conflict has put that heritage at imminent risk. Taken together, these activities signal a commitment both to ICCROM’s past and to a dynamic and demanding future.

Projects in Focus

Disaster and Risk Management

Workshop on Preventive Conservation Held in Teheran

On 8–12 January, 34 museum professionals from six countries gathered at the National Museum of Iran in Teheran for the International Training Workshop on the Museum Environment and Preventive Conservation. The workshop, organized by the Research Centre for Conservation of Cultural Relics (RCCCR), ICOM National Committee for Iran and ICCROM, introduced preventive conservation, strengthened regional collaboration and built a professional network to ensure protection of heritage collections.

Out of Storage with the Geneva Ethnographic Museum

The Geneva Ethnographic Museum (MEG) hosted a RE-ORG workshop on 1–2 February. Its collection – one of the largest in Switzerland, with over 70,000 items – will be transferred in 2018 to a shared storage facility. To prepare for the move, curators and administrators worked with ICCROM to leverage the RE-ORG methodology to improve use of and access to MEG collections while ensuring long-term preservation.

Chile Commits to Nationwide RE-ORG Strategy

On 13 March, more than 200 Chilean heritage professionals attended a public lecture by preventive conservation expert Gaël de Guichen entitled “Storage: A Priority Location to Enliven Museums,” at the National Centre for Conservation and Restoration (CNCR) in Santiago. This event marked the launch of the Chilean RE-ORG strategy, which will be implemented over 2017–2019. RE-ORG Chile is an initiative of the Direction of Libraries, Archives and Museums (DIBAM) and CNCR.

On 13–17 March, conservators from CNCR and collection managers from DIBAM participated in a RE-ORG mentor training workshop at the Gabriela Mistral Education Museum. There they learned RE-ORG essentials along with communication and team-building. The next project phase includes selecting museums to participate in the national workshop and preparing the workshop programme and the mentoring strategy for 2018.

Iraqi Specialists Delve into Preventive Conservation in Jordan

On 9–16 July, the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Office, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office for Iraq and the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) in Iraq, launched a training course called Introduction to Preventive Conservation for Museum Collections for Iraq. Twenty-two specialists and employees of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) in Iraq participated in this course in Amman, Jordan. The course provided a systematic approach to assess, prevent, eliminate or reduce risks to collections, using locally available resources and maintaining a focus on the Iraqi context. Course activities included lectures, group exercises and discussions, participant presentations, and site visits to Jordanian museums.
Japan International Training Course and Slovenia led a two-week workshop in collaboration with disaster response professionals and institutions dealing with created a temporary location system, freed the storage corridors Ministry of Culture.

On 5–7 July, RE-ORG Croatia was launched with a three-day Preventive conservation expert Gaël de Guichen led off the heritage sites, museums and external agencies need to main - committee on Risk Preparedness (ICOMOS/ICORP) and ICOM. Additional support came from the Japanese National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH).

Workshop Supports Disaster Risk Reduction in Southeast Asia, Pacific In Penang, Malaysia on 5–6 April, the UNESCO Office in Jakarta, Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto and ICCROM held an inception workshop called Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction of Heritage Cities in Southeast Asia and Small Island Developing States in the Pacific. Designed to support disaster planning for heritage professionals, the workshop gathered 24 participants from three countries to explore strategies for heritage cities, integrating disaster risk reduction and heritage management plans. Participants are expected to formulate risk reduction strategies for their own cities within one year of the workshop.

Material Science and Technology

Kizhi Island Course Examines Wooden Architecture The training course on Wooden Architecture Conservation and Restoration was held on 11–30 September on Kizhi Island and Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia, Russian Federation. Eighteen participants from 15 Member States learned about Russian wooden architecture and carpentry traditions and were trained in monitoring and maintenance. This intensive course combined theoretical and practical sessions with participation in restoration projects at the Kizhi Open-Air Museum, Kizhi Pogost World Heritage Site.

The Kizhi Open-Air Museum organized the course in collaboration with ICCROM, the Petrozavodsk State University and UNESCO Chair of Wooden Architecture Research and Preservation, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Karelia, and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

SOIMA 2017 in Ghana

On 9–23 July, the Sound and Image Collections Conservation (SOIMA) programme’s international course on Sustaining Sound and Image Collections gathered 17 participants from 12 countries at the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana in Accra. Participants discussed audiovisual heritage and its preservation and use for creative purposes. The Institute’s J. H. Kwabena Nketia Archives, founded to study the vibrant oral heritage of Ghana, provided a case study, and a field recording exercise gave participants hands-on experience in capturing audio and video of Ghanaian music and dance groups.

At a SOIMA public symposium on 21 July entitled “Sound and Image Heritage for Creativity, Peace and Development,” eight speakers from five countries shared views on how sound and image heritage can help create jobs, promote peace and contribute to a creative society.

ICCROM organized the course with the University of Ghana, Institute of African Studies, in cooperation with the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, Ghana’s National Film and Television Institute (NAFTI), the International Council on Archives (ICA) and the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASSA).

Japanese Paper Studied at Annual Course The International Course on Japanese Paper Conservation, held from 28 August to 15 September, offered conservation professionals from ten Member States a holistic look at Japanese paper and traditional conservation techniques. Participants gained insight into traditional Japanese paper-mounting techniques and materials, as well as the principles of a course which collected in Japan, including protecting the crafts required for conservation. They also assessed the applicability of the Japanese approach, materials and techniques to non-Japanese cultural heritage. ICCROM and the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (NIRCIP) in Tokyo have organized this course annually since 1992.

Summer School Highlights Communication and Teaching ICCROM’s third installment of the International Summer School on Communication and Teaching Skills in Conservation and Science, held on 10–21 July in Rome, gathered 18 participants from 17 countries to investigate alternative approaches to teaching and learning about conservation and science, while examining existing practices. The Summer School was an opportunity for intercultural, interdisciplinary exchange with experts from across the globe and a chance to reflect on the best means to share conservation knowledge.

Mexico Stone Conservation Course Postponed

The 20th International Course on Stone Conservation in Mexico City and Chichaná (Campeche), originally planned from 9 October to 8 December, was postponed to 2018 following Mexico’s September 2017 earthquake. The course aims to improve stone conservation practice internationally by sharing insights, methods and practical approaches. ICCROM and the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) are the partner institutions for this activity.

RE-ORG Croatia Gets Started in Zagreb

On 5–7 July, RE-ORG Croatia was launched with a three-day Training of Trainers workshop for Croatian professionals. Preventive conservation expert Gaeł de Guichen led off the proceedings with a public lecture on RE-ORG.

On 6–17 November, RE-ORG mentors from Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia led a two-week workshop in collaboration with the ICOM National Committee for Croatia. The Ethnographic Museum, Zagreb opened its storage areas to workshop participants from Croatian and Slovenian museums. They created a temporary location system, freed the storage corridors and furniture from non-collection objects, and regrouped dispersed collections.

RE-ORG Croatia is organized by ICCROM in collaboration with ICOM SEE – International Council of Museums South East Europe Alliance, the City of Zagreb and the Croatian Ministry of Culture.

Japan International Training Course Examines Disaster Risk Management Cultural heritage is increasingly exposed to disasters caused by human and natural factors. Due to limited resources, disaster response professionals and institutions dealing with heritage sites, museums and external agencies need to maintain closer coordination. The international training course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage, held from 26 August to 16 September in Kyoto, Kobe and Kumano, provided 11 participants from ten countries with an overview of these issues. Attendees learned to carry out disaster risk management plans for cultural heritage and integrate them into local, urban and regional plans, using practical tools (e.g. cost–benefit analysis, value assessment, budgeting and communication methods) and reinforcing international scientific support networks nationally and regionally.

The Institute of Disaster Risk Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage, Ritsumeikan University, organized the course in cooperation with UNESCO, ICCROM, the International Council on Monuments and Sites/International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICOMOS/ICORP) and ICOM. Additional support came from the Japanese National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH).

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Japanese Paper Studied at Annual Course

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Thanks to a generous contribution from the Chinese State Administration for Cultural Heritage (SACH), every year since 2014, scholarships have been awarded to heritage professionals worldwide to participate in ICCROM’s international courses.

In 2017, 30 professionals from 25 different countries benefited from this fund, including Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Croatia, Estonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Saint Lucia, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. In total, two-thirds of those awarded an ICCROM scholarship were supported through Chinese funds.

ICCROM expresses its deep gratitude to SACH and invites other Member States to join in this initiative.

People-Centred Approaches to Heritage

Course Promotes Putting People at the Heart of Conserving Nature and Culture

On 10–20 October, 22 participants from 21 Member States explored the challenge of keeping people at the centre of conservation. The Course on Promoting People-Centred Approaches (PCA) to Conservation strengthened practitioners’ understanding of communities as a core component of heritage management. Travelling from Naples via Rome to Trento, participants shared experiences from cultural and natural heritage sectors, learning from each other and from those actively involved with communities and heritage.

Now in its third edition, this course was recently integrated into the World Heritage Leadership Programme (WHLP). Course partners included the Herculaneum Conservation Project, Mutin, the Palafitte del Lago di Ledro Museum, Parco Archeologico di Ercolano, Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Trento School of Management, and UNESCO Dolomites Foundation.

Regional Collaboration

CollAsia Course Looks at Packing and Storing Collections

Korea’s National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage (NRICH) hosted Packing and Storing Objects and Collections: Tradition and Modernity on 11–25 October in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. This CollAsia course involved 24 conservation professionals from 16 countries who explored collections storage management, taking a fresh look at material and social issues from both traditional and modern perspectives. The goal was to improve scientific literacy and critical thinking amongst professionals caring for Southeast Asian heritage collections.

The course marked the fifth anniversary of the agreement between Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA), Republic of Korea and ICCROM. The activity also benefited from the collaboration of the National University of Cultural Heritage (NUCH) and the National Palace Museum, Seoul.

ICCROM-ATHAR Develops Refresher Course Programme

The ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Office developed an Introduction to Documentation and Conservation of Built Heritage in the Arab Region as a series of refresher courses for professionals caring for cultural heritage. Five one-week training modules, held at the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre in Sharjah, UAE, addressed Architectural Documentation for Built Heritage (21–25 May); Conservation of Stone and Mortar (10–14 September); Structural Conservation (1–5 October); Principles of Conservation and Management of Historic Sites (8–12 October); and Conservation of Earthen Architecture (5–9 November).

Instruction in theoretical concepts, principles and scientific techniques combined with site visits and case studies. Participants also presented case studies of urban conservation in Aleppo, Syria, and Zabed, Yemen, and heard about a project for Cairo’s community engagement by an NGO called Al-Athar Lena (Heritage Is Ours). The course was given in partnership with the Sharjah Institute for Heritage, and under the patronage of H. H. Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah.

Tunis Workshop Looks at Funding Conservation Projects in Conflict Zones

On 22–23 March, the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Office and the Prince Claus Fund organized a workshop on project funding applications for cultural heritage protection in conflict zones, with the support of the US Embassy in Libya (currently in Tunisia). Professionals from Libya, Iraq and Yemen attended the Tunis-based workshop, where they presented projects and reviewed the main criteria for funding success. The ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Office agreed to provide consultation and technical support on project application forms in collaboration with stakeholders, especially those in Libya. This workshop also provided Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO) partners with an opportunity to explore collaboration in the observatory project utilizing the GIS Lab.

Nara Course Aims at Protecting Wooden Structures in Asia-Pacific Region

Wooden structures in the Asia-Pacific Region are of great value, and safeguarding them requires proper investigation, analysis and preservation by heritage professionals. The Training Course on Cultural Heritage Protection in the Asia-Pacific Region 2017: Preservation and Restoration of Wooden Structures, held from 29 August to 28 September in Nara, Japan, offered 18 participants from 14 countries a range of skills-based techniques as well as guidelines for maintenance, use and risk management. The course was jointly organized with the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU); the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan (Bunkacho); and National Research Institute for Cultural Properties in Tokyo and Nara. Also collaborating were the Japanese Association for Conservation of Architectural Monuments (JACAM); Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (JICAM-Heritage); and the CollAsia Programme of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO; Prefectural Government of Nara; and City Government of Nara.

Capacity Building Workshop Focuses on Nature-Culture Linkages

On 15–26 September, 21 participants from 19 countries gathered in Tsukuba, Japan, to explore nature-culture linkages in sacred landscapes, considering the cultural values of natural areas and the cultural practices of sacredness as tools for conserving cultural and natural heritage. They shared experiences with local managers and residents in sacred areas and sites, helping establish networks among heritage practitioners in the region. Participants also made recommendations for conserving sacred landscapes in the Asia-Pacific Region following a nature-culture approach. The World Heritage Studies and the Certificate Programme on Nature Conservation (CPNC) at the University of Tsukuba organized the course in cooperation with UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN.
World Heritage

Linking Nature and Culture in Norway

On 6–16 June, the International Course on Linking Nature and Culture in World Heritage Site Management took place at Røros Mining Town and the Circumference World Heritage Site in Norway. This groundbreaking course is a key component of the new World Heritage Leadership Programme (WHLP). Twenty participants from 20 countries covered topics ranging from the evolution of conservation concepts to techniques and tools used in managing heritage sites. This course was the first major activity of the WHLP and brought together practitioners from the cultural and natural heritage sectors. ICCROM, IUCN, ICOMOS and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre implemented the course in collaboration with Norwegian partners and with financial support from the Swiss Federal Office of Culture.

Participants Study World Heritage Site Management in China

The World Heritage-listed Cultural Landscape of Honghe Hani Rice Terraces was the location of the Course on Management and Monitoring of World Heritage Sites with Special Reference to China on 14–25 August. Seventeen participants from ten countries learned about current thinking, trends and approaches to managing cultural and natural World Heritage properties, with a focus on monitoring. ICCROM and the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage organized the course at the invitation of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) for professionals working at World Heritage sites in China and for international participants selected by ICCROM and funded by SACH.

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Wooden Architecture: Learning from Ancestors, Preserving for Descendants, Training Contemporaries

An Interview With Olga Titova, Head of the Unit for the Kizhi Pogost Management and Development

What is the tradition of wood architecture in the Russian Federation? How were traditional woodworking techniques transmitted?

In Northern Russia from ancient times, the main building material was wood. Houses, churches and even whole cities were built of wood. There was a “Wooden Russia,” all built by axe. Architectural forms and structures gradually developed over time, but the main carpentry techniques were preserved and transferred from generation to generation. Many historical centers and churches evolved the role of carpenters, and in fact, all men were skilled with an axe and other carpentry tools. It was knowledge passed from father to son.

This process of father–son skills transfer started to wane at the onset of the 20th century, as greater use was made of building materials such as stone or iron. Village teams tried to maintain these woodworking traditions as long as possible, but by the middle of the 20th century, as cities increasingly absorbed rural populations, life in small villages began to fade in importance and these skills truly started to be lost.

Starting with the 21st century there was a new appreciation for these traditional woodworking techniques, which began a revival. Old agreements on building certain magnificent buildings in the traditional way. It has been recognized that traditional wooden architecture is highly sustainable, with many advantages over modern materials. But in order to conserve traditional wooden construction, it is necessary to master carpentry skills. Therefore, for many years the Kizhi museum specialists have been carefully reviving, preserving and using traditional carpentry techniques, working closely with local inhabitants who remember these skills.

What made the Kizhi course so successful and special?

It’s difficult to pinpoint the recipe for a successful course. For us it depended on good course design and careful planning. We thought through the aims and objectives and then planned carefully how to achieve the most important points. Of course, we had to be selective. It was important to keep everyone’s attention and interest all the time, so we arranged different types of activities and tried to alternate lectures with practical sessions, workshops on tools, site visits and case studies.

It’s also important to note the 18 course participants, who came from 15 countries from around the world – although many participants had lived in two or three countries, so it became difficult to count countries! They all had their own experiences and professional backgrounds to share, not only in their individual presentations but throughout the course as well. This led to rich exchanges amidst a full immersion in historic wooden carpentry traditions.

But there was another aspect, and it was the unique, mystical environment of Kizhi Island, where the course took place. It’s a remote, closed environment, a very special atmosphere. There was no need to explain about the beauty and harmony of the architecture and landscape because the participants could see and feel it for themselves. It’s also a harsh environment, far from all usual comforts. But though we planned as best we could for their well-being, the group took the inevitable deprivations and inconveniences with humour, in an easy, fun and friendly way that helped them bond quickly.

They say that Kizhi Island either accepts or does not accept a person. Those accepted become rooted in this place; if not, they remain strangers and quickly leave. I feel that the island accepted all our close-knit course, and it could not help but touch each one of them. I hope not only that they will keep and share the knowledge they got from the course but also that they will cherish their memories of Kizhi Island and the Russian North for all their lives.

SPECIAL FEATURE No.1
Wooden Architecture: Learning from Ancestors, Preserving for Descendants, Training Contemporaries

An Interview With Olga Titova, Head of the Unit for World Heritage Site "Kizhi Pogost" Management and Development

ICROM: Dr Titova, what is the importance and significance of the Kizhi site?

Olga Titova: The site of Kizhi Pogost is located on Kizh Island, one of many islands in the middle of Lake Onega in the Republic of Karelia, northern Russia. It is an architectural ensemble, including two multi-domed churches, a bell tower and wall. Its Church of the Transfiguration, a beautiful 22-domed church dating to the 18th century, is considered a masterpiece of Russian wooden folk architecture. This church has the same significance for wood architecture as the stone-built Saint Basil’s Cathedral, located Moscow’s Red Square near the Kremlin. Both sites were inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 1990. This inscription helped spread awareness of the importance of Kizhi Pogost and its uniqueness to the whole world. As an instance of a masterpiece of Russian wooden folk architecture, this church has the same significance for wood architecture as the stone–built Saint Basil’s Cathedral, located Moscow’s Red Square near the Kremlin. Both sites were inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 1990. This inscription helped spread awareness of the importance of Kizhi Pogost and its uniqueness to the whole world.

What is the tradition of wood architecture in the Russian Federation? How were traditional woodworking techniques transmitted?

In Northern Russia from ancient times, the main building material was wood. Houses, churches and even whole cities were built of wood. There was a “Wooden Russia,” all built by axe. Architectural forms and structures gradually developed over time, but the main carpentry techniques were preserved and transferred from generation to generation. Many historical commentaries chronicle the role of carpenters and in fact, all men were skilled with an axe and other carpentry tools. It was knowledge passed from father to son.

What is the impact of the natural setting on this cultural site?

Kizhi Pogost as an architectural complex was built in balance with the surrounding landscape, including the lake, the archipelago, numerous villages, fields and sky. The site contains the Kizhi architectural ensemble and many satellite chapels, all built in the same way and using the same principles. The chapels were built as if they had grown or emerged naturally in this place, soaring swiftly into the sky, or situated within a golden sea of ripening rye, or as if hidden amidst the shaggy branches of fir trees. The church’s placement amidst natural features such as trees or the lakeshore conveyed a sense of harmony with the landscape, and even the decorative elements recalled natural forms such as birds, leaves and flowers. As if to say this chapel could be placed anywhere else but here, and no other chapel could appear exactly here.

The peasant community decided themselves on the place to build the church and how it should look. And it was they who commissioned the community that invited a team of carpenters to construct it. In fact, they came to a written agreement in advance, even down to the decorative elements. For the Church of the Transfiguration this written agreement has been lost, but it still exists for other churches. The agreement included the detailed description of the future church and would have spelled out all the responsibilities both of the community commissioning the church and of the local craftsmen for construction and maintenance. The agreement would have stated that the church had to be well built, and also beautiful and in harmony with its surroundings. The church can thus be seen as the masterpiece of our local craftsmen and a testament to their talent and sensitivity to beauty.

What made the Kizhi course so successful and special?

It’s difficult to pinpoint the recipe for a successful course. For us it depended on good course design and careful planning. We thought through the aims and objectives and then planned carefully how to achieve the most important points. Of course, we had to be selective. It was important to keep everyone’s attention and interest all the time, so we arranged different types of activities and tried to alternate lectures with practical sessions, workshops on tools, site visits and case studies.

It’s also important to note the 18 course participants, who came from 25 countries from around the world – although many participants had lived in two or three countries, so it became difficult to count countries! They all had their own experiences and professional backgrounds to share, not only in their individual presentations but throughout the course as well. This led to rich exchanges amid a full immersion in historic wooden carpentry traditions.

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Knowledge

Overview of Activities

ICCROM is known for its distinctive body of knowledge amassed over six decades of operations around the world. The knowledge spans from site-specific understanding to sector trends to analysis, informed by everything in between. In 2017, ICCROM ensured that this learning, no matter its format, should be harnessed, packaged and disseminated as widely as possible for the conservation community.

In 2017, ICCROM produced a rich collection of print and e-publications covering a range of geographical zones and relevant topics. It organized international fora for exchanging ideas and forged new partnerships through which shared insights could emerge. The ICCROM Library continued to increase digital access to resources for conservators and researchers while supporting on-site visitors and off-site requests. And the Archive received contributions that bolstered its collection and contributed to important collaborations and public exhibitions.

ICCROM’s research work has intensified as more and different questions arise regarding the nature and value of heritage science, its intersections with other disciplines and its influence on conservation practice. As the conversation around heritage preservation evolves, ICCROM is ready to contribute ideas, develop resources, and move research into learning and practice.

Projects in Focus

Workshops, Meetings and Lectures

New EU Alliance for Cultural Heritage Designing for Research Impact

On 29–31 March in Florence, Italy, ICCROM participated in the International Workshop towards a European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science (E-RIHS), and the E-RIHS Preparatory Phase Kick-off and Steering Committee Meetings, in collaboration with National Research Council (CNR) and other institutional partners. Established with European Commission funding, E-RIHS is a pan-European distributed research infrastructure offering expertise in use of state-of-the-art instrumentation, innovative investigation methodologies and access to scientific data. Researchers from the humanities, natural sciences and engineering are uniting through E-RIHS to develop the emerging discipline of heritage science.

At the workshop, a side event to the G7 Culture Ministerial Meetings, then Director-General Stefano De Caro, outlined his vision for a global heritage science infrastructure. Delegates from Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Portugal and the United Kingdom then presented their countries’ initiatives to organize laboratories and research units into national nodes for E-RIHS.

ICCROM’s participation builds on the work of its 2013 Forum on Conservation Science and extends the network’s reach outside the European Union to transform E-RIHS into a global research institution.

Seminar Considers Historic Cities of the Gulf, Post-Oil

On 10–11 May in Sharjah and Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Office organized the Post-Oil Gulf Historic Cities symposium in cooperation with the Government of Sharjah and the Department of Architectural Heritage and Archaeology of Dubai Municipality. Historic cities in the Gulf region have experienced accelerated urban evolution due to oil production and economic liberalization. Comparing them with cities without oil resources allowed for an assessment of how oil affects development, growth and prosperity. Participants provided their own visions for preserving the importance of cultural heritage in both pre- and post-oil eras. Organizers anticipate publishing the seminar proceedings.

Inclusive Research Design Explored in Workshop

ICCROM coordinated a workshop during the Third International Conference for Science and Engineering in Arts, Heritage and Archaeology on 19-20 June at the University of Brighton in the United Kingdom. The workshop focused on aspirations for inclusive research design. Participants also explored diversity and building strong collaborative partnerships beyond academia for heritage research and preservation. Panelists from University College London, University of Brighton, the National Trust, BBC Radio 4 and ICCROM shared perspectives on the current role of research, their vision for heritage science and pragmatic goals for future knowledge production and sharing.
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ICCRom Contributors to Science Lectures
On 28 August, ICCROM staff presented at the annual summer doctoral school organized by the School of Forensic Science and Criminology at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. The talk covered perceptions of research impact, enablers and impediments to research participation; open science and inclusivity in research; engaging stakeholders; diverse expectations of research collaborations; and modes of sharing knowledge. The lecture highlighted points of commonality between heritage and forensic sciences.

Measuring Culture for the SDGs
On 7–8 September in Paris, ICCROM staff attended the UNESCO Expert Workshop on Measuring Culture for the Strategic Development Goals (SDGs), which gathered around 80 experts in culture, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, cultural economics and statistics. Participants explored the lack of data and indicators regarding culture, and the pressing need for the culture sector to provide evidence of its contribution to sustainable development. ICCROM and UNESCO are collaborating on this need through UNESCO’s Culture for Development Indicator Framework and ICCROM’s Tracking Trends programme.

Session Explores Strategies to Support Heritage within Research
On 28–29 September in Vilnius, Lithuania, ICCROM and the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO co-organized the Think Tank Meeting on Supporting Heritage Practice as a Strategic Priority within Research. The gathering explored ways to improve the visibility and impact of projects funded by the Joint Programming Initiative for Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPI CH). ICCROM staff presented evidence from their own research to assess the current state of the heritage science sector and its research impact. ICCROM is also contributing to a statement summarizing the meeting’s findings and recommendations for circulation amongst JPI Country Members and ICCROM’s professional network.

Library and Archives
Increasing Accessibility of Mora Samples
ICCRom holds a valuable collection of material samples donated by Paolo and Laura Mora, internationally renowned conservators who coordinated ICCROM’s Mural Painting Conservation course. The Mora collection comprises about 1 400 material samples from heritage sites in 32 countries where, in many cases, the taking of samples is now prohibited. Today these samples could be reused applying non-destructive analytic techniques. In June, ICCROM released a request for proposals to rearrange, describe and properly rehouse the collection and make it widely accessible. Implementation began on the selected proposal in early 2018.

Rome Exhibition Promotes Photographic Collections
The ICCROM Archives participated in two initiatives around photography in 2017. On 16 May, the exhibition Alfabeto Fotografico Romano opened at Palazzo Poli in Rome. The exhibition, organized by the Italian Central Institute for Cataloguing and Documentation (ICCD) and National Institute for Graphic Design, gathered a selection of significant photographs held in the archives of 30 Rome-based cultural institutions, including ICCROM.

The ICCROM Archives also participated in a census of photographic collections and archives in Italy made available online on 20 May. The census, coordinated by ICGD with Camera – Italian Centre for Photography, and with the support of the General Directorate for Contemporary Art, Architecture and Urban Peripheries, is a unique access point for sharing, consulting and studying photo collections; facilitating policies for protection and use; and enhancing the visibility of individual archives, especially those with limited resources.

Rockwell Donation Expands Stonework Research Resources
In September 2017, Peter Rockwell, noted sculptor and specialist in historic stone carving, made a significant donation of research materials to the ICCROM Library and Archive. The gift included five linear meters of publications and drawings of Trajan’s column in Rome, taken during the restoration carried out in 1981–1988 and documenting all the column reliefs in exceptional detail. A Home in Italy for BCIN?
During 2017, ICCROM helped develop a proposal to bring the Bibliographic Database of the Conservation Information Network (BCIN) to Italy. ICCROM is a founding member of BCIN and contributes the largest number of bibliographic records to that resource – currently over 100 000 in a network of institutions that shares some 200 000 bibliographic records for conservation research. The current BCIN system and interface hosted in Canada has served the conservation community well for many years; however, it needs to be migrated to an updated, preferably open-source, platform to provide modern functionalities. ICCROM has submitted a technical and economic proposal to host the BCIN database in Rome, in an envelope making use of open-source VuFind technology. The envelope offers an easy-access portal that permits partners to consult and track usage statistics. The proposal is currently under consideration by the BCIN governance board.

ICCRom Library Supports In-Depth Research
During 2017, the ICCROM Library received 1 380 researchers in its reading room, accessioned 946 books and periodicals, created 1 714 catalogue records, replied to 115 email reference requests and filled 204 document orders. The Library has continued sharing bibliographic records with the URBIS network of Rome-based foreign academy libraries. Additionally, work was begun to develop library services at the ICCROM-AXFAR Regional Conservation Centre, including acquisitions and cataloguing for a core collection at the Centre, and developing a catalogue interface in Arabic. This project is ongoing in 2018.

Archive Maintains Memory of ICCROM
From January to October, the ICCROM Archive carried out records management for active and semi-active digital records and undertook accessioning, inventory and preservation activities with ICCROM’s historical records. The Archives received 18 external researchers and managed 99 requests for documents, including drawings, images, audiovisual materials and material samples.

Throughout 2017, the Archive participated in a project on the impact of the Italian legal framework for cloud computing on electronic recordkeeping and digital preservation system, within the framework of the International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems (InterPARES) Trust. Collaborating on the project are the Italian InterPARES Trust partners, including the Sapienza University of Rome – DigiLab, University of Udine, Regione Toscana, Regione Emilia Romagna and the Italian Securities and Exchange Commission (CONSOB).

Publications
Prioritizing Preservation through Risk Management
Thanks to investigations of risk management in fields such as health and finance, and to more than a decade of international training and case studies, ICCROM and the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) have developed an innovative methodology now available for free download in two complementary publications. The ABC Method – A Risk Management Approach to the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (in English and French) offers a comprehensive understanding of risk management applied to heritage preservation. A Guide to Risk Management of Cultural Heritage (Arabic, English, Portuguese and Spanish) helps heritage professionals apply
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Emergency Evacuation Manual Now in Arabic, Nepali

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Newly Revised RE-ORG Method Shared in English, French

ICCRoM and the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) are pleased to introduce a revised edition of RE-ORG: A Method to Reorganize Museum Storage, a simple methodology that is flexible and easy to navigate. This three-part package contains all the essentials: a workbook with step-by-step instructions that apply to most projects, worksheets and templates to help document the existing situation, and additional resources to help in optimizing the project.

ICCRoM-ATHAR Expands Selected Readings Series

Selected Readings from ICCROM-ATHAR provides a wide range of literature for professional and academic audiences, focused on the Arab region and aimed at promoting dialogue and bridging gaps in available knowledge resources.

The first volume in the series is a reprint of Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the Arab Region: Issues in the Conservation & Management of Heritage Sites (in English and Arabic), a collection of contributions from ICCROM-ATHAR Core Regional Course instructors. Subjects range from theoretical approaches to conserving cultural heritage sites to implementing techniques and management approaches for safeguarding immovable heritage.

Another publication, Conservation of Historic Buildings in Muharraq (Arabic), addresses building materials in the Gulf, using Muharraq, Bahrain, as a case study. Author Salman Al Mahari discusses methods ranging from mortar analysis to treatment of masonry structures that could be utilized in conservation.

Approaches to the Conservation of Islamic Cities – The Case of Cairo (English) reviews the conservation history of the historic city of Cairo to offer guidelines for cultural heritage professionals. Author Hossam Mahdy applies a range of conservation solutions to resolve the hypothetical conservation of a medieval Islamic gate structure in a modern city setting. The exercise helps specialists evaluate options in full awareness of the cultural and other assumptions that underpin conservation decisions.

Protecting Cultural Heritage in Times of Conflict (Arabic) is a compilation of expert knowledge and field experience. It aims to equip cultural heritage professionals with tools to manage challenges to cultural heritage arising from the critical socio-political situation of the Arab region.

Intended for primary school teachers, Introducing Young People to the Protection of Heritage Sites and Historic Cities (reprint) raises awareness about conserving cultural heritage in the Arab region, underlining the threats facing that heritage today. Though targeted mainly at pupils aged 9–12, the guide contains information, ideas and activities to help teachers introduce heritage conservation to all school-age groups. This is the first manual of its kind to provide reference material for teachers focusing on cultural site protection, for both archaeological sites and historic towns.

Asian Buddhist Heritage: Conserving the Sacred

Asian Buddhist Heritage: Conserving the Sacred (ICCRoM-CHA Conservation Forum Series 1) focuses on Buddhist heritage sites throughout Asia. It considers how Buddhist philosophy shapes the definition of cultural heritage and its preservation. This collection of papers presented in 2012 at a forum in Seoul, Republic of Korea, jointly organized by ICCROM and CHA, is the first installment of a five-book series that will cover some of the most pertinent topics in cultural heritage preservation and management in Asia.

Unlocking Sound and Image Heritage Available Online

SOIMA: Unlocking Sound and Image Heritage is a web-based, freely downloadable book offering advice on the preservation and creative use of sound and image heritage. It features compelling case examples and strategies developed in evidence-based research.

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Arabic Translation of Preserving Heritage Collections Poster

The ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Office helped translate the CCI poster Framework for Preserving Heritage Collections into Arabic. An invaluable resource for staff at heritage institutions, the poster describes agents of deterioration and the threats they pose to museum collections, and it offers practical advice on preventive measures.

New Guidelines for Restoration and Conservation of Emirati Cultural Heritage

After organizing a workshop with representatives from all Emirates, the National Council for Tourism and Antiquities (NCTA) agreed to research and develop General Guidelines for the Restoration and Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the UAE. In cooperation with NCTA, the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre drafted the guidelines. More detailed instructions on restoring, rehabilitating and conserving cultural heritage in the UAE are forthcoming in 2018.
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URBiS: 
Sharing Library Resources 
for Research in Rome

An Interview with Clément Pieyre, Library Manager at the 
École française de Rome

ICCRoM: Mr Pieyre, thank you for speaking with us. 
Could you please explain what URBiS is?

Clément Pieyre: URBiS is a shared library catalogue that pools the holdings of twenty-three foreign research libraries in Rome, including EFR and ICCROM. It is a growing library network and a discovery tool that points users to a range of digital resources. The tool is flexible and makes bibliographic records easy to search.

Why is the URBiS network important?

To answer your question, we have to look to the past. Researchers worldwide are fascinated by Rome’s history, which branches out into the history of Italy, Europe, the Mediterranean, the Classical world and the foundations of the modern era. Countries including France had an interest in establishing academies here to provide research opportunities to scholars. Many did so in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Over many years, these academies amassed important libraries and grey literature collections. As the libraries grew, they themselves became valuable as heritage assets, drawing ever-greater numbers of researchers.

What role does the URBiS catalogue play?

Though each library in the URBiS network has strengths, no single one can contain everything. At the EFR, our collections arestrong in history and archaeology of the Western Mediterranean, Italian history, including Papal history, and Roman law up to the 19th century. Yet if a researcher is interested in mosaics conservation, the EFR librarian – or the researcher – can check URBiS and find that the ICCROM Library is ideal for studying mosaics. It’s not necessary to locate and search in twenty-three different catalogues – one catalogue interface will do. Researchers lucky enough to have a study visit in Rome can plan their research in advance and maximize their time.

How is French research served by participating in URBiS? What role does the EFR play in France’s cultural diplomacy?

As a French library located in Italian territory, the EFR holds a special status. It offers access to Italian and other collections not present in libraries in France. Furthermore, the EFR library and publishing wing serve to showcase French research in Rome. French academic output on history, archaeological excavations, the Church, etc. is represented at the EFR and visible to a foreign readership.

In terms of French cultural diplomacy, the EFR is part of a wider international network of foreign French academies administered by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research, which ensures high-level research and exchange.

Are there any upcoming new developments for the URBiS platform?

URBiS is expanding, as more foreign academies in Rome join the network. Additionally, URBiS is expanding its potential to share digital resources. Many URBiS institutions are scanning and posting historic photographs, manuscript correspondence and archival documentation. The EFR intends to follow suit, subject to the approval of its Ministry, which holds jurisdiction over all the EFR documentation.

In addition to URBiS, ICCROM will soon collaborate with the EFR on the North African Heritage Archives Network (NAHAN) project. Tell us about that.

Any archaeological excavation gives rise to both a technical archive – photographs and site plans, for example – and an administrative archive, the behind-the-scenes business files that document excavation permits, the process of expert selection, etc. To understand the story of an excavation, you have to review the correspondence, to look at who excavated there, and why.

The NAHAN project will digitally unify archives relating to North African archaeological excavations. Such documentation can become dispersed over time and risks being lost. Yet it is indispensable to understanding the past conditions of archaeological sites, in order to better preserve them today.

A necessary step before scanning is to identify and localize these archives, which have a tendency to become detached due to shifts in institutions, rules, jurisdiction and ownership. The NAHAN proposal highlights the value that scanning has – to help virtually reunite collections and archives that have become unlinked due to the vagaries of history and to make them accessible to everyone.
URBiS: Sharing Library Resources for Research in Rome

An Interview with Clément Pieyre, Library Manager at the École française de Rome

ICCRoM: Mr Pieyre, thank you for speaking with us. Could you please explain what URBiS is?

Clément Pieyre: URBiS is a shared library catalogue that pools the holdings of twenty-three foreign research libraries in Rome, including EFR and ICCROM. It is a growing library network and a discovery tool that points users to a range of digital resources. The tool is flexible and makes bibliographic records easy to search.

Why is the URBiS network important?

To answer your question, we have to look to the past. Researchers worldwide are fascinated by Rome’s history, which branches out into the history of Italy, Europe, the Mediterranean, the Classical world and the foundations of the modern era. Countries including France had an interest in establishing academies here to provide research opportunities to scholars. Many did so in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The École française de Rome (EFR) was founded in 1875. Over many years, these academies amassed important libraries and grey literature collections. As the libraries grew, they themselves became valuable as heritage assets, drawing ever-greater numbers of researchers.

What role does the URBiS catalogue play?

Though each library in the URBiS network has strengths, no single one can contain everything. At the EFR, our collections are strong in history and archaeology of the Western Mediterranean, Italian history, including Papal history, and Roman law up to the 19th century. Yet if a researcher is interested in mosaics conservation, the EFR librarian – or the researcher – can check URBiS and find that the ICCROM Library is ideal for studying mosaics. It’s not necessary to locate and search in twenty-three different catalogues – one catalogue interface will do. Researchers lucky enough to have a study visit in Rome can plan their research in advance and maximize their time.

How is French research served by participating in URBiS? What role does the EFR play in France’s cultural diplomacy?

As a French library located in Italian territory, the EFR holds a special status. It offers access to Italian and other collections not present in libraries in France. Furthermore, the EFR library and publishing wing serve to showcase French research in Rome. French academic output on history, archaeological excavations, the Church, etc. is represented at the EFR and visible to a foreign readership.

In terms of French cultural diplomacy, the EFR is part of a wider international network of foreign French academies administered by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research, which ensures high-level research and exchange.

Are there any upcoming new developments for the URBiS platform?

URBiS is expanding, as more foreign academies in Rome join the network. Additionally, URBiS is expanding its potential to share digital resources. Many URBiS institutions are scanning and posting historic photographs, manuscript correspondence and archival documentation. The EFR intends to follow suit, subject to the approval of its Ministry, which holds jurisdiction over all the EFR documentation.

In addition to URBiS, ICCROM will soon collaborate with the EFR on the North African Heritage Archives Network (NAHAN) project. Tell us about that.

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Having a global impact with a relatively small professional team is one of ICCROM’s strengths. To make this happen requires cooperation with an ever-growing network of partners worldwide.

The year 2017 was marked by the signing of important cooperation agreements – with the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Italian Switzerland (SUPSI) in Switzerland and the Ibermuseos Programme – and by the launch of long-term collaborations such as the World Heritage Leadership Programme and the new master’s programme in Cultural Heritage Conservation Management with the University of Sharjah. Two of ICCROM’s flagship multi-stakeholder programmes, SOIMA and MOSAIKON, continued to solidify their unique roles within the professional communities they serve, namely audiovisual and mosaic experts. With representatives from over 100 institutions, SOIMA coordinated international gatherings in Ghana, France and Argentina, while MOSAIKON prepared to celebrate its first decade of existence and plot the path forward for its next ten years.

In the spirit of leveraging complementary resources and strengths, ICCROM also participated in activities with partners in its host country, Italy, as well as farther afield. These included workshops, pilot surveys, conferences and trainings. Each undertaking helped deepen ties within ICCROM’s network, ensuring that required tools, knowledge and support are available when practitioners need them.
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Networks for World Audiovisual Heritage

ICCROM’s SOIMA programme was invited to participate in the International Audiovisual Archival Training Summit organized by the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) at the Cinémathèque française in Paris, France, on 8 March. Experts in attendance made plans to develop an overview of shared resources for audiovisual archives, define a set of common principles for cross-institutional collaboration, gather best practices for capacity building and create a common scholarship fund. Without partnerships, the summit concluded, the audiovisual preservation field would disappear due to ongoing financial and institutional constraints.

Sound and Image Preservation Meetings and Workshop in Argentina

On 7–9 August, two meetings held at the University of San Luis in Argentina focused on preserving sounds and images. More than 175 participants attended lectures on 7 August by specialists from Argentina and Mexico who discussed the value and meaning of audiovisual collections, photography and film supports, digitization of content, and tools for both digital and analogue preservation. As a complementary training activity, on 8–9 August, 75 participants attended the workshop entitled Conservation of Physical and Visual Images: The Case of Negatives and Photographic Impressions on Different Media, led by Fernando Osorio Alarcón of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme.

Argentina’s National Directorate of Cultural Assets and Sites organized both meetings in collaboration with the University of San Luis and the José La Via Photographic Collection at the Faculty of Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences of the University of San Luis.

Agreement with SUPSI

On 31 January, ICCROM’s then Director-General Stefano De Caro signed an agreement with SUPSI. The agreement leverages ICCROM and SUPSI’s expertise and facilities for conducting education and research for conservation and restoration, preventive conservation, and museum collections management. The institutions are jointly developing a certification of advanced studies to train professionals in museum storeroom reorganization. It enhances ICCROM’s RE-ORG program, as well as SUPSI’s work with the Collections Management Laboratory as part of the bachelor’s degree course in Conservation-Restoration of Cultural Heritage.

Kizhi Museum: Guardian of Wooden Architecture Traditions

On 9–10 May, ICCROM participated in a conference entitled Wooden Architecture: Learning from Ancestors, Keeping for Posterity, Teaching Our Contemporaries, held at the Superior Institute for Conservation and Restoration (ISCR) in Rome, with the participation of the Kizhi State Open-Air Museum of History, Architecture and Ethnography. The programme featured an exhibition with interactive demonstrations, as well as presentations on ancient wooden architecture traditions and advanced restoration technologies by major Russian, Italian and international experts. Co-organized with the Russian Ministry of Culture and the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Italy, the meeting was an opportunity to showcase ICCROM’s Wood Conservation Course, held on Kizhi Island, 11–30 September.

Indonesian World Heritage Sites Review

A workshop on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction was held on 10–11 April at the World Heritage Sites of Borobudur and Prambanan in Java, Indonesia. ICCROM organized the gathering with the UNESCO Office in Jakarta, the Ministry of Education and Culture, and the Government of the Republic of Germany. Participants from the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture, National Agency for Disaster Management, and Heritage Preservation Office supported this initiative and expressed interest in nominating participants. The programme will follow the credit-hour system of university programmes. Three modules will be delivered in two semesters, and two concentrations will be offered, in built heritage and museums. The accreditation proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Higher Education in the United Arab Emirates. If assessed positively, the course will start in September 2018.

Projects in Focus

Overview of Activities

OUR WORK

Cultural Heritage Conservation Management with the University of Sharjah. Two of ICCROM’s flagship multi-stakeholder programmes, SOIMA and MOSAIKON, continued to solidify their unique roles within the professional communities they serve, namely audiovisual and mosaic experts. With representatives from over 100 institutions, SOIMA coordinated international gatherings in Ghana, France and Argentina, while MOSAIKON prepared to celebrate its first decade of existence and plot the path forward for its next ten years.

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A new agreement, signed in October, covers the hosting of ICCM’s records at ICCROM and regularizes the transfer of the records produced by the Presidency of Demetrios Michaelides (1996–2014) to the ICCROM Archives. ICCROM, which was involved in the creation of ICCM in the 1970s, already holds records from ICCM. The transfer aimed to re-group the ICCM Archive into a single location to facilitate access for research.

ICCM Holds Biennial Conference

In October, ICCROM participated in ICCM’s biennial conference, Conserving Mosaics from Ancient to Modern, in Barcelona, Spain. Five scholarships were provided through the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Office for individuals to deliver papers or contribute posters.

MOSAIKON Field School Investigates Byblos

ICCM partnered with the Directories-General of Antiquities in Lebanon and Algeria and the Getty Foundation to organize a Field School for the Conservation of Mosaics at the archaeological site of Byblos, Lebanon, from 29 October to 26 November. The school provided an opportunity to create an on-site mosaic conservation laboratory. Twelve technicians from Lebanon and Algeria documented, cleaned, consolidated and stored detached mosaic panels exposed outdoors. The Centre Interdisciplinaire de Conservation et Restauration du Patrimoine (CICRP) in Arles, France, led the school as a follow-up to training undertaken in 2016–2017. This pilot project aims to develop other field schools in the region, especially in Algeria, in 2018. Over the long term, the goal is to create sustainable mosaic conservation laboratories in MOSAIKON target countries.

Bilateral Myanmar-Italy Meeting and Seminar

Upon the visit to Rome of Prime Minister of the Yangon Region, U Phyo Min Thein, and at the request of the Associazione Italia-Birmania Insieme, ICCROM hosted a seminar on 21 June on Integrated Conservation of Urban Heritage and Inclusive and Intelligent Cities. Possible synergies between Italy and Myanmar, the Yangon Laboratory. The Yangon Region, former capital of Myanmar, is undergoing rapid urbanization and population growth which threatens the city’s architectural heritage. The Myanmar authorities intend to launch a policy for museums and cultural sites that will support the development of tourism. Italian participation came from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, the Directorate of Cultural Heritage of Morocco, the World Heritage Site of Volubilis, the training gathered heritage professionals responsible for conserving mosaics in seven countries. The three-week course covered all aspects of conservation and management of threatened sites with a focus on conservation into economic development and social inclusion.

Consolidation of Wind Tower in Heart of Sharjah

ICCM-ATHAR specialists and the Sharjah Institute for Heritage completed structural consolidation studies needed to strengthen and preserve the traditional wind tower (barajeel) of the Ibrahim Al Mida’ house in Heart of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Consolidation of the architecturally significant cylindrical wind tower includes installation of a sophisticated system to monitor the structure. Currently, the Sharjah Heritage Institute and concerned authorities are coordinating to begin the consolidation work.

World Heritage Leadership Programme Donor Meeting

On 7 September, ICCROM hosted the annual donor meeting for the World Heritage Leadership Programme (WHLP) with the Norwegian Government. WHLP is a new approach to implementing capacity development in support of the World Heritage Convention, based on the long-standing partnership of ICCROM and ICCROM, in collaboration with ICOMOS, WHC, and others. Other participating institutions include the Norwegian Agency for Nature Conservation, Directorate for Cultural Heritage, and Ministry of Climate and Environment. The WHLP programme is made possible with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment (KD). The Federal Office of Culture, Switzerland, has also contributed funds to support individual activities.

Mosaics: A Regional Training Course, in partnership with the Directorate of Cultural Heritage of Morocco, held at the World Heritage Site of Volubilis, the training gathered heritage professionals responsible for conserving mosaics in seven countries. The three-week course covered all aspects of conserving and managing archaeological sites with mosaic heritage (movable and immovable, tangible and intangible) into national emergency management systems.

Preservation of Mosaic Heritage in the Mediterranean

The MOSAIKON collaboration between ICCROM, the International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics (ICCM), the Getty Conservation Institute and the Getty Foundation generated a range of activities in 2017. On 25–27 July at the Hallgarten-Franchetti Foundation, Centro (ICCM), the Getty Conservation Institute and the Getty course is an effort to integrate cultural heritage protection into emergency response. Participants were drawn from the five partner areas of PROMIDHER, as well as France and Spain. Two workshops, hosted on 13–19 May and on 29 July–4 August at the Halgarten-Franchetti Foundation, Centro Studi Villa Montesca, aimed to create first aid for cultural heritage (movable and immovable, tangible and intangible) into national emergency management systems.

Joint Training with Italian Civil Protection

The Italian Civil Protection Department invited ICCROM and the PROMIDHER (Protecting Mediterranean Cultural Heritage during Disasters) consortium to co-host the Specialized Training Course on the Protection of Cultural Heritage. The course is an effort to integrate cultural heritage protection into emergency response. Participants were drawn from the five partner areas of PROMIDHER, as well as France and Spain.

First Aid for Cultural Heritage Design Workshop

On 16–20 October, ICCROM hosted a design workshop on First Aid for Cultural Heritage (FAc) in Times of Crisis, organized in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development. Other partners included UNESCO, CRaTerre - International Centre for Earth Construction, Italian Civil Protection Department, and Ritsumeikan University. The workshop aimed to review the existing FAc training and identify content as well as activities for developing a self-sustaining network of cultural first-aiders. The overall aim of FAc partners is to ensure timely and effective responses for protecting cultural heritage that are embedded in national and international humanitarian assistance mechanisms.

The United Kingdom, the United States military and INTERPOL have also expressed interest in using the FAc methodology to train emergency responders. The design workshop helped identify training strategies as well as tools for emergency responders.

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Morocco Training Course Focuses on Archaeological Sites with Mosaics

On 2–19 May, the Getty Conservation Institute led the Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites with Mosaics: A Regional Training Course, in partnership with the Directorate of Cultural Heritage of Morocco, held at the World Heritage Site of Volubilis, the training gathered heritage professionals responsible for conserving mosaics in seven countries. The three-week course covered all aspects of conserving and managing archaeological sites with mosaic heritage (movable and immovable, tangible and intangible) into national emergency management systems.

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reviewed existing disaster risk management plans at the two sites, identifying strengths and weaknesses. The goal was to enhance implementation of the plans while engaging the National Disaster Agency for multi-hazard risk mapping at Indonesia’s heritage sites. The activity supports collaboration with UNESCO and encourages the adhesion of Indonesia as an ICCROM Member State.

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BNBSC organized this meeting under ICCROM’s patronage, together with the Programa ACERCA-AECID, the Ministry for Cooperation and International Affairs of Spain and the Cultural Advisory of the Spanish Embassy in Argentina.

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Cultural and Community in African Landscapes

Interview with Brice Sinsin, Former Rector of the University Abomey Calavi (UAC), Benin

ICCRoM: Professor Sinsin, what in your view is the value of an approach to conservation that centres on people?

Brice Sinsin: People must be engaged in any attempt to preserve heritage. We can work on the public level, with institutions: yet the local level must also be engaged. That means involving community representation and the leadership of individuals in the community. If no efforts are made to reach out to the community, a conservation project will not work well. The community must partner with these efforts because it is the people who will carry it forward. Their engagement is required for positive long-term results.

Please describe your professional background and experiences.

My academic degrees are in agronomy and forestry, and I have experience in conservation of natural resources, including nature and wilderness zones. Interestingly, the communities that live nearby these landscapes tend to be drivers of this conservation, which means that the community conservation project will not work well. The community must partner with these efforts because it is the people who will carry it forward. Their engagement is required for positive long-term results.

How do traditional practices, including belief systems and agriculture, maintain the historic landscapes of Africa?

When considering this question, it’s very important to take into account the unique position and power of animals. What is the place of animals in a human society? Frequently, animals survive when there is a link between them and humans — other species could be in danger of disappearing. In West Africa, particularly in Benin, pythons have a strong link with the culture, and respect for pythons is taught even among generations. They are a series of totemic animals (animaux emblématiques) that are held in particular regard. These include monkeys, elephants, lions and a particular type of wild antelope. You may not kill these animals unless you belong to a particular caste, the antécrits des chasseurs, for whom these animals are reserved and have special sacred links with them.

In many parts of the world, a process of massive urbanization is underway — by some accounts, 2010 marked the year when half the world’s population lived in cities. Can this also be observed in Africa? If so, what are the impacts of modern agriculture and food production on these landscapes?

Massive urbanization may be observed in Africa, with some towns increasing by 30% per year — an enormous rate. This brings significant impact on the landscape. For one thing, there is the introduction of new crops such as cotton, which was not previously cultivated in some provinces in Benin. There is also the impact of having many more hectares under cultivation. It is not the methods per se that are modernized but the fact that much more land must be cultivated, irrespective of improving hectare yield, in order to feed the new urban populations. There is a massive effect on land use when farming systems are not intensified. Modern agriculture and food production could better preserve land from large-scale degradation, insofar as emphasis is put on improving yields in a sustainable manner.

What is the role of nature in a world that is experiencing such expansive urban growth? What role can it play in ensuring quality of life for humans? How can nature be better protected by humans?

There is an interesting phenomenon that sheds some light on this. Young people in particular are leaving rural environments for the city, since the city is where they can make their future. However, as so many rural populations move to the city, a paradoxical benefit to the landscape occurs in that abandoned villages are returning to a state of wild habitats. In this way, la ville aide la nature (urbanization helps the environment).

Traditional African culture is famous world-wide for its richness. How do you characterize the unique contributions that Africa can make for maintaining natural landscapes through culture?

Outside Africa, many natural sites are artificial. I noticed this particularly during my studies in Belgium. Where has nature itself left some sign in these landscapes? It can be hard to find. The natural landscapes of Africa are highly authentic, even if maintained in proximity to human activity.

It is important to stop the degradation of natural landscapes in Africa. These ecosystems, both marine and terrestrial, harbour a wealth of as yet unknown plant and animal life that may turn out to be useful resources for future needs. This should be kept as a stock of knowledge for use in the future. These are natural museums, reserves where we can keep looking for new food supplies, medicines and so on. Still, we must keep in mind the legal issue of intellectual property rights for traditional knowledge that comes from indigenous local communities. These knowledge resources should be used to improve their quality of life, though that is a question which must be negotiated. Nonetheless, it is important to find a way to put these resources to use for the rest of the world, and it is an enormous contribution that Africa can make.

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What is the role of nature in a world that is experiencing such expansive urban growth? What role can it play in ensuring quality of life for humans? How can nature be better protected by humans?

There is an interesting phenomenon that sheds some light on this. Young people in particular are leaving rural environments for the city, since the city is where they can make their future. However, as so many rural populations move to the city, a paradoxical benefit to the landscape occurs in that abandoned villages are returning to a state of wild habitats. In this way, la ville aide la nature (urbanization helps the environment).

Traditional African culture is famous world-wide for its richness. How do you characterize the unique contributions that Africa can make for maintaining natural landscapes through culture?

Outside Africa, many natural sites are artificial. I noticed this particularly during my studies in Belgium. Where has nature itself left some sign in these landscapes? It can be hard to find. The natural landscapes of Africa are highly authentic, even if maintained in proximity to human activity.

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In terms of your professional activity, you are the former Rector of the University Abomey Calavi in Benin and also Director of its Laboratory of Applied Ecology. What are the poles of action of the Laboratory? The Laboratory very strongly espouses an approach of citizenship with the local population. We use the university as a tool for them, not the other way around. The university must not be perceived as distant; people must not see it as another institution, but instead as on their level. The Laboratory serves villagers who, together with their chief, wish to preserve their sacred forest. We used to set up monitoring systems, but the villagers themselves collect the data. The Laboratory thus restores to the community that primary conservation role.

There was a fascinating episode in which an Emir from Nigeria, His Excellency Sariki Sabi Kapsi II, Emir of Yashikira, Kwara State, brought a delegation of 100 members of his community to our University Abomey Calavi to share the approach they had developed and the practical role community members can have. The episode was widely reported in the news media, including in television, print and web sources, and we were able to leverage the mass communication presence as a means to share this knowledge widely. We presented it as a case of “conservation for peace,” as this was a transboundary mission, and relations between Benin and Nigeria are not always so easy. That said, any sensible nature-culture landscape conservation policy must take into account transboundary issues, as pastoral nomadism and transhumance pathways very commonly cut across national borders.

How do traditional practices, including belief systems and agriculture, maintain the historic landscapes of Africa?

When considering this question, it’s very important to take into account the unique position and power of animals. What is the place of animals in a human society? Frequently, animals survive when there is a link between them and humans — other species could be in danger of disappearing. In West Africa, and particularly in Benin, pythons have a strong link with the culture, and respect for pythons is taught even between generations. For example, there is a series of totemic animals (antennes emblématiques) that are held in particular regard. These include monkeys, elephants, lions and a particular type of wild antelopes. You may not kill these animals unless you belong to a particular caste, the antécrites des chasseurs, for whom these animals are reserved and who have special sacred links with them.

In many parts of the world, a process of massive urbanization is underway — by some accounts, 2010 marked the year when half the world’s population lived in cities. Can this also be observed in Africa? If so, what are the impacts of modern agriculture and food production on these landscapes?

Massive urbanization may be observed in Africa, with some towns increasing by 10% per year — an enormous rate. This brings significant impacts on the landscape. For one thing, there is the introduction of new crops such as cotton, which was not previously cultivated in some provinces in Benin. There is also the impact of having many more hectares under cultivation. It is not the method per se that are modernized but the fact that much more land must be cultivated, irrespective of improving hectare yield, in order to feed the new urban populations. There is a massive effect on land use when farming systems are not intensified. Modern agriculture and food production could better preserve land from large-scale degradation, insofar as emphasis is put on improving yields in a sustainable manner.

What is the role of nature in a world that is experiencing such explosive urban growth? What role can it play in ensuring quality of life for humans? How can nature be better protected by humans?

There is an interesting phenomenon that sheds some light on this. Young people in particular are leaving rural environments for the city, since the city is where they can make their future. However, as so many rural populations move to the city, a paradoxical benefit to the landscape occurs in that abandoned villages are returning to a state of wild habitats. In this way, la ville aide la nature (urbanization helps the environment).

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Please describe your professional background and experiences.

My academic degrees are in agronomy and forestry, and I have experience in conservation of natural resources, including nature and wilderness zones. Interestingly, the communities that live nearby these landscapes tend to be driven by this conservation movement. That is, they are communities with their traditional agriculture that helps maintain these ecosystems and with the sacred aspects of their cultural practices.

For sustainability of project outputs, any interventions must then respect the authentic needs of these populations. I have had some experiences with the cultural aspects of natural conservation, also in projects that I supervised with my students.

This is very interesting, given recent developments at ICCROM. Certainly you are aware of our recently started World Heritage Leadership Programmes with IUCN for studying and supporting culture and nature interlinkages. I am indeed. I have participated for many years in IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), a network of some 1400 experts that provides an abundance of experiences and exchanges.

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Overview of Activities

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Institutionally, ICCROM has made several investments to improve its ability to keep the heritage conversation community abreast of developments, opportunities, trends and challenges. These investments have led to new milestones on the communications front – more sophisticated use of new media, a revamped website and Annual Report, increased demand for ICCROM’s e-news. These platforms also foster exchange between ICCROM and Member States and stakeholders. It is an institution that is listening and being heard – and creating a space for others to do the same.

Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Historic Cities

ICCRom, the Louvre. and the Institut du monde arabe in Tourcoing organized a two-day international symposium on post-conflict reconstruction of historic cities in Lens, France. Held on 20–21 January, the meeting was led by Matteo Lavandier, Director of the Louvre Lens and former President of the ICCROM Council. Experts presented the state of theoretical developments in this field of post-conflict reconstruction of historic cities and discussed case studies in Europe and the Middle East to draw lessons for the future. Jean-Luc Martinez, President-Director of the Louvre Museum, gave a lecture on protecting cultural heritage in areas affected by armed conflict.

Amongst the major international organizations taking part in the symposium were the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, ALECSO, the European Commission, ICOMOS, IRCICA (Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UNESCO and the World Bank, along with representatives from governments and universities in France, Europe and the Middle East.

#Unite4Heritage

On 11 February, former UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova visited the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre in Sharjah for the launch of the #Unite4Heritage campaign in the UAE. The campaign engages with a region that has been experiencing severe cultural heritage destruction in recent years.

ICCRom and UNESCO maintain a long-standing partnership in the field of cultural heritage conservation, management and protection. Bokova was welcomed by Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan Al-Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Court and Ruler of Sharjah; ICCROM’s then Director-General Stefano De Caro; Zahi Aslan, Director of the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre; and Abdul-Aziz Al-Mussallam, Director of the Sharjah Heritage Institute and ICCROM Council Member.

Giovanni Carbonara Wins 2017 ICCROM Award

Giovanni Carbonara, emeritus Director of the Post-Graduate School for the Study and Restoration of Monuments at La Sapienza University of Rome from 1995 to 2013, won the 2017 ICCROM Award. Carbonara has been involved with ICCROM since his participation in the Architectural Conservation Course in 1968. He has collaborated on teaching and training activities and has contributed to conferences and publications. Carbonara also collaborated on complex and delicate restoration projects at some of the most famous monuments in Italy, including St Peter’s Basilica, the Basilica of St Francis of Assisi and the Colosseum.

PROJECTS IN FOCUS

Recovery and Community Involvement in Post-Conflict Reconstruction

As part of its 50th General Assembly, ICCROM organized on 30 November and 1 December a Thematic Discussion on Post-Conflict Reconstruction. Presenters stressed the need for coordination between different development agencies when addressing reconstruction of damaged or destroyed historic cities and assets, while engaging and supporting communities in respect for cultural diversity. The presentations focused on examples and case studies from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Japan, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Syria. The discussion featured a keynote address by Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President of the World Bank Group for the 2030 Development Agenda.

In conjunction, the Associazione Incontro di Civiltà (AIC), headed by Francesco Rutelli, former Italian Minister of Culture, sponsored #Unite4Heritage. This exhibit featured two examples of reconstructed or recovered heritage originating from Palmyra, Syria – a looted funeral bust recovered in Italy by the Carabinieri Command for Recovery and Reconstruction, and a looted funeral statue from Palmyra, Syria – a testament to the work of Palmyra: Rising from Destruction. The exhibition was held at the Egyptian Academy in Rome, sponsored by Gihan Zaki, the Academy’s Director, and an ICCROM Council Member. Entitled ‘The Day After: Shadows of Heritage’, it depicted devastated cultural heritage in four countries of the Middle East, pairing before-and-after photographs to demonstrate the scale of destruction.

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Photo: Looted funerary sculpture from Palmyra, Syria. © Carabinieri TPC.
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FICLU Competition Jury

On 7 September, ICCROM hosted the Evaluation Commission of the eighth edition of the FICLU (Italian Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Centres) competition, Factory in the Landscape. The contest was open to public and private projects dealing with landscape and the environment, and promoted awareness of the importance of landscapes to social well-being, national identity and sustainable development. Jury members included Giovanni Carbonara and other colleagues from Italian universities and Member State institutions.

Restored Palmyra Sculptures Returned to Syria

Two sculptural busts from Palmyra that had been damaged by insurgents were sent home from Rome to Syria on 27 February. After their transfer to Italy though negotiations by the Associazione Incontro di Civiltà, and restoration by the Italian ISCR, the 2nd/3rd century AD busts were returned to the National Museum of Damascus, accompanied by two representatives of the Syrian Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums. Both busts had been featured in Rising from Destruction, a UNESCO-sponsored exhibit at the Colosseum in Rome from October to December 2016.

European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018

In Brussels during 2017, ICCROM took part in planning meetings for the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018. The European Commission has planned activities to spotlight Europe’s wealth of cultural heritage and showcase its role in fostering a shared sense of identity and unity, while raising awareness of the social and economic importance of cultural heritage. Thousands of initiatives and events planned across Europe are to involve citizens from all backgrounds – in particular children and young people, local communities and those rarely in touch with culture – to promote a common sense of ownership. The planning meetings culminated in the Year’s launch as part of the European Culture Forum, held in Milan, Italy, on 7 December. ICCROM is a member of the European Year of Cultural Heritage Stakeholder Committee and is helping publicize it within and beyond Europe.

Documenting Heritage at Risk

Deliberately destroying cultural heritage has become a feature of conflict and a tactic of war. In this scenario, safeguarding the world’s cultural heritage is becoming increasingly urgent. On 19–20 May, former Italian culture minister Francesco Rutelli chaired an international conference, Documenting Our Heritage at Risk, organized by the Associazione Incontro di Civiltà in collaboration with ICCROM. It gathered scholars and experts in art history, conservation and new technologies from Europe, the United States of America, China and several Arab countries, as well as from UNESCO, ICCROM and other international organizations.

Discussions centred on the need to identify a universal code for cataloguing cultural assets at risk and to adopt immediate commitments to intervene in war scenarios, crisis areas and environmental flash points. The goal is to safeguard affected heritage and reconstruct what has been damaged or destroyed based on rigorous scientific criteria. Participants unanimously approved the Rome Appeal, which recognizes the critical role documentation plays in managing, safeguarding and ensuring respect for cultural heritage. It also calls for widespread documentation on standard and shared platforms.

World Heritage Committee Meeting in Krakow

During the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee, 2–12 July in Krakow, Poland, the Committee inscribed 21 new sites to UNESCO’s World Heritage List, including 18 cultural and three natural sites. ICCROM participated in the meeting in its capacity as an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Convention. ICCROM organized an orientation session for Committee members, reported on capacity building issues, participated in discussions on State of Conservation issues and hosted a space for Advisory Bodies to hold side events.

Amongst those side events was an expert meeting entitled Meams to Strengthen Cultural Heritage Protection in the Arab Region: Legal and Policy Frameworks, held 5–7 July and organized by the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Office. Legal and cultural heritage experts and representatives of international organizations discussed legal aspects of protecting cultural heritage in the Arab States. They agreed to an action plan for engaging each country in implementing adequate cultural heritage protection, in cooperation with ICCROM-ATHAR. Partners who expressed their willingness to join forces on this subject include UNESCO, ICOMOS, INTERPOL and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT).
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Amongst those side events was an expert meeting entitled Means to Strengthen Cultural Heritage Protection in the Arab Region: Legal and Policy Frameworks, held 5–7 July and organized by ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Office. Legal and cultural heritage experts and representatives of international organizations discussed legal aspects of protecting cultural heritage in the Arab States. They agreed to an action plan for engaging each country in implementing adequate cultural heritage protection, in cooperation with ICCROM-ATHAR. Partners who expressed their willingness to join forces on this subject include UNESCO, ICOMOS, INTERPOL and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT).

European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018

In Brussels during 2017, ICCROM took part in planning meetings for the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018. The European Commission has planned activities to spotlight Europe’s wealth of cultural heritage and showcase its role in fostering a shared sense of identity and unity, while raising awareness of the social and economic importance of cultural heritage. Thousands of initiatives and events planned across Europe are to involve citizens from all backgrounds – in particular children and young people, local communities and those rarely in touch with culture – to promote a common sense of ownership. The planning meetings culminated in the Year’s launch as part of the European Culture Forum, held in Milan, Italy, on 7 December. ICCROM is a member of the European Year of Cultural Heritage Stakeholder Committee and is helping publicize it within and beyond Europe.

Documenting Heritage at Risk

Deliberately destroying cultural heritage has become a feature of conflict and a tactic of war. In this scenario, safeguarding the world’s cultural heritage is becoming increasingly urgent. On 19–20 May, former Italian culture minister Francesco Rutelli chaired an international conference, Documenting Our Heritage at Risk, organized by the Associazione Incontro di Civiltà in collaboration with ICCROM. It gathered scholars and experts in art history, conservation and new technologies from Europe, the United States of America, China and several Arab countries, as well as from UNESCO, ICCROM and other international organizations.

Discussion centred on the need to identify a universal code for cataloguing cultural assets at risk and to adopt immediate commitments to intervene in war scenarios, crisis areas and environmental flash points. The goal is to safeguard affected heritage and reconstruct what has been damaged or destroyed based on rigorous scientific criteria. Participants unanimously approved the Rome Appeal, which recognizes the critical role documentation plays in managing, safeguarding and ensuring respect for cultural heritage. It also calls for widespread documentation on standard and shared platforms.

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ICCRROM-ATHAR Sharjah Award

In August, a call for applications was launched for the biennial ICCROM-ATHAR Sharjah Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation in the Arab Region. The award recognizes outstanding work for the protection and vitality of tangible cultural heritage and reflects ICCROM-ATHAR’s commitment to safeguarding the cultural heritage of the Arab region; promoting international ethics in the practice of tangible heritage conservation; facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience across borders; enhancing public awareness and appreciation of cultural heritage; and encouraging excellence through example. An open competition stage was followed by invitations for finalists to present their projects.

The award was presented during the Post-Oil Gulf Historic Symposium and the ICOMOS Arab Group meeting on 10–11 May, as well as at July’s ICOMOS General Assembly in Krakow, Poland.

Voices of Culture Structured Dialogue

ICCRROM collaborated in a European Commission-led consortium of 35 cultural heritage organizations to make joint recommendations in a report entitled Skills, Training and Knowledge Transfer in Cultural Heritage for Traditional and Emerging Heritage Professionals. The joint report provides recommendations and a sector mapping and overview, including training and skills needs, in order to support policy development and forward planning for the European heritage sector. The process was coordinated during meetings in Brussels, Belgium, in June and September; the final report was presented to the European Commission in Bucharest, Romania, in October.

G7 Roma-Lyon Group Meeting

The second G7 Roma-Lyon Group meeting was held in Rome on 3–5 October. ICCROM participated in an Expert Group meeting entitled Cultural Heritage, the Mirror of Identity: Cataloguing, Collecting and Sharing Data, the Key for Safeguard. The Expert Group was created under the 2001 G8 Italian presidency. Run by the law enforcement sector, it is devoted to formulating counterterrorism strategies and combating transnational crimes. Delegates from the G7 countries and experts from international organizations called for maximum cooperation to end the illicit trafficking of antiquities from Syria, Iraq and beyond.

De Caro Addresses G7 Culture Meetings

On 30 March, ICCROM’s then Director-General Stefano De Caro addressed the G7 Culture meetings, the first of their kind, at the Sala Bianca of the Palazzo Pitti, in Florence, Italy. Held on the initiative of Italy’s Culture Minister, Dario Franceschini, the meetings saw high-level delegations from the G7 industrialized nations and international organizations exchanging views on the importance of culture for stable societies, diversity and dialogue. They also invoked the essential role of heritage protection in a world where culture is increasingly the target of attack, destruction and illicit profiteering by non-state parties.

New Look for the Annual Report 2016

As part of a communications strategy intended to support large-scale fundraising, ICCROM revamped its Annual Report 2016 with a fresh look and writing style intended to attract and engage a wide range of partners and donors. The newly redesigned product put ICCROM in line with other intergovernmental organizations that support the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The report also featured indicators of ICCROM’s activity and impact to be used for results-based reporting. ICCROM partnered with the award-winning National Geographic photographer Reza Deghati to illustrate the report. Reza’s photographs beautifully capture ICCROM’s core philosophy: the critical bond between humanity and culture, and the power of both to build better societies.

Web News Keeps Stakeholders Informed

In 2017 ICCROM published 96 news items on the website home page, including course announcements and reports, partnership and advocacy initiatives, accounts of thematic and collaborative meetings, and other news. There were also around 400 classified notices of events and opportunities in the conservation sector worldwide. In addition, ICCROM’s e-News, reaching more than 15,000 subscribers each month, continues to be a source of information on the organization’s initiatives as well as those from ICCROM’s network around the globe.

New Website, New Features

To modernize its look while leveraging new technical capabilities, ICCROM has developed a new website using Drupal 8 technology and expanded the number of featured languages to four – English, French, Italian, and now Arabic. This will allow the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Office website to be folded into the main ICCROM website. The site features new content, including arresting visuals, and highlights social media content while still providing regular news and updates. The Drupal system also permits sections of the site to be featured in different languages, enabling content to be targeted at specific language communities.

Engaging Networks through Social Media

Social media continues to be an important means to provide information and advocate for cultural heritage conservation, both to an established audience of professionals and to the wider public. Facebook remains the channel with the largest audience (currently 67,000 followers), with several stories shared daily from the global online press on cultural heritage and its conservation worldwide. With 14,600 followers, Twitter has become the platform of choice for ICCROM’s corporate messages and communications, also amplifying those of partner organizations for a largely institutional and professional following. LinkedIn and Instagram are ICCROM’s newest social media ventures, intended to expand its connections both to career-oriented professionals and to new and younger audiences.
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The Value of Cultural Diplomacy

Interview with Gihane Zaki, Director, Egyptian Academy in Rome

ICCROM, Dr Zaki, please tell us about the Egyptian Academy in Rome.

Gihane Zaki: The Egyptian Academy has been in existence since 1924 and came to the present location near the Villa Borghese in 1966. In addition to hosting Egyptian art students for a period of study in Rome, the Academy evokes the glory of Egyptian art and culture to people from Italy and the West, while encouraging Arab people from all corners of the Middle East to take pride in this rich heritage. Though there are many fine arts academies in Rome, the Egyptian Academy is the only one of both the Arab world and Africa.

What is the importance of the Academy’s role today?

Right now we are living in a real culture war. In a period of black-and-white thinking, the Egyptian Academy has a brand with a social role that has many dimensions, particularly when it comes to interpreting history. We want to show that experts have a role, and that when you interpret history, it’s important to put in a touch of tolerance. This is true even when history is written by the winners – maybe especially then.

The role of the Academy is also to show another image of the Arab world, both to Arabs and to the West. We want to show a positive image of the Arab world that is also real and genuine. The Arab world is not what they show on television, ISIS and terrorist attacks and guns and black masks. The Arab world is the great stars of Cairo cinema, glorious art, haunting music and delicate calligraphy. This is the cultural diplomacy of reducing tensions between East and West. And not just to the West but also to Arab people. The message is: I shouldn’t be shy about presenting myself as an Arab person, I present a positive image. This positive image shared through cultural diplomacy can become a locomotive.

I see my role as bringing the message of Egyptian culture to Europe. I want Arab people to be proud of their culture, and I want Europeans to appreciate it. Cultural diplomacy is key now to understanding and putting people together. And culture, heritage and history are its flag.

Could you speak to the importance of cultural diplomacy?

The persuasive or soft power of culture and the arts can be seen everywhere. Culture can be used to negotiate with and encourage a range of stakeholders, from the highest echelons of power to poor and at-risk populations. Culture and the arts appeal to people’s minds and hearts, and widen their perspectives. And if you’ve touched their hearts just once, they will come back a second and third time.

I see cultural diplomacy as a weapon in the culture war. The Academy is not political, but my role is also to use it with politicians and ambassadors. Their desire to understand culture is huge, and often it is not encouraged in the environments they live and work in. Yet they very much appreciate the chance for open dialogue through culture, and for connecting with groups that it may be difficult to approach in any other way. That is the value of cultural diplomacy. From this place, dialogue can start.

Whom does the Academy reach out to?

At the Egyptian Academy, we open our doors not only to diplomatic circles but also to the community of Egyptians living in Italy, of which there are many, particularly in Milan. I also invite school groups, particularly 9 to 12 year olds, both Italian and international. They come and learn about the magnificence of Egypt’s history. I can put a piece of Egypt inside their hearts that they will never forget. They may even go on to study Egypt and Egyptology, as I did!

Recently the Academy also opened its doors to a very different group - and here I mean young Egyptian illegal immigrants who are mostly 18 to 21 years old with little or no education. Their families sent them on boats to come to Italy, thinking they would become rich. Now they are here with no awareness of what Europe is, or even what Egypt is.

I was recently contacted by a French non-profit that works with young boys and men, and I said, of course they must come to the Academy. I showed them the gallery of Egyptian film stars and they don’t know who any of them are. I share with them the Tutankhamun exhibit and tell them, “Your grandparents built this.” I invite them to movie evenings and they bring their friends. Afterward we all sit in the garden, I make dinner for them and we laugh together and have a wonderful time. They too will never forget it. And one day this may keep them from going to the other side.

So this really is a line of defense in the culture wars.

The cultural mainstream, too often very elitist, has forgotten or neglected to do exactly this with at-risk populations – include them, engage them, show care for their welfare. That is exactly why ICCROM has been so successful with this group. The social inclusion role cannot be forgotten by any institutions, especially cultural ones. If we do, we’ll lose the culture war, and we will not have the open and stable society we want. To have it, we must invest. We can have the beauty of culture, or we can have a flood of radicalism submerge the Arab world.

What do you see as ICCROM’s role in the Arab region moving forward?

ICCROM will continue to be a force supporting culture and society in the Arab region in many ways – especially in planning for the post-conflict period – with risk preparedness, with first aid, with community engagement. These conflicts will not last forever. We must think and plan for the future. ICCROM is always at its best when intervening in crisis situations, just as they did at the time of Abu Sinbel and the Aswan High Dam in the 1960s. There will always be a role for ICCROM.

Any final thoughts?

Culture is a strength. I’ve seen it through my experience at the Egyptian Academy in Rome, and it’s not a small platform. We’ve worked for six years under very difficult conditions, not only in Egypt but throughout the Arab region. We’ve seen revolutions, wars, armed conflict, illicit trafficking in antiquities and many horrors. But deep down I have this confidence that culture matters – cultural education and art, but above all, everything that is human. If we can touch the masses that are suffering and drifting away, it’s through culture, by changing the minds of people. We have a duty, all of us who are culture workers, to really move forward on everything we see happening around the world and not give up.
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Source: Tutankhamun exhibition, Egyptian Academy, Rome, Italy. © Egyptian Academy in Rome.

Photo: Exhibit hall, Egyptian Academy, Rome, Italy. © Egyptian Academy in Rome.
SECTION 2

GOVERNANCE and PARTNERSHIPS


SPECIAL FEATURE: UNESCO and ICCROM Join Forces to Protect Cultural Heritage

PHOTO: Louvre Pyramid, Paris, France. 简体中文 (chachunwu), Creative Commons License (Creative Commons CC0)/Pixabay
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GOVERNANCE and PARTNERSHIPS


SPECIAL FEATURE: UNESCO and ICCROM
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Governance and Partnerships

Overview of Activities

In 2017, ICCROM made advancements to improve efficiency, effectiveness and transparency. The year was also marked by the celebration of legal milestones, the establishment of an important partnership with UNESCO and the addition of a new Member State.

60th Anniversary of ICCROM’s Establishment in Italy

April marked the 60th anniversary of the agreement between Italy and UNESCO regulating the establishment and legal status of ICCROM on Italian territory. The original signing ceremony took place in Paris on 27 April 1957.

Framework Arrangement with CHA

The Republic of Korea’s Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA) and ICCROM signed a Framework Arrangement on 25 October in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, marking the second phase of the collaboration begun in 2012. The two institutions agreed to cooperate on education, training, and research in cultural heritage conservation in the Asia-Pacific Region through 2022. CHA Administrator Kim Jongjin and ICCROM’s then Director-General Stefano De Caro signed the arrangement. A concurrent joint public conference reflected on the past five years and identified future areas of cooperation. The 2017 CoIIAsia course concluded during this event, while the final Annual Thematic Forum opened on the topic of Conservation of Asian Heritage.

Modernizing Information Systems

In October, ICCROM went live with the SAPUniverse Path ERP solution to streamline its program management, accounting and administrative processes. The SAP-ERP enterprise resource planning software helps ICCROM align with UN standards in accounting funds management and audit. The streamlined processes empower staff, create greater accountability and transparency, and encourage proactive knowledge management and organizational effectiveness. The tool, implemented by Cap Gemini, makes ICCROM better able to justify its expenditures to Member States and donor institutions.

NEW MEMBER STATE

Hungary

ICCROM is pleased to announce the re-adhesion of Hungary. Its return brings the number of Member States to 136.
Governance and Partnerships

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Corporate Management and Funding

ICCRUM thanks its Member States and donors for their unwavering support and commitment to its mission. This support is critical to ensuring that ICCROM’s cultural heritage conservation training, technical cooperation and advocacy efforts endure.

The 2016–2017 biennium was record-breaking in financial terms. ICCROM’s budget envelope of over EUR 15.3 million at the end of 2017 enabled an investment of EUR 9.8 million in priority conservation activities. This increase was a result of additional donor support for ICCROM’s regional work, along with a budget adjustment for maintenance and security expenses paid by the Government of Italy under the Headquarters Agreement. The biennial budget for 2016–2017, approved at the ICCROM General Assembly in November 2015, amounted to EUR 9.9 million (including programmed activities of EUR 6.3 million). That represented a decrease of 7% (EUR 749,439) from the 2014–2015 annual budget of EUR 10.7 million. However, supplementary budgets – due mainly to growing needs in the Arab region and high demand from Member States for that programme – increased the organization’s budget envelope by EUR 4.6 million by the end of the biennium. The table on page 54 shows the approved budget for the 2016–2017 biennium by programme, as well as programme expenditures in 2016–2017. Programmatic work is implemented through both the Rome Headquarters and the Regional Office in Sharjah. During 2017, ICCROM continued its comprehensive review of objectives, priorities, operations and funding, honing its commitment to the transformation objectives set by the General Assembly. These include adopting the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); implementing SAP Public Sector Management (PSM); and strengthening financial management capacity, recruitment and project control. IPSAS will improve the quality and credibility of ICCROM’s financial reporting. Implementation will begin in the 2018–2019 biennium, allowing the organization to move to full accrual accounting. The migration to the SAP system for funds, grants and procurement management in October 2017 marks ICCROM’s first step in enterprise resource planning. Among other things, SAP supports IPSAS-compliant accounting and reporting. In addition, the organization has worked to implement results-based management systems to provide accountability for its overall performance. The strategic review process will continue during the next strategic cycle (2018–2023).

In terms of formulating its budget and monitoring resource needs for operations, ICCROM during the 2016–2017 biennium sought to optimize the use of financial resources while reducing potential financial risk. These efforts ensured that activities were carried out in accordance with its internal regulatory framework, rules and regulations. Working with external auditors appointed by the Council, ICCROM prepared overviews of key observations and trends, which it presented to the Council. The organization also managed legal aspects of its operations and activities that arose from relations with its host country, Italy, as well as with partners, procurement and commercial contracts, and claims involving operations. Headquarters continued to support the management of programmes in the Arab region through administrative and financial on-the-ground capacity building in the Regional Office in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, and also provided financial management advice to L’École du Patrimoine Africain (EPA) and the EPA Fund Committee.

ICCRUM strives to maximize programmatic impact while carefully stewarding every euro received. The programme budget is funded through a mix of assessed and voluntary contributions. Financial fragility is a feature of almost all intergovernmental organizations, but small organizations such as ICCROM are particularly vulnerable. The continued reliance on a policy of Zero Nominal Growth (ZNG) means that assessed contributions have steadily declined as an overall percentage of total funding, now accounting for just over half. Nonetheless, assessed contributions remain a key funding source for ICCROM, providing a level of predictability, and allowing resources to be aligned to the organization’s programme of work as approved by Member States. The balance is mobilized through voluntary contributions.

With the growing importance of decentralized funding and the increasing role of the Regional Office, the organization is enhancing collaboration and designing integrated fundraising processes and systems. The 2018–2023 strategy also foresees the consolidation of partnerships with top contributors, accompanied by efforts to diversify funding sources and conclude new multi-year partnerships with core partners as well as emerging and private partners.

Voluntary contributions and resulting additional expectations on the organization set records in 2016–2017. Nonetheless, ICCROM’s donor base remains small, despite income levels demonstrating that the organization can count on sustained financial support. ICCROM enters the 2018–2019 biennium with a net asset balance of EUR 11.4 million, including a total reserves and surplus of EUR 3.4 million in 2017, representing an increase of 12.6% since 2015.

The organization’s focus remained on responding to multiple cultural heritage conservation needs, particularly those arising from conflict and natural disaster. During 2017, however, it refocused advocacy, awareness-raising and communications activities to favour resource mobilization and fundraising and to promote greater stakeholder engagement, whether from governments, foundations, cultural heritage organizations or alumni of its many training programmes worldwide.

ICCRUM is heartened to see so many nations stay connected to help heritage institutions and communities conserve their unique, varied and irreplaceable cultural heritage.
Corporate Management and Funding

ICCRom thanks its Member States and donors for their unwavering support and commitment to its mission. This support is critical to ensuring that ICCROM’s cultural heritage conservation training, technical cooperation and advocacy efforts endure.

The 2016–2017 biennium was record-breaking in financial terms. ICCROM’s budget envelope of over EUR 15.3 million at the end of 2017 enabled an investment of EUR 9.8 million in priority conservation activities. This increase was a result of additional donor support for ICCROM’s regional work, along with a budget adjustment for maintenance and security expenses paid by the Government of Italy under the Headquarters Agreement. The biennial budget for 2016–2017, approved at the ICCROM General Assembly in November 2015, amounted to EUR 9.9 million (including programmed activities of EUR 6.3 million). That represented a decrease of 7% (EUR 749,439) from the 2014–2015 annual budget of EUR 10.7 million. However, supplementary budgets – due mainly to growing needs in the Arab region and high demand from Member States for that programme – increased the organization’s budget envelope by EUR 4.6 million by the end of the biennium. The table on page 54 shows the approved budget for the 2016–2017 biennium by programme, as well as programme expenditures in 2016–2017. Programmatic work is implemented through both the Rome Headquarters and the Regional Office in Sharjah.

During 2017, ICCROM continued its comprehensive review of objectives, priorities, operations and funding, honing its commitment to the transformation objectives set by the General Assembly. These include adopting the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); implementing SAP Public Sector Management (PSM); and strengthening financial management capacity, recruitment and project control.

IPSAS will improve the quality and credibility of ICCROM’s financial reporting. Implementation will begin in the 2018–2019 biennium, allowing the organization to move to full accrual accounting. The migration to the SAP system for funds, grants and procurement management in October 2017 marks ICCROM’s first step in enterprise resource planning. Among other things, SAP supports IPSAS-compliant accounting and reporting. In addition, the organization has worked to implement results-based management systems to provide accountability for its overall performance. The strategic review process will continue during the next strategic cycle (2018–2023).

In terms of formulating its budget and monitoring resource needs for operations, ICCROM during the 2016–2017 biennium sought to optimize the use of financial resources while reducing potential financial risk. These efforts ensured that activities were carried out in accordance with its internal regulatory framework, rules and regulations. Working with external auditors appointed by the Council, ICCROM prepared overviews of key observations and trends, which it presented to the Council. The organization also managed legal aspects of its operations and activities that arose from relations with its host country, Italy, as well as with partners, procurement and commercial contracts, and claims involving operations. Headsquarter continued to support the management of programmes in the Arab region through administrative and financial on-the-ground capacity building in the Regional Office in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, and also provided financial management advice to L’École du Patrimoine Africain (EPA) and the EPA Fund Committee.

ICCRom strives to maximize programmatic impact while carefully stewarding every euro received. The programme budget is funded through a mix of assessed and voluntary contributions. Financial fragility is a feature of almost all intergovernmental organizations, but small organizations such as ICCROM are particularly vulnerable. The continued reliance on a policy of Zero Nominal Growth (ZNG) means that assessed contributions have steadily declined as an overall percentage of total funding, now accounting for just over half. Nonetheless, assessed contributions remain a key funding source for ICCROM, providing a level of predictability, and allowing resources to be aligned to the organization’s programme of work as approved by Member States. The balance is mobilized through voluntary contributions.

With the growing importance of decentralized funding and the increasing role of the Regional Office, the organization is enhancing collaboration and designing integrated fundraising processes and systems. The 2018–2023 strategy also foresees the consolidation of partnerships with top contributors, accompanied by efforts to diversify funding sources and conclude new multi-year partnerships with core partners as well as emerging and private partners.

Voluntary contributions and resulting additional expectations on the organization set records in 2016–2017. Nonetheless, ICCROM’s donor base remains small, despite income levels demonstrating that the organization can count on sustained financial support. ICCROM enters the 2018–2019 biennium with a net asset balance of EUR 11.4 million, including a total reserves and surplus of EUR 3.4 million in 2017, representing an increase of 12.6% since 2015.

The organization’s focus remained on responding to multiple cultural heritage conservation needs, particularly those arising from conflict and natural disaster. During 2017, however, it refocused advocacy, awareness-raising and communications activities to favour resource mobilization and fundraising and to promote greater stakeholder engagement, whether from governments, foundations, cultural heritage organizations or alumni of its many training programmes worldwide.

ICCRom is heartened to see so many nations stay connected to help heritage institutions and communities conserve their unique, varied and irreplaceable cultural heritage.
Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Reserves Balances at 31 December 2017 (in EUR)

**Assets**

- Current bank accounts: 2,308,250
- Short-term deposit investment accounts: 2,616,222
- Long-term deposit investment accounts: 5,186,956
- Deposit accounts: 350,053
- Cash in Hand and in Banks: 16,712,051
- Contributions receivable: 144,033
- Receivable on contracts: 101,278
- Other receivables: 97,312
- Total Receivables: 793,523
- Total Assets: 5,422,546

**Liabilities And Reserves**

- Current Liabilities: 659,516
- Provisions for staff benefits: 987,846
- External funding to be spent: 1,185,718
- Endowment (EFA Fund): 3,614,222
- Total Liabilities: 5,061,402
- Reserves: 5,166,523
- Surplus (Deficit) of Income and Expenditure: 175,400
- Total Reserves and surplus: 3,260,143
- Total Liabilities and Reserves: 5,422,546

Financial Statement of Income and Expenditure in 2016-17 as at 31 December 2017 (in EUR)

### Income

- **Member States Contributions Received:** 7,006,516
- **Voluntary Contributions:** 5,637,901
- **Contribution by the government of Italy under Headquarters Agreement:** 766,354
- **Other Income:*** 175,375
- **Other Funds:** 5,000
- **Total Income:** 14,017,444

### Expenditure

- **Personnel Costs:*** 7,645,149
- **Programme Costs:** 3,504,902
- **Financial Operations:** 2,884
- **Total Expenditure:** 12,702,664

### Operating surplus/(deficit)

- **Net Deficit/surplus for the year:** 344,780
- **Unrealized foreign exchange differences:** 27,167
- **Transfer of contributions in arrears to operational reserve:** 560,440
- **Transfer from operational reserve:** 164,707
- **SURPLUS/(DEFICIT):** 175,629

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**Direct Cash Contributions From ICRROM Member States (in EUR)**

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**AC** – Assessed Contributions **VC** – Voluntary Contributions
Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Reserves Balances at 31 December 2017 (in EUR)

**Assets**

- **Total Assets**: 11,482,548

**Liabilities And Reserves**

- **Total Liabilities**: 8,061,402

**Direct Cash Contributions From ICRMOM Member States (in EUR)**

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<th>VC**</th>
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**Financial Statement of Income and Expenditure in 2016-17 as at 31 December 2017 (in EUR)**

**Income**

- **Member States Contributions Received**: 7,006,514
- **Voluntary Contributions**: 1,637,901
- **Contribution by the government of Italy under Headquarters Agreement**: 766,354
- **Other Income***: 107,375
- **Total Income**: 14,017,444

**Expenditure**

- **Personnel Costs***: 7,665,149
- **Programme Costs***: 3,106,902
- **Financial Operations**: 3,844
- **Total Expenditure**: 13,873,092

**Operating surplus/(deficit)**

- **Net Deficit/surplus for the year**: 144,352
- **Unrealized foreign exchange differences**: 27,167
- **Transfer of contributions in arrears to operational reserve**: 1,387,449
- **Transfer from operational reserve**: 164,707
- **SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)**: 175,620

---

AC** = Assessed Contribution **VC – Voluntary Contribution
### Direct Cash Contributions From ICCROM Member States (in EUR)

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Direct Cash Contributions From ICCROM Member States (in EUR)
## Total Budget (In EUR)
### as at 31 December 2017

**I. GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Costs</th>
<th>Staff Costs</th>
<th>Adjustments/Transfers</th>
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**II. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

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## II. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

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## III. PERSONNEL (OTHER COSTS)

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## IV. FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

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## GRAND TOTAL

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<th>Total</th>
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## BIENNIUM 2016-2017

### External Funds (Voluntary Contributions)

#### Total Expenditure

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<th>Total</th>
<th>Balance</th>
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#### I. CORPORATE OPERATIONS

- Governing Bodies Meetings: General Assembly
  
- Governing Bodies Meetings: Bureau/Council

#### II. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

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#### III. PERSONNEL (OTHER COSTS)

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<th>Total Staff Costs Expenditure</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
<th>Available Balance</th>
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#### IV. FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

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**Total Budget (In EUR)**

**Total All Funds**

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<td>2 711 109</td>
<td>4 622 048</td>
<td>157 323</td>
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**iccrom annual report 2017**

**GRAND TOTAL**

| 5 193 263                    | 1 912 405                     | 5 187 868           | 9 380 133         | 5 090 895        |

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**YEARLY REPORT 2017**

**GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS / Income & Expenditure 2017**

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### External Funds (Voluntary Contributions)

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<td>Training</td>
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<td>Communication</td>
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<td>Increase of Funds</td>
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#### Total All Funds

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<td><strong>2 111 298</strong></td>
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</table>

#### BIENNIUM 2016-2017

As at 31 December 2017
UNESCO and ICCROM Join Forces to Protect Cultural Heritage

UNESCO and ICCROM signed a landmark agreement on 13 October at UNESCO’s Headquarters in Paris to address mounting threats to cultural properties worldwide. Under this Memorandum of Understanding, the two agencies agreed to intensify efforts to implement the 1972 World Heritage Convention. They will cooperate in addressing challenges including destruction of cultural property in armed conflict, disaster risk management, illicit trafficking in heritage objects and new risks to intangible cultural heritage.

Under the agreement, the agencies will increase cooperation on training and capacity building, especially in the Middle East, the Arab Region and sub-Saharan Africa. They will also share information resources for public outreach and advocacy to support heritage conservation.

“The agreement stems from our joint commitment to protect cultural heritage endangered by ever-increasing hazards of both natural and human origin, including pillage and neglect,” said ICCROM’s then Director-General Stefano De Caro.

“UNESCO and ICCROM have intensified their cooperation to respond to the new threats of cultural cleansing and systematic destruction of heritage. This agreement is a step further to foster new and long-term responses to protect sites and share a narrative about our shared heritage as a force for peace,” declared UNESCO’s then Director-General Irina Bokova.

The agreement represents a milestone in the long-term partnership between UNESCO and ICCROM, who for many years have worked together to protect cultural heritage, most notably for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.
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GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships through Memorandum of Understanding

Academia Belgaica Belgium
Accademia di Danimarca Denmark
ACP—US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation United States of America
AHK—Reinwardt Academie Netherlands
Ahmadu Bello University Nigeria
AIA—Academic Initiatives Abroad United States of America
AIRC—International Association for Classical Archaeology Italy
AISAR—International Archive on the Historical and Contemporary Practice of Restoration for Cesare Brandi Italy
American Academy in Rome United States of America
American University of Rome United States of America
ANSA—National Associated Press Agency Italy
Arch-WH—Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage
Ars Civilis Foundation Spain
Associazione Civita Italy
Athabasca University Canada
Bavarian Government, represented by the University of Regensburg Germany
Bocconi University ASK (Art Science and Knowledge) Research Centre, Milan Italy
British School at Rome United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Bunkako—Agency for Cultural Affairs Japan
Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Property Italy
Central Bank of Ecuador Ecuador
Regional Centre for the Planning and Restoration of Cultural Heritage Sicily Region Italy
CHA—Cultural Heritage Administration Republic of Korea
CHIN—Canadian Heritage Information Network Canada
CNR—National Research Council Italy
Corpo Nazionale Vigili del Fuoco Italy
Council of Europe
CRATerre—International Centre for Earth Construction France
Dodomy Srl Italy
E.C.C.O.—European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers’ Organization A.I.S.B.L.
EAMENA Project (Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
École française de Rome France
Ethnographic Museum Croatia
Federuccia Italy
FICLU—Italian Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Centres Italy
Hallgarten-Franchetti Foundation, Centro Studi Villa Montecasa Italy
Fraunhofer Institute for Building Physics IBP Germany
Georgian National Committee of the Blue Shield Georgia
Getty Foundation United States of America
GWH—Global Heritage Fund United States of America
Government of Sharjah United Arab Emirates
Government of the United Arab Emirates
Government of the United States of America
IAA—Israel Antiquities Authority Israel
IA-TSU—Tbilisi Institute of Archaeology Georgia
IBAM-CNR—Institute of Archaeological Heritage—Monuments and Sites Italy
Ibemuses, Brazil
ICCM—International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics
ICCHTO—Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts & Tourism Organization Iran (Islamic Republic of)
ICOM—International Council of Museums
ICOMOS—International Council on Monuments and Sites
ICOMOS/ICORP Turkey—International Committee on Risk Preparedness Turkey
ICVB-CNR—Institute for the Conservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage Italy
IIC—International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works
IIP—Institut d’Études Politiques de Paris (SciencesPo) France
Inter-American Development Bank United States of America
INTERPOL
IRCICA—Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture
ISCR—Superior Institute for Conservation and Restoration Italy
ISEESCO—Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
Italian Chemical Society Italy
Italian Geographical Society Italy
IUCN—International Union for Conservation of Nature
IULM—International University of Language and Media Italy
KIK-IRPA—Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage Belgium
Kulturamt Berlin-Kreis Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf Germany
Kulturamt für Klimaschutz und Umweltschutz Berlin-Kreis Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf Germany
Kwawu—Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage Belgium
Laure Lenn France
MABIT—Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Tourism Italy
MABIT—Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, General Directorate for Archives Italy
Ministry of Culture and Communication, General Directorate for Heritage France
National Commission for Museums and Monuments Nigeria
NCTA—National Council for Tourism and Antiquities United Arab Emirates
OF—Federal Office of Culture Switzerland
OWHC—Organization of World Heritage Cities
Parco Archeologico di Pompei Italy
Politecnico di Torino Italy
Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development Netherlands
Principality of Monaco
R-DMUCH Institute of Disaster Risk Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage—Ritsumeikan University Japan
Regione Lazio Italy
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Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation Italy
Russian State Scientific and Research Institute of Cultural and Natural Heritage named after D.S. Likhachev Russian Federation
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SEAMEO-SPAFA—Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts
SIH—Sharjah Institute for Heritage United Arab Emirates
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Swedish Institute in Rome Sweden
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University of Urbino “Carlo Bo” Italy
Roma Tre University Italy
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University of British Columbia, School of Library Archives and Information Studies Canada
University of Nova Gorica Slovenia
University of Tsukuba, World Heritage Studies and CPNC—Certificate Programme on Nature Conservation Japan
Utö—University of Sharjah United Arab Emirates
URBIS Library Network
US Department of State United States of America
Welfare Association United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
YOCOCU—Youth in Conservation of Cultural Heritage Italy

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ICCRM is constantly seeking new partnerships to implement initiatives within its Member States. It brings to the table the knowledge, network and expertise to carry out activities designed to bring about sustainable change and a multiplier effect.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Partners and Sponsors</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Workshop on Preventative Conservation</td>
<td>Teheran, Iran (Islamic Republic of)</td>
<td>8–12 January</td>
<td>Research Centre for Conservation of Cultural Relics (RCCR); ICOM-Iran</td>
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<td>RE-ORG Chile</td>
<td>Santiago, Chile</td>
<td>13–17 March</td>
<td>Direction of Libraries, Archives and Museums (DBIAM); Centro Nacional de Conservación y Restauración (CNCR); Gabriela Mistral Education Museum</td>
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<td>Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction of Heritage Sites in the Pacific</td>
<td>Penang, Malaysia</td>
<td>5–6 April</td>
<td>UNESCO Office in Jakarta; Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Workshop on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
<td>Borobudur and Prambanan, Java, Indonesia</td>
<td>10–11 April</td>
<td>UNESCO Office in Jakarta; Ministry of Education and Culture, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protection of Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>Città di Castello, Italy</td>
<td>13–19 May</td>
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<td>Santiago, Chile</td>
<td>13–17 March</td>
<td>Direction of Libraries, Archives and Museums (DBIAM); Centro National Centre for Conservation and Restoration (CNCR); Gabriela Mistral Education Museum</td>
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<td>Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific</td>
<td>Penang, Malaysia</td>
<td>6–8 April</td>
<td>UNESCO Office in Jakarta; Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto</td>
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<td>Borobudur and Prambanan, Java, Indonesia</td>
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