



Media Advisory

International Experts Gather in Tunis to Discuss Safeguarding of Libya's Cultural Heritage

Rome, Italy – 7 May 2016: The Libyan Department of Antiquities in partnership with international experts, and the Rome-based International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), will meet in Tunis from 9-11 May. Their common goal is to discuss and develop a comprehensive action plan which will include concrete steps, benchmarks, and mechanisms to engage the civil society in the protection of Libya's numerous cultural heritage sites threatened by conflict and plunder. The meeting will also explore ways of fostering reconciliation and strengthening civil society through projects designed to protect the country's shared cultural assets.

Participants will include various Libyan stakeholders representing heritage sites, historic cities, and civil society representatives, along with US, Italian, French and UK diplomatic missions in Libya. The gathering will also include a number of international organizations such as Interpol, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) the World Bank and others.

Organized by ICCROM in coordination with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), this important conference on Libya's cultural heritage is due in large part to the generous support of the United States Embassy to Libya, resident in Tunis.

The event will take place at the Carthage Thalasso Resort in Gammarth, Tunis, 9-11 May 2016, 9:30 – 17:30. The event opening will take place on 9 May 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

Media representatives are welcome to attend and cover all sessions of this event.

For further information, please contact:

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About ICCROM

ICCROM is the only institution of its kind with a worldwide mandate to promote the conservation of all types of cultural heritage. ICCROM is an intergovernmental organization at the service of our Member States. It contributes to this endeavour by providing knowledge, tools and training to those who are working hard to conserve culture. ICCROM works at the international and governmental level, and with institutions and professionals on the ground. Through selected outreach activities, ICCROM aims to engage and inform new generations of upcoming professionals and the general public with an interest in heritage. ICCROM also maintains an active, engaged network of professionals from around the world who are passionate about heritage and its protection.

About ICCROM-ATHAR

ICCROM-ATHAR is a regional conservation centre founded by ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property), Rome, Italy, and the Government of the Emirate of Sharjah, UAE. ICCROM-ATHAR has dedicated its activities since its launch in 2004 to the protection of cultural heritage in the Arab region and to broadening access, appreciation and understanding of its rich history.

Basing its philosophy, goals and activities on its wide knowledge and experience in the field of cultural heritage in the Arab region, the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Centre is working today to enhance the capacity of official heritage institutions to manage heritage sites, historic monuments and museum collections on a sustainable basis. These objectives are foreseen to be achieved through a series of regional educational and field activities including capacity building, consultation, dissemination of Information, symposia, workshops and seminars.