Conserving Culture, Promoting Diversity
ICCROM is the only organization of its kind devoted to the conservation of all types of cultural heritage.

Our mission is to work with our Member States to ensure the best tools, knowledge, skills and enabling environment to preserve cultural heritage in all its forms, for the benefit of all people.

Our programmes are crafted to address world concerns through cultural heritage, while emphasizing diversity and inclusivity in our stakeholders and activities.
First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis prepares culture sector professionals and emergency responders to safeguard heritage when disaster strikes. This simple, field-tested methodology strengthens local capacities to protect heritage before, during and after a crisis event, and in large-scale, complex emergencies.

Cultural First Aiders work alongside communities, civil defence, military and humanitarian sectors, securing together the places, objects and traditions that unite people and promote social recovery.

The initiative includes capacity building, disaster risk management planning, emergency deployment, multilingual resource materials and a growing community of cultural First Aiders in more than 70 countries, ready to share knowledge and lend support.

First Aid to Cultural Heritage is a multi-partner initiative led by ICCROM, with support from UNESCO, Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative, Prince Claus Fund, Italian Civil Protection, Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation, and Cultural Heritage without Borders, Albania.

“Culture cannot wait”
The World Heritage Leadership Programme improves conservation and management practices for culture and nature by promoting a people-centred approach to heritage conservation, to support the contribution of heritage sites to sustainable development.

The programme aligns with ICCROM’s longstanding work as an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Convention.

The World Heritage Leadership Programme is jointly delivered by ICCROM and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), through the generous support of the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and the Environment, in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).
The ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates is ICCROM’s first branch office. It responds specifically to the needs of cultural heritage professionals in the Arab States.

While noted for its amazing richness, cultural heritage in many parts of the Arab world faces heightened risks. ICCROM-Sharjah addresses risk and other conservation issues relevant to the region by providing training, capacity building, advisory services and advocacy for cultural heritage professionals. ICCROM-Sharjah further shares best practices, raises public awareness and informs policy makers to improve cultural heritage planning in the Arab Region, as a vector of social and economic development.

The ICCROM-Sharjah Office is generously supported by His Highness Dr Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah.

“... cultural heritage in many parts of the Arab world faces heightened risks”
ICCROM advocates for cultural heritage and its importance in promoting life quality and stable societies. It speaks to both high-level decision makers and the general public about the positive impacts that cultural heritage brings to all levels of society. These include economic development, social inclusion, respect for diversity and a greater empathy and awareness of our shared histories, our surroundings and our world.

At the same time, ICCROM raises the profile of the conservation profession and institutions that care for heritage, highlighting their relevance to broader global concerns. Whether taking the podium at high-visibility global fora and international conferences, or sharing news and insights on social media, ICCROM’s message is always on the value of heritage and the multiple benefits that its care and protection brings to all.
ICCROM supports the professional heritage community with knowledge resources in a wide range of languages. Our Library contains the most extensive collection of publications and reports on worldwide conservation collected in one place. We offer services to on-site and remote users.

ICCROM’s Archives document 60 years of the organization’s history. Priceless resources from past collaborators, such as the Giorgio Torraca collection or the Paolo and Laura Mora samples collection, give a snapshot on a significant period in conservation, in Italy and worldwide.

Our publications provide 60 years of international experience in conservation theory and practice. We make them available free of charge on our website.

The ICCROM website provides a window on our many projects and activities, as well as the greater field of conservation. It shares events, training and employment opportunities taking place around the world.
When it comes to museum collections, prevention is always preferable to treating objects after damage or loss. ICCROM advances and shares tools and methodologies that respond to the “hows” and “whys” of preventive conservation. Using a risk management approach, ICCROM offers learning opportunities that enable institutions to identify priorities and find cost-effective solutions.

Storage is one critical challenge facing museums today. **ICCROM has the answer: RE-ORG**, a practical, field-tested method to help museums control and use their collections in storage, opening them for community enjoyment, learning and social cohesion.

ICCROM’s tools respect traditional know-how, local knowledge and cultural diversity. From them, institutions will gain strengthened capacities to care for collections, aligning long-term preservation with sustainable development.

Partners include UNESCO, the Canadian Conservation Institute, the Belgian Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA), and Ibermuseos.
ICCRom tracks the latest developments in research to monitor and share new scientific knowledge, stimulating analysis and debate. Our aim is to enhance the rigour, relevance and impact of heritage science by highlighting critical research needs and improving research practice.

Knowledge lies at the heart of conservation, and science plays an important role. It serves to improve preservation tools and methods, and unlock hidden stories and new meanings within heritage.

Heritage science is an interdisciplinary research area that blends natural and social sciences with humanities. A focus on enhancing the understanding, care, and use of heritage can help it enrich people’s lives, today and in future.

“Improving preservation tools and methods, and unlocking hidden stories and new meanings within heritage”
The human story is rooted in material culture. Conservators, while caring for the physical traces of our past, rely on a deep understanding of heritage materials – how objects were made, their material behaviour, and options for their care.

A focus on materials is essential. From historic buildings to audiovisual supports, from stone to wood, from paper to mosaics, ICCROM equips heritage professionals with the technical skills and knowledge they need. This approach maintains heritage as a resource for creating more sustainable relationships with our surrounding world.

Flagship courses for conserving stone, wood, Japanese paper, built heritage, and sounds and images (SOIMA) have made a reputation for ICCROM and its partners worldwide. With this training, ICCROM helps institutions strengthen their knowledge, reinforce their expertise base and build long-lasting professional networks.

“... sustainable relationships with our surrounding world”
ICCROM organizes its programme of activities per two-year biennium, as set forth in its Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). These activities also align with its six-year Strategic Directions cycle, defined by its Member States.

The Strategic Directions are underpinned by the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 UN Agenda, which target the economic, social and environmental well-being of people and the planet.
We offer you the chance to be internationally involved and part of a **worldwide network**.

By partnering with ICCROM, you and your organization can participate in our offer of conservation capacity building activities, access knowledge resources and tools for heritage management, leverage publicity and awareness raising opportunities, and advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

To implement our strategies, ICCROM depends on **partnerships and voluntary contributions** from governments, intergovernmental institutions, the United Nations, pooled funding mechanisms, and the private sector.

Your contribution ensures a mutual benefit for heritage and society. To find out how you can get involved, or to make a voluntary contribution, please contact [resource-mobilization@iccrom.org](mailto:resource-mobilization@iccrom.org).

Recent ICCROM activities have benefitted from generous contributions from the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan; Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA), Republic of Korea; National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), Mexico; and the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) and Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage (CACH), China. Other generous contributors are listed on the pages of this brochure.

The full partner list for 2017 is on the ICCROM website: [https://www.iccrom.org/about/partnership/partners](https://www.iccrom.org/about/partnership/partners)