RED LIST OF CAMBODIAN ANTIQUITIES AT RISK
For more than two millennia the Khmer have produced objects that are widely regarded for their æsthetic value. Many such objects are integral parts of the thousands of ancient sites throughout Cambodia which are now testament to the kingdom’s rich history. The Prehistoric past of Cambodia remains largely unexplored and undocumented. The looting of sites from all periods of Cambodia’s past robs the world of the chance to understand the unique beginnings and continuous evolution of the Khmer civilization. It is imperative that the illicit trade in antiquities be brought to an end.

If you suspect an item may be an illegal antiquity, please contact:

Patrimony Police
Ministry of Interior, Cambodia
Phone: +855 (0) 12 826 015
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Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts
Cambodia
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The cultural heritage of Cambodia is protected by the following laws and agreements:

**NATIONAL LAWS**

Royal Decree 0196/26 On the Protection of Cultural Heritage, January 25, 1996
Sub-decree No 98 Concerning the Execution of the Protection of Cultural Patrimony, September 17, 2002
Royal Decree 0295/12 Establishing APSARA, February 19, 1995
Royal Decree 0199/18 2nd Decree regarding APSARA, January 22, 1999
Royal Decree 001/NS Establishing Protected Cultural Zones, May, 1994
Royal Decree 0705/323 Transferring Koh Ker to APSARA Authority
Royal Decree 0504/070 Establishing site of Koh Ker, June 05, 2004
Provisions Dated September 10, 1992
Relating to the Judiciary and Criminal Law and Procedure Applicable in Cambodia During the Transitional Period, Article 47: Receiving and Concealing Cultural Goods
Provisions Dated September 10, 1992
Relating to the Judiciary and Criminal Law and Procedure Applicable in Cambodia During the Transitional Period, Article 44: Misdemeanors Concerning Cultural Property

**INTERNATIONAL TREATIES**

UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, June 24, 1995
Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, November 6, 2001
Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, October 20, 2005

**BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH:**

Thailand and United States of America
Introduction

The Cambodian government takes considerable measures to protect the country’s cultural heritage, but despite them, widespread looting and destruction of archaeological sites continues. Looters have targeted Angkorian and Post-Angkorian metal objects and stone sculptural elements for decades. Recently, a new tide of destruction has arisen with the looting of Prehistoric cemetery sites across the country.

The search for ancient artefacts is driven by demand in Cambodia and in the international marketplace. The illicit trafficking of objects of all types and materials, dating from the Prehistoric period to the 19th century, is stripping the country of its rich cultural heritage. Sculpture, architectural elements, ancient religious documents, bronzes, iron artefacts, wooden objects and ceramics are still being exported illegally at an alarming rate.

Cambodia's cultural resources are very important to its people. Their pride in their heritage is symbolized by the choice of depicting the ancient temple of Angkor Wat on the nation's flag. Moreover, sites such as the Angkor Park are enormously popular with international tourists and constitute an economic resource for Cambodia. Threats to Cambodian heritage therefore continue to be taken seriously by the international community.

Purpose

This Red List has been developed to assist museums, collectors, dealers in art and antiquities, and customs and other law enforcement officials in recognizing objects that may have been looted and illicitly exported from Cambodia. To facilitate this, the List illustrates and describes several categories of objects at risk of being illicitly traded on the antiquities market. These objects are protected under Cambodian law banning their sale and export. Therefore, ICOM appeals to interested parties to refrain from purchasing these objects without first checking thoroughly their origin and provenance documentation.

Because of the diversity of Cambodian objects, the Red List of Cambodian Antiquities at Risk is not exhaustive, and any antiquity that may have originated in Cambodia should be subjected to detailed scrutiny and precautionary measures.

There is a vibrant craft industry in Cambodia today. Artisans produce textiles, lacquer-ware and carvings in stone and wood that emulate those made in the ancient past. The trade in these objects is crucial to the continued development of Cambodia's ongoing craft traditions, and is not meant to be hindered by the publication of this List.
The objects are grouped according to the material they are made of. The photographs which illustrate the categories were provided by the National Museum of Cambodia, the Ecole Française d’Extrême-Orient, and the Heritage Watch, hereafter respectively referred to as NMC, EFEO and HW for the copyrights. At the date of this printing, these images do not reproduce stolen objects; they serve only to illustrate the categories of objects which are the target of illicit traffic. Within these categories, the objects are presented in four time periods.

THE RED LIST INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF OBJECTS.

**STONE (including semi-precious stone)**

**PREHISTORY** (from 5th century B.C. to 5th century A.D.)

A. **Tools:** adzes, axes, and axe-like chopping implements varying in size from 10 to 40 cm. [illus. 1]

B. **Beads:** most are made of semi-precious stone including carnelian (an orange colour) and agate (banded brown); some may be etched. [illus. 2-3]

**PRE-ANGKOR** (from 6th to 8th centuries A.D.)

A. **Sculpture:** carved representations or fragments (hands, feet, heads, and torsos) of human and animal forms. [illus. 4-5-6-7]

B. **Architectural elements and fragments:** colonnettes, columns, lintels, pediments, pedestals, and bas-reliefs. [illus. 8-9]

C. **Inscriptions:** on stelae and door jambs. [illus. 10]

1. Adzes, stone ca. 15 x 18 cm. © HW
2. Beads, carnelian and agate ca. 4 cm. © HW
3. Bead, carnelian and agate. © HW
4. Linga, sandstone, 83 x 25 x 24 cm. © NMC
5. Head of Buddha, sandstone, 27 x 16 x 17 cm. © NMC
6. Vishnu, sandstone, 133 x 48 x 25 cm. © NMC
7. Ganesha, sandstone, 76 x 42 x 20 cm. © NMC
8. Lintel, sandstone, 34 x 109 x 21 cm. © NMC
9. Lintel and columns, sandstone, 171 x 16 cm (diameter: 15 cm). © NMC
10. Stele with Nandin the bull on a lotus, sandstone, 97 x 42 x 8 cm. © NMC
ANGKOR (from 9th to 13th centuries A.D.)

A. Sculpture: carved representations or fragments (hands, feet, heads, and torsos) of human and animal forms. [illus. 11-12]

B. Architectural elements and fragments. [illus. 13-14-15]

C. Grinding stones: flat slabs usually worn into a concave shape; they are often accompanied by a tubular grinder also of stone. [illus. 16]

D. Inscriptions. [illus. 17]

POST-ANGKOR (from 14th to early 20th centuries A.D.)

A. Sima: boundary markers, slabs of stone with a gently peaked top sometimes with Buddhist iconography. [illus. 18]
METAL (comprising bronze, copper, iron, gold, and silver)

PREHISTORY (from 5th century B.C. to 5th century A.D.)

A. Ceremonial objects: large and waisted drums with decorated top surface often with a central star and decorated bands, bell-shaped hollow vessels with decorative motifs, and bells. [illus. 19-20]

B. Adornments: bangles, beads, torques, buffalo-head finger rings, earrings, and mirrors; many bronzes have delicate spiral motifs. [illus. 21]

PRE-ANKOR (from 6th to 8th centuries A.D.)

A. Sculpture: symbolic and anthropomorphic figures. [illus. 22-23]

ANKOR (from 9th to 13th centuries A.D.)

A. Ceremonial and ritual objects: vajra, bells, conches, tripods, and incense burners, chariot/palanquin of bronze. [illus. 24-25-26-27]

B. Adornments: finger rings, earrings, diadems, necklaces, ankle rings, arm bands, and mirrors made of bronze or gold. [illus. 28]

C. Utensils: spoons/ladles, bowls, and chisels. [illus. 29]

D. Sculpture. [illus. 30]

POST-ANKOR (from 14th to early 20th centuries A.D.)

A. Utensils: spoons, urns, bowls, and cooking/tea pots of bronze. [illus. 31-32-33]

B. Weapons: iron daggers and swords, usually with decorated hilts. [illus. 34]

C. Religious objects: both symbolic and anthropomorphic, bells, chariot fixtures, popil, percussion instruments including varying sizes of gongs and cymbals, candlesticks, and betel containers made of bronze. [illus. 35-36]

RED LIST OF CAMBODIAN ANTIQUITIES AT RISK

19. Bell, bronze, 57 x 27.5 x 32 cm. © NMC
20. Drum, bronze, 56.5 x 95 cm. © NMC
21. Bangles, bronze, 9 to 10 cm in diameter. © HW
22. Lokesvara, bronze, 24 x 7 x 7 cm. © NMC
23. Bull, Shiva’s mount, bronze, 36 x 64 x 32 cm. © NMC
24. Palanquin hooks, rings and tubular pole decoration, bronze. © NMC
25. Ritual bell, bronze, 14 x 7 cm. © NMC
26. Vajra, bronze, 12.5 x 4 x 4 cm. © NMC
27. Ritual conch (sankha) with stand, bronze, 29 x 11 x 11 cm (conch). © NMC
28. Ring, bronze, 4.7 x 1.7 cm. © NMC
29. Betel container, metal, 41 x 9.7 cm. © EFEO
30. Kneeling female figure, support for mirror, bronze, 34 x 24 cm. © NMC
31. Ladle, bronze, 30 cm. © EFEO
32. Lime pot, bronze, 17 x 16 cm. © EFEO
33. Utensils, metal. © EFEO
34. Dagger, bronze, 25 x 8.5 x 2 cm. © EFEO
35. Buddha, silver, 36.7 x 28 x 14 cm. © NMC
36. Popil (ritual candlestick), bronze, 25 x 10.5 x 0.7 cm. © NMC
ORGANIC MATERIAL

POST-ANGKOR (from 14th to early 20th centuries A.D.)

A. Architectural elements: wooden doors and carved panels. [illus. 37]

B. Sculptures of the Adorned Buddha: usually of wood decorated with lacquer, gold leaf, paint and incrustations of glass. [illus. 38]

C. Manuscripts: of palm leaf and/or paper. [illus. 39]

CERAMICS AND GLASS

PREHISTORY (from 5th century B.C. to 5th century A.D.)

A. Vessels and containers: pots, bowls, plates, footed bowls. [illus. 40]

B. Ceramic adornments: epaulettes. [illus. 41]

C. Glass beads: usually small, seed-like objects in a range of colours from terracotta to blue, yellow, green, and red. [illus. 42]

ANGKOR (from 9th to 13th centuries A.D.)

Ceramics from the Angkorian period are mostly stoneware, unglazed or glazed of creamy white, pale green, straw-yellow, reddish-brown, brown, olive, and black.

A. Vessels and containers: pots, urns, vases, burial jars, lidded bowls/boxes, zoomorphic vessels, deformed vessels (kiln wasters). [illus. 43]

B. Decorative roof tiles. [illus. 44-45]

POST-ANGKOR (from 14th to early 20th centuries A.D.)

A. Ceramics: shipwrecks in Cambodian waters may hold various trade goods including Chinese, Sukhothai or Vietnamese vessels. [illus. 46]
The International Council of Museums (ICOM) is the principal international organization of museums and museum professionals committed to the conservation, continuation and communication to society of the world’s natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible.

With over 26,000 members in 151 countries, ICOM is an international network of museum professionals expert in a wide variety of disciplines.

Created in 1946, ICOM is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization (NGO) maintaining formal relations with UNESCO and having a consultative status with the United Nations’ Economic and Social Council.

ICOM considers combating illicit trade in cultural property to be one of the core aims of its programme of action. The Red List of Cambodian Antiquities at Risk has been designed to prevent pillage, theft, and the illegal export of cultural property from Cambodia; and to help protect the country’s cultural heritage. This Red List is an addition to the collection of Red Lists already published for Africa, Latin America, Iraq, Afghanistan and Peru.

http://icom.museum/redlist

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