



RedList
KırmızıListe
ICOM



RED LIST OF CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK TÜRKİYE



RED LIST

OF CULTURAL OBJECTS AT RISK - TÜRKİYE

Why a Red List for Türkiye?

Despite the devoted and continuous efforts of governmental and non-governmental organisations, the cultural heritage of Türkiye is constantly witnessing its slow dispossession by looters and traffickers who are smuggling artefacts out of the country, reaching diverse global markets of buyers of illicit antiquities. The purpose of this *Red List of Cultural Objects at Risk - Türkiye* is to contribute to the protection of cultural heritage by identifying the type of objects that are most at risk.

Museums, auction houses, art dealers and collectors are urged not to acquire objects similar to those presented in this Red List without having carefully and thoroughly researched their origin and all the relevant legal documentation. Any cultural artefact that could have originated from Türkiye should be subject to detailed scrutiny and precautionary measures before any transaction is concluded.

In cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism as well as a dedicated team of Turkish heritage specialists, ICOM has published the *Red List of Cultural Objects at Risk - Türkiye* thanks to the support of the American Research Institute in Türkiye (ARIT).

Protecting cultural heritage

Every day, somewhere in the world, objects are either stolen, looted or illegally sold on the market or online, resulting in an irreparable loss of heritage of great historical, scientific and societal value. Over the past 30 years, the illicit trade in art and antiquities has become a serious issue which transcends borders and whose impact reaches far beyond the loss of cultural heritage.

Since 2000, ICOM has published Red Lists that detail categories of endangered cultural goods from all over the world. These Red Lists have become important instruments in the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural goods. Red Lists are practical tools that in particular help art and heritage professionals and law enforcement officials to identify cultural objects that are protected by national and international legislation.

The ICOM Red Lists were preceded by the *One Hundred Missing Objects* series: an ICOM publication that highlighted missing cultural objects. For decades, ICOM has been at the forefront of actions to protect heritage from illicit trafficking, using the unique experience of museum professionals to assist heritage and non-heritage experts alike identify and protect cultural heritage.

Should you suspect that a cultural object originating from Türkiye may be stolen, looted or illegally exported, please contact:

International Council of Museums (ICOM)
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E-mail: illicit-traffic@icom.museum

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IMPORTANT NOTE

A Red List is NOT a list of actual stolen objects.

The cultural goods depicted are inventoried objects within the collections of recognised institutions, public property belonging to the state, or images which are in the public domain. They serve to illustrate the categories of cultural goods protected by legislation which are most vulnerable to illicit traffic.

Main regulations protecting cultural heritage in Türkiye

This list is non-exhaustive. All instruments and regulations should be read to include eventual amendments and/or implementation acts.

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

The Hague Convention of 14 May 1954
for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict
with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention.

Accession 15 December 1965

First Protocol of 14 May 1954

Accession 15 December 1965

UNESCO Convention of 14 November 1970
on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import,
Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

Ratification 21 April 1981

UNESCO Convention of 16 November 1972
Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Ratification 16 March 1983

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Law on the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Property (Nr 2863)

23 July 1983

Note: The first regulations on the protection of cultural property during the Ottoman Empire date back to 1869. Among them, the last law enacted in 1906 remained in force in the Republic of Türkiye until the Antiquities Law No. 1710 was introduced in 1973. These and earlier regulations are still applied by Türkiye for objects that were illegally removed from the territories of present-day Türkiye at the time they were still in effect.

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Türkiye has bilateral agreements in place to ensure the return of stolen cultural heritage with the following countries:

Republic of Uzbekistan (1998)

Turkmenistan (1999)

People's Republic of China (2009)

Republic of Peru (2010)

Republic of Bulgaria (2013)

Hellenic Republic (Greece) (2013)

Islamic Republic of Iran (2016)

Republic of Romania (2017)

United States of America (2021)

Republic of Ecuador (2022)

Republic of Serbia (2022)

Swiss Confederation (2023)

ICOM wishes to thank each of the institutions below for generously providing the photographs of the objects from their permanent collections, to be presented in this Red List of Cultural Objects at Risk – Türkiye.

Afyonkarahisar Museum
Ankara Anatolian Civilizations Museum
Antalya Museum
Çorum Museum
Edirne Museum
Edirne Turkish Islamic Arts Museum
Erzurum Museum
Gaziantep Archaeological Museum
Gaziantep Zeugma Mosaic Museum
Hagia Sophia History and Experience Museum
Istanbul Archaeological Museums
Istanbul Presidency of Türkiye Manuscripts Institution
Istanbul Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum
Tunceli Museum
Van Museum

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RED LIST OF CULTURAL O

THE RED LIST INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES AND SUB-CATEGORIES:

Documents, Manuscripts and Books

Documents, manuscripts, books and archival documents; on clay tablets with cuneiform script in Hittite, Akkadian, Sumerian or Assyrian languages; on stone in any Anatolian civilizations' languages, Ancient Greek, Arabic, or Turkish; handwritten in Arabic script on paper or stone. Handwritten books on parchment with gilded decorations in Arabic script. [1–8]



1. Clay tablets with cuneiform script, Maşathöyük, Tokat / Kültepe, Kayseri, Hittite-Assyrian Trade Colonies Period, ca. 17th c. BCE, 5.3 x 6.1 x 2.1 cm. © KTB

2. Stone plaque with engraved inscription, Manisa Demirci, 215 CE, 51 x 33.5 cm. © KTB

3. Stone tablet from a mosque with inscription in Arabic, Istanbul, 1285 CE, 44.5 x 47.5 cm. © KTB

4. Inscription in Arabic on paper, from the tomb of Sultan Beyazid, Istanbul, Ottoman Period, 1806 CE, 71 x 137 cm. © KTB

5. Inscription in Arabic on painted and glazed tile, Konya, Ottoman Period, 13th c. CE, 32 x 192 cm. © KTB

6. Quran manuscript, bound in gilded leather, Istanbul, Ottoman Period, 16th c. CE, 21.7 x 15 x 5.5 cm. © KTB

7. Pages from a manuscript (Husrev Pasha 816/2, A Treatise on Learning Swordsmanship), Istanbul, Ottoman Period, 16th-17th c. CE, 27.5 x 17.5 cm, 14.2 x 7 cm. © KTB

8. Firman with gilded decorations, Ayasofya, Istanbul, Ottoman Period, 1755-56 CE, 196 x 80 cm. © KTB

Vessels

Vessels and containers, plain or decorated; in terracotta, bronze, silver, gold or ceramic; from various civilizations and eras. [9–14]



9. Painted ceramics with geometrical decorations, Hacılar, Burdur, Chalcolithic Period, 6000-3100 BCE, 16 x 18 cm / 8 x 9 cm. © KTB

10. Globular vase with painted geometrical decorations and animal figures, Erzurum, Middle Bronze Age, 2000-1650 BCE, 35.8 x max. Ø 23 cm. © KTB

11. Hand-engraved ceramic tripod urn with regionally unique geometrical decorations, Babaköy, Balıkesir, Early Bronze Age, 3100-2000 BCE, 10.5 x max. Ø 8 cm. © KTB

12. Terracotta zoomorphic rhyta, Kültepe Kayseri, Assyrian Trade Colonies Period, ca. 17th c. BCE, approx. 7 x 14.8 cm, 24.3 x 22 cm. © KTB

13. Silver phiale with low-relief details, (Ikiztepe Tumulus) Güre, Uşak, 6th c. BCE, 6.3 x max. Ø 14.3 cm. © KTB

14. Painted and glazed ceramic pitcher with vegetal motifs, Afyonkarahisar, Late Ottoman Period, 1789-1808 CE, 29 x max. Ø 19 cm. © KTB

Sculptures, Statuettes and Figurines

Human or animal representations in different styles and with diverse features; in terracotta, bronze, stone. [15–22]



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15. Marble anthropomorphic idol with regionally unique details, Western Anatolia, Chalcolithic Period, 6000-3100 BCE, 18 x 6 cm. © KTB

16. Marble anthropomorphic idol with regionally unique details, Beycesultan, Denizli, Early Bronze Age, 3100-2000 BCE, 8.8 x 4.5 cm. © KTB

17. Terracotta figurine of a seated female nude, Çatalhöyük, Konya, Early Neolithic Period, 9000-7400 BCE, 20 x 15 cm. © KTB

18. Statuette of Cybele, Çavdarlı, Afyonkarahisar, Roman Period, ca. 2nd-3rd c. CE, 58.5 x 23 cm. © KTB



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19. Marble head of Artemis, Cyme (Namurtkale, İzmir), Hellenistic Period, late 3rd c. BCE, 37 x 28 cm. © KTB

20. Marble statue of Emperor Trajan in armour, Perge, Antalya, Roman Period, 1st-2nd c. CE, 221 x 96 x 50 cm. © KTB

21. Fragments of bronze sculptures, (Boubon) Gölhisar, Burdur, Roman Period, 2nd-3rd c. CE, 15.2 x 26.67 cm / 20.3 x 22.8 cm. © KTB

22. Bronze figurine of bulls pulling a carriage, Şanlıurfa, late 3rd c. BCE - early 2nd c. BCE, 19.8 x 11.2 cm. © KTB

Architectural Elements

Wall decorations; carved reliefs in stone; mosaics in limestone with figures; ceramic tiles with decorations; carved wooden doors. [23–26]



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23. Basalt relief of a god marching with a raised arm, (Gercin Mound) Gözlühöyük, Gaziantep, Late Hittite Period, 1200-600 BCE, 138 x 100 x 65 cm. © KTB

24. Limestone mosaic panel with animals and figures, (Zeugma Ancient City) Nizip, Gaziantep, Roman Period, 2nd-3rd c. CE, 230 x 410 cm. © KTB

25. Ceramic tiles decorated with vegetal motifs, Great Mosque of Adana, Adana, Ottoman Period, 16th c. CE, 19.5 x 19.5 cm. © KTB

26. Carved wooden door, Tomb of Sadreddin Konevi, Konya, Anatolian Seljuk Period, 13th c. CE, 166 x 116 cm. © KTB

RED LIST OF CULTURAL O

Coins

Pre-Islamic: from the Classical period to Byzantine period in different materials such as bronze, silver and gold. Plain or mostly with several symbols, depictions of royalty, deities and other figures. [27–28]

Islamic: from the Seljuk and Ottoman Empires in different materials such as bronze, silver or gold. Seljuk coins may have cavalry figures, lion or sun motifs on one side. On the other side, there is an inscription. Ottoman coins have inscriptions or *tughra* on both sides. [29]



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27. Silver coin, Elmalı, Antalya, Classical Period, 5th c. BCE, Ø 26 mm. © KTB

28. Gold coin, Istanbul, Byzantine Period, 602-610 CE, Ø 21.5 mm. © KTB

29. Silver coin with inscriptions in Arabic, Damatris, Istanbul, Ottoman Period, 1761-1808, Ø 14 mm. © KTB

Accessories and Tools

Objects for military purposes; archaeological and non-archaeological from different periods and areas; bronze, iron.

Militaria: Weapons, arms, armour and related objects. Archaeological [30] or non-archaeological. [31]

Censers and Lamps : Lamp, censers and candelabra in terracotta, bronze or silver from different periods and eras. Plain or decorated. [32–35]



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30. Bronze helmet, Ayanis, Van, Urartian Period, 9th-7th c. BCE, 30 x max. Ø 26 cm. © KTB

31. Iron sword, Edirne, Ottoman Period, 80 x 3.6 cm. © KTB

32. Bronze standing lamp, Afyonkarahisar, Byzantine Period, 5th-7th c. CE, 23 x 11 x 38 cm. © KTB

33. Terracotta lamp, Afyonkarahisar, Roman Period, 1st-2nd c. CE, 3 x 8 x 11.3 cm. © KTB

34. Silver censer, (Ikiztepe Tumulus) Güre, Uşak, Lydian Period, 6th c. BCE, 28.8 x max. Ø 10.8 cm. © KTB

35. Bronze candelabra from the shrine of Şükracettin Veli, Eskişehir, Seljuk Period, 11th-14th c. CE, 19 x max. Ø 20 cm. © KTB

Jewellery and Ornaments: Different types of jewellery; fibulas, rings, bracelets, belts and ornaments in different materials such as bronze, silver, gold, iron, bone, ivory and from different periods and eras and made using different techniques. Plain or highly decorated with elaborate details. [36–39]



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36. Bronze belt, Erzurum, Urartian Period, 9th-7th c. BCE, Ø 33.5 x 5.8 cm. © KTB

37. Bronze embossed fibula, (Elmalı-Bayındır Tumulus) Elmalı, Antalya, 7th-6th c. BCE, 0.6 x Ø max. 4.2 cm. © KTB

38. Bronze bracelet, Erzurum, Urartian Period, 9th-7th c. BCE, 0.4 x max. Ø 6 cm. © KTB

39. Cameo ring, Çorum, Roman Period, 2nd c. CE, Ø 1.9 cm. © KTB

Religious Artefacts

Objects for religious services; in wood, bronze, silver, woven textile, stone; made and decorated using different techniques such as painting, embossing, carving and sculpting.

Funerary Steles: Steles with sculpted figures and motifs. [40]

Sarcophagi: Coffins in carved stone with figures, motifs with scenes from mythology or daily life. [41–42]

Gravestones: Gravestones, in addition to examples in the form of a flat stone slab, may be decorated with *imamah*, floral motifs, animal figures and/or Arabic inscriptions. [43–45]



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40. Marble funerary stele with sculptural elements in high-relief, Edirne, Roman Period, 1st-2nd c. CE, 39 x 49 x 7 cm. © KTB

41. Marble sarcophagus with masks and vegetal motifs, Perge, Antalya, Roman Period, 1st-2nd c. CE, 80 x 198 x 91 cm. © KTB

42. Marble sarcophagus with sculpted figures, Perge, Antalya, Roman Period, 1st-2nd c. CE, 248 x 119 x 110 cm. © KTB

43. Ram-headed tombstone, Pülümür, Tunceli, Late Ottoman Period, 112 x 85 x 26 cm. © KTB

44. Marble gravestone, Silivri Kapi, Istanbul, Ottoman Period, 136 x 28.5 cm. © KTB

45. Marble gravestone, Edirne, Ottoman Period, 100 x 27 cm. © KTB

Ritual Objects: Different types of objects intended for religious purposes in wood, bronze, stone or woven textile, from different periods and cultures. [46–47]

Votive Plaques: Votive plaques in stone with reliefs or embossed bronze. [48–49]



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46. Painting of the Hodagetria, Virgin Mary and the Child Jesus, painted on wood from the Kazak Church in Kocagöl, Manyas, Balıkesir, Byzantine Period, 31 x 27 cm. © KTB

47. Woven prayer rug decorated with geometrical and floral motifs, Kırşehir, Ottoman Period, 140 x 84 cm. © KTB

48. Stone panel with sculptural elements in high-relief (fragment), Kaş, Antalya, 3rd c. BCE, 60 x 34 x 6 cm. © KTB

49. Embossed bronze plaque (fragment), Muş, Urartian Period, 9th-7th c. BCE, 10.5 x 5 cm. © KTB

ICOM AND THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) was established in 1946 to represent museums and museum professionals worldwide. ICOM is committed to the promotion and protection of natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible. With a unique network of over 57,000 members in 129 countries and territories (2023), ICOM is active in a wide range of museum and heritage related disciplines.

ICOM maintains formal relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and has a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as an expert in the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural goods. ICOM also works in collaboration with organisations such as INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and UNIDROIT to carry out some of its international public service missions.

The protection of heritage in the event of natural disaster or armed conflict is also at the core of ICOM's work, supported by its members, and its national and international committees and through its strong involvement in the Blue Shield, of which it is a founding member. In the event of a crisis, ICOM can mobilise its network of experts in the field of cultural heritage from all over the world.

In 2013, ICOM also created the first *International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods* to reinforce its actions in fighting illicit traffic, with a database of resources on the subject available online (www.obs-traffic.museum).

The Red Lists have been designed as practical tools to fight the illegal trade in cultural objects. ICOM is grateful for the unwavering commitment of the experts and institutions who generously contribute to the success of the Red Lists.

All the Red Lists are available on ICOM's website: <https://icom.museum/en/>

With the generous support of:



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