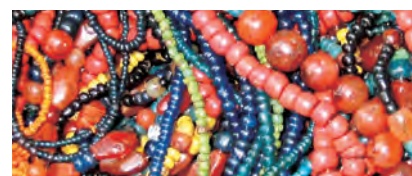
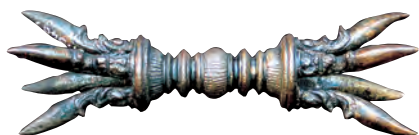


RED LIST OF  
CAMBODIAN  
ANTIQUITIES  
AT RISK



ICOM international  
council  
of museums



RedList  
ListeRouge  
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# 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

Fax: +855 (0) 23 726 975

Contact: General TAN Chay

#### **Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts**

#### **Cambodia**

Phone: +855 (0) 12 872 703/16 825 893/

16 873 328

Fax: +855 (0) 23 218 147

Email: ok\_sophon@yahoo.com

Contact: H.E. Mr. OK Sophon

#### **National Museum of Cambodia**

#### **(Phnom Penh)**

Phone/Fax: +855 (0) 23 211 753

Email: museum\_cam@camnet.com.kh

Contact: Mr. HAB Touch

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*
- Law on Customs, Article 8, February 2003*

### **INTERNATIONAL TREATIES**

- The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its first Protocol, May 14, 1954*
- UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of cultural Property, November 14, 1970*
- 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 for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, November 17, 2003*
- 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*

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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 market place. The illicit trafficking of objects of all types and materials, dating from the Prehistoric period to the 19<sup>th</sup> 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*

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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 inter-ested 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.

Looted temple at Bakan. © Andrew Burke

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.

# RED LIST OF CAMBODIA

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 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. to 5<sup>th</sup> 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]



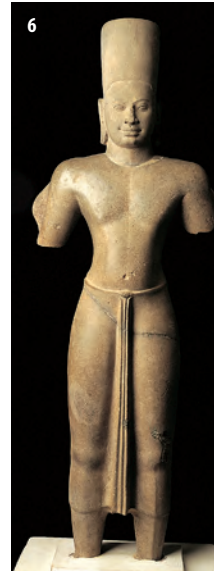
1. Adzes, stone ca. 15 x 18 cm. © HW  
2. Beads, carnelian and agate ca. 4 cm. © HW  
3. Bead, agate. © HW

### PRE-ANGKOR (from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.)

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



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



**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]



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 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 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]



11. Female divinity, sandstone, 125 x 26 x 26 cm. © NMC

12. Shiva with Uma and Ganga, sandstone, 101 x 53 x 13 cm. © NMC

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



16. Grinding stone with tubular grinder, sandstone. © EFEO



13. Lintel, sandstone, 60 x 173 cm. © NMC

14. Balustrade with Naga and Garuda, sandstone, 158 x 94 x 50 cm. © NMC

15. Bas-relief depicting multiple-armed Lokeshvara, sandstone, 230 x 180 x 31 cm. © NMC

**D. Inscriptions.** [illus. 17]

17. Stele with Yama on a buffalo, sandstone, 60 x 34 x 14 cm. © NMC



## POST-ANGKOR (from 14<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.)

**A. Sima:** boundary markers, slabs of stone with a gently peaked top sometimes with Buddhist iconography. [illus. 18]



18. Sima, sandstone, 59 x 32 x 9.5 cm. © NMC

## Metal (comprising bronze, copper, iron, gold, and silver)

### PREHISTORY (from 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. to 5<sup>th</sup> 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-ANGKOR (from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.)

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

### ANGKOR (from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.)

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

24. Palanquin hooks, rings and tubular pole decoration, bronze. © NMC



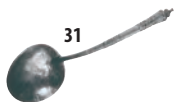
**B. Adornments:** finger rings, earrings, diadems, necklaces, ankle rings, arm bands, and mirrors made of bronze or gold. [illus. 28]

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

**D. Sculpture.** [illus. 30]

### POST-ANGKOR (from 14<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.)

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



31. Ladle, bronze, 30 cm. © EFEO  
32. Lime pot, bronze, 17 x 16 cm. © EFEO  
33. Utensils, metal. © EFEO



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

34. Dagger, bronze, 25 x 8.5 x 2 cm. © EFEO

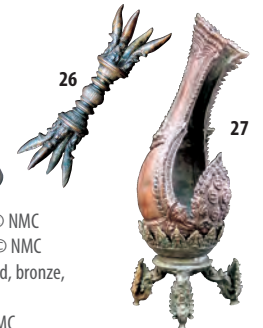
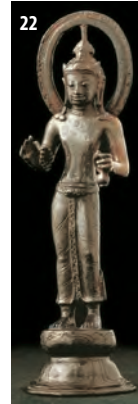
**C. Religious objects:** both symbolic and anthropomorphic, bells, chariot fixtures, popil, percussion instruments including varying sizes of gongs and cymbals, candlesticks, and betel containers made of bronze. [illus. 35-36]



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



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



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 14<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.)

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

37. Wooden carved panel. © EFEO



37

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

38. Kneeling worshipper, wood with red lacquer and gilding, 92 x 42 x 54 cm. © NMC



38

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



39

39. Manuscript, palm leaf, 55.5 x 5.5 x 8.5 cm. © NMC

## Ceramics and glass

**PREHISTORY** (from 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. to 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.)

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



40

40. Pot, earthenware, 45 x 30 cm. © HW

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



41

41. Epaulette, earthenware with iron, ca. 10 x 10 cm. © HW

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



42

42. Beads, glass, 0.2 to 0.5 cm. © HW

**ANGKOR** (from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 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]



43

43. Ceramic containers. © EFEO

44-45. Roof tiles, ceramic, 20 to 50 cm. © EFEO



44

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



45

**POST-ANGKOR** (from 14<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.)

**A. Ceramics:** shipwrecks in Cambodian waters may hold various trade goods including Chinese, Sukhothai or Vietnamese vessels. [illus. 46]

46. Jar, fired clay with brown glaze, 61 x 43 cm. © NMC



46

## ICOM AND THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The International Council of Museums (ICOM), created in 1946 to represent museums and museum professionals worldwide, is committed to the promotion and protection of natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible. With a unique network of over 40,000 members in 138 countries and territories (2018), 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 illicit traffic in cultural goods. ICOM also works in collaboration with organisations such as INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO) 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, thanks to its Disaster Risk Management Committee (DRMC) and through its strong involvement in the international Blue Shield. ICOM has the ability to mobilise expert networks in the field of cultural heritage from all over the world thanks to its numerous programmes.

In 2013, ICOM created the first International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods in order to reinforce its action in fighting illicit traffic.

The Red Lists have been designed as practical tools to curb 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.

The Red Lists are available at the following address: <http://redlist.icom.museum>

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Washington, D.C.*

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