



## **HAITI EARTHQUAKE 3 February 2010 Status Report**

ICOM would like to thank all its members, national and international committees and museums professionals, who spontaneously show their support and offer their help for Haitian cultural and heritage institutions. We are working on the best way to help our Haitian friends and colleagues in their struggle to rescue their heritage and to coordinate the spirit of solidarity that arises in these difficult times.

The humanitarian and security crisis in Haiti makes it still difficult to assess damages and needs. Though ICOM and its partners are making every effort to collect and verify information, this status report only provides information that has been sufficiently checked, hence the relative scarcity.

Amongst the most urgent needs is the protection of cultural sites and objects. In this regard, ICOM supports UNESCO, who called in armed forces, local and international authorities, to protect cultural and heritage institutions from looting. UNESCO also called on the UN Security council to adopt a resolution imposing a temporary ban on the trade or transfer of Haitian cultural property. ICOM calls on all its members— national, regional and international committees—to support and enforce this temporary embargo without delay.

Moreover, several assessment missions are or will soon arrive in Haiti, including UNESCO, Blue Shield, IFLA and ICOMOS. ICOM supports these critical missions, which should provide the cultural and heritage community with a more accurate view on the local situation and needs.

### **1. ICOM member status**

At this time, we still have no news of our colleagues who were not mentioned in our previous Status Report. ICOM expresses its deepest concern and sorrow regarding their unknown fate.

### **2. Local action**

We wish to acknowledge ICOM-Haiti's courage and determination, which, in spite of its members' tragic situation, has set up the *Patrimoine en Danger* Crisis unit. It aims to coordinate movable cultural heritage rescue operations, in addition to efforts undertaken by the Haitian government. The Crisis unit includes members of the following associations and institutions: ICOM-Haiti, ICA Haïti, AICA Haïti, CNHCU, Parc Historique de la Canne-à-Sucre and other heritage specialists.

The scope of *Patrimoine en Danger* is not limited to museums and heritage sites, as many cultural objects are housed in public or private buildings. They have taken emergency action in the *Direction Générale des Archives Nationales d'Haïti* (National Archives) and have circulated a first list of urgent staff, equipment and funding needs in order to move on with rescuing Haitian heritage. This list is being examined by ICOM and its Blue Shield partners so as to give the best possible answer to this courageous and positive initiative.

### **3. Museums' status**

Below, ICOM provides new information that has been checked since our previous report.

#### **a. Parc historique de la Canne à sucre**

##### *Puerto Principe*

Repairs have begun on the two roofs on dependency buildings. Other repairs are proving to be much more complex and expensive. Financial support and expertise will be, as in so many places, very welcome.

#### **b. Musée d'art George S. Nader (second-hand sources)**

##### *18 rue Bouvreil, Croix Desperes, Port-au-Prince*

Probably the greatest collection of Haitian Art, this private museum has been almost totally destroyed. The 35-room mansion contained some 12,000 artworks, which art dealer Georg N. Nader has collected since the 1950s. He opened his museum/gallery to the public in 1966. Mr Nader and his family survived the disaster. About 1,000 objects, 70% of which need restoration, have been rescued and a separate cache of 3,000 works at Petion-Ville was spared.

### **4. Resources and useful links**

#### **a. Blue Shield**

Blue Shield Website: <http://haiti2010.blueshield-international.org/>

Blue Shield Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=247281734340>

Blue Shield Twitter thread: <http://twitter.com/blueshieldcoop>

#### **b. Other Haiti-related pages**

Haiti earthquake: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?v=wall&ref=nf&gid=252988675717>

Haiti needs: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?v=wall&ref=nf&gid=249868383276>

**c. Contacts**

ICOM Secretariat: Stanislas Tarnowski, Director for the development of programmes

Email: Stanislas.tarnowski@icom.museum

DRFM: Mr Thomas Schuler, Chair.

Email: Th.Schuler@t-online.de

*ICOM will update this report as soon as new, reliable, information becomes available.*