



## **HAITI EARTHQUAKE 16 February 2010 Status Report**

ICOM salutes the Crisis Unit *Patrimoine en Danger* and the efforts they are making in extremely difficult conditions to rescue Haitian heritage. They have just provided us with a partial inventory of sites, which sheds new light on the condition of endangered heritage and culture institutions, public or private, in Haiti.

At this very moment, we are working with our Blue Shield partners to give the appropriate answer to our colleagues needs for assistance in their mission. As damage and needs assessments are still ongoing, different plans of action are being coordinated.

Regarding the cooperation with UNESCO, ICOM and its partners in the heritage and culture field have attended this very day a preparatory meeting for the establishment of an International Coordination Committee (ICC) for Haitian culture. The goal of such Committee is to fit emergency situation response into a consistent medium to long term framework and to make sure the culture and heritage issues will fully be taken into account in the United Nations plans for the reconstruction of Haiti, in particular during the 31 March United Nations meeting in New York City. ICOM, Blue Shield and all our partners have given our contribution and full support to UNESCO and to the Haitian Minister of Culture, Mrs Marie Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue and her delegation, the very first Haitian official delegation to leave the country after the earthquake.

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

At this time, we still have no confirmed news of our colleagues who were not mentioned in our previous Status Report. ICOM chair, Mr. Harold Gaspard, mentioned that several of our members were safe abroad, but we have no details so far regarding their identity. ICOM expresses both its hope and its deepest concern regarding the unknown fate of its members.

### **2. Local action**

*Patrimoine en Danger* Crisis unit (PED) is still conducting emergency recovery actions as well as assessing damage done to all types of cultural and heritage institutions, public or private. They report that many owners or managers of cultural goods collections have conducted emergency rescue themselves, most often in very dangerous conditions. The coming of the rain season, looting, destruction by street cleaning actions or a possible aftershock are but a few threats to the cultural heritage our Haitian colleagues have to fear.

At this very moment, ICOM HAITI and National Archives are conducting clearing out actions in the Fondation Culture et Creation to rescue pieces of art and unique audiovisual documents on Haitian dance. Storage facilities and financial support are mostly needed.

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

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

#### **a. MUPANAH (Musée du Panthéon National Haïtien)**

*Location : Port Au Prince*

Contrary to our hopes, based on pictures analysis by an architect who knew the building, this museum has been severely damaged and collections should be evacuated.

#### **b. Musée de l'Imprimerie**

*Location : Port Au Prince*

*Patrimoine en Danger* states that this museum's collection is under threat

#### **c. Centre d'Art Haïtien**

*Location : Port Au Prince*

*Patrimoine en Danger* states that the work of art rescue is ongoing and that financial as well as technical support is needed.

#### **d. Musée du Peuple de Fermathe**

*Location: Fermathe*

This museum suffered no damage

#### **e. Fondation Culture Création et Bibliothèque Madeleine Pailliere**

*This institution gathers archives, paintings, books, audio and audiovisual documents*

Clearing out actions are being conducted to rescue a maximum of objects before the rain season

**f. Musée d'Art du Collège Saint-Pierre**

The exhibition hall has been damaged and the collections are under threat

**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**

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