



INTERNATIONAL SMUGGLING ROUTES

This map shows the approximate routes used to illicitly traffic cultural property from one country or continent to another.

Countries in Africa reported that objects from their territory are usually trafficked to other countries in the region, North America, Europe and East Asia, while a few countries reported themselves to be destination areas for objects stolen in other regions of the world. Objects from the Middle East are smuggled to Europe (as either final or transit destination) through routes identified in Eastern Europe – in some cases, such objects circulated among other countries in the Middle East.

American countries reported that cultural property stolen from their continent is either moved to other countries within the region or to Europe – either directly or via routes that go through other countries on the American continent.

Asian countries reported a similar situation, where cultural heritage either circulated within the region, or was brought to Europe and North America via routes in the South-East area of the continent.

Europe has been identified as a destination area from most countries in the other regions of the world. Cultural objects from Europe circulate within the region, or are moved to either North America or Eastern countries.



Several main smuggling routes can be identified from the data provided by the INTERPOL member countries that took part in the questionnaire. The four regions are shown in different colours.