



INTERPOL



ASSESSING CRIMES AGAINST CULTURAL PROPERTY 2020



SURVEY OF INTERPOL MEMBER COUNTRIES

SEPTEMBER 2021



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CONTENTS



INTRODUCTION	5
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	6
THE CONTEXT	7
NUMERICAL DATA	9
OFFENCES, ARRESTS AND OFFENDERS	10
STOLEN OBJECTS	12
SEIZED OBJECTS	14
IN-DEPTH COMPARISON: SEIZURES FROM ILLICIT EXCAVATIONS AND COMMON THEFTS	16
REPORTED ILLICIT EXCAVATION SITES	17
REPORTED ATTACKS AGAINST CULTURAL PROPERTY	17
STATISTICAL DATA	18
INVOLVEMENT OF ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS AND MIDDLEMEN	19
LOCATION AND INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS	20
INTERNATIONAL SMUGGLING ROUTES	21
DATA ON FORGERIES	23
OFFENCES, ARRESTS AND OFFENDERS	24
SEIZED COUNTERFEIT OBJECTS	25
APPENDICES	26
APPENDIX 1: OPERATION PANDORA V	27
APPENDIX 2: ID-ART SUCCESS STORIES	29
APPENDIX 3: LIST OF MAIN DOCUMENTS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION	30
APPENDIX 4: THE MOST WANTED WORKS OF ART OF 2020	34

INTRODUCTION



This publication is a follow-up to the four previous surveys on crimes against cultural property (2013 - 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019). The intelligence gathered in recent years has allowed INTERPOL to analyse and compare the various trends that have evolved in different regions of the world. Given the international nature of the illicit traffic of cultural property, the information reported in this survey is a starting point to better understand the numerous aspects of this complex crime.

INTERPOL, the world's largest police organization, supports its 194 member countries in tackling offences against cultural property through capacity building activities, investigative support and coordination, as well as through the deployment of essential tools – such as the Stolen Works of Art Database and the mobile application ID-Art.

The intelligence contained in this publication is divided into numerical and statistical data on crimes committed in 2020, while also referring to previous surveys to provide an extensive overview of criminal trends and international routes all over the world. This data was collected through a questionnaire sent to all 194 National Central Bureaus (NCBs).

A total of 72 NCBs provided data on cultural heritage crimes committed on their national territory. NCBs requested the support of police and customs officers, ministries of culture and other national institutions to collect the information. These countries have been divided into four regions.

This publication focuses on particular aspects of crimes against cultural property, such as numerical and statistical data, locations and international implications, forgery, and the theft of cultural property from conflict zones in the framework of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199/2015 and 2347/2017.

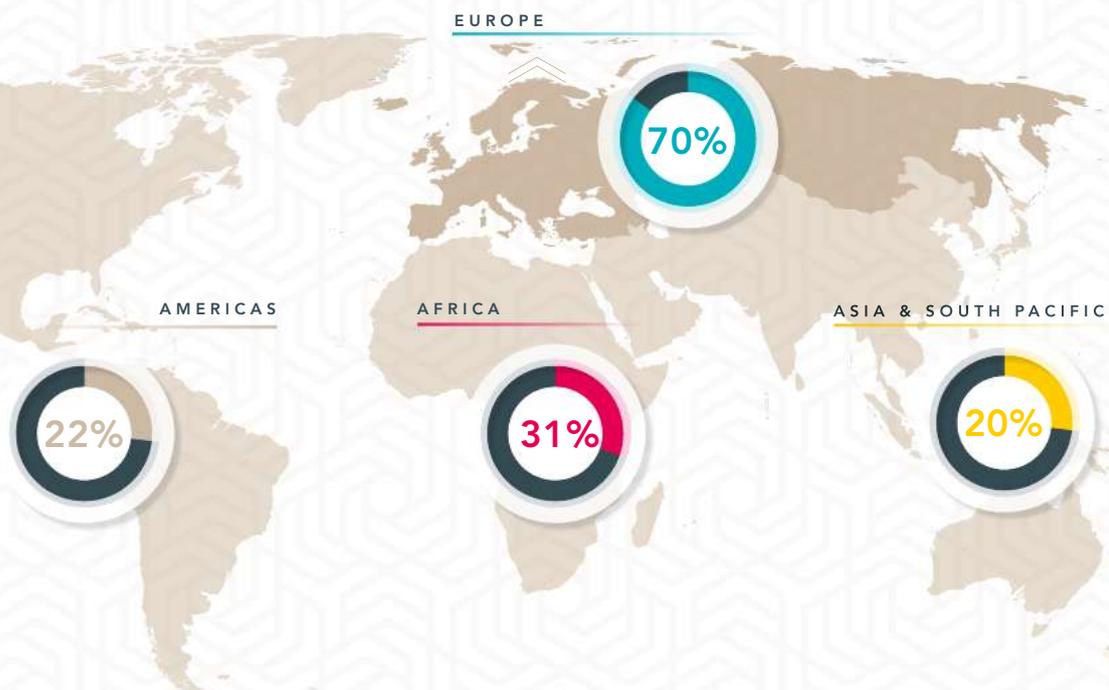
An important finding from the data collected in this publication is the strong involvement of organized crime groups in the traffic of both legitimate and counterfeit cultural objects.

The information gathered by INTERPOL over the years through intelligence-sharing activities, operations, workshops and conferences confirms once again that every country in the world is affected, in one way or the other, by these crimes. Nevertheless, not every NCB was able to provide data on offences related to cultural property, and some did not acknowledge the presence of these crimes in their countries. This issue reiterates the fact that the extent, economic and cultural consequences of the loss of cultural heritage are not yet recognized or understood by every country in the same way.

One of the main reasons for this lack of awareness remains the absence of specialized police units solely dedicated to crimes related to cultural property, as well as dedicated databases of stolen works of art directly linked to INTERPOL's database. The importance of specialized units, and INTERPOL's role in supporting member countries in tackling cultural crimes, have been highlighted on several occasions by the United Nations through its Security Council (Resolution 2347/2017), General Assembly (Resolution 73/130/2018) and by the Conference of the Parties to the UNTOC Convention (COP/2020/L.10). Similar recommendations have also been made by the UNSC Monitoring Team and UNESCO.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

72 COUNTRIES
ANSWERED THE QUESTIONNAIRE



Algeria
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bolivia
Bosnia Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Canada
Chile
Colombia

Cote d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Dem. Rep. of the Congo
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Latvia
Lebanon
Liechtenstein

Luxemburg
Mali
Mexico
Moldova
Monaco
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
North Macedonia
Norway
Pakistan
Palestine
Paraguay
Philippines
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russia
Rwanda
San Marino

Saudi Arabia
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syria
Turkey
United Kingdom
Vatican City State

Please note that data from the years 2013 to 2019 has been included from our previous publications: consequently, the fact that some countries participated in the previous surveys must be taken into consideration when examining the trends depicted in the graphs.

THE CONTEXT



The illicit traffic of cultural property damages the world's collective heritage, as cultural objects embody the unique and invaluable expressions of the legacy of past generations. Crimes against cultural heritage include the looting, theft, traffic and sale of cultural items that constitute an important pillar of a country's history. These offences not only destroy an essential part of historical knowledge for future generations, but are also strongly tied to oppression and persecution in certain societies, and have been recognized as a war crime by the International Criminal Court.

Political instability and armed conflicts in some areas of the world create a profitable environment for individual criminals and organized groups willing to destroy an essential part of the heritage of their people. Furthermore, the illicit traffic of cultural property from conflict zones, particularly from the Middle East, has been linked on several occasions to the financing of terrorist activities. One example of this international awareness is expressed in the Council of the European Union conclusions on Preventing and Countering Terrorism in June 2020, which underline how terrorist groups generate income from these crimes, and encourage member countries to cooperate with INTERPOL and contribute to its tools. In 2021, in the framework of the 30th session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, INTERPOL worked together with OSCE and UNODC to organize a side-event solely focused on cultural heritage to raise awareness of these crimes. Nevertheless, the response and effort put in place by different countries around the world vary significantly.

Another fundamental aspect of this complex crime is the active participation of organized crime groups. Their involvement constitutes a huge threat to public security, as these groups are often responsible for stealing, looting, moving and selling illicitly acquired objects. Cultural property is, in the majority of cases, illicitly exported from one country to another through established criminal networks and the work of middlemen. While multiple analytical reports produced by INTERPOL underline how the illicit traffic of cultural property is a global phenomenon, the modus operandi of organized crime groups vary from region to region. These groups operate on the basis of the market demand in each region, and focus

their efforts on particular categories of object based on what the buyers in that geographical area request.

Moreover, innumerable illicit excavations are carried out all over the world, especially in conflict zones, which result in a high quantity of items being smuggled with the help of criminal networks and modern technologies. Organized groups then move these items through several and different markets, ranging from online platforms to auction houses. In this context, the illicit traffic of cultural property is also exploited as a central means of money laundering.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 had a huge effect on the entire world, including on criminals involved in the illicit traffic of cultural property. Travel and movement restrictions that were adopted by the majority of member countries forced criminals to find other ways to steal, illicitly excavate and smuggle cultural property. For example, the closure of museums and the stay-at-home policies implemented around the world limited the possibilities for criminals to steal objects from public sites and private homes. According to the International Council of Museums (ICOM), 95% of the world's museums were forced to temporarily close their doors to protect their visitors in 2020. INTERPOL and ICOM worked together to produce joint recommendations for museums to increase their security and protect invaluable cultural heritage. Yet, as the majority of police resources were dedicated to monitor compliance with quarantine measures to limit the spread of the disease, several crimes against cultural property were committed during the pandemic. Some notable examples include the theft of three masterpieces from the Christ Church College in Oxford, UK; the theft of a painting by Van Gogh from the Singer Laren museum in Amsterdam; and the emergence of a new scams of artists on social media.

Given the transnational nature of these crimes, that affect every country on the planet in one way or another, INTERPOL's role in coordinating and supporting international cooperation is essential. The Organization works to tackle the illicit traffic of cultural property in a variety of ways – such as global and regional operations, investigative and data-entry support, data analysis, workshops and conferences.



The INTERPOL Works of Art Unit has developed new tools and updated its existing ones in order to allow law enforcement agencies and private entities around the world to better fight these crimes. In this framework, the most effective instrument at the disposal of both law enforcement agencies and the general public is the INTERPOL Stolen works of art Database, which holds records of more than 52,000 objects from 134 countries.

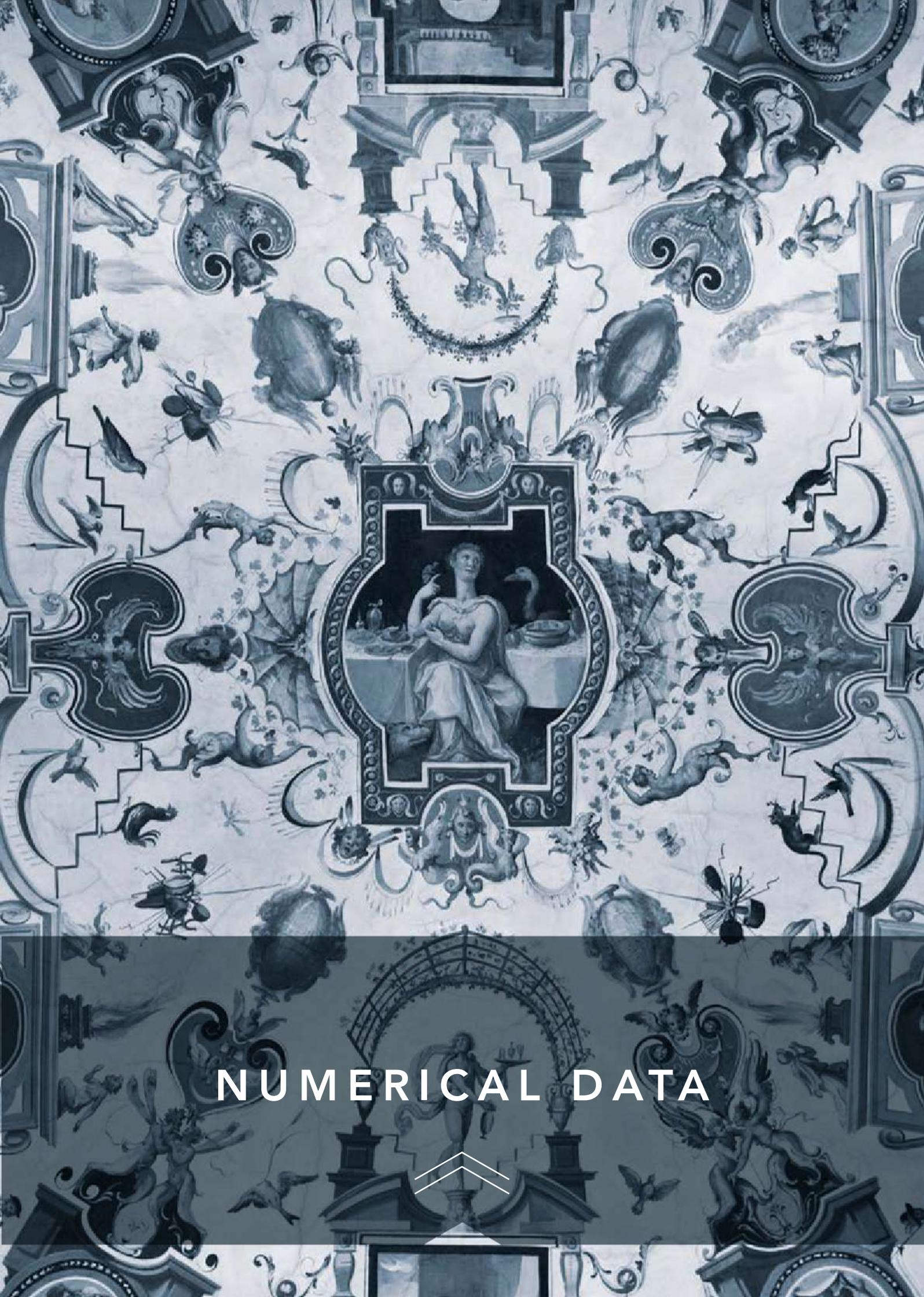
In addition to capacity building activities and specific services solely dedicated to police officers, such as national workshops and data-entry interfaces, INTERPOL realizes that the role of the private buyer, collector or simple enthusiast is fundamental. For this reason, INTERPOL has developed tools that will allow the general public to support the common fight against these crimes – such as the first public mobile application, known as ID-Art, and the Stolen Works of Art Database. These tools allow anyone who is interested in lawfully acquiring works of art to rapidly and accurately check beforehand if these objects have been reported as stolen by any INTERPOL member country. ID-Art, released in May 2021, uses cutting-edge image-recognition software to help identify stolen cultural property. It allows users to get instant mobile access to the INTERPOL database of stolen

works of art, to create an inventory of private art collections, and report cultural sites potentially at risk.

The work and role of INTERPOL in fighting the illicit traffic of cultural property has been recognized by several international organizations involved in the field. Its prominent role in intelligence-sharing and coordination has been recognized by the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly through their resolutions UNSC 2199/2015 and 2347/2017, and UNGA 73/130 in 2018 – as well as by the CTOC Draft Resolution 2020/L.10. The 28th report of the UN Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team (2021) highlights the importance of the Stolen Works of Art database and the ID-Art mobile app.

INTERPOL continues to work closely with its partner organizations, including Europol, ICCROM, ICOM, OSCE, UNESCO, UNIDROIT, UNODC and WCO. This cooperation results in a great sharing of information, joint workshops and operations.





NUMERICAL DATA





OFFENCES, ARRESTS AND OFFENDERS

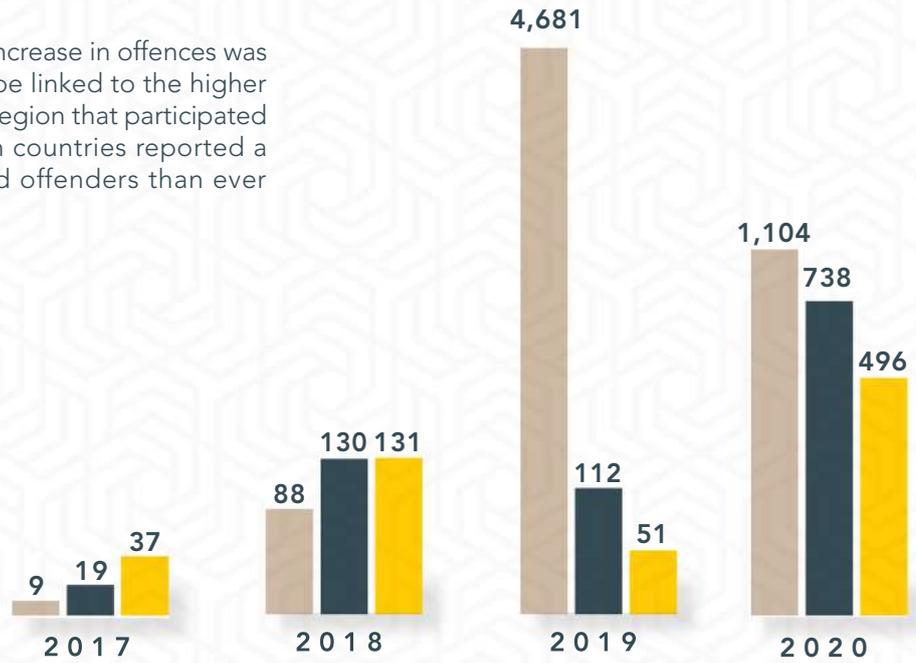
The following group of charts indicates the total number of offences related to works of art and antiquities, the number of arrests, and how many offenders were reported in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

» TOTAL OFFENCES, ARRESTS, OFFENDERS IN 2020:

■ 9,202 ■ 1,233 ■ 4,413

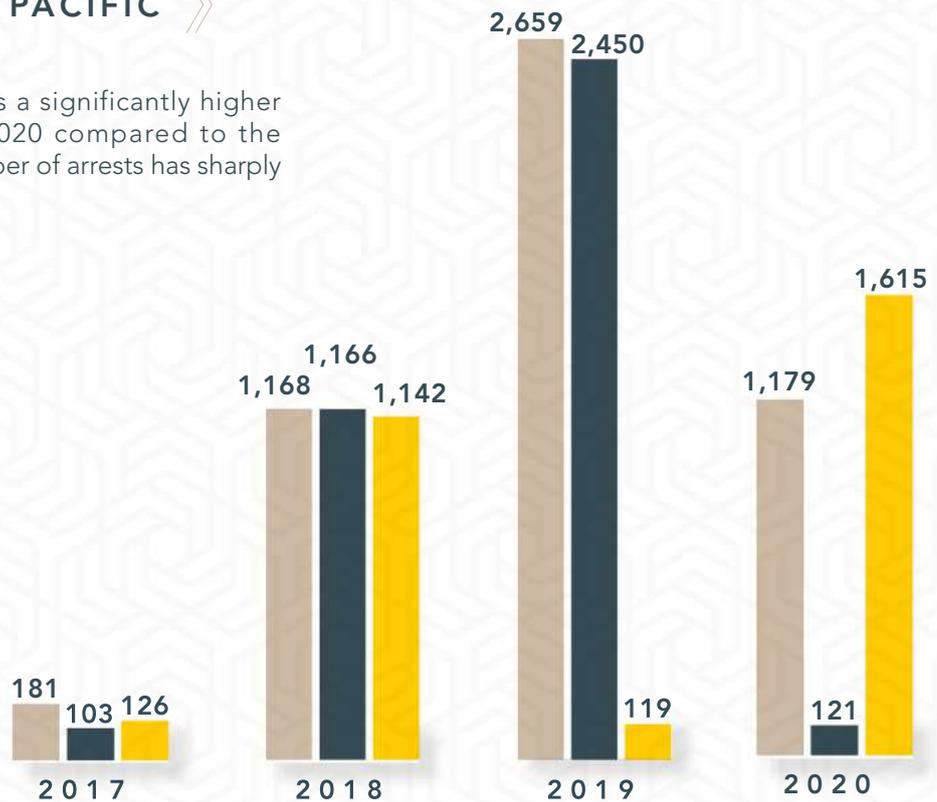
AFRICA »

In the African region, a sharp increase in offences was reported in 2019 – this could be linked to the higher number of countries from the region that participated in the survey. In 2020, African countries reported a higher number of arrests and offenders than ever before.



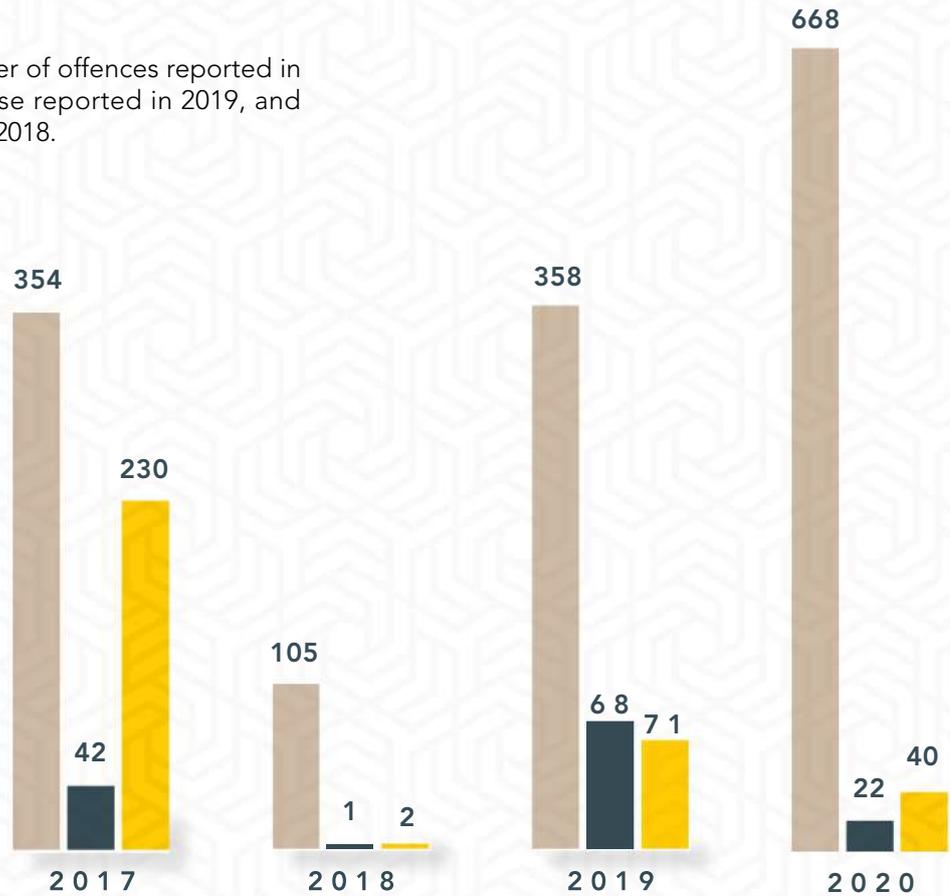
ASIA AND SOUTH PACIFIC »

In Asia, the graph indicates a significantly higher number of offenders in 2020 compared to the previous year, while the number of arrests has sharply decreased since 2019.



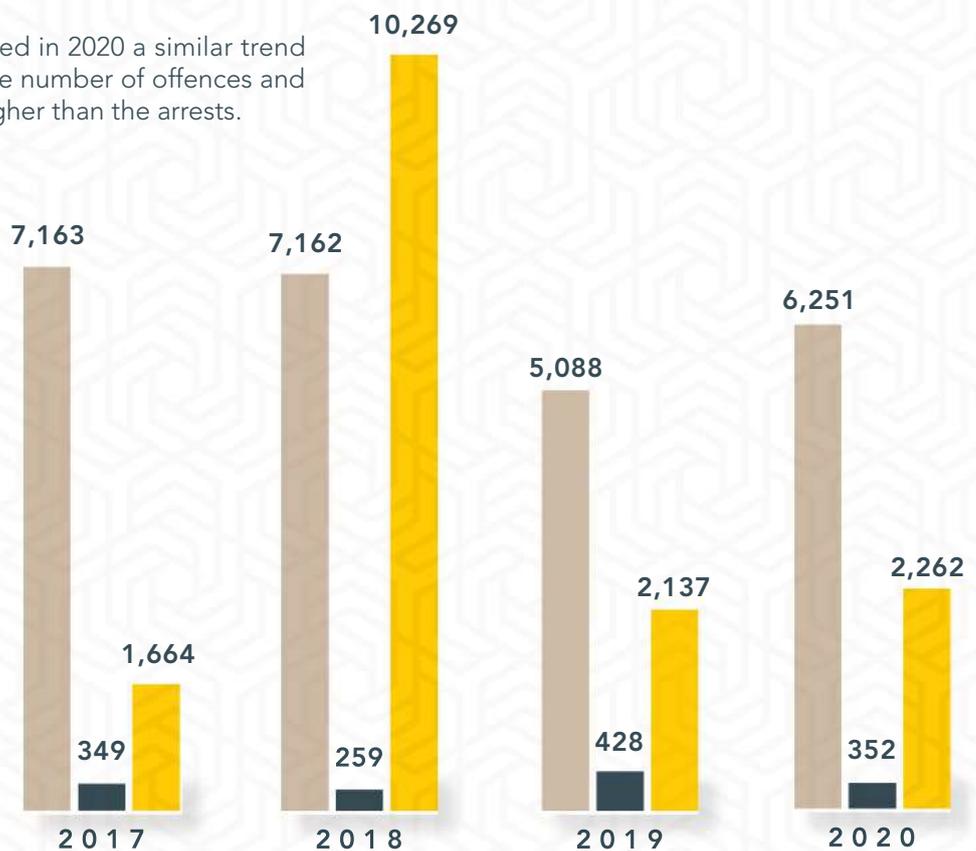
AMERICAS >>

In the Americas, the number of offences reported in 2020 is almost double those reported in 2019, and significantly higher than in 2018.



EUROPE >>

European countries reported in 2020 a similar trend to previous years, where the number of offences and offenders is significantly higher than the arrests.



■ OFFENCES

■ ARRESTS

■ OFFENDERS



STOLEN OBJECTS

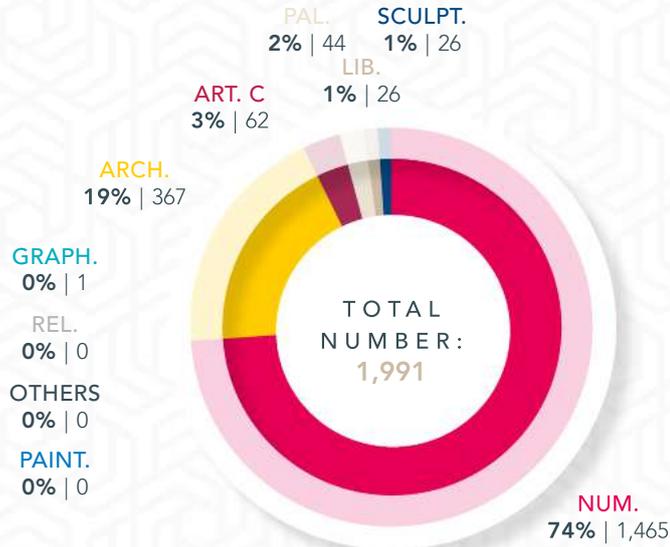
The following charts indicate the number of objects stolen in each category in 2020. These numbers are also presented as percentages to give a clearer picture of the current situation in each region of the world.

In Africa, the most stolen objects in 2020 were numismatic items (1,465), while in 2019 they were archaeological items (7,177), and in 2018 and 2017 they were library materials (25,000 and 25,000 respectively). The Americas also reported numismatic items (1,212) as the type of objects most stolen in 2020, while the

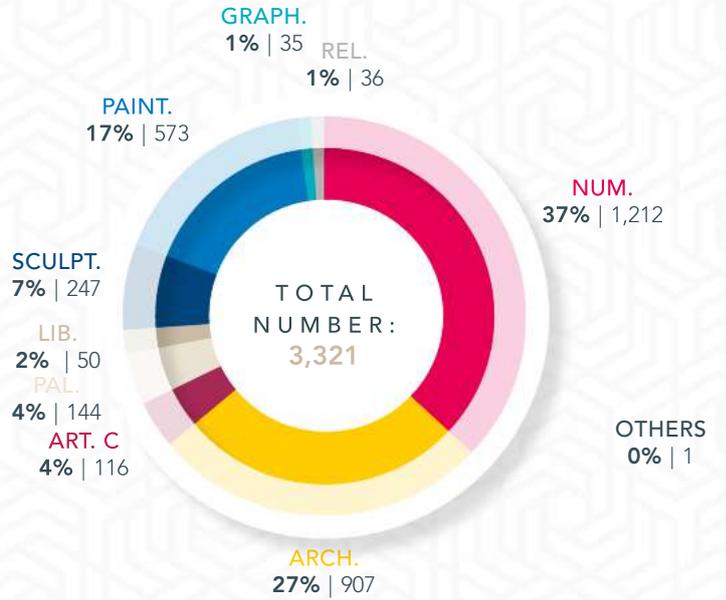
majority of items in 2019 and 2017 were archaeological (781 and 1,385), and in 2018 paintings (86). In Asia, archaeological items were reported with the highest number in 2020 (853), as opposed to numismatic items in 2019 (184), library materials in 2018 (10,438) and 'other' objects in 2017 (617). Numismatic objects were also the highest categories in Europe in 2020 (9,675), 2019 (17,607) and 2018 (18,964), while paintings were reported as the most stolen in 2017 (11,267).

» TOTAL STOLEN OBJECTS IN 2020:
35,749

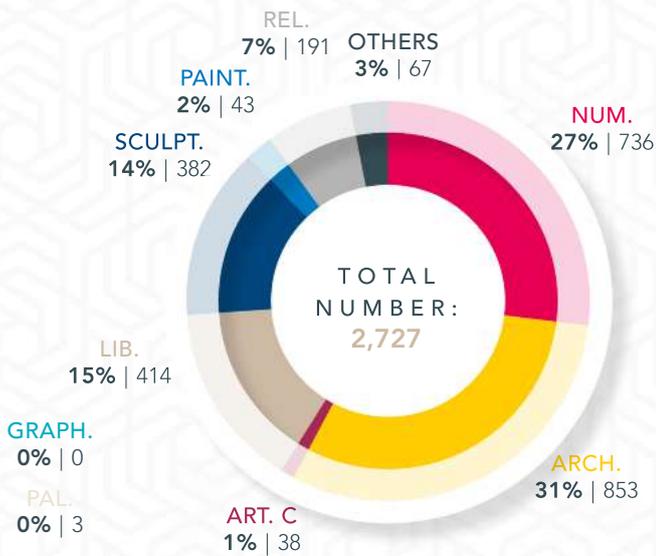
AFRICA



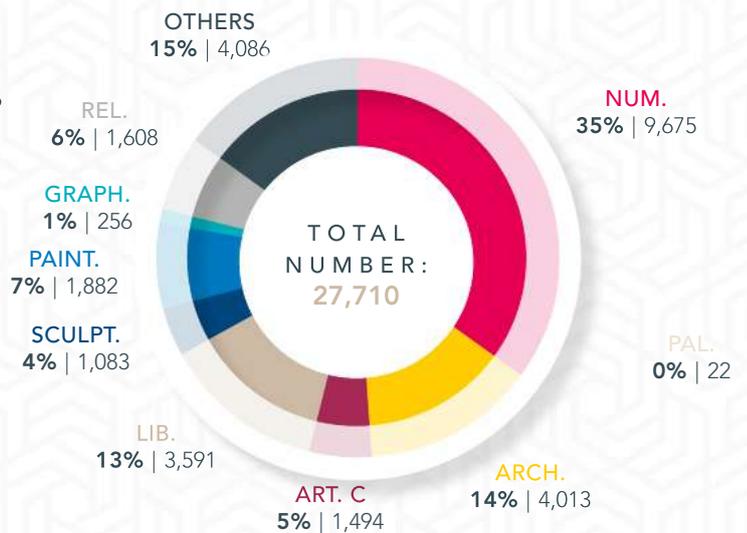
AMERICAS



ASIA AND SOUTH PACIFIC



EUROPE



- PAINTING
- SCULPTURES
- GRAPHICS
- ARTISTIC CRAFT
- NUMISMATIC ITEMS
- LIBRARY MATERIALS
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL ITEMS
- RELIGIOUS ITEMS
- PALEONTOLOGICAL ITEMS
- OTHERS



SEIZED OBJECTS

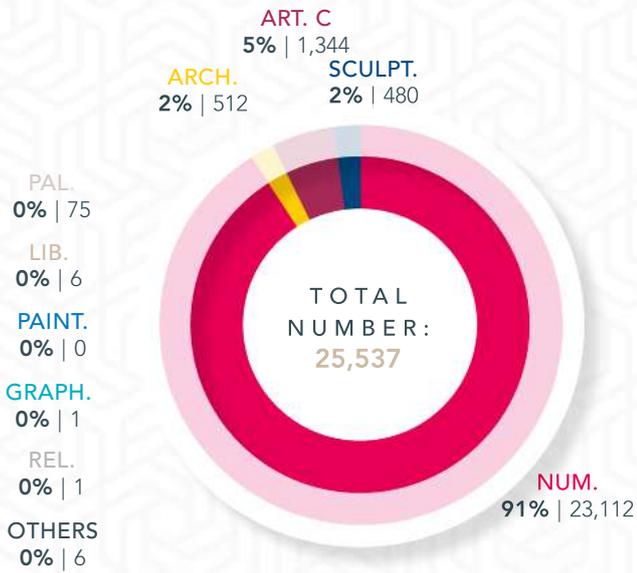
The following charts indicate the number of objects seized by law enforcement agencies in each category in 2020. These numbers are also presented as percentages to provide a clearer representation of each part of the world.

Similarly to the data regarding stolen items, Africa reported that the highest number of seized objects in 2020 were numismatic items (23,112), while in 2019 they were archaeological (19,202), as opposed to numismatic objects in 2018 (6,835), and artistic craft in 2017 (32). American countries, on the other hand, reported that the majority of seized items in the region were paleontological items (12,631), while numismatic items were the most commonly seized objects in 2019 (3,000),

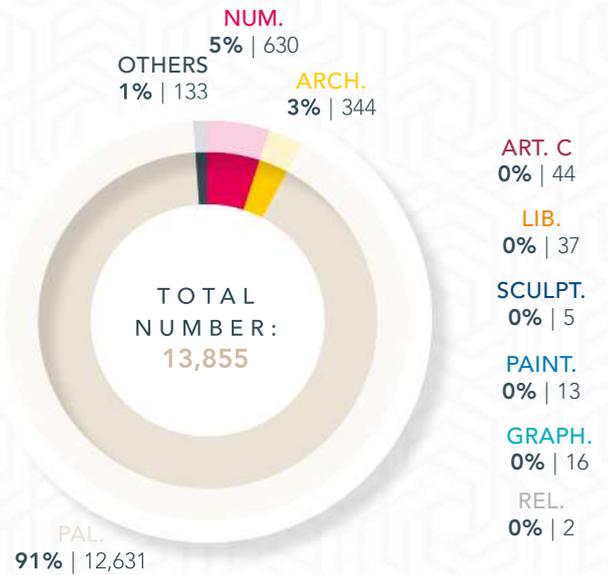
in contrast with the previous years when archaeological items constituted the highest category (382 in 2018, 1,200 in 2017). In line with the data gathered the previous year, Asia reported that the most seized objects were numismatic items in 2020 (224,316), having reported 5,000 objects in the same category in 2019 and 21,835 in 2018, as opposed to archaeological items in 2017 (30,445). Please note that results in Europe were heavily influenced by one operational activity carried out by one country. This resulted in an unusually high number of library materials (472,933) reported in this survey – as was the case in 2019, when countries reported 853,976 library materials seized in that year. Numismatic and archaeological were respectively the highest category in 2018 (109,993) and 2017 (112,134).

» TOTAL SEIZED OBJECTS IN 2020:
854,742

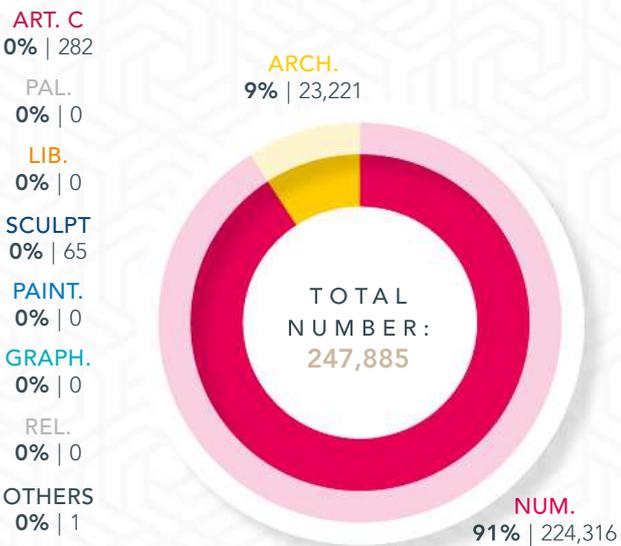
AFRICA



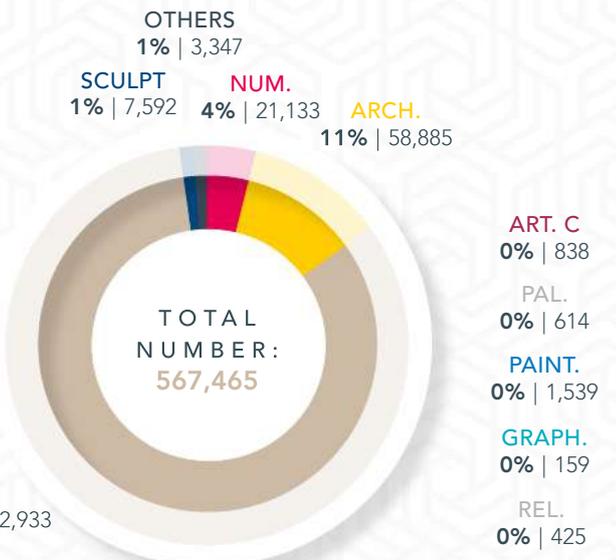
AMERICAS



ASIA AND SOUTH PACIFIC



EUROPE



- PAINTING
- SCULPTURES
- GRAPHICS
- ARTISTIC CRAFT
- NUMISMATIC ITEMS

- LIBRARY MATERIALS
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL ITEMS
- RELIGIOUS ITEMS
- PALEONTOLOGICAL ITEMS
- OTHERS



IN-DEPTH COMPARISON: SEIZURES FROM ILLICIT EXCAVATIONS AND COMMON THEFTS

This section compares items from illicit archaeological and paleontological excavations with the rest of the seized objects in each region of the world.

The operation mentioned above, that resulted in a striking number of library materials being seized in Europe, has been removed to give a more accurate representation of the data in the region.

Every region reported a significantly higher number of numismatic, archaeological and paleontological items compared to the other categories of objects. This is consistent with the data gathered since 2017.

One main reason for this could be the fact that archaeological and paleontological sites are, given their nature, less protected and more exposed to illicit

excavation. Criminals have been supplying this type of object to the market as the demand has notably increased in recent years. The detection and seizure of these items are particularly challenging to law enforcement agencies around the world. The removal of numismatic, archaeological or paleontological items from their original sites decontextualizes them, making it more complicated for experts and police officers to demonstrate the provenance, origin and connection of the items to their area.

Data from 2017, 2018 and 2019 have also been provided to give a more accurate picture of the trends on seizures in the past years.

ILLICIT EXCAVATED ITEMS: numismatic, archaeological and paleontological items **OTHER:** Remaining categories

AFRICA



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EUROPE

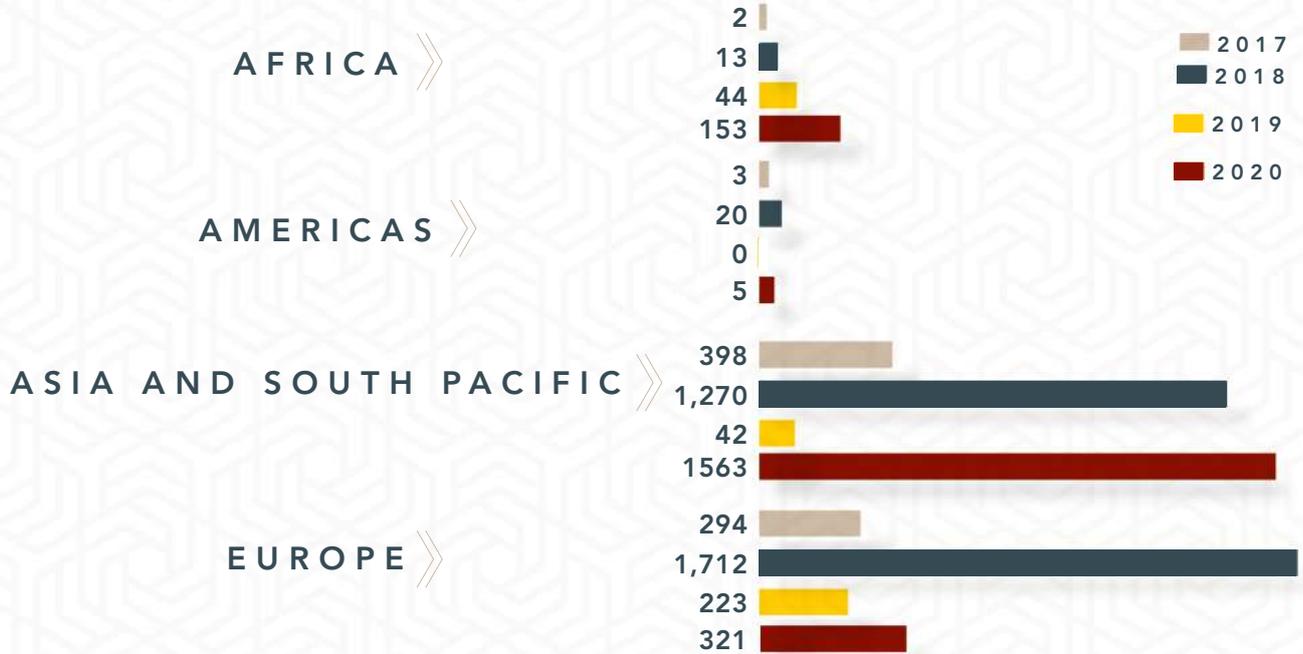




REPORTED ILLICIT EXCAVATION SITES

The following section focuses on the number of reported illicit archaeological excavations in the four regions.

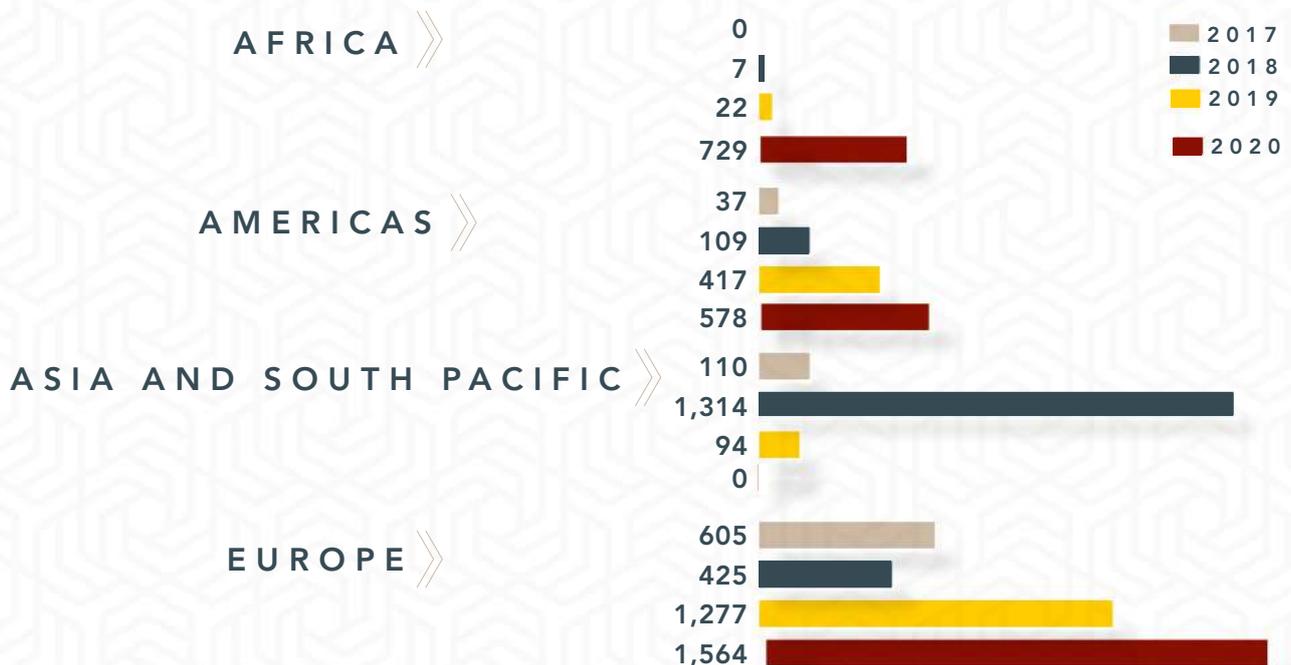
African countries reported 153 excavations, the Americas 5, Asia 1,563, and Europe 321. This is the first year since 2017 in which Asian countries reported more illicit excavations than any other region.



REPORTED ATTACKS AGAINST CULTURAL PROPERTY

This graph indicates the number of attacks against cultural property, including physical attacks, destruction and vandalism.

Africa reported 729 attacks, the Americas 578, and Europe 1,564. Asia did not report any. In the three regions that were able to report data on illicit excavations, the graph shows a noticeable increase in 2020 from the previous years.





STATISTICAL DATA





INVOLVEMENT OF ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS AND MIDDLEMEN

Generally speaking, criminals who operate at the national level are often nationals of that country, as has been reported by member countries in previous editions of this publication. In some cases, individuals from neighbouring countries are also involved in these crimes. However, at the international level, organized criminal groups are in charge of smuggling items from one country to another through their networks.

In this structure, the figure of the 'middleman' is a strong component that emerged from the data received by some countries. The middleman is usually an expert in the field. These individuals, relying on criminal networks, are able to move stolen or illicitly

excavated objects within the national territory, as well as to other countries, regions or continents. The middleman commissions objects to be stolen, or identifies among items already stolen or illicitly excavated the most important pieces to be delivered to foreign collectors.

Another interesting point that emerged from the intelligence received by member countries is the fact that both the individuals and the organized crime groups involved in cultural property work not only opportunistically (i.e. stealing as many objects as possible from a private home, or carrying out illicit excavations at various sites), but also on commission for specific objects desired by particular collectors.





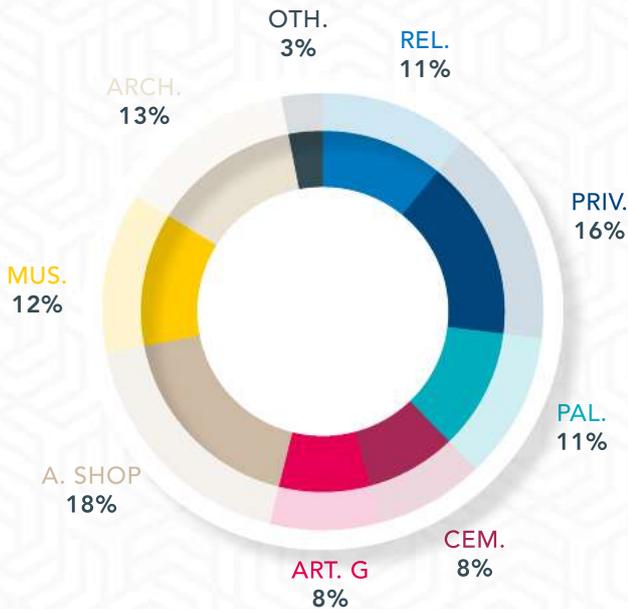
LOCATION AND INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The following charts indicate, on average, where crimes against cultural property are most common in each region of the world.

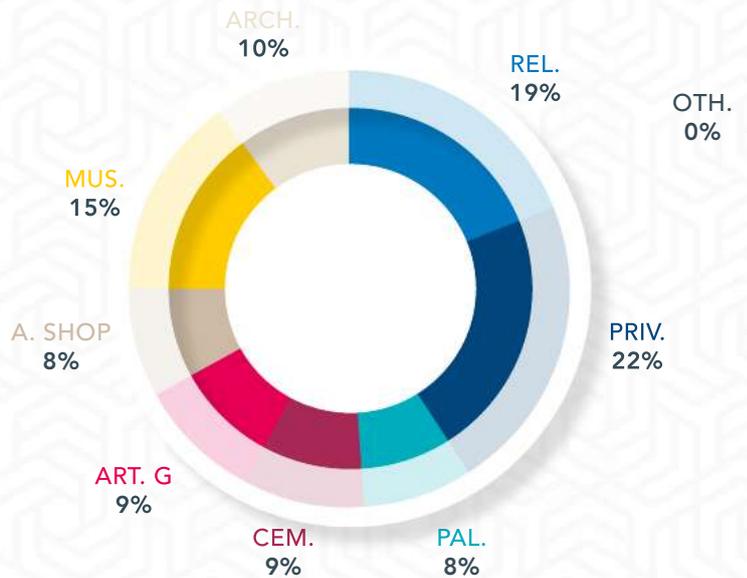
In Africa, member countries reported that the majority of crimes against cultural property were committed in antique shops (18%) and private homes (16%). The latter is also the most common location in the

Americas (22%), followed by religious buildings (19%) and museums (15%). In Asia, on the other hand, more than a fourth of cultural heritage crimes happen at archaeological sites (26%), as well as in private homes and antiques shops (both 17%). The graphs indicate a similar situation in Europe, where private homes (22%) and archaeological sites (16%) are the most targeted by criminals.

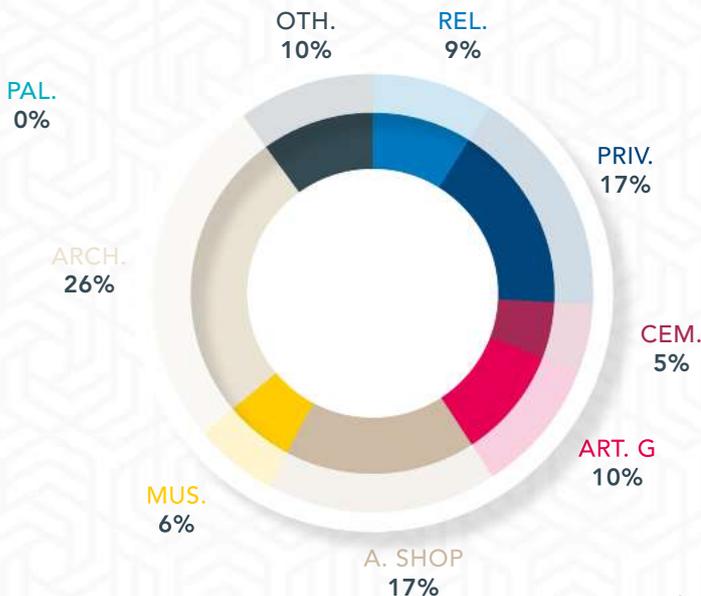
AFRICA



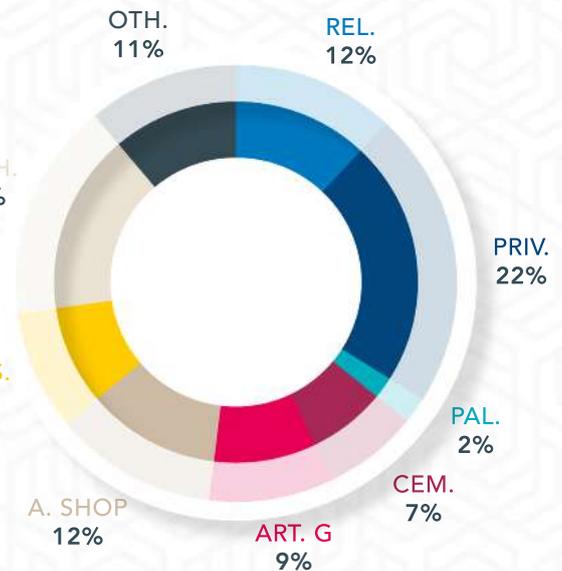
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ASIA & SOUTH PACIFIC



EUROPE



- RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS
- PRIVATE HOMES
- PALEONTOLOGICAL SITES

- CEMETERIES
- ART GALLERIES
- ANTIQUE SHOPS

- MUSEUMS
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
- OTHERS





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.



One clear point that emerges from this map is that every region of the world is affected by the illicit traffic of cultural property, confirming once again the extreme transnational nature of these offences. Countries or continents could be simultaneously areas of origin, transit and destination for stolen objects.

The three most common methods used by criminals to facilitate the illicit traffic of cultural property around the world have been stated in previous editions of this report as:



Hiding cultural goods in travelers' luggage



Transport with falsified documents



Hiding cultural property in other objects



Law enforcement agencies indicated that their most common methods of detection of illegally exported cultural property are:



Border controls



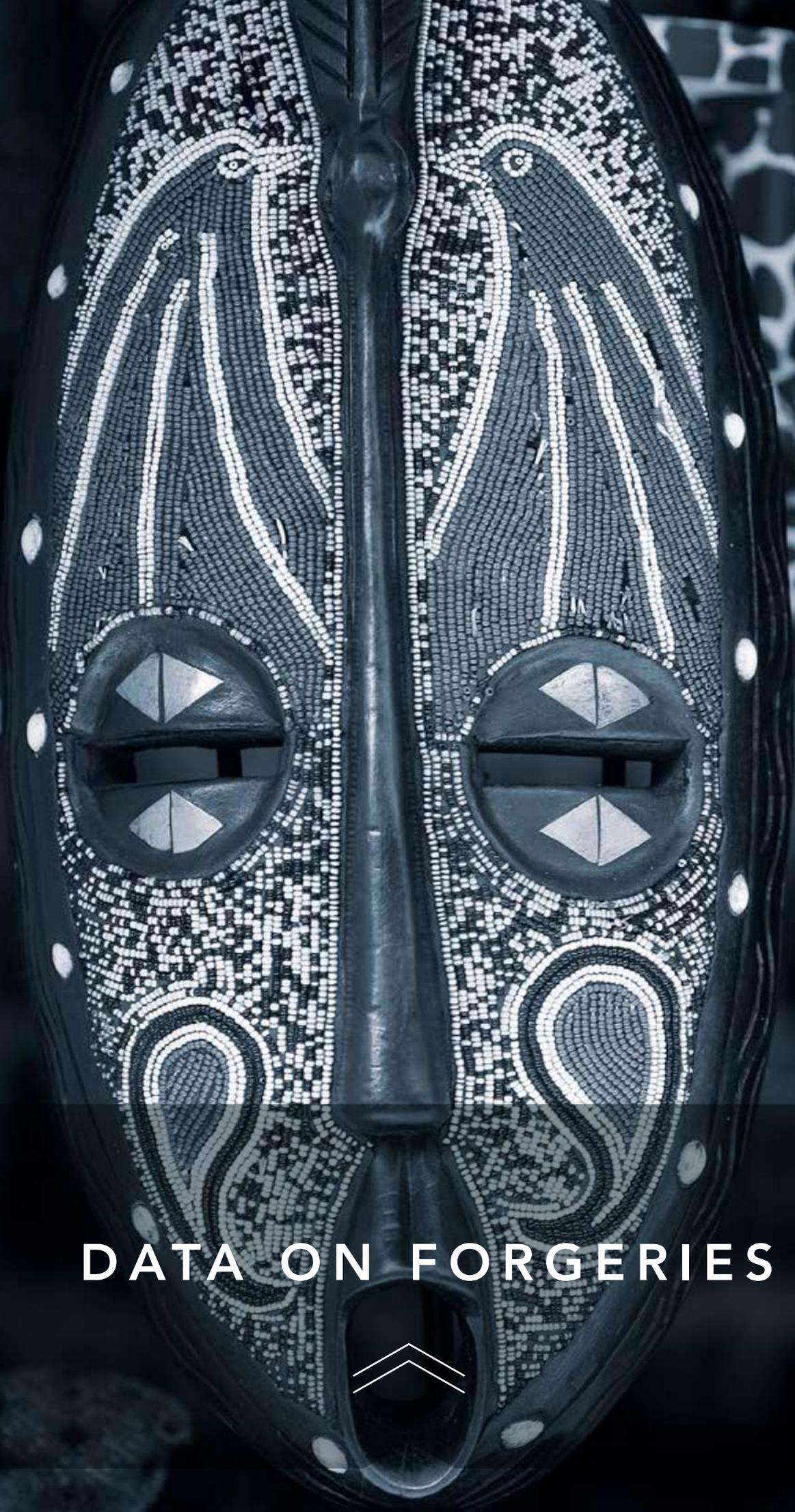
Vehicle inspections



Searches

Despite their importance, document inspections are not widely utilized as a detection method. The thorough checking of documents, import and export certificates used to move cultural property is one of the most effective techniques to fight its illicit traffic.

As mentioned previously, specialized police units would be essential in carrying out these activities, underlining once again their importance in all aspects of the fight against cultural crimes.



DATA ON FORGERIES





OFFENCES, ARRESTS AND OFFENDERS

This chapter focuses specifically on forged cultural objects.

The following charts indicate the total number of offences regarding fake works of art and antiquities, and the number of arrests and offenders reported in 2020.

– yet, there was a decrease in the number of arrests and offenders compared to 2019. European countries, on the other hand, reported a higher number of offences, arrests and offenders compared to the previous years, while none of the countries in Asia and the Americas were able to report any information on forgeries.

The graph shows a slight increase in offences in the African region in 2020 compared to the previous years

» TOTAL OFFENCES, ARRESTS, OFFENDERS IN 2020:

499 58 467

AFRICA



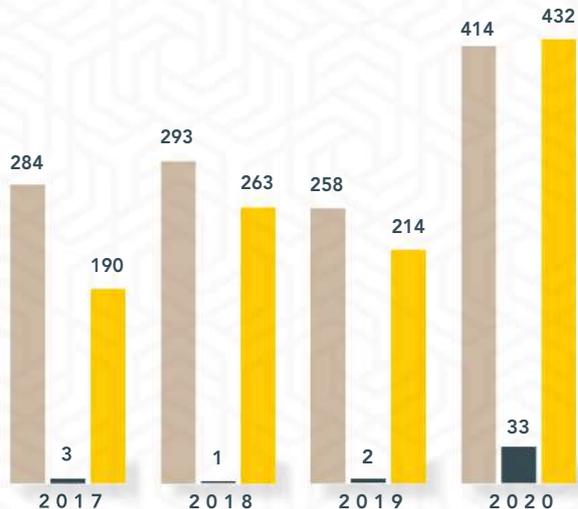
AMERICAS



ASIA & SOUTH PACIFIC



EUROPE





SEIZED COUNTERFEIT OBJECTS

The following charts indicate the number of counterfeit objects seized by law enforcement agencies in each category in 2020. These numbers are also presented as percentages to give a clearer picture of the current situation in each region of the world.

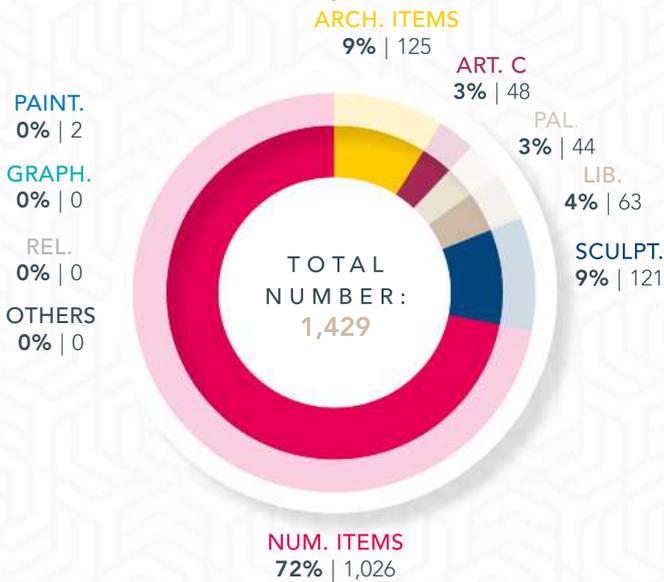
of cases see criminals operating in small groups, mostly two or three individuals – as is the case for the traffic of legitimate cultural heritage. These individuals have strong ties to larger organized groups.

The information sent by member countries has shown in previous years that organized crime groups are the main actors involved in the traffic of counterfeit objects of art both at the national and international level. The majority

In 2020, the highest number of seized counterfeit objects in Africa and Europe were paintings (with a total of 1,160 objects), and numismatic items (with a total of 1,034 items). Please note that the data from Asia has been provided by only one country.

» TOTAL NUMBER OF SEIZED FAKE OBJECTS IN 2020: 3,855

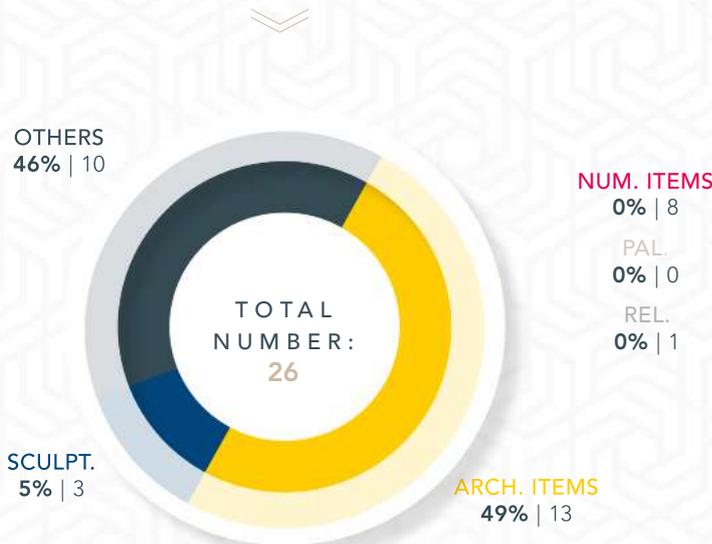
AFRICA



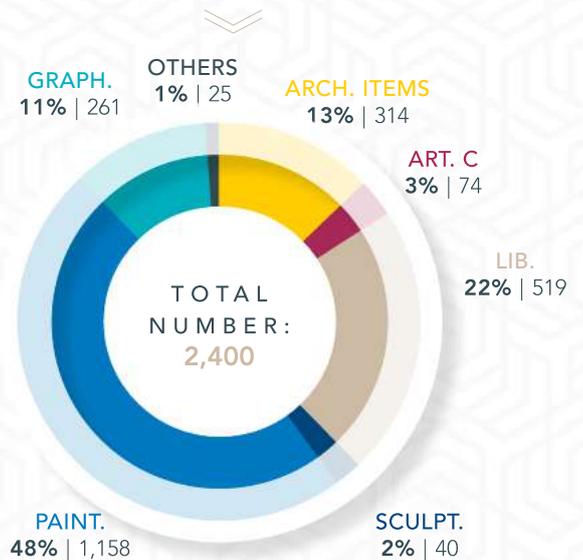
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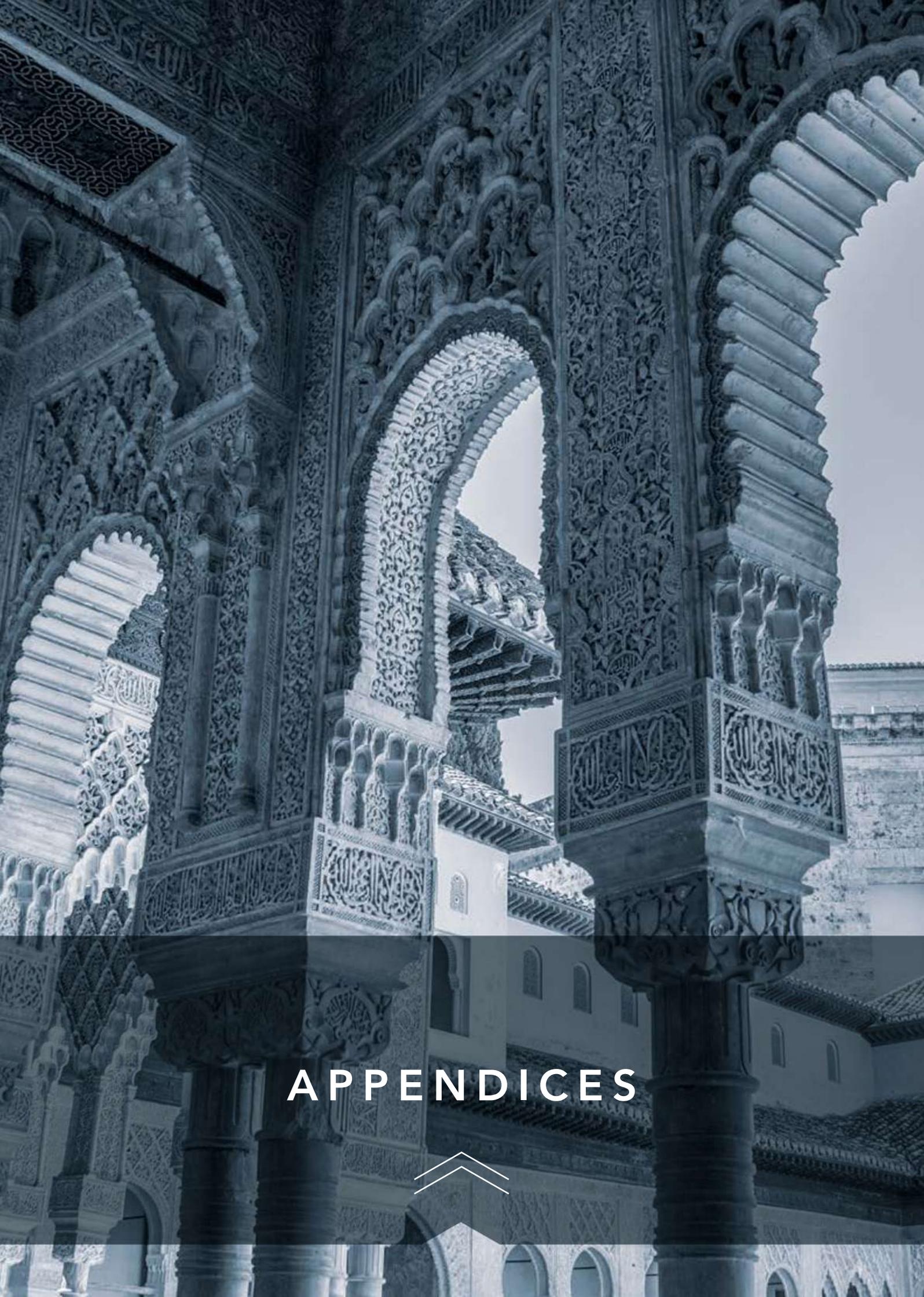


ASIA & SOUTH PACIFIC



EUROPE





APPENDICES



APPENDIX 1

OPERATION PANDORA V

More than 56,400 cultural goods seized and 67 arrested Law enforcement and customs authorities from 31 countries participated in Operation Pandora V

LYON, France – Despite constraints imposed by COVID-19, the 2020 edition of the Pandora operation targeting the illicit trafficking of cultural goods has been the most successful to date, with more than 56,400 cultural goods seized. These include archaeological objects, furniture, coins, paintings, musical instruments and sculptures.

Running between 1 June and 31 October 2020, Pandora V saw the involvement of customs and other law enforcement authorities from 31 countries.

During the operational phase, tens of thousands of checks and controls were carried out in various airports, ports, border crossing points, as well as in auction houses, museums and private residences. As a result, more than 300 investigations were opened, and 67 individuals arrested.

Given the global nature of this crime, operation coordination units working 24/7 were established by Europol on one side, and INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, to support the exchange of information as well as disseminate alerts, warnings and perform cross-checks against international and national databases.

This operation was led by the Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil), with the international coordination supported by Europol, INTERPOL and the WCO. PANDORA V was carried out in the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT).

Operational highlights

- A total of 27,300 archaeological artefacts were seized as a result of a single investigation carried out by French Customs (Douane). A suspect was arrested, who now risks a potential prison sentence and/or fine of several hundred thousand euros.



- The Spanish authorities seized more than 7,700 cultural goods including archaeological artefacts, coins, sculptures and statues, weapons, paintings and archives of sound, film and photography with a value in excess of EUR 9 million.
- During the operational phase, the Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil) also finalized a complex investigation initiated within the framework of Pandora III. As a result, one individual was arrested and 94 objects stolen in various places of worship were recovered. A total of EUR 165,000 in cash was seized at his home. The arrestee is suspected of trying to sell these stolen goods online, such as a 16th century silver chalice and an illuminated manuscript of the Apocalypse by Beatus of Liébana.



- During searches on the Internet, the Swedish Police (Polisen) identified a folk art item stolen in Sweden in 2019. At that same online auction, investigators discovered a pair of 17th century candlesticks stolen from a Swedish church eight years ago.
- The Italian Carabinieri Corps (Arma dei Carabinieri) reported more than 2,700 cultural goods seized including ceramics, archaeological goods, art and books valued at EUR 1,155,000.



- The Hellenic Police carried out 34 arrests and recovered a total of 6,757 antiquities, including ceramic and marble objects, as well as 6,452 coins, 5,533 of which were recovered in one single investigation. In one case, two Greek nationals were arrested for trying to sell 6 marble and clay antiquities for EUR 150,000.
- A total of 50 metal detectors were seized, and six of them were seized directly in archaeological sites, clearly demonstrating that such sites are under threat.
- Several hundred World War II grenades and other explosive devices were seized by the Police Force of the Slovak Republic (Policajný zbor Slovenskej republiky). This is a worrisome development as some of these old explosive devices are still functional and could result in numerous casualties.

Results of the Cyber Patrol

Within the framework of Operation Pandora V, the Dutch National Police (Politie) organized a five-day cyber patrol week focusing on online markets. Law enforcement from 15 countries, with the support of Europol, INTERPOL and WCO, identified suspicious sales online, as a result of which 15 new investigations were opened.

International coordination

Europol, as co-leader of this action, played a key role in implementing the entire operation by facilitating information exchange, and providing analytical and operational support. The WCO also facilitated intelligence exchange among different agencies through a special user group created on its CENComm communication platform.

INTERPOL connected Balkan and European participating countries, facilitating the exchange of information through its secure communications system. A dedicated expert supported the entire operation by double checking searches against INTERPOL's Stolen Works of Art database to locate and identify stolen and missing items.

Last week, INTERPOL announced the release of a specialized app called [ID-Art](#), which enables users ranging from law enforcement to the general public to get mobile access to the INTERPOL database of stolen works of art, create an inventory of private art collections and report cultural sites potentially at risk. Using cutting-edge image-recognition software, ID-Art is free to download and available in the Apple app store as well as the Google or Android play stores.

Operation Pandora V participating countries: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom

APPENDIX 2

ID-ART SUCCESS STORIES

SPAIN

Following a tip-off from a numismatist in London, the Spanish National Police recovered three gold coins of the Roman Empire of great historical and economic value, and arrested two individuals when they tried to sell one of them. To fully identify the coins, investigators used the ID-Art app. The coins had been stolen in Switzerland in 2012 and could have been worth up to EUR 200,000 on the black market.

https://www.policia.es/es/comunicacion_prensa_detalle.php?ID=8847#



ROMANIA

A processional cross dating from the 13th century was recovered by police in Romania in July 2021 and returned to the Evangelical Church Museum of Cismadie, from where it had been stolen in 2016. The object had been recorded in INTERPOL's database of Stolen Works of Art and was identified via the ID-Art app.



THE NETHERLANDS

Thanks to ID-Art, the Dutch Art Crime Unit discovered two paintings that had been reported stolen, following checks on an online sales catalogue involving an Amsterdam auction house.

ITALY

During the app's pilot phase, the Carabinieri's unit for the protection of cultural heritage identified two stolen statues put on sale on a commercial platform, resulting in a judicial inquiry.



APPENDIX 3

LIST OF MAIN DOCUMENTS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

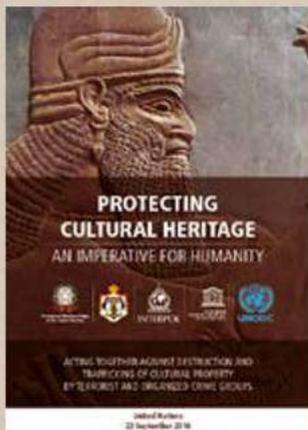


TREATIES AND DECLARATIONS

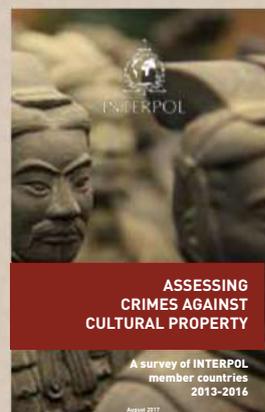
- 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention
- 1954 First Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict
- 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;
- 1972 UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects
- 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict
- 1999 International Convention for Suppression of Financing Terrorism
- 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
- 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
- 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the Action plan for its implementation, Adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-first session
- 2003 UNESCO Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage
- 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- 2003 UN Convention against Corruption
- 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- 2015 Bonn Declaration on World Heritage, 39th UNESCO World Heritage Committee
- 2015 Declaration on Culture as an Instrument of Dialogue among Peoples, EXPO, Milano, International Conference of the Ministers of Culture
- 2015, Statement of the 3rd Meeting of States Parties to the UNESCO 1970 Convention, "Stop Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property"
- 2017, Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property
- 2018, European Commission Fifth Anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing Directive
- 2019, European Parliament Regulation on the Introduction and the Import of Cultural Goods
- 2020, Council of the European Union Conclusions on EU External Action on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism
- 2020, 10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime - Revised draft Resolution: Combating transnational organized crime against cultural property (CTOC/COP/2020/L.10/Rev.1).

INTERPOL PUBLICATIONS

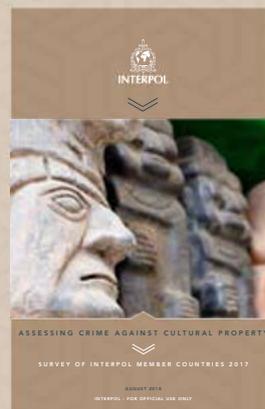
- 2016, “Protecting Cultural Heritage - An Imperative for Humanity”, in cooperation with Italy, Jordan, INTERPOL, UNESCO, and UNODC;



- 2017, “Assessing Crimes against Cultural Property - A survey of INTERPOL member countries (2013-2016)”;



- 2018, “Assessing Crimes against Cultural Property - A survey of INTERPOL member countries (2017)”;



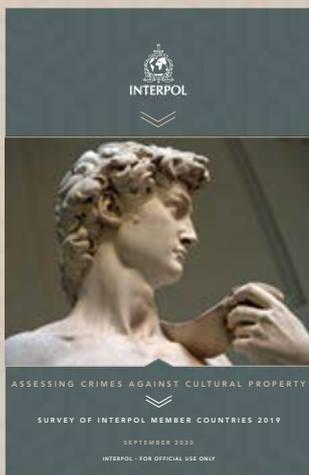
- 2016, 2019, “Creating A National Cultural Heritage Unit - The Value of A National Unit Dedicated to Fighting Crimes Against Cultural Heritage and The Illicit Traffic of Cultural Property”;



- 2019, “Assessing Crimes against Cultural Property - A survey of INTERPOL member countries (2018)”;



- 2020, "Assessing Crimes against Cultural Property - A survey of INTERPOL member countries (2019)";



- 2020, INTERPOL-ICOM "Recommendations on Ensuring cultural heritage security during lockdown: a challenge for museum professionals and police services"
- 2021, "Assessing Crimes against Cultural Property - A survey of INTERPOL member countries (2020) "

UN BODIES' RESOLUTIONS

UN General Assembly

- 2012, Resolution 66/180 "Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking"
- 2013, Resolution 68/186 "Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking"
- 2014, Resolution 69/196 "International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences"
- 2015, Resolution 69/281 "Saving the cultural heritage of Iraq"
- 2015, Resolution 70/76 "Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin" (latest on the matter)
- 2015, Resolution 70/178 "Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity"
- 2018, Resolution 73/130 "Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin"

UN Security Council

- 2003, Resolution 1483, "Situation between Iraq and Kuwait, Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts"
- 2012, Resolution 2056, "Peace and security in Africa"
- 2013, Resolution 2100, "The situation in Mali"
- 2015, Resolution 2199, "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts"
- 2015, Resolution 2253, "Suppressing Financing of Terrorism"
- 2017, Resolution 2347, "Condemning unlawful destruction of cultural heritage, and the looting and smuggling of cultural property notably by terrorist groups"

Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team

- 2019, Twenty-fourth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2368 (2017) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities
- 2021, 28th report of the UNSC Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526/2004, 2253/2015
- 2015, Resolution 3.MSP 9, "Emergency Actions"
- 2015, Recommendation concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections, their diversity and their role in Society
- 2015, Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form

Economic and Social Council

- 2004, Resolution 2004/34, "Protection against trafficking in cultural property"
- 2008, Resolution 2008/23, "Protection against trafficking in cultural property"
- 2010, Resolution 2010/19, "Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking"
- 2015, Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (UNESCO, Paris, 1970)
Annex 3: UNESCO, INTERPOL, ICOM Basic Actions concerning Cultural Objects being offered for Sale over the Internet

UNESCO bodies' decisions and recommendations

- 1962, Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding of Beauty and Character of Landscapes and Sites
- 1964, Recommendation on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Export, Import and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property 19 November
- 1972, Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage 2011, Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including a glossary of definitions, 10 November
- 2015, Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO's Actions for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict
- 2015 Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form
- 2015, Resolution 3.MSP 11, "Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the 1970 Convention"



APPENDIX 4

THE MOST WANTED WORKS OF ART OF 2020




INTERPOL

**LES ŒUVRES D'ART
LES PLUS RECHERCHÉES**

**THE MOST WANTED
WORKS OF ART**

**N°50 (a)
Juin / June 2020**

Objets représentés dans la base de données d'INTERPOL.
En cas de découverte ou de renseignement concernant ces objets,
prière d'aviser les services de police de votre pays, ou INTERPOL.

Objects featured in the INTERPOL database.
In the event of discovery or information about these objects,
please inform the police of your country, or INTERPOL.

WWW.INTERPOL.INT



TABLEAU / PAINTING
Par/By: Adriaen Isenbrant Hoonaer
Dimensions: 41 x 33 cm
Vol/Thief: 6 Mar. 2020
Particular/Private residence
Dossier/File: 2020/1527
B.C.N./N.C.B.: VIENNE



PIECE ROMAINE / ROMAN COIN
Dimensions: 3,9 x 2,4 cm
Vol/Thief: 1 Jan.-31 Dec. 2019
Musée / Museum
Dossier/File: 2020/8
B.C.N./N.C.B.: PARIS



ICONE / ICON
Dimensions: 20 x 15 cm
Vol/Thief: 30 Aug. 2019
Eglise / Church
Dossier/File: 2020/1911
B.C.N./N.C.B.: ATHÈNES/ATHENS



POTERIE / JUG
Par/By: Ludwig Lehmayr
Dimensions: 15 cm
Vol/Thief: 14-15 Dec. 2019
Balle de ventes/Salesroom
Dossier/File: 2020/1
B.C.N./N.C.B.: VIENNE/VIENNA



TABLEAU / PAINTING
Par/By: Vincent van Gogh
Dimensions: 25 x 37 cm
Vol/Thief: 30 Mar. 2020
Musée/Museum
Dossier/File: 2020/6211
B.C.N./N.C.B.: LA HAYE/THE HAGUE



PENDULE / CLOCK
Dimensions: 96,5 x 50 x 32 cm
Vol/Thief: 11 Mar. 2020
Particulier/Private residence
Dossier/File: 2020/301
B.C.N./N.C.B.: LA HAYE/THE HAGUE



INTERPOL

**LES ŒUVRES D'ART
LES PLUS RECHERCHÉES**

**THE MOST WANTED
WORKS OF ART**

**N°50 (b)
Décembre / December 2020**

Objets représentés dans la base de données d'INTERPOL.
En cas de découverte ou de renseignement concernant ces objets,
prière d'aviser les services de police de votre pays, ou INTERPOL.

Objects featured in the INTERPOL database.
In the event of discovery or information about these objects,
please inform the police of your country, or INTERPOL.

WWW.INTERPOL.INT



STATUE
Par/By: Carl Johan Eksh
Dimensions: 175 cm
Vol/Thief: 11-12 Aug. 2019
Particulier/Private residence
Dossier/File: 2019/135.1
B.C.N./N.C.B.: STOCKHOLM



TABLEAU / PAINTING
Par/By: Jan van Goyen
Dimensions: 64,8 x 94 cm
Vol/Thief: 19 Sep. 2020
Particulier/Private residence
Dossier/File: 2020/1911.2
B.C.N./N.C.B.: OTTAWA



CHALICE / CHALICE
Dimensions: 25 x 8,5 cm
Vol/Thief: 28 Oct.-2 Nov. 2018
Eglise/Church
Dossier/File: 2019/65.3
B.C.N./N.C.B.: ROME



TABLEAU / PAINTING
Par/By: Franz Hals
Dimensions: 69,2 x 58 cm
Vol/Thief: 26 Aug. 2020
Musée/Museum
Dossier/File: 2020/155.1
B.C.N./N.C.B.: LA HAYE/THE HAGUE



LAVE-BROSSE / BRUSH WASHER
Vol/Thief: 19 Sep. 2020
Particulier/Private residence
Dossier/File: 2020/171.1
B.C.N./N.C.B.: OTTAWA



TABLEAU / PAINTING
Par/By: Masashi Kaminobori
Dimensions: 27 x 47 cm
Vol/Thief: 8 Feb. 2018
Etranger/Overseas
Dossier/File: 2020/114.1
B.C.N./N.C.B.: RAGUSE



INTERPOL

ABOUT INTERPOL

INTERPOL's role is to enable police in our 194 member countries to work together to fight transnational crime and make the world a safer place. We maintain global databases containing police information on criminals and crime, and we provide operational and forensic support, analysis services and training. These policing capabilities are delivered worldwide and support three global programmes: counter-terrorism, cybercrime, and organized and emerging crime



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