

## International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) (Conservation and Preservation)

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### Basic Information

The International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM; <http://www.icomos.org/icahm/>) was established in 1990 by means of the ICAHM charter. This charter is the only international document that deals exclusively with archaeology, save the UNESCO *Recommendation on International Principles Applicable to Archaeological Excavation* of 1956 (New Delhi). The ICAHM charter is binding for the professional members of ICOMOS. The New Delhi recommendation, on the other hand, is to be honored by all state parties of UNESCO and grew out of the *Cairo Act* of 1937 of the League of Nations and earlier recommendations of the League of Nations Assembly of 1932.

In 1985, the Nordic countries convened an organizational meeting in Stockholm to prepare a draft charter for archaeological heritage management. The first draft was presented to the ICOMOS membership in 1987 at the 8th General Assembly in Washington, D.C. In 1990, at the 9th General Assembly in Lausanne, ICOMOS accepted ICAHM's 1990 ICOMOS Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage, which not only defined for the first time the aims and the role of archaeological heritage management internationally but made ICAHM one of the ICOMOS

scientific committees. The charter stressed the integration of archaeological programs and planning, the creation of inventories, the importance of in situ preservation, and, when this is not possible, the responsibility of developers to ensure that proper archaeological investigations take place. Its influence is seen in the 1997 Code of Practice of the European Association of Archaeologists and in the 1992 European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (the Malta Convention) from 1992.

Of the almost 1,000 sites on the World Heritage List, approximately 80 % are inscribed because of cultural values. Many of these (e.g., Petra, Machu Picchu, Pompeii, Angkor) are explicitly seen as archaeological sites, but all contain valuable archaeological components. In every historic city, there is a "city beneath the city," an archaeological trove. Further, many sites inscribed on the World Heritage List due to their outstanding natural resources also contain archaeological sites. Therefore, ICAHM has become perhaps the most active of the scientific committees.

### Major Impact

ICAHM is primarily concerned with the implementation of Article 5 of the World Heritage Convention in regard to archaeological sites. Article 5 charges each signatory to the Convention to develop the capacity to manage, conserve, and preserve natural and cultural resources within state boundaries. ICAHM has focused on the following:

- To establish, promulgate, and encourage adherence to high standards and best practices for (a) management of archaeological sites and resources, (b) archaeological research, and (c) aspects of cultural resource management
- To develop and enhance a network of professional archaeologists and archaeological site managers for the purpose of transmitting theoretical and practical skills and encouraging high standards and best practices for (a) management of archaeological sites and

- resources, (b) archaeological research, and (c) aspects of cultural resource management
- To organize conferences and workshops, to produce publications, websites, and other mechanisms utilizing a variety of media to promulgate high standards and best practices for (a) management of archaeological sites and resources, (b) archaeological research, and (c) aspects of cultural resource management
  - To provide the best qualified ICAHM Expert Members for desk audits and site visits to archaeological sites that have been nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List
  - To provide the best qualified ICAHM Expert Members for monitoring of condition of archaeological sites that are inscribed on the World Heritage List
  - To encourage the nomination of appropriate archaeological sites to the World Heritage List and to assist in nominations by contributing to comparative studies, giving advice about the preparation of nomination dossiers, management plans, or other relevant steps

In 2008, with the adoption of the Eger-Xi'an Principles, the role assigned to scientific committees in the work of ICOMOS was enlarged substantially. In response, ICAHM has greatly expanded membership, reinstated international symposia, and has begun a publication series in collaboration with Springer Press, entitled *Multidisciplinary Studies in Archaeological Heritage Management*.

Before 2008, ICAHM had held two international symposia. The first was held in Stockholm from 12 to 16 December 1988, titled *Archaeology and Society: Large Scale Rescue Operations—Their Possibilities and Problems*. Edited by Gustaf Trotzig and Gunnel Vahlne, the papers were published in 1989 by the Nordic Secretariat of ICAHM. The second ICAHM symposium, *Archaeological Remains: In Situ Preservation*, was held in Montreal from 11 to 15 October 1994. The papers were edited by Claire Mousseau and published in 1996 with support from the Ville de Montréal, Canadian Heritage, Hydro-Québec, and the Government of Québec.

In December of 2011, ICAHM held an international symposium in conjunction with the ICOMOS General Assembly Meeting in Paris, entitled *The Archaeology of Interdependence*. The papers are being published in the ICAHM publication series under that title. ICAHM sponsored the First International Conference on Best Practices in the Management of Archaeological World Heritage Sites in Menorca, Spain, in April of 2012. Selected papers from that conference are in press. The conference also produced the Menorca Statement, which promulgates ICAHM's intent to develop best practices for the management of archaeological sites and to refer to these when reviewing nominations of archaeological sites to the World Heritage List. The Statement also suggests that nomination dossiers include a plan, timetable, and estimated cost for developing adequate management capacity if this capacity is not fully in evidence. The nomination can then be used to generate necessary support for capacity building from a wide range of institutions beyond UNESCO.

Much of the concern about inadequate management capacity stems from damage at archaeological World Heritage Sites that results from a lack of visitor flow management and rapid site development. The first of four ICAHM Springer publications dealing with this was released in 2012, entitled *Tourism and Archaeological Heritage Management at Petra: Driver to Development or Destruction?* The subsequent three will examine this issue at Angkor, Machu Picchu, and Pompeii.

*Mapping Archaeological Landscapes From Space: In Observance of the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention* was published in the ICAHM/Springer series in 2013. ICAHM seeks to encourage nondestructive archaeological research methods and will nurture development and application of such technologies. It has cosponsored several training courses and workshops on these technologies in collaboration with NASA at the University of California, Berkeley; Johns Hopkins University; and Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, in Lima.

ICAHM has been vocal on many issues since 2008 by means of press releases and letters to



**ICOMOS** **ICAHM**  
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Heritage Management

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concerned parties. Among these are the looting of archaeological sites; the production of popular television shows that celebrate looting, such as the Spike TV series *American Diggers* and National Geographic series *Diggers*, enforcing international agreements that forbid or discourage the trade in looted artifacts; and the need to provide benefit to communities near archaeological sites as opposed to international hotel and restaurant chains.

Providing assistance to States Parties nominating or wishing to nominate archaeological sites to the World Heritage List is an important ICAHM program. ICAHM has provided assistance to specific sites, such as Poverty Point in the United States and the Jomon sites in Japan, and has begun an Africa Initiative that will work with States Parties in Africa to identify candidates for inscription.

ICAHM held an international conference in Cuzco, Peru, 27–30 November 2012, with the theme: *The UNESCO World Heritage Convention on its 40th Anniversary*. Over 100 papers were presented, and selected papers will be published in several volumes of the ICAHM Springer series (Fig. 1).

### Cross-References

- ▶ [International Conventions and Charters and Archaeology Presentation](#)
- ▶ [International Council on Monuments and Sites \(ICOMOS\) \(Ethics\)](#)
- ▶ [International Council on Monuments and Sites \(ICOMOS\) \(Museums\)](#)
- ▶ [International Council on Monuments and Sites \(ICOMOS\): Scientific Committees and Relationship to UNESCO](#)

### Further Reading

- COMER, D. 2012. *Tourism and archaeological heritage management at Petra: driver to development or destruction?* New York: Springer.
- COMER, D. & M.J. HARROWER. (ed.) 2013. *Mapping archaeological landscapes from space: in observance of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention*. New York: Springer.
- MOUSSEAU, C. (ed.) 1996. *Vestiges archéologiques: La conservation in situ/archaeological remains: in situ preservation*. Ottawa: ICAHM.
- TROTZIG, G. & G. VAHLNE. (ed.) 1989. *Archaeology and society: large scale rescue operations — their possibilities and problems* (ICAHM Report 1). Stockholm: Nordic Secretariat of ICAHM.

### International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) (Cultural Heritage Management)

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### Basic Information

ICAHM is an International Scientific Committee (ISC) of ICOMOS. It was founded in 1987 at the 8th ICOMOS General Assembly in Washington, DC. The idea to develop such a body took a decade to bear fruit and was advanced by the UK's Henry Cleere and Sweden's Margareta Björnstad in particular. After ICAHM was established, key members drafted the *Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage*, which was ratified in 1990 by the ninth ICOMOS General Assembly in Lausanne, Switzerland. Until 2008, the activities and membership of ICAHM were highly restricted by ICOMOS rules, as they were for all ISCs. In 2008, ICOMOS adopted the Eger-Xi'an principles for the International Scientific Committees. These principles dramatically freed up both membership eligibility and the range of