



CULTURAL HERITAGE  
COORDINATING  
COMMITTEE

Summer 2019  
Updated on Aug 6

# CHCC Highlights

The Cultural Heritage Coordinating Committee (CHCC) coordinates U.S. government efforts to protect and preserve international cultural property at risk from political instability, armed conflict, and natural or other disasters. The Department of State established the CHCC in 2016 per the *Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act* (Public Law 114-151).

## GET TO KNOW THE CHCC

The CHCC consists of 12 U.S. government agencies and is organized into four working groups. The CHCC working groups meet a few times a year and include the participation of nonfederal stakeholders.

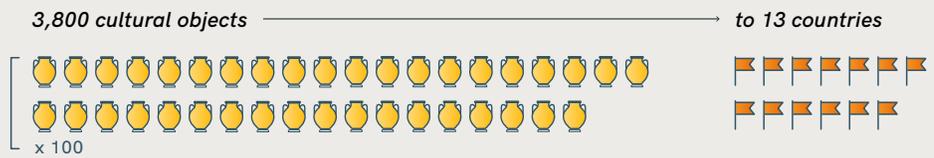


**CHCC WORKING GROUPS:** Public Awareness & Partnerships Technology Cultural Antiquities Task Force (CATF) Cultural Preservation

## REPATRIATIONS BY THE NUMBERS

Over the past few years, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) have returned thousands of cultural objects to their countries of origin.

In 2018, HSI and FBI collectively repatriated over:



### DID YOU KNOW

The Department of State's Cultural Heritage Center (CHC) and the National Park Service's *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Program* respond to requests from Native American tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations for assistance in repatriating ancestral remains and cultural items held in foreign museums or offered for sale in foreign countries.

## CULTURAL PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION IN SYRIA AND IRAQ

The *Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act* (Public Law 114-151) and the *Emergency Protection for Iraqi Cultural Antiquities Act* (Public Law 108-429) provide emergency cultural property protections for Iraq and Syria. These protections impose import restrictions on archaeological and ethnological material of Iraq and Syria upon entering the United States. Current and recently completed preservation projects:

### Cultural Heritage Projects in Syria

The Smithsonian, with the University of Pennsylvania Museum and collaborating NGOs, worked to:

- Monitor damage
- Train refugees
- Provide conservation materials
- Support emergency preservation



### Cultural Heritage Projects in Iraq

CHCC member agencies are working with Iraqi museums, researchers, and heritage groups to protect and stabilize Iraq's rich heritage.

- Nimrud Rescue Project** | Smithsonian and State Dept
- Mosul Heritage Stabilization Project** | University of Pennsylvania and State Dept
- Protecting Our Cultural Heritage Program** | National Endowment for the Humanities
- Post-ISIS Cultural Heritage Recovery** | Smithsonian and State Dept
- Future of Babylon Project** | World Monuments Fund and the State Dept

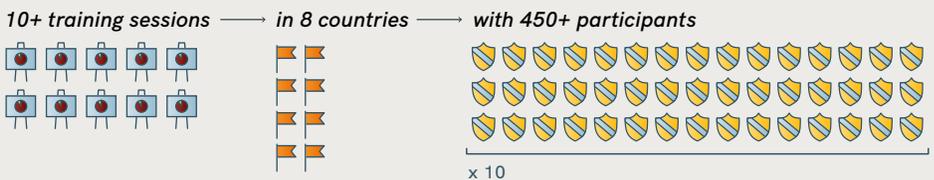
### DID YOU KNOW

In May 2019, the CHCC voted to create its fourth working group focused on cultural heritage preservation. The working group will include programs for preserving cultural sites, improving emergency preparedness and response, and planning for post-disaster recovery.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

The Cultural Antiquities Task Force (CATF) trains law enforcement and customs officials and supports local governments, museums, and preservation professionals in the protection and repatriation of cultural antiquities around the world.

In 2018, CATF supported:



## CULTURAL PROPERTY AGREEMENTS

To combat looting and trafficking of cultural property, the U.S. government has bilateral cultural property agreements with foreign governments. These agreements promote stability, economic development, and good governance in other countries, while denying financing to criminal networks that engage in illicit trade.



*The United States and*  
17 countries have bilateral cultural property agreements



In 2018, the U.S. government signed agreements to continue existing import restrictions with Belize and Cambodia. The United States signed a new agreement with Libya. The U.S. government received requests for new agreements from Algeria, Ecuador, and Jordan.

## A LEGISLATIVE BREAKDOWN

Check out a few pieces of legislation that define the work of the CHCC:



- Archaeological Resources Protection Act** (16 U.S.C. 470)
- Native American Graves Protections and Repatriation Act** (16 U.S.C. 1170)
- Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act** (19 U.S.C. 2601-2613)
- Emergency Protection for Iraqi Cultural Antiquities Act** (Public Law 108-429)
- Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act** (Public Law 114-151)
- 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict**
- Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property 1970**

U.S. Federal Law | International Treaty

## Keep in touch with the CHCC

eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/cultural-heritage-coordinating-committee | @HeritageatState