

Annual Report: 2021

1. Administrative Details

1.1 - Name of National Committee: Blue Shield Guatemala

1.2 - Date Report Completed: July 10th, 2022

1.3 - Reporting period covered: 01 January 2021 – 31 December 2021

1.4 - Names, positions and emails

Officers:

Rosa Maria Chan Former Minister of Cultural Heritage

Beatriz Quevedo ICOM Guatemala Chair

Lizbeth Barrientos ICA, Memory of the World UNESCO Program, Guatemala NC Chair

Samuel Franco Arce ICOM – DRMC, Casa K'ojom Cultural Rescue Center Director

1.5 - Address of the main office: Casa K'ojom, Centro de Rescate Cultural, Finca La Azotea, 1a calle y 1a Avenida, Zona 3. Jocotenango, Sacatepequez, Guatemala

1.6 - Website and social media (if applicable):

Under development

2. Income:

The committee has 0 income, not being fully constituted legally according to the Guatemala legislation, operating in a continuous process of trying to recruit volunteer members and sponsors.

UNESCO regional offices in Central America and the Caribbean have been key partners and sponsors of networking, capacity building and response activities in the region.

Casa K'ojom Cultural Rescue Center, a regional Hub partner of the Cultural Emergency Response CER Network of the Prince Claus Fund, with CPP activities in Central America and the Caribbean, has been hosting the Blue Shield Guatemala office since 2016. During 2021, provided the funding and implementation of capacity building activities in the region on risk management and preparedness, and First Aid to Cultural Heritage in times of crisis, as well as, the risk assessments and post disaster damage/impact assessments conducted at sites.

ICOM Guatemala and the regional National Committees have also been valuable supporters in different ways at specific activities.

Generating steady income is one of the main challenges that we have.

3. Report of Activities: Achievements & Performance

Explain the activities & projects carried out over the year under the Areas of Activity

The annual report should tell the story of the organisation and put into context what was achieved in the reporting year against the achievement of its longer-term strategy. The annual report under this section should Provide a clear review of the organisation's performance for the relevant year as well showing how the current year's strategic performance links to the achievement of the longer-term strategy of the organisation.

These could include: grants applied for; talks given; conferences held; training courses run; work to support new legislation; working groups attended, etc.

Please provide as much detail as possible – for example, length of event, audience, and so on.

3.1 - Law, policy development and implementation:

Meetings to discuss the legal constitution of the Guatemala National Committee, problems encountered, lawyers advise, members implementation, policies to adopt for the future development.

3.2 - Education, training, and capacity building:

ICOM Guatemala members on line presentation about Blue Shield. 35 participants.

Training CNPAG staff (Consejo Nacional para la Protección de Antigua Guatemala) UNESCO's World Heritage site. 30 participants.

University of San Carlos, Faculty of Arts students, Risk Management on line training. 25 participants.

Naj' Tunich, Petén, Guatemala, risk assessment and mapping in situ, in person 2 day training to culture sector and civil protection members. 15 participants.

3 days in person Risk Assessment training to staff of Flores Municipality, Petén, Guatemala. 25 participants.

3 days in person workshop "Risk Management to Documentary Heritage", to personnel of the National Archives and the National Library of Panama, coordinated and sponsored by UNESCO Multipais office in Costa Rica as an activity of UNESCO's Memory of the World programme. 50 participants.

On line presentation about CPP in the region to soldiers of Honduras and soldiers of the US Bravo Joint Task Force in Honduras, 60 participants.

In situ Risk Assessment at the Foreign Affairs Ministry Archives and Library of El Salvador.

On line course to personnel of museums of the Caribbean islands on Risk Management and First Aid to Cultural Heritage in times of Crisis, coordinated and sponsored by UNESCO Cuba. 45 participants.

3.3 - Proactive protection and risk preparedness:

Municipality of Antigua Guatemala, presentation of BS office to new Mayor.

Casa de la Cultura, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, risk assessment and mapping in situ.

Placement of 12 new Blue Shield emblems by the Ministry of Culture and International Red Cross at sites in Flores, Quetzaltenango and Guatemala city.

Presentation of Blue Shield activities and invitation to join BS to ICOM Guatemala members.

Presentation of Blue Shield at the Colonial Art Museum, Antigua Guatemala, broadcasted on Facebook of the Ministry of Culture.

Meetings with the Commander of the Fire Brigade of Antigua Guatemala to exchange collaboration in capacity building about CPP, to be prepared to protect the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Antigua.

A risk assessment was conducted at the Caves of Naj' Tunich, with unique Maya paintings and petroglyphs at risk, a joint collaboration with the Naj' Tunich initiative, the local Municipality and regional civil protection officers.

3.4 - Emergency response in disaster, domestic emergencies, and armed conflict:

Assistance was requested by colleagues from the Caribbean Heritage Emergency Network CHEN and UNESCO office in Jamaica to assist in an on line Rapid Damage Assessment at St Vincent and the Grenadines, after the eruption of Le Sufriere volcano.

An on line Rapid Damage Assessment on Tangible and Intangible Cultural was conducted during three months with a team gathering and providing data from the island and nearby islands coordinated and sponsored by UNESCO Jamaica office.

3.5 - Stabilisation, post-disaster recovery, and long-term/ongoing support:

Post Disaster Damage Assessment was conducted at Quiriguá and Yaxhá archaeological sites after ETA and IOTA tropical storms.

Ministry of Culture and UNESCO Guatemala responded to the partial stabilization and recovery of the sites, specially Quiriguá being a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

3.6 - Co-ordination (of Blue Shield and with other relevant organisations):

Our activities have been implemented with the support, methodologies and coordination of ICCROM, UNESCO, ICOM, CER PCF, SCRI

4. Main issues faced:

What are the main issues faced by your committee?

Legal constitution and establishment of the National Committee, lack of interest in participation on volunteer work, small community of members affiliated to International Associations.

5. Future goals

Describe future plans to achieve strategic goals

Establish branch office in Archaeological area of Petén. Guatemala

Training a dedicated task force for Cultural Heritage in times of Emergency, integrated by members of Culture sector, Civil Protection, University, Environmental, Communities living near the sites

Mapping of risks and impacts of Tangible and Intangible Culture

6. Other

Through its connection to Newcastle University, BSI is sometimes able to access funding that can be shared with research institutions to further the work of Blue Shield. Does your national committee have any connections with research institutions interested in its work (e.g. in risk management, heritage protection, etc.). If yes, please supply the names and contact details here.

Cultural Emergency Response CER / Prince Claus Fund , ICCROM, UNESCO, SCRI, ALIPH