# Guatemala Annual Report: 2022

## 1. Administrative Details

1.1 - **Name of National Committee**: Blue Shield Guatemala

1.2 - **Date Report Completed**: March 25th, 2023

1.3 - **Reporting period covered**: 01 January 2022 – 31 December 2022

1.4 - **Names, positions and emails**

   - Rosa Maria Chan, Independent Archaeologist
   - 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

1.7 – **Email the Blue Shield email should forward to**:

   - safra@kojom.org
   - rosamccg@gmail.com
   - bqueueudo@gmail.com
### 2. Income:

Activities were conducted through a CER Cultural Emergency Response Grant awarded to Casa K’ojom, Cultural Rescue Centre, as a regional Hub for Central America and the Caribbean.

There was no other source of income during this year.

### 3. Report of Activities: Achievements & Performance

**February**

**(2 days)**

The Hub provided collaboration to the Naj Tunich Initiative, to conduct a Damage Assessment activity at the Naj Tunich Caves Site, with a team of experts from CONRED, INSIVUMEH, IDAEH and Dr. Rosa María Chan, Project Manager.

**Output:** A written report by participants, Iniciativa Naj Tunich, CONRED, INSIVUMEH, and IDAEH.

**Outcome:** Strengthen the relationship among regional civil protection agents in Petén who later in September same year participated in the Risk and Impact Mapping workshop with CHML and other local actors from Archaeological sites and the Municipality of Flores, Petén.

**Participants:** 2 Female and 10 Male

CONRED: Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres
INSIVUMEH: Instituto Nacional de Sismología, Vulcanología, Meteorología e Hidrología
IDAEH: Instituto de Antropología e Historia de Guatemala

**March**

**Risk and Impact Mapping assessment Copán, Honduras (7 days)**

Participated in a week of Experiences Exchange about the Honduras Cultural Heritage Protection, coordinated by the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia (IHAH) and the Honduras / US Army Joint Task Force, JTF Bravo, which included our presentation “Lessons Learned from Disaster Risk Management in Central America” during the practical sessions, and in situ practical exercises at the archaeological sites of Copán, Las Mesas and Ostumán, with trainers from the Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab of the Virginia Museum of Natural History and Blue Shield International.

**Output**

Report by CHML provided to IHAH of Honduras

**Outcome**

- Meeting Willam Welsh and Hayden Bassett of the Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab.
• Meeting Michael de la Cruz of Blue Shield International Secretariat, discuss a proposal of a future Blue Shield Regional meeting in Guatemala. As a follow up of our Honduras conversations, Michael de la Cruz visits Guatemala later in October to meet with UNESCO Guatemala representative, Blue Shield Guatemala and the Conservator of La Antigua Guatemala in order to follow up the proposal of a Regional meeting of Blue Shield and stakeholders for 2023.

Participants: 8 Female and 22 Male

1 day Trip (3) to Petén Coordination Petén, Flores, El Remate

St. Vincent and the Grenadines On line Damage Assessment
On line post disaster damage assessment sessions and activities were conducted with UNESCO, CARBICA/CHEN, local stakeholders, Ministry of Culture, archaeologists, librarians after the eruption of Le Soufriere volcano. Reports were sent to UNESCO Caribbean Cluster in Jamaica.

Output
Written report to UNESCO Jamaica

Outcome

5 day advocacy trip to the Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab, Virginia Museum of Natural History, USA

CHML Publication

Outcome
Strengthen collaboration relationship with CHML

April

On line presentation about “Risk Management for Cultural Heritage”
Foro “El patrimonio cultural y la Gestión del riesgo de desastres”.
Coordinated by UNGRD (Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres) of Colombia, with an audience of 105 connections, 391 views during transmission, and 476 registrations.

Colombia, Publication

Output
a recorded webinar session

Outcome
Beginning of a collaboration relationship with the Unidad Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres of Colombia
On line webinar on “Risk Management for Documentary Heritage” to archivists from the Ministry of Culture of Guatemala during their annual conference.

**Guatemala, Publication**

**Output**
A recorded webinar session on the Ministry of Culture Facebook page

**Outcome**
Strengthening relationship for future workshops

**6 days trip (5) to Petén, Coordination Petén, Flores, El Remate, Yaxhá.**

**Output**
Agreement to use facilities for the sessions of the workshop with 15 participants of Response Task Force of Petén including coffee breaks and lunches
A plan to conduct the Risk and Impact Mapping activity

**Outcome**
The inspection visit to the Yaxhá site provided valuable updated information to plan the Mapping activity and general logistics required for the workshop

**August**

**Advocacy Trip to Prague, Czech Republic, ICOM Prague 2022 Conference**

Presentation The power of Museums: as a Regional Cultural Rescue Hub at ICOM DRMC Sessions

As a member of ICOM DRMC, Disaster Resilient Museums Committee, a presentation by Samuel Franco about the Casa K’ojom Hub was included in the sessions of the International Committee.

Meeting session of ICOM DRMC International Committee with Board and Members, to discuss strategic plan of the Disaster Resilient Museums Committee

**Praga, Publication**

**Praga, Publication**

**Output**
A power point presentation “The Power of Museums: as a regional cultural Rescue Hub”.

**Outcome**
Strengthen the advocacy efforts, visibility and lobbying for future collaborations of the Hub on trainings, assistance in case of emergencies with other ICOM members, ICOM National and International Committees, and the ICOM DRMC network colleagues.
Learning updated information about the situation of Cultural Heritage in Ukraine from direct trustable sources through the dedicated sessions of the Conference.
Advocacy trip to Erlangen, Nuremberg, Germany

Objective: Explore collaboration with Rotary Club Erlangen – Antigua Guatemala.

From Prague, a trip to Erlangen, Nuremberg, Germany, was coordinated by a colleague and friend German Artist, who has coordinated a few collaboration activities and donations to arts, science and social institutions and communities in Guatemala through a German Rotary group that has a bilateral collaboration program with a Rotary group of Antigua, Guatemala, called “Erlangen – Guatemala”.

This collaboration has benefited the Municipal Fire Brigade of Antigua with donations of Rescue Equipment and supplies.

One of the objectives of the trip was to visit the factory and outlets of emergency supplies, Personal Protection Equipment, rescue tools that could be used in case of earthquakes, and meet with some Rotary members to develop a relationship for possible future collaboration with the Hub, being in Antigua.

Outcome: Printed Catalogues of the full line were provided, special discounts were offered on PPE, supplies and rescue tools, currently exploring shipping costs from Germany to Guatemala.

September

11 days trip to Petén Coordination Petén, Flores, El Remate, Yaxhá.

Risk Preparedness and Mapping in 4 sites Tayasal, Yaxhá, Flores, Ixlú and Task Force Group 3 days Workshop

Tayasal- Flores- Ixlú Subaquatic Mapping

Trip to Petén and Belize city to pick up and deliver CHML team at airport, conduct workshop of 4 sites, Municipality of Flores, Island of Flores and Tayasal visit, 2 days of subaquatic survey and mapping activity at Lake Petén Itzá around Tayasal and Ixlú, 3 days of Mapping risks and Impact at Yaxhá, workshop with 15 participants of Elite Response Task Force of Petén.

Visit to Tikal with CHML Team and Dr. Rosa María Chan

Meeting with Mayoress and visit to Island of Flores, Museum and Site of Tayasal

1 day meeting and site visits.

Meeting with the Mayoress and technical personnel of the Municipality of Flores, Petén, Guatemala, at the historical site of Castillo de Arismendi, to present the intention of our mission, and to listen and learn about the experiences and opinions from the Municipality personnel.

Walking exploration tour around the Island of Flores, Petén, with Municipality personnel, CHML and Casa K’ójom team.
Visit and presentation at Tayasal Regional Museum, followed by visit to Tayasal Archaeological site

Outcome:

- An updated comprehensive general appreciation and understanding of the situation with Cultural Heritage in the island of Flores, the Tayasal regional museum and Site of Tayasal from the perspective of the local Municipality and the Ministry of Culture
- Learn about the current restoration project of the Ministry of Culture and the project phases through a presentation and tour guided by the Site Project Manager
- Understanding of the context of the region, mainland, land, lake, communities around.

Participants: 7 Female 13 Male

Sub aquatic survey at Lake Petén Itzá:

2 days of sub-aquatic survey exploration at 4 sites

Participants: 1 Female 7 Male

Output:

- A report of the exploration survey

Outcome:

- Data about the situation of the sites explored, since the lake is in the middle of various pre-hispanic cities, there are all sorts of archaeological vestiges from pre-hispanic and Colonial times, as it has always been used as a route for merchants and fishermen.

- Follow up action plan to be developed to discuss and develop rules/regulations with the lake authorities, Municipality of Flores, Ministry of Culture of Guatemala in order to have some kind of control to protect the Heritage, for divers, diving rental equipment providers, diving tourism operators.

- Develop consistent mapping activities for risk analysis and mitigation plans.

Task Force Group workshop 20 participants

Sessions included, introduction of CRC and objectives of the workshop, introduction to CHML Team,

Mapping risks and Impacts at Yaxhá, Petén, Guatemala.

Mapping reports from 3 groups of participants:

To conduct a practical exercise in the field with the Caltopo App, workshop participants were divided into 3 groups and assigned a different area of the site to map risks and impacts, these are the results reported from the fieldwork survey:

Participants: 5 Female 14 Male
### October

Attending the **CER** (Cultural Emergency Response) launch at The Hague, The Netherlands. Participation at a meeting to brainstorm a plan for a future “Hague Convention 1954” workshop with about other 15 participants, including Professor Peter Stone, President of Blue Shield International.

Lunch meeting with Professor Peter Stone, to discuss possible Regional Alliance of Blue Shield National Committees of Central America and the Caribbean.

### November

**1 Week Disaster Risk Management workshop in Piura, Peru**

25 Participants

**Outcome:**

Establish relations and exchange knowledge with Peruvian Civil Protection agency, through a project developed by the University of St. Andrews of Scotland in the Sechura desert area of Peru, where “El Niño” natural phenomenon hits very strongly since pre-hispanic days.

| 3.1 - Law, policy development and implementation: |
| We have not had any sessions or specific meetings to establish law or policies yet, since we are a very small group. |

| 3.2 - Education, training, and capacity building: |
| In person workshop about Mapping risks and Impact to Civil Protection and Culture sector personnel in Honduras and Guatemala. |

| 3.3 - Proactive protection and risk preparedness: |
| Mapping Impacts and Risks at Yaxhá archaeological site in Petén, Guatemala |
| Mapping impacts and risks at Copán, Las Mesas and Ostumán archaeological sites in Honduras |
| Sub aquatic surveys at Lake Peten Itzá, Petén, Guatemala |
| On line lectures with Colombian Civil Protection Agency |
| In person workshops with local community leaders and civil protection at Piura, Perú. |

| 3.4 - Emergency response in disaster, domestic emergencies, and armed conflict: |
| None |
3.5 - Stabilisation, post-disaster recovery, and long-term/ongoing support:

Damage Assessment at Naj’Tunich Caves in Poptún, Petén, Guatemala

Post disaster damage assessment consultancy to colleagues of St Vincent and the Grenadines after volcano eruption

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

Co-ordination with the NGO ABC (Asociación Bien Común), an NGO established at el Remate, Petén, in order to share spaces and infrastructure for a future office, storage space and community activities in the region.

4. Main issues faced:

Lack of interest to participate as volunteers, continuity of participation of trained people, continuous changes in the government, municipalities, local authorities, decision makers in public sector.

5. Future goals

Creation of regional response Task Forces, groups, involve community leaders, youth involvement, involvement of Ministry of Education in including raising awareness programs in their curriculums, involvement of civil protection agencies in cultural property protection.

Establish a regional office in the archaeological region of Petén, Guatemala.

6. Other

NGO’s to partner with:
Fundación Pro Petén, Rosa Irene Contreras, Executive Director.
Fundación ABC, Eduardo Cofiño, President