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ICOMOS

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is the only international, non-governmental organization bringing together people and institutions actively concerned with the conservation of buildings, groups of buildings and larger units of architectural, archeological and historical interest. ICOMOS works to promote the application of theory, methodology and scientific techniques to the conservation of architectural heritage.

Both nationally and internationally, it is directed by its members, which are grouped in 66 National Committees. A network of International Committees has been established to coordinate research and projects of members in specific fields of preservation and conservation of architectural heritage, including archeological heritage management, cultural tourism, historic gardens, historic towns, mud brick (adobe), photogrammetry, rock art, seismology, stained glass, stone, training, vernacular architecture and wood.

ICOMOS was founded in 1965 in Warsaw, Poland, by the conservation and preservation professionals, meeting at the 2nd International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments. At the same meeting, the founders of ICOMOS drafted and adopted the International Charter on the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, more commonly known as the Venice Charter.

ICOMOS has six principal objectives:
— to bring together conservation specialists from around the world and serve as a forum for professional dialogue and exchange;
— to collect, evaluate and diffuse information on conservation principles, techniques and policies;
— to cooperate with national and international authorities on the establishment of documentation centers specializing in conservation;
— to work for the adoption and implementation of international conventions on the conservation and enhancement of architectural heritage;
— to participate in the organization of training programs for conservation specialists on a worldwide scale; and to put the expertise of highly qualified professionals and specialists at the service of the international community.