

**VALCAMONICA SYMPOSIUM 1984**  
**ROCK ART : NEW HORIZONS IN RESEARCH**  
**20 – 26 August, 1984**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Introduction*

Referring to the recommendations and comments issued from past symposia upon which much of our recent work has been based (the International Consultation of Specialists on the Study, Documentation and Conservation of Rock Art, held in Valcamonica on behalf of UNESCO in 1981; the Congress on "Rock Art and Museology" held at Milan in 1982 on behalf of ICOM and ICOMOS; the PreCongress Symposium on the "Conservation, Recording and Interpretation of Rock Art", held at Vancouver on behalf of UISAE in 1983) and following four days of discussions, debates and exchanges issued from Valcamonica Symposium '84 on "Rock Art: New Horizons in Research" we wish to further consider the following major issues:

- The role of formal and informal education in developing and increasing the importance of rock art studies as a scientific discipline, as well as in increasing the evaluation and conservation of our rock art heritage;
- The standarization of information and terminology;
- The reconsideration of the definition of history as being within the limited bounds of written documents, and the consideration of rock art as an invaluable tool in discovering other aspects and depths of human history;
- International projects and the involvement of international organizations and of national governments.

It should first be stressed that rock art is presently known from over one hundred countries around the world; it is very vulnerable and fast deteriorating. Documentation is the first necessary step for any successful strategy of protection, conservation and evaluation. A world data bank of rock art appears therefore to be an urgent project, an international service to this cultural heritage, to be given highest priority.

- 4.2 The specialists participating in this international symposium wish to put themselves at the disposal of CAR and of the pertinent international organizations for projects promoting the preservation, advancement of research and understanding in rock art studies of both international and national scope.
- 4.3 They call upon UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICOM and ICCROM to support international strategies and truly international projects in all possible ways, whilst at the same time to stimulate national and local gov-

ernments to promote and implement national and local projects.

- 1 The Growing Role of Formal and Informal Education in Rock Art Studies.
- 1.1 Rock art studies, as a scientific discipline within the study of humankind, should be internationally recognized, developed and constantly re-evaluated as a field of study. Within this view we note that publications in the field are increasing, which demonstrates a growing public concern and interest. This is despite the current lack of attention the field is given in institutions of higher learning. Much work is being conducted outside formal academic institutions as such because specialization in rock art studies has not yet been formalized, and because there is not the possibility, as far as we know, of receiving specific degrees in this field of learning.
- 1.2 Thus we express the wish and hope that such research be oriented and provided with support within academic circles and institutes of higher learning, and that rock art studies be given full deserved recognition and accreditation within the academic world.
- 1.3 International organizations should play a fundamental role in the dissemination of relevant information throughout the world.
- 1.4 Formal and informal education can and must be employed with the intent of increasing the recognition of rock art studies. Rock art should be included within the curriculum as appropriate, in schools at all levels, from primary through secondary schools, to higher education. This would lead essentially to a greater respect, appreciation, understanding and hence preservation of rock art by all people.
- 1.5 Within informal education further emphasis should be placed on the creation of displays and museums, and on the more recently emerging educational departments within them, as didactic tools to inform and, ideally, involve the public at all levels.
- 1.6 All-important, the mass media can further immensely the appreciation and understanding of rock art and, where possible, of the associated cultures. However, we ask that the media also be encouraged to accept their vital responsibility in educating their audience as to the protection and conservation of these invaluable elements of their cultural heritage.

- 1.7 Following from this point we must be aware that, in the process of disseminating information in all ways, vandalism should not be triggered. We must ensure that local responsible organizations, such as departments of antiquities and museums, immediately take measures to prevent possible danger to exposed rock art. Decisions must be made carefully before opening up rock art sites to public access, bearing these issues in mind.
- 1.8 Finally, we feel the need to stress the importance of giving primary consideration to the involvement of non-specialists and the local populace in the care, appreciation and conservation of the rock art which is, above all, their heritage and a source of understanding of their own roots.
- 2 Standardization of Information and Terminology.
- 2.1 Conscious of the constant efforts made by the Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici to promote the understanding of rock art studies and to stimulate international cooperation; recognizing the great significance of the activities of the Centro towards an understanding of the state of research in rock art, the creation of a world data bank, and the formation of specialists through training courses and seminars, we wish to reaffirm the indispensable role of this institution, requesting UNESCO, other international organizations and the Italian Government to continue and further their support, so as to enable the Centro to carry on its international task by promoting the Data Bank and the advancement of rock art studies.
- 2.2 Within the Data Bank project, states having rock art sites in their territories are encouraged to establish national and regional data banks and to contribute to the creation of a global system of inventory.
- 2.3 Essential to the functioning of a truly international cooperation is the standardization of terminology, programs and data employed and collected by researchers; for this reason we urge the use of the "Standard Rock Art Site Record File", proposed by the 1981 Valcamonica Symposium under the sponsorship of UNESCO, as an efficient and necessary tool for the recording of rock art sites throughout the world. The emphasis is on achieving the comparability of data.
- 2.4 Part of this process necessarily involves computers, as tools in the network of data banks being made internationally available to researchers and producing exchangeable and comparable outputs. The extreme value of computers in preserving and storing data has been fully appreciated: all support should be made towards general computerization of data.
- 2.5 By rendering data in a universal, immediately understandable and comparable form we contribute to the essential task of disseminating information to researchers, to organizations, and to interested persons; data must be made available and accessible.
- 2.6 How to ensure the protection of such documentation and archives is to be seen as a fundamental question. This includes the serious problem constituted by the conservation of photographic and other perishable records. This problem must be dealt with in a scientific manner and as soon as possible.
- 2.7 An essential method of assuring the conservation of data is the duplication and, where possible, the publication and dissemination of research and of records. To date this has often proved difficult in the field of rock art studies. Therefore, we ask that UNESCO and the other international organizations give assistance in publishing such material which is of value and relevance to the world heritage of rock art, and possibility assure the purchase of sufficient numbers of copies for distribution to ensure viability.
- 2.8 It is recognized that the use of electronic storage and dissemination of graphic and photographic data is still very expensive; however, this form of technology should be kept in consideration for use when and where appropriate.
- 3 Rock Art as a Source Towards the Understanding of the Past.
- 3.1 Considering that history in most definitions is based primarily on written records, and realizing the limitations and cultural biases inherent in such a definition, we wish to face the prospect of new horizons in the study of history, that is, the study of all humankind, basing ourselves on a much wider variety of sources and study tools.
- 3.2 Rock Art is one of these new sources to be taken into consideration as we search for a more applicable and comprehensive method of viewing our past. In this process rock art is invaluable, a precious key in particular for those people whose history, if based merely on written records, is recent. Rock art studies can be an essential means for historical reconstruction and for the re-definition and re-evaluation of former concepts of history. Thus rock art can help people to rediscover their roots and to reacquire their heritage.
- 4 International and National Involvements.
- 4.1 CAR, the ICOMOS International Committee on Rock Art, is seen as the proper forum for international communication and also the main consulting body on rock art studies. Its coordinating tasks are considered essential to the furthering of development and activities in this field.

# ICOMOS

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

### STATUS DU COMITE INTERNATIONAL POUR L'ART RUPESTRE (CAR)

**Article 1.** Le Comité International ICOMOS pour l'Art Rupestre (désigné ci-après "CAR"), a été constitué conformément à l'article 14 des statuts de l'ICOMOS et à la décision du Comité Exécutif de l'ICOMOS à Varsovie au mois d'Octobre 1980. Les activités du CAR sont régies par les statuts de l'ICOMOS et par tout amendement susceptible d'y être apporté.

**Article 2.** Le CAR a pour tâche spécifique de promouvoir la coopération internationale dans le domaine de l'Art Rupestre et de conseiller les organes de l'ICOMOS sur l'élaboration de son programme dans ce domaine.

Pour atteindre ses buts le CAR constitue un forum pour l'échange et des expériences, des idées, des connaissances et des résultats de différentes recherches entre archéologues, anthropologues, ethnologues, préhistoriens, historiens de l'art, historiens des religions, historiens, restaurateurs et conservateurs, administrateurs et législateurs; coordonne les études existantes et promouvoit de nouvelles études, développe la coopération technique en créant des liens avec les institutions spécialisées et avec les firmes industrielles concernées.

Les activités du CAR, qui est l'un des organes internationaux de l'ICOMOS, seront en accord avec les objectifs et les buts de l'ICOMOS, tels qu'ils seront établis ou définis par le Comité Exécutif de l'ICOMOS.

**Article 3.** Le Président du CAR est désigné par le Comité Exécutif de l'ICOMOS. Après une première période de trois ans, le Président est élu par les membres du CAR. Conformément à l'article 12 des statuts de l'ICOMOS, le Président est membre de droit du Comité Consultatif de l'ICOMOS.

**Article 4.** Pendant les trois premières années, les membres du CAR sont nommés par le Président, et ces nominations seront ratifiées par le Comité Exécutif de l'ICOMOS lors de ses sessions. Ils doivent normalement être membres de l'ICOMOS et, si possible, représenter des régions distinctes. Le CAR peut aussi coopter des personnes qui ne sont pas membres de l'ICOMOS mais qui ont des compétences particulières dans un domaine précis, et établir un réseau de membres correspondants qui exercent leur activité dans des domaines connexes.

**Article 5.** Les membres sont divisés en trois catégories: les membres actifs, les membres correspondants et les membres adhérents. Le nombre de membres actifs, ayant droit de vote, est limité à 50.

Les membres correspondants sont des spécialistes qui collaborent activement avec le CAR. Les membres adhérents peuvent être recrutés parmi les chercheurs, les techniciens, les étudiants et

### STATUTES OF THE ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON ROCK ART (CAR)

**Article 1.** The ICOMOS International Committee on Rock Art (hereinafter designated as "CAR") is established in accordance with article 14 of the ICOMOS Statutes and by the Executive Committee of ICOMOS on October 1980, in Warsaw. CAR activities are ruled by ICOMOS Statutes and by any amendments that come to be.

**Article 2.** The particular object of the CAR is to promote international cooperation in the field of rock art and to counsel ICOMOS organs in the elaboration of its programme in this field.

To accomplish its objectives, the CAR provides a forum for the exchange of experiences, ideas, knowledge and results of research between archaeologists, anthropologists, ethnologists, prehistorians, art historians, religion historians, historians, restorers and curators, administrators and legislators; the coordination of existing studies; the promotion of new studies; the development of technical cooperation. The CAR also pursues its goals by establishing links with specialized institutions and industrial organizations in appropriate fields in order to extend technical cooperation.

The CAR activities, which is one of the international organs of ICOMOS, will be in accordance with the objectives and the goals of ICOMOS, as established or defined by the Executive Committee of ICOMOS.

**Article 3.** The Chairman of the CAR is designated by the Executive Committee of ICOMOS. After the first such period of up to three years, the Chairman is elected by the members of the CAR. In accordance with article 12 of the ICOMOS Statutes, the Chairman is an ex-officio member of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee.

**Article 4.** During the first three years, the members of the CAR are nominated by the Chairman and these nominations are subject to ratification by the Executive Committee of ICOMOS, at its next meeting. If possible, they shall be chosen among ICOMOS members and representing, insofar as it is possible, different regions. The CAR may co-opt persons who are not ICOMOS members but having relevant specialist qualification in a precise field, and may form a group of corresponding members who practice in a related field of activities.

**Article 5.** There are three categories of members: Active members, corresponding members and adherent members. The number of active members, having the right to vote, is limited to 50.

Corresponding members are specialists who actively collaborate with the CAR. The adherent members may be researchers, technicians, stu-

les amateurs dont la spécialisation n'est pas nécessairement l'art rupestre. Après les trois premières années, la nomination de nouveaux membres est soumise à l'approbation des membres du Conseil de Direction.

**Article 6.** Trois ans après la constitution du CAR, le Président et le Conseil de Direction seront élus par les membres actifs. Le Conseil de Direction est composé du Président et de 4 membres. Il peut nommer un Secrétaire. Aucun membre du Conseil de Direction ainsi que le Président ne pourront rester en fonction plus de 9 années consécutives.

**Article 7.** Le CAR doit se réunir au moins une fois par an. Le Président doit adresser chaque année au Secrétariat International de l'ICOMOS un rapport des activités et une liste de ses membres.

**Article 8.** Les activités du CAR sont financées par:

- Les crédits alloués par l'ICOMOS sur son budget annuel;
- Les subventions, les cotisations, les dons, etc. obtenus de sa propre initiative auprès des membres, d'institutions nationales ou internationales (y compris les Comités nationaux de l'ICOMOS des pays concernés);
- Les contrats engagés par l'ICOMOS, au nom du CAR, pour la réalisation de tâches spécifiques dans son domaine, selon la définition donnée ci-dessus;
- Toute autre source de financement.

Les membres du CAR s'efforcent d'obtenir les fonds nécessaires et assurent ainsi leur participation personnelle aux activités.

**Article 9.** Les activités du CAR peuvent inclure l'organisation de réunions, la préparation de publications, la collecte et la diffusion des informations, soit directement, soit par l'intermédiaire du Centre International de Documentation UNESCO/ICOMOS à Paris et toute autre action ayant pour but le progrès de la coopération internationale, la formation de chercheurs et la recherche scientifique dans le domaine de l'art rupestre.

Le CAR peut entreprendre des activités régionales.

**Article 10.** Tous les trois ans, l'année où se tient l'Assemblée Générale de l'ICOMOS, le CAR fixe un programme pour la future période triennale. Ce programme est communiqué au Secrétariat de l'ICOMOS au moins trois mois avant la date de l'Assemblée pour pouvoir être inclus dans le programme général du Conseil, établi pour les 3 années suivantes.

**Article 11.** Les représentants d'autres organisations peuvent être invités à participer aux réunions organisées par le CAR. L'UNESCO, l'ICOM et l'ICCROM seront invités à assister aux réunions ouvertes du CAR. Il en sera de même pour le Président et/ou pour un représentant du Secrétariat de l'ICOMOS.

**Article 12.** Les langues de travail du CAR sont l'anglais et le français.

dents and amateurs, for whose specialization is not necessarily rock art. After the first three years, nomination of new members shall be subject to the members of the Council of Direction's approval.

**Article 6.** Three years after the constitution of the CAR, the Chairman and the Council of Direction will be elected by active members.

The Council of Direction is composed of the Chairman and four members and can nominate a Secretary. The members of the Council of Direction and the Chairman can not hold office for more than 9 consecutive years.

**Article 7.** The CAR shall meet at least once a year in full session. The Chairman shall present a report on its activities and a list of its members to the ICOMOS International Secretariat.

**Article 8.** The activities of the CAR are financed by:

- Funds allocated by ICOMOS form its annual budget;
- Subsidies, contributions, grants, ect. obtained by the CAR's own initiative in conjunction with its members, national or international institutions (comprised of the National Committees of ICOMOS and countries concerned);
- Contracts entered into by ICOMOS, on behalf of the CAR, for the performance of specific tasks within its fields, as the above mentioned definition;
- Any other sources of income.

The members of the CAR do their best to obtain the necessary funds and ensure their personal participation in the activities.

**Article 9.** The activities of the CAR can include organization of meetings, preparation of publications, collection and dissemination of information, either directly or through the International Centre of Documentation UNESCO/ICOMOS, Paris, and any action of progress of international cooperation, the formation of researchers and scientific research in the field of rock art. The CAR shall undertake regional activities.

**Article 10.** Every three years and during the year of the ICOMOS General Assembly, the CAR shall draw up a programme for the forthcoming three year period. This programme shall be forwarded to the ICOMOS Secretariat at least three months before the date of the Assembly, for incorporation into the Council's programme for the forthcoming three years.

**Article 11.** Representatives of other organization may be invited to participate in meetings organized by the CAR. UNESCO, ICOM and ICCROM will be invited to the open meetings of the CAR. This will also include the President and/or a Representative of the ICOMOS International Secretariat.

**Article 12.** The working languages of the Committee are French and English.