

CIFA INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
20 March 2024, 1730-1800
Minutes – Committee Meeting (via Teams)

Present: Niamh Carty, Michael D’Aprix, Max DuBois Jones, Bill Finlayson, Ruth Humphreys, Anna Nicola, Leonora O’Brien (Chair), Katie Rees-Gill
Apologies: Alice Hobson, Charles Le Quesne, Richard Hughes, Caroline Pathy-Barker (Secretary)
Minutes: Leonora O’Brien

1. Welcome

Minutes of last meeting amended and approved for issue.

2. Cifa IPSIG website

Has been updated with:

- new committee members, co-options and advisors
- link to Cifa specialist competence matrix (IP)
- recent committee meeting minutes

Action: January AGM minutes to be uploaded (Caro to send to Lianne Birney)

3. Tea break talk

Alice and Leo to do a tea break talk with case studies on international financial institutions’ standards and guidance, depending on availability of slots.

Action: Postponed to May 2024+ as no tea break talks in run-up to Cifa conference. Alice to coordinate with Cifa for a date

4. Joint workshop between Research & Impact Group (RIG), Heritage Crime and International Practice SIGs

Colin Forrestal (RIG Secretary), Evelyne Godfrey (RIG Chair), Aisling Nash (Heritage Crime Group Secretary) and Paul Jeffrey (Heritage Crime Group Chair) are keen to collaborate with IPSIG on a workshop – Colin is preparing Cifa Events Proposal forms.

Action: Await further updates from Research and Crime groups

5. Budget

Niamh has submitted budget to March 2025 including costs for in person meetings up to £800. Approved on 8 March. There is a separate budget for training, events and workshops.

6. Cifa Knowledge Hub

Cifa Knowledge Hub is proving a useful online space to share experience between committees esp. on cross-cutting topics e.g. on mentoring new starters and graduates <https://khub.net/group/cifa-group-committees-hub>

7. Future activities

Activities for 2024 – 2025 were discussed. Ideas included:

- **Series of talks led by invited experts from a range of international organisations** e.g. International Financial Institutions, ICOMOS, International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) and other International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS, International Council on Museums (ICOM), International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH), Blue Shield International etc. to set out best practices.

Talks may consider topics including:

- How is ClfA regarded overseas.
- How archaeology is being addressed in universities.
- How archaeology engagement is occurring with public.
- Latest innovative research agendas.
- Roles of commercial archaeology.
- Developing roles of archaeology for cultural engagement.
- How archaeology is being used for supporting UN's SDGs.
- Useful future roles for ClfA overseas – sharing/mentoring/training/hosting meetings
- What can we learn in UK from overseas best practice.

Presentation from UK Government and/or BC (not HE/HS/Cadw etc.?) related to archaeology overseas.

- Present and emerging new policies.
- Funding and careers.
- Potential roles of ClfA and membership to overseas embassies and trade delegations.
- Roles for supporting social development and support to implementing SDGs.
- Cultural Heritage Protection Fund – perhaps ask for presentation from British Council?

Archaeological participation in Climate Change agendas (COP29/30)

- Roles of ClfA for supporting natural and conflict disaster recovery undertakings
- Roles for ClfA in supporting education programmes and British overseas tourism

➔ **Prospective organisers:** Richard – Bill – Max and others TBC

- Webinar(s) with similar professional organisations e.g. Archaeological Association of Nigeria to compare experiences and approaches to tangible and intangible heritage and foster mutual knowledge exchange.

➔ **Prospective organisers:** Charles and others TBC

- **Expedition workshops**

The committee discussed other proposed activities, including practical training/ lectures/ workshops for colleagues who want to work overseas and/or go on an expedition. Could be an afternoon or weekend. Could be free or paid. Could be remote, desk-based or hand-on. Perhaps best organised in partnership with e.g. RGS-IBG who are highly experienced. Many of the expeditions they sponsor and support with training often address cultural and heritage research topics. They do a lot on ethics, permissions, relationship with people and the environment, dos and don'ts, food, health, and safety, practical vehicle maintenance etc.

The discussion noted that expedition workshops may be difficult as they can't cover cultural behaviours for all areas and need to be framed carefully. Particular aspects, e.g. H&S, personal experience of working abroad, mental health, personal security and coping strategies may form the basis of workshops.

Should remain non-country specific but provide general advice be a pointer to looking things up for yourself. With some case studies/lived experience. Explaining what the work may entail.

May seek to poll attendees on what they are concerned about or would like advice on.

Start with a lunchtime talk? Record it. If successful, then perhaps consider doing longer workshop at ClfA Annual Conference 2025 if selected conference theme is relevant.

➔ **Prospective organisers:** Katie, Bill, Leo, Max & others to meet, L to organise – coordinating with Mike representing Early Careers SIG; Niamh liaison on the Knowledge Hub; perhaps liaise with Project Management group on risk assessment aspects.

- Boost **social media content, share committee bios** – Twitter/X & LinkedIn – Leo & others TBC
8. **AOB**
For the next meeting, consider meeting venues for in-person committee meeting.
Settle a location and date/time, then look to organise. Probably London
 9. **Date of next meeting:** Via Teams, Wednesday 8 May 2024 1730-1815