ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) was founded in Warsaw and Krakow in 1965. In accordance with the World Heritage Convention of 1972 it is also advisory body to UNESCO in matters of the World Cultural Heritage. As a non-governmental expert organisation the aims of its work are:

- the study and conservation, protection, care and accessibility of cultural monuments and ensembles, including their surroundings and habitats;
- the representation of monument conservation matters in national and international boards and institutions, as well as in public;
- the development, improvement and propagation of conservation, restoration, and archaeological standards, methods, and procedures;
- the drafting, coordination, and application of international recommendations and regulations for the protection and conservation of monuments.

Currently, ICOMOS has more than 100 National Committees and more than 20 International Scientific Committees. The German National Committee of ICOMOS was founded in Mainz in 1965. On the basis of the Moscow Statutes of ICOMOS (1964) it is run by seven members. The German National Committee of ICOMOS (Florence 2014) advises ICOMOS International in World Heritage matters and assembles representatives from the national and international levels, fosters the transboundary cooperation with other National and International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS, and supports the work of ICOMOS International.

In its advisory capacity it gives advice to and provides a network for authorities, institutions, and conservation partners; initiates scientific conferences and international cooperations on monument protection and conservation and publishes the results.

Members and Board
Since 2011 ICOMOS Germany has been a registered non-profit association with more than 350 members. It is funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Cultural Affairs and the Media. The board consists of seven members, consisting of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary General, and four additional board members. It is elected every three years by the meeting of members. The board represents the most important professional categories in monument protection and conservation. Board and members of ICOMOS Germany work voluntarily. In accordance with the Ethical Commitment Statement (see Resolution no. 27 of the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, October 4, 2014) the working group monitors the development of the cultural heritage and advises the parties responsible.

Working Groups

- World Heritage Monitoring: Interdisciplinary working group for monitoring and accompanying monitoring of the World Heritage sites in Germany. In accordance with the 1972 Convention and the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (see Resolution no. 27 of the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, October 4, 2014) the working group monitors the development of the cultural heritage and advises the parties responsible.

- Wall Painting and Architectural Surfaces: German working group of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Wall Painting. Its aim is to exchange ideas and experience in the fields of conservation and restoration, support and implementation of interdisciplinary research and cooperation projects.

- Shared Built Heritage Germany: German working group of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Shared Built Heritage (formerly Colonial Heritage). Its aims are: exchange of ideas and experience about the shared architectural heritage through workshops, seminars, and study trips; setting up a digital information system on German-influenced architectural heritage abroad;

- Industrial Heritage / Technological Heritage: Working group for the setting up and development of a network to promote the conservation, research, and accessibility of our industrial and technological heritage. Its aim is to exchange ideas and experience about industrial and technological monuments, and to prepare international scientific conferences in the field of industrial and technological heritage;

- Migration and Heritage: Ad hoc working group set up in 2012 for the preparation of the 50th anniversary of the Venice Charter of 1964. Since 2015 it has been focusing on migration, migratory monuments, and exchange of building cultures. It also discusses such matters as the current monument definition, the handling of these architectural testimonies, and how to communicate their value at workshops and excursions.

Publications Series

- Journals of the German National Committee
- Monuments and Sites
- Heritage at Risk
- Newsletter of ICOMOS Germany

By two ICOMOS members. Further information (statutes, application forms, membership fees, Ethical Commitment Statement for ICOMOS Members) can be found on our website.