



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND  
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

**Convention concerning the protection of the  
World cultural and natural heritage**



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**Format for the nomination of cultural and natural properties  
for inscription on the World Heritage List**

Under the terms of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, called "the World Heritage Committee" shall establish, under the title of "World Heritage List", a list of properties forming part of the cultural and natural heritage as defined in the Convention and which it considers as having outstanding universal value in terms of such criteria it has established. These criteria are provided in the "Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention".

The World Heritage Committee at its twentieth session in 1996 adopted the attached format and explanatory notes for the nomination of cultural and natural properties for inscription on the World Heritage List. Their purpose is to provide guidance to States Parties who wish to submit to the World Heritage Committee nominations of properties situated in their territory.

Although it is recognized that all properties have specific characteristics, States Parties are encouraged to provide information and documentation on all items listed in the format. It should be noted that the World Heritage Committee will retain all supporting documentation (maps, plans, photographic material, etc.) submitted with the nomination.

Only those nominations received at the Secretariat before 1st July will be considered by the World Heritage Committee during the following year. States Parties are reminded of the Committee's decision not to consider cultural properties which are not included in the tentative list of cultural properties.

The nomination should be submitted in English or French and should be sent in three copies duly signed through the UNESCO National Commission and/or Permanent Delegation of the State Party to UNESCO to:

**UNESCO World Heritage Centre  
7, place de Fontenoy  
75352 Paris 07 SP  
France**

# NOMINATION OF PROPERTIES FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

## Format

### 1. Identification of the Property

- a. Country (and State Party if different)
- b. State, Province or Region
- c. Name of Property
- d. Exact location on map and indication of geographical coordinates to the nearest second
- e. Maps and/or plans showing boundary of area proposed for inscription and of any buffer zone
- f. Area of property proposed for inscription (ha.) and proposed buffer zone (ha.) if any.

### 2. Justification for Inscription

- a. Statement of significance
- b. Possible comparative analysis (including state of conservation of similar properties)
- c. Authenticity/Integrity
- d. Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria).

### 3. Description

- a. Description of Property
- b. History and Development
- c. Form and date of most recent records of property
- d. Present state of conservation
- e. Policies and programmes related to the presentation and promotion of the property.

**4. Management**

- a. Ownership
- b. Legal status
- c. Protective measures and means of implementing them
- d. Agency/agencies with management authority
- e. Level at which management is exercised (e.g., on property, regionally) and name and address of responsible person for contact purposes
- f. Agreed plans related to property (e.g., regional, local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)
- g. Sources and levels of finance
- h. Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques
- i. Visitor facilities and statistics
- j. Property management plan and statement of objectives (copy to be annexed)
- k. Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance).

**5. Factors Affecting the Property**

- a. Development Pressures (e.g., encroachment, adaptation, agriculture, mining)
- b. Environmental Pressures (e.g., pollution, climate change)
- c. Natural disasters and preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)
- d. Visitor/tourism pressures
- e. Number of inhabitants within property, buffer zone
- f. Other.

**6. Monitoring**

- a. Key indicators for measuring state of conservation
- b. Administrative arrangements for monitoring property
- c. Results of previous reporting exercises.

**7. Documentation**

- a. Photographs, slides and, where available, film/video
- b. Copies of property management plans and extracts of other plans relevant to the property
- c. Bibliography
- d. Address where inventory, records and archives are held.

**8. Signature on behalf of the State Party.**

# NOMINATION OF PROPERTIES FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

## Explanatory Notes

### INTRODUCTION

- (i) These notes are intended to provide guidance to those nominating properties for inclusion on the World Heritage List. They relate to the headings under which information is sought, which appear in front of each section of notes. Nomination dossiers should provide information under each of these headings. They should be signed by a responsible official on behalf of the State Party.
- (ii) The nomination dossier is intended to serve two main purposes:

First it is to describe the property in a way which brings out the reasons it is believed to meet the criteria for inscription, and to enable the property to be assessed against those criteria.

Secondly it is to provide basic data about the property, which can be revised and brought up to date in order to record the changing circumstances and state of conservation of the property.
- (iii) In spite of the wide differences between properties, information should be given under each of the categories set out at the head of sections 1 - 7 of these notes.

### General Requirements

- (iv) Information should be as precise and specific as possible. It should be quantified where that can be done and fully referenced.
- (v) Documents should be concise. In particular long historical accounts of properties and events which have taken place there should be avoided, especially when they can be found in readily available published sources.
- (vi) Expressions of opinion should be supported by reference to the authority on which they are made and the verifiable facts which support them.
- (vii) Dossiers should be completed on A4 paper (210mm x 297mm) with maps and plans a maximum of A3 paper (297mm x 420mm). States Parties are also encouraged to submit the full text of the nomination on diskette.

## 1. Identification of the Property

- a. Country (and State Party if different)
- b. State, Province or Region
- c. Name of Property
- d. Exact location on map and indication of geographical coordinates to the nearest second
- e. Maps and/or plans showing boundary of area proposed for inscription and of any buffer zone
- f. Area of property proposed for inscription (ha.) and proposed buffer zone (ha.) if any.

1.1 The purpose of this section is to provide the basic data to enable properties to be precisely identified. In the past, properties have been inscribed on the list with inadequate maps, and this has meant that in some cases it is impossible to be certain what is within the World Heritage property and what is outside it. This can cause considerable problems.

1.2 Apart from the basic facts at 1a - 1d of the dossier, the most important element in this section of the nomination therefore consists of the maps and plans relating to the nominated property. In all cases, at least two documents are likely to be needed and both must be prepared to professional cartographic standards. One should show the property in its natural or built environment and should be between 1:20,000 and 1:100,000. Depending on the size of the property, another suitable scale may be chosen. The other should clearly show the boundary of the nominated area and of any existing or proposed buffer zone. It should also show the position of any natural features, individual monuments or buildings mentioned in the nomination. Either on this map, or an accompanying one, there should also be a record of the boundaries of zones or special legal protection from which the property benefits.

1.3 In considering whether to propose a buffer zone it should be borne in mind that, in order to fulfil the obligations of the World Heritage Convention, properties must be protected from all threats or inconsistent uses. These developments can often take place beyond the boundaries of a property. Intrusive development can harm its setting, or the views from it or of it. Industrial processes can threaten a property by polluting the air or water. The construction of new roads, tourist resorts or airports can bring to a property more visitors than it can absorb in safety.

In some cases national planning policies or existing protective legislation may provide the powers needed to protect the setting of a property as well as the property itself. In other cases it will be highly desirable to propose a formal buffer zone where special controls will be applied. This should include the immediate setting of the property and important views of it and from it. Where it is considered that existing zones of protection make it unnecessary to inscribe a buffer zone, those zones also should be shown clearly on the map of the property.

## 2. Justification for inscription

- a. Statement of significance
- b. Possible comparative analysis (including state of conservation of similar properties)
- c. Authenticity/Integrity
- d. Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria).

2.1 This is the most crucial aspect of the whole nomination dossier. It must make clear to the

Committee why the property can be accepted as being "of outstanding universal value". The whole of this section of the dossier should be written with careful reference to the criteria for inscription found at paragraphs 24 and 44 of the Operational Guidelines. It should not include detailed descriptive material about the property or its management, which come later, but should concentrate on what the property represents.

2.2 The statement of significance (a) should make clear what are the values embodied by the property. It may be a unique survival of a particular building form or habitat or designed town. It may be a particularly fine or early or rich survival and it may bear witness to a vanished culture, way of life or eco-system. It may comprise assemblages of threatened endemic species, exceptional eco-systems, outstanding landscapes or other natural phenomena.

2.3 The possible comparative analysis (b) could relate the property to comparable properties, saying why it is more worthy than they are for inscription on the World Heritage list (or, if they are inscribed, what features distinguish it from those properties). This may be because the property is intrinsically better, or possessed of more features, species or habitats.

It may also be because the property is a larger or better preserved or more complete survival or one that has been less prejudiced by later developments. This is the reason for the requirement for an account of the state of conservation of similar properties.

2.4 This section should demonstrate that the property fulfills the criteria of authenticity/integrity set out in paragraphs 24 (b) (i) or 44 (b) (i) - (iv) of the Operational Guidelines, which describe the criteria in greater detail. In the case of a cultural property it should also record whether repairs have been carried out using materials and methods traditional to the culture, in conformity with the Nara Document (1995) (attached). In the case of natural properties it should record any intrusions from exotic species of fauna or flora and any human activities which could compromise the integrity of the property.

2.5 Section 2 (d) is therefore the culmination of the section, relating the specific property to one or more individual criteria and saying unambiguously why it meets the specific criterion or criteria. States Parties may consider to provide, if possible, a comparative analysis of the nominated property with similar properties.

### **3. Description**

- a. Description of Property
- b. History and Development
- c. Form and date of most recent records of property
- d. Present state of conservation
- e. Policies and programmes related to the presentation and promotion of the property

3.1 This section should begin with a description (a) of the property at the date of nomination. It should refer to all the significant features of the property. In the case of a cultural property this will include an account of any building or buildings and their architectural style, date of construction and materials. It should also describe any garden, park or other setting. In the case of an historic town or district it is not necessary to describe each individual building, but important public buildings should be described individually and an account should be given of the planning or layout of the area, its street pattern and so on. In the case of natural properties the account should deal with important physical attributes, habitats, species and other significant ecological features and processes. Species lists should be provided where practicable, and the presence of threatened or endemic taxa should be highlighted. The

extent and methods of exploitation of natural resources should be described. In the case of cultural landscapes it will be necessary to produce a description under all the matters mentioned above.

- 3.2 Under item (b) of this section what is sought is an account of how the property has reached its present form and condition and the significant changes that it has undergone. This should include some account of construction phases in the case of monuments, buildings or groups of buildings. Where there have been major changes, demolitions or rebuilding since completion they should also be described. In the case of natural properties and landscapes the account should cover significant events in history or pre-history which have affected the evolution of the property and give an account of its interaction with humankind. This will include such matters as the development and change in use for hunting, fishing or agriculture, or changes brought about by climatic change, inundation, earthquake or other natural causes. In the case of cultural landscapes all aspects of the history of human activity in the area will need to be covered.
- 3.3 Because of the wide variation in the size and type of properties covered by properties nominated for World Heritage listing it is not possible to suggest the number of words in which their description and history should be given. The aim, however, should always be to produce the briefest account which can provide the important facts about the property. These are the facts needed to support and give substance to the claim that the property properly comes within the criteria of paragraphs 24 and 44 of the Operational Guidelines. The balance between description and history will change according to the applicable criteria. For example, where a cultural property is nominated under criterion 24 a (i), as a unique artistic achievement, it should not be necessary to say very much about its history and development.
- 3.4 Under section 3 (c) what is required is a straightforward statement giving the form and date of the most recent records or inventory of the property. Only records which are still available should be described.
- 3.5 The account of the present state of conservation of the property [3 (d)] should be related as closely as possible to the records described in the previous paragraph. As well as providing a general impression of the state of conservation dossiers should give statistical or empirical information wherever possible.  
  
For example, in a historic town or area the percentage of buildings needing major or minor repair works, or in a single major building or monument the scale and duration of any recent or forthcoming major repair projects. In the case of natural properties data on species trends or the integrity of eco-systems should be provided. This is important because the nomination dossier will be used in future years for purposes of comparison to trace changes in the condition of the property.
- 3.6 Section 3 (e) refers to the stipulations in Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention regarding the presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage. States Parties are encouraged to provide information on the policies and programmes for the presentation and promotion of the nominated property.

#### 4. Management

- a. Ownership
- b. Legal status
- c. Protective measures and means of implementing them
- d. Agency/agencies with management authority
- e. Level at which management is exercised (e.g., on property, regionally) and name and address of responsible person for contact purposes
- f. Agreed plans related to property (e.g., regional, local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)
- g. Sources and levels of finance
- h. Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques
- i. Visitor facilities and statistics
- j. Property management plan and statement of objectives (copy to be annexed)
- k. Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance).

4.1 This section of the dossier is intended to provide a clear picture of the protective and management arrangements which are in place to protect and conserve the property as required by the World Heritage Convention. It should deal both with the policy aspects of legal status and protective measures and with the practicalities of day-to-day administration.

4.2 Sections 4 (a) - (c) of the dossier should give the legal position relating to the property. As well as providing the names and addresses of legal owners [4 (a)] and the status of the property [4 (b)], it should describe briefly any legal measures of protection applying to the property or any traditional ways in which custom safeguards it. Legal instruments should be given their title and date. In addition, the dossier should say how in practice these measures are applied and how responsibility for dealing with potential or actual breaches of protection is exercised. For example, it would be desirable to indicate who is responsible for ensuring that the nominated property is safeguarded, whether by traditional and/or statutory agencies and whether adequate resources are available for this purpose.

It is not necessary to set out all the elements of legal protection, but their main provisions should be summarized briefly. In the case of large natural properties or historic towns there may be a multiplicity of legal owners. In these cases it is necessary only to list the major land- or property-owning institutions and any representative body for other owners.

4.3 Sections 4 (d) and (e) are intended to identify both the authority or authorities with legal responsibility for managing the property and the individual who is actually responsible for day-to-day control of the property and for the budget relating to its upkeep.

4.4 The agreed plans which should be listed at 4 (f) are all those plans which have been adopted by governmental or other agencies and which will have a direct influence on the way in which the property is developed, conserved, used or visited. Either relevant provisions should be summarized in the dossier or extracts or complete plans should be annexed to it.

4.5 Sections 4 (g) and (h) could show the funds, skills and training which are available to the property. Information about finance and expertise and training could be related to the earlier information about the state of conservation of the property. In all three cases an estimate could also be given of the adequacy or otherwise of what is available, in particular identifying any gaps or deficiencies or any areas where help may be required.

4.6 As well as providing any available statistics or estimates of visitor numbers or patterns over several years, section 4 (i) could describe the facilities available for visitors, for example:

- (i) interpretation/explanation, whether by trails, guides, notices or publications;
- (ii) property museum, visitor or interpretation centre;
- (iii) overnight accommodation;
- (iv) restaurant or refreshment facilities;
- (v) shops;
- (vi) car parking;
- (vii) lavatories;
- (viii) search and rescue.

4.7 Section 4 (j) in the dossier could provide only the briefest details of the management plan relating to the property, which could be annexed in its entirety. If the plan provides details of staffing levels it would not necessary to complete section 4 (k) of the dossier and other sections may also be omitted where the plan provides adequate information (e.g. on finance and training).

## 5. Factors Affecting the Property

- a. Development Pressures (e.g., encroachment, adaptation, agriculture, mining)
- b. Environmental Pressures (e.g., pollution, climate change)
- c. Natural disasters and preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)
- d. Visitor/tourism pressures
- e. Number of inhabitants within property, buffer zone
- f. Other.

5.1 This section of the dossier should provide information on all the factors which are likely to affect or threaten a property. It should also relate those threats to measures taken to deal with them, whether by application of the protection described at Section 4 (c) or otherwise. Obviously, not all of the factors suggested in this section are appropriate for all properties. They are indicative and are intended to assist the State Party to identify the factors that are relevant to each specific property.

5.2 Section 5 (a) deals with development pressures. Information should be given about pressure for demolitions or rebuilding; the adaptation of existing buildings for new uses which would harm their authenticity or integrity; habitat modification or destruction following encroaching agriculture, forestry or grazing, or through poorly managed tourism or other uses; inappropriate or unsustainable natural resource exploitation; damage caused by mining; the introduction of exotic species likely to disrupt natural ecological processes, creating new centres of population on or near properties so as to harm them or their settings.

5.3 Environmental pressures [5 (b)] can affect all types of property. Air pollution can have a serious effect on stone buildings and monuments as well as on fauna and flora. Desertification can lead to erosion by sand and wind. What is needed in this section of the dossier is an indication of those pressures which are presenting a current threat to the property, or may do so in the future, rather than an historical account of such pressures in the past.

- 5.4 Section 5 (c) should indicate those disasters which present a foreseeable threat to the property and what steps have been taken to draw up contingency plans for dealing with them, whether by physical protection measures or staff training. (In considering physical measures for the protection of monuments and buildings it is important to respect the integrity of the construction.)
- 5.5 In completing section 5 (d) what is required is an indication of whether the property can absorb the current or likely number of visitors without adverse effects, i.e. its carrying capacity. An indication should also be given of the steps taken to manage visitors and tourists. Amongst possible forms of visitor pressure that could be considered are:
- (i) Damage by wear on stone, timber, grass or other ground surfaces;
  - (ii) Damage by increases in heat or humidity levels;
  - (iii) Damage by disturbance to the habitat of living or growing things;
  - (iv) Damage by the disruption of traditional cultures or ways of life;
- 5.6 Section 5 should conclude with the best available statistics or estimate of the number of inhabitants within the nominated property and any buffer zone, any activities they undertake which affect the property and an account of any other factors of any kind not included earlier in the section which have the potential to affect its development or threaten it in any way.
- 6. Monitoring**
- a. Key indicators for measuring state of conservation
  - b. Administrative arrangements for monitoring property
  - c. Results of previous reporting exercises.
- 6.1 This section of the dossier is intended to provide the evidence for the state of conservation of the property which can be reviewed and reported on regularly so as to give an indication of trends over time.
- 6.2 Section 6 (a) could set out those key indicators which have been chosen as the measure of the state of conservation of the whole property. They could be representative of an important aspect of the property and relate as closely as possible to the statement of significance. Where possible they could be expressed numerically and where this is not possible they could be of a kind which can be repeated, for example by taking a photograph from the same point. Examples of good indicators are:
- (i) the number of species, or population of a keystone species on a natural property;
  - (ii) the percentage of buildings requiring major repair in a historic town or district;
  - (iii) the number of years estimated to elapse before a major conservation programme is likely to be completed;
  - (iv) the stability or degree of movement in a particular building or element of a building;
  - (v) the rate at which encroachment of any kind on a property has increased or diminished.
- 6.3 Section 6 (b) should make clear that there is a regular system of monitoring of the property, leading to the recording, at least annually, of the conditions of the property.

- 6.4 Section 6 (c) should summarize briefly earlier reports on the state of conservation of the property and provide extracts and references to published sources.

## **7. Documentation**

- a. Photographs, slides and, where available, film
- b. Copies of property management plans and extracts of other plans relevant to the property
- c. Bibliography
- d. Address where inventory, records and archives are held.

- 7.1 This section of the dossier is simply a check-list of the documentation which should be provided to make up a complete nomination.

- (a) There should be enough photographs, slides and, where possible, film/video to provide a good general picture of the property, including one or more aerial photographs. Where possible, slides should be in 35mm format. This material should be accompanied by a duly signed authorization granting free of charge to UNESCO the non-exclusive right for the legal term of copyright to reproduce and use it in accordance with the terms of the authorization attached.
- (b) Copies of property management plans and extracts of other plans relevant to the property should be provided, as well as legislation relevant to the property, if necessary summarized.
- (c) The Bibliography should include references to all the main published sources and should be compiled to international standards.
- (d) One or more addresses for inventory and property records should be provided.

## **8. Signature on behalf of the State Party**

The dossier should conclude with the signature of the official empowered to sign it on behalf of the State Party.

## AUTHORIZATION

1. I, .....  
the undersigned, hereby grant free of charge to Unesco the non-exclusive right for the legal term of copyright to reproduce and use in accordance with the terms of paragraph 2 of the present authorization throughout the world the photograph(s) and/or slide(s) described in paragraph 4.
2. I understand that the photograph(s) and/or slide(s) described in paragraph 4 of the present authorization will be used by Unesco to disseminate information on the sites protected under the World Heritage Convention in the following ways:
  - a) Unesco publications;
  - b) co-editions with private publishing houses for World Heritage publications: a percentage of the profits will be given to the World Heritage Fund;
  - c) postcards - to be sold at the sites protected under the World Heritage Convention through national parks services or antiquities (profits, if any, will be divided between the services in question and the World Heritage Fund);
  - d) slide series - to be sold to schools, libraries, other institutions and eventually at the sites (profits, if any, will go to the World Heritage Fund);
  - e) exhibitions, etc.
3. I also understand that I shall be free to grant the same rights to any other eventual user but without any prejudice to the rights granted to Unesco.
4. The list of photograph(s) and/or slide(s) for which the authorization is given is attached. (Please describe in the attachment the photographs and give for each a complete caption and the year of production or, if published, of first publication.)
5. All photographs and/or slides will be duly credited. The photographer's moral rights will be respected. Please indicate the exact wording to be used for the photographic credit.
6. I hereby declare and certify that I am duly authorized to grant the rights mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present authorization.
7. I hereby undertake to indemnify Unesco, and to hold it harmless of any responsibility, for any damages resulting from any violation of the certification mentioned under paragraph 6 of the present authorization.
8. Any differences or disputes which may arise from the exercise of the rights granted to Unesco will be settled in a friendly way. Reference to courts or arbitration is excluded.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Place

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, title or function of the person duly authorized

## **The Nara Document On Authenticity**

### **Preamble**

1. We, the experts assembled in Nara (Japan), wish to acknowledge the generous spirit and intellectual courage of the Japanese authorities in providing a timely forum in which we could challenge conventional thinking in the conservation field, and debate ways and means of broadening our horizons to bring greater respect for cultural and heritage diversity to conservation practice.
2. We also wish to acknowledge the value of the framework for discussion provided by the World Heritage Committee's desire to apply the test of authenticity in ways which accord full respect to the social and cultural values of all societies, in examining the outstanding universal value of cultural properties proposed for the World Heritage List.
3. The Nara Document on Authenticity is conceived in the spirit of the Charter of Venice, 1964, and builds on it and extends it in response to the expanding scope of cultural heritage concerns and interests in our contemporary world.
4. In a world that is increasingly subject to the forces of globalization and homogenization, and in a world in which the search for cultural identity is sometimes pursued through aggressive nationalism and the suppression of the cultures of minorities, the essential contribution made by the consideration of authenticity in conservation practice is to clarify and illuminate the collective memory of humanity.

### **Cultural Diversity and Heritage Diversity**

5. The diversity of cultures and heritage in our world is an irreplaceable source of spiritual and intellectual richness for all humankind. The protection and enhancement of cultural and heritage diversity in our world should be actively promoted as an essential aspect of human development.
6. Cultural heritage diversity exists in time and space, and demands respect for other cultures and all aspects of their belief systems. In cases where cultural values appear to be in conflict, respect for cultural diversity demands acknowledgment of the legitimacy of the cultural values of all parties.
7. All cultures and societies are rooted in the particular forms and means of tangible and intangible expression which constitute their heritage, and these should be respected.
8. It is important to underline a fundamental principle of UNESCO, to the effect that the cultural heritage of each is the cultural heritage of all. Responsibility for cultural heritage and the management of it belongs, in the first place, to the cultural community that has generated it, and subsequently to that which cares for it. However, in addition to these responsibilities, adherence to the international charters and conventions developed for conservation of cultural heritage also obliges consideration of the principles and responsibilities flowing from them. Balancing their own requirements with those of other cultural communities is, for each community, highly desirable, provided achieving this balance does not undermine their fundamental cultural values.

## **Values and authenticity**

9. Conservation of cultural heritage in all its forms and historical periods is rooted in the values attributed to the heritage. Our ability to understand these values depends, in part, on the degree to which information sources about these values may be understood as credible or truthful. Knowledge and understanding of these sources of information, in relation to original and subsequent characteristics of the cultural heritage, and their meaning, is a requisite basis for assessing all aspects of authenticity.
10. Authenticity, considered in this way and affirmed in the Charter of Venice, appears as the essential qualifying factor concerning values. The understanding of authenticity plays a fundamental role in all scientific studies of the cultural heritage, in conservation and restoration planning, as well as within the inscription procedures used for the World Heritage Convention and other cultural heritage inventories.
11. All judgements about values attributed to cultural properties as well as the credibility of related information sources may differ from culture to culture, and even within the same culture. It is thus not possible to base judgements of values and authenticity within fixed criteria. On the contrary, the respect due to all cultures requires that heritage properties must be considered and judged within the cultural contexts to which they belong.
12. Therefore, it is of the highest importance and urgency that, within each culture, recognition be accorded to the specific nature of its heritage values and the credibility and truthfulness of related information sources.
13. Depending on the nature of the cultural heritage, its cultural context, and its evolution through time, authenticity judgements may be linked to the worth of a great variety of sources of information. Aspects of the sources may include form and design, materials and substance, use and function, traditions and techniques, location and setting, and spirit and feeling, and other internal and external factors. The use of these sources permits elaboration of the specific artistic, historic, social, and scientific dimensions of the cultural heritage being examined.

The Nara Document on Authenticity was drafted by the 45 participants at the Nara Conference on Authenticity in Relation to the World Heritage Convention, held at Nara, Japan, from 1-6 November 1994, at the invitation of the Agency for Cultural Affairs (Government of Japan) and the Nara Prefecture. The Agency organized the Nara Conference in cooperation with UNESCO, ICCROM and ICOMOS.

This final version of the Nara Document has been edited by the general rapporteurs of the Nara Conference, Mr. Raymond Lemaire and Mr. Herb Stovel.