



# CONDITIONS OF INTEGRITY

# The three pillars of Outstanding Universal Value

(Note: Authenticity is not applicable to natural properties)

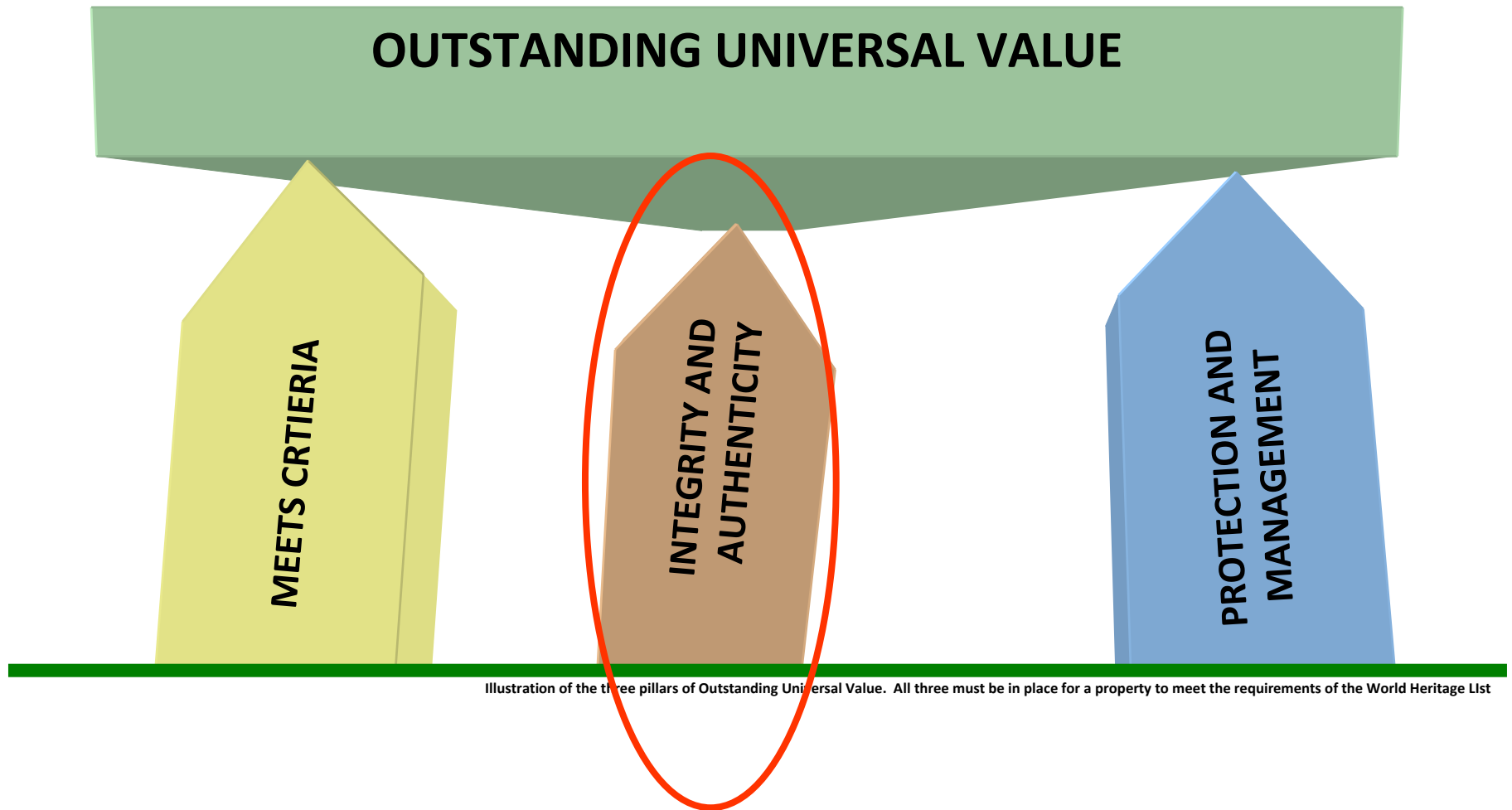
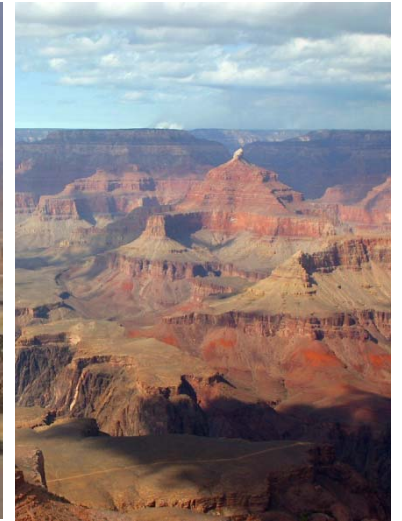
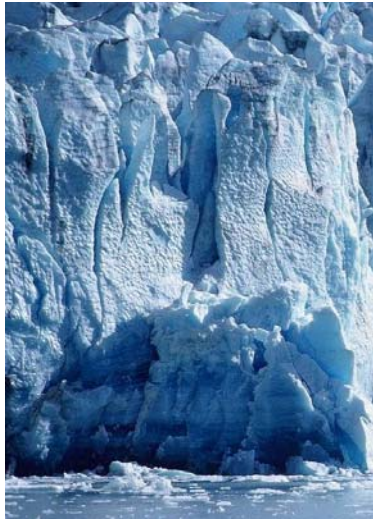


Illustration of the three pillars of Outstanding Universal Value. All three must be in place for a property to meet the requirements of the World Heritage List

## What the Operational Guidelines define as 'integrity'

'87. All properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List shall satisfy the conditions of integrity.



## What the Operational Guidelines define as 'integrity'

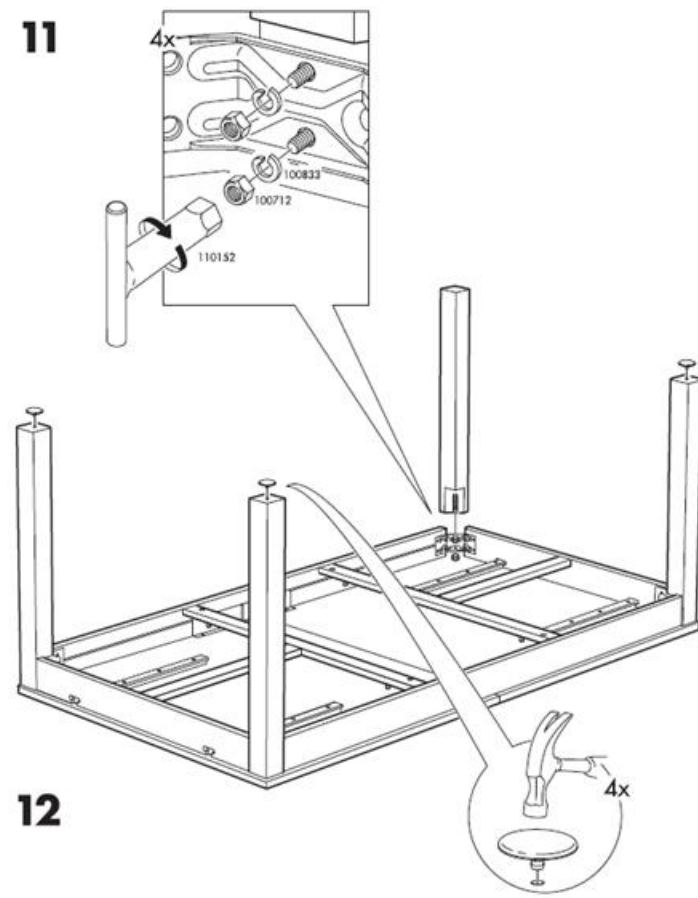
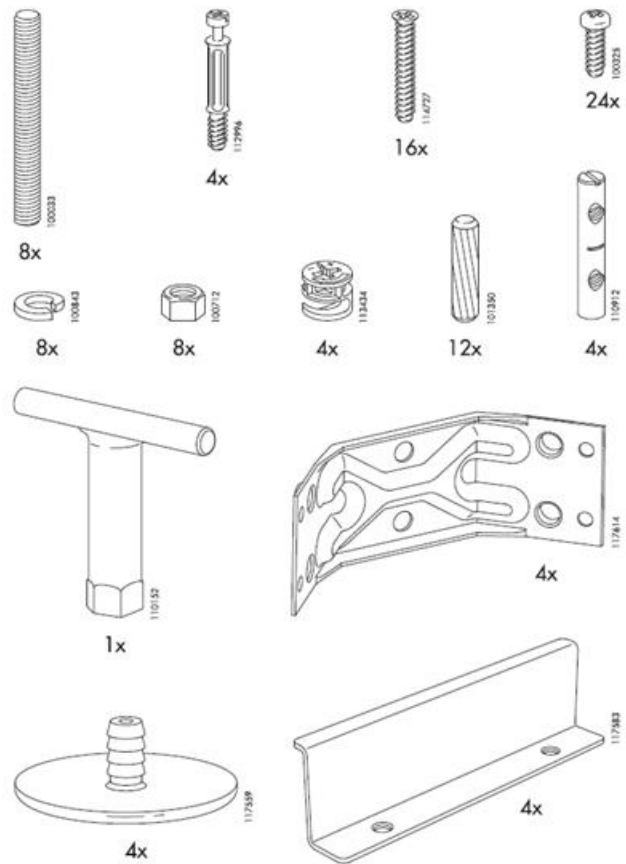
88. Integrity is a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes. Examining the conditions of integrity, therefore requires assessing the extent to which the property:
- a) includes all elements necessary to express its outstanding universal value;
  - b) is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance;
  - c) suffers from adverse effects of development and/or neglect.

# **IKEA**<sup>®</sup> table



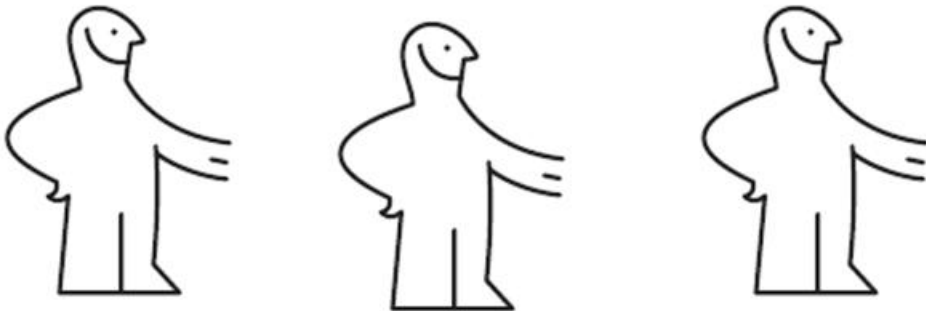
**How to assemble it...**

... you need all the necessary elements.

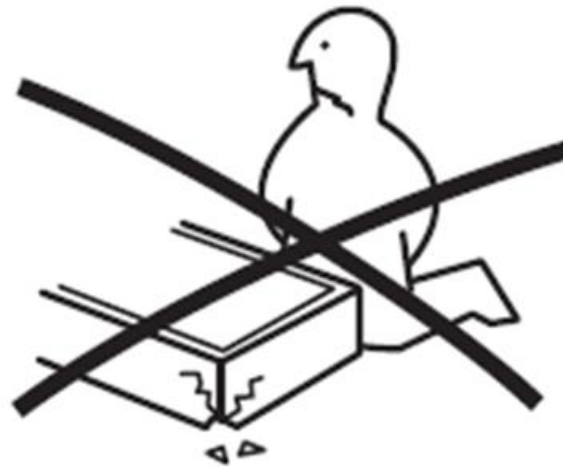




... make sure it is of adequate size.



... be aware of adverse effects and/or neglect.





## THE THREE ELEMENTS OF INTEGRITY

- a) includes **all elements** necessary to express its outstanding universal value;
- b) is of **adequate size** to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance;
- c) [does not] suffers from **adverse effects** of development and/or neglect.

## **Paragraphs 90-91 of the Operational Guidelines**

‘90. For all properties nominated under criteria (vii) - (x), biophysical processes and landform features should be relatively intact. However, it is recognized that no area is totally pristine and that all natural areas are in a dynamic state, and to some extent involve contact with people. Human activities, including those of traditional societies and local communities, often occur in natural areas. These activities may be consistent with the outstanding universal value of the area where they are ecologically sustainable.

91. In addition, for properties nominated under criteria (vii) to (x), a corresponding condition of integrity has been defined for each criterion’.

## Condition of integrity for criterion vii

‘Properties proposed under criterion (vii) should be of outstanding universal value and include areas that are essential for maintaining the beauty of the property.’



For example, a property whose scenic value depends on a waterfall, would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes adjacent catchment and downstream areas that are integrally linked to the maintenance of the aesthetic qualities of the property.’

Paragraph 92 of the Operational Guidelines

## Condition of integrity for criterion viii

Properties proposed under criterion (viii) should contain all or most of the key interrelated and interdependent elements in their natural relationships.

For example, an "ice age" area would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes the snow field, the glacier itself and samples of cutting patterns, deposition and colonization (e.g. striations, moraines, pioneer stages of plant succession, etc.); in the case of volcanoes, the magmatic series should be complete and all or most of the varieties of effusive rocks and types of eruptions be represented'

Paragraph 93 of the Operational Guidelines





## Condition of integrity for criterion ix

Properties proposed under criterion (ix) should have sufficient size and contain the necessary elements to demonstrate the key aspects of processes that are essential for the long term conservation of the ecosystems and the biological diversity they contain.



For example, an area of tropical rain forest would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes a certain amount of variation in elevation above sea level, changes in topography and soil types, patch systems and naturally regenerating patches; similarly a coral reef should include, for example, seagrass, mangrove or other adjacent ecosystems that regulate nutrient and sediment inputs into the reef’.

Paragraph 94 of the Operational Guidelines

## Condition of integrity for criterion x

‘Properties proposed under criterion (x) should be the most important properties for the conservation of biological diversity. Only those properties which are the most biologically diverse and/or representative are likely to meet this criterion. The properties should contain habitats for maintaining the most diverse fauna and flora characteristic of the bio-geographic province and ecosystems under consideration.



For example, a tropical savannah would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes a complete assemblage of co-evolved herbivores and plants; an island ecosystem should include habitats for maintaining endemic biota; a property containing wide ranging species should be large enough to include the most critical habitats essential to ensure the survival of viable populations of those species; for an area containing migratory species, seasonal breeding and nesting sites, and migratory routes, wherever they are located, should be adequately protected.

Paragraph 95 of the Operational Guidelines



## How to write the section on integrity...

For cultural properties:

- as integrity was only introduced in 2005, this will not have been considered explicitly for many properties at the time of inscription. The statement will thus **normally need to be written as of today**, although it may include implicit recognition of issues related to integrity (such as the condition of attributes) in the contemporary documentation from the time of inscription.

For natural properties:

- an assessment of integrity should consider the definitions provided in the Operational Guidelines in paragraph 90 of the Operational Guidelines and for each natural criteria, in paragraphs 91-94, as relevant to the criteria for inscription. For natural properties, integrity should wherever possible be **considered as of the time of inscription**.

## How to write the section on integrity...

For all properties:

- Where there are **vulnerabilities**, these **should be mentioned**. If there have been **changes in integrity since inscription** that are known, these **should be indicated**. If these are negative, it may be necessary under management to set out how the situation might be mitigated.

## Criterion vii

*'contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance'*



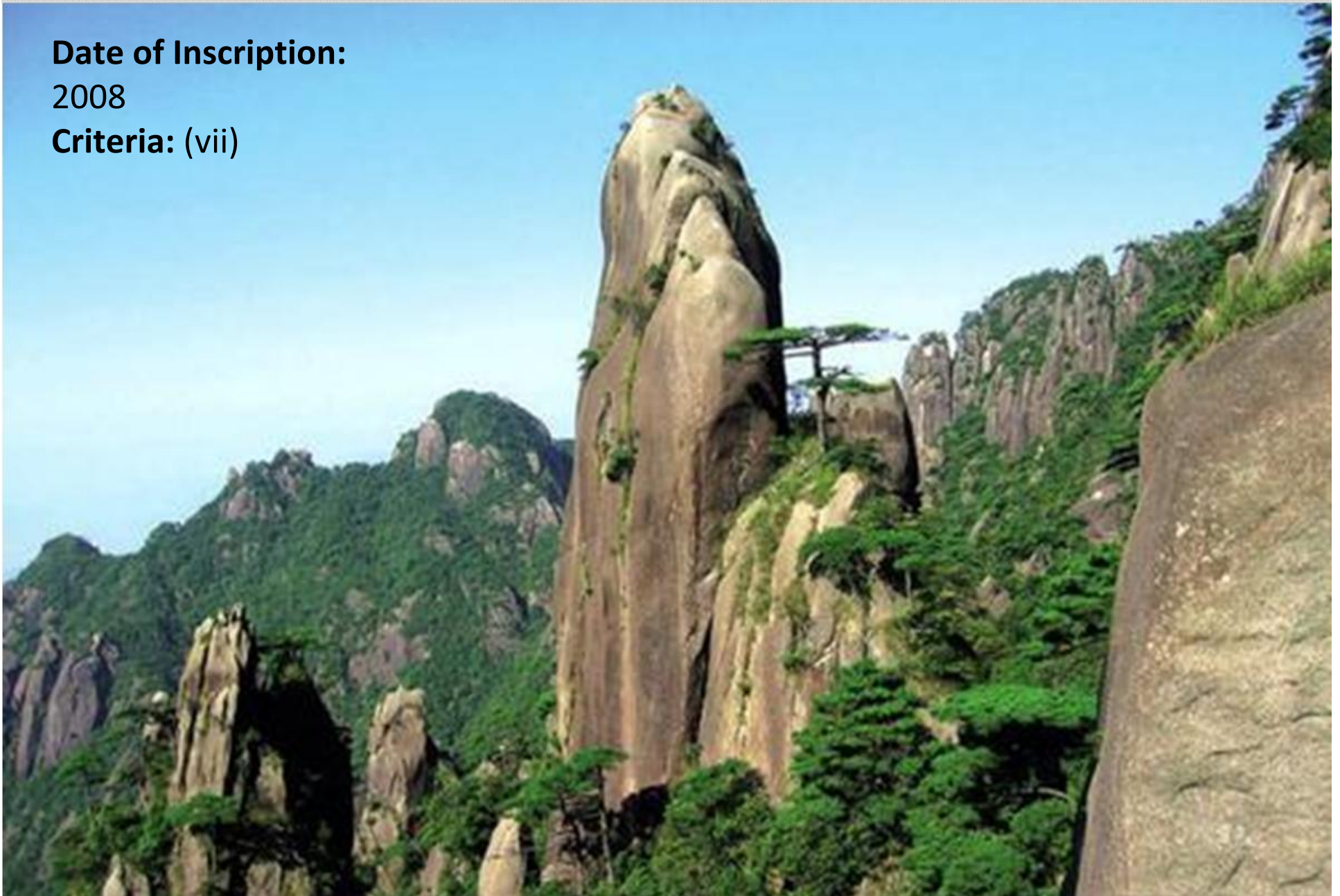


## Example: Mount Sanqingshan National Park (China)

**Date of Inscription:**

2008

**Criteria:** (vii)



## Integrity (criterion vii only)

Extract of SoOUV as adopted under Decision 32COM 8B.6 :

The park boundaries are appropriately drawn to protect the naturalness of the landscape and the areas required to maintain the scenic qualities of the property. The property, although relatively small, includes all of the granite peaks and pillars which provide the framework for its aesthetic values. Boundaries are accurately surveyed and demarcated. The property's integrity is enhanced by the designation of a buffer zone that is not part of the inscribed property'.



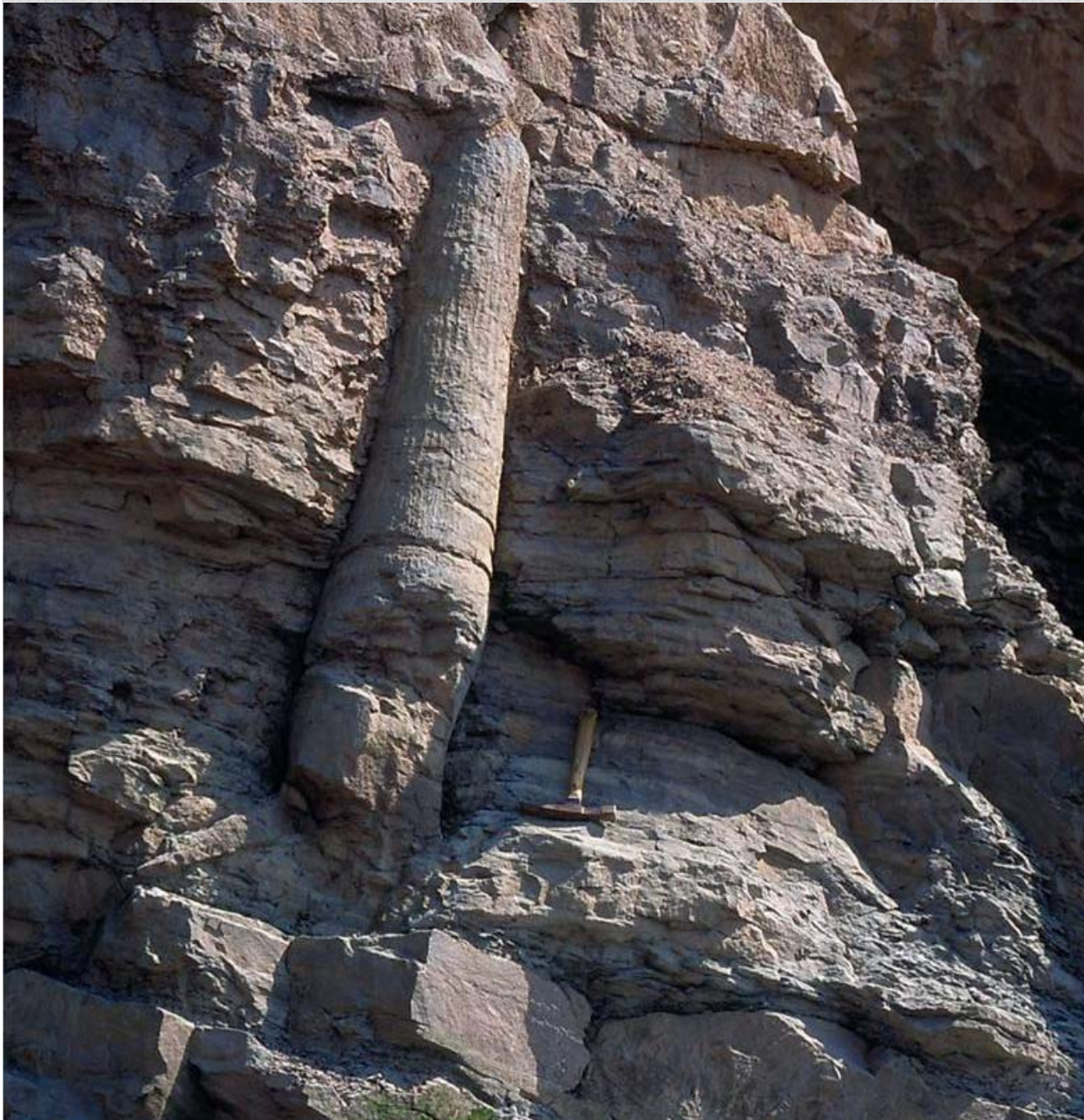


## Criterion viii

*'be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features'*



## Example: Joggins Fossil Cliffs (Canada)



Date of Inscription: 2008

Criteria: (viii)



## Integrity (criterion viii only)

Extract of SoOUV as adopted under Decision 32 COM 8B.9:

'The boundaries of the property are clearly defined in relation to logical stratigraphic criteria and include all of the areas necessary to fully display the fossil record of Joggins including the cliff face and foreshore rock exposures, and include both the most fossiliferous strata and younger and older rocks that provide geological context. The inland extent of the property is defined based on the eroding top of the cliffs and this is a fully justifiable and logical basis to cope with the dynamic nature of this coastal property. A relatively narrow buffer zone is defined, which is not part of the inscribed property, but is sufficient to control coastal development which could otherwise threaten the values of the property'.



## Criterion ix

*'be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals'*



## Example: Surtsey (Iceland)

Date of Inscription: 2008

Criteria: (ix)



## Integrity (criterion ix only)

Extract of SoOUV as adopted under Decision 32 COM 8B.11:

‘The property includes the whole island and an adequate surrounding marine area, and thus all the areas that are essential for the long term conservation of the ecological processes on Surtsey. There is also a relatively small but functional marine buffer zone that is not part of the inscribed property. It is noted that part of the evolution of Surtsey is the process of coastal erosion which has already halved the area of the island and over time is predicted to remove another two thirds leaving only the most resistant core.’



## Criterion x

*'contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation'*





## Example: Socotra Archipelago (Yemen)

**Date of Inscription:**

2008

**Criteria:** (x)



## Integrity (criterion x only)

Extract of SoOUV as adopted under Decision 32COM 8B.5 :

'The property is of sufficient size to adequately represent all the terrestrial and marine features and processes that are essential for the long term conservation of the archipelago's rich and distinct biodiversity. The terrestrial nature sanctuaries, national parks and areas of special botanical interest included in the property encompass about 75% of the total land area. They protect all the major vegetation types, areas of high floral and faunal values, and important bird areas. The marine nature sanctuaries included in the property encompass the most important elements of marine biodiversity. The property's integrity is further enhanced by terrestrial and marine buffer zones that are not part of the inscribed property'.