

## 1. World Heritage Property Data

### 1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara

### 1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

#### State(s) Party(ies)

- Japan

#### Type of Property

cultural

#### Identification Number

870


#### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1998

### 1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Tôdai-ji , Nara City , Nara Prefecture , Japan	0 / 0	68.9	1311.6	1380.5	1998
Kôfuku-ji , Nara City , Nara Prefecture , Japan	0 / 0	12.4	0	12.4	1998
Kasuga-Taisha , Nara City , Nara Prefecture , Japan	0 / 0	93.1	0	93.1	1998
Kasugayama Primeval Forest , Nara City , Nara Prefecture , Japan	0 / 0	298.6	0	298.6	1998
Gangô-ji , Nara City , Nara Prefecture , Japan	0 / 0	0.8	0	0.8	1998
Yakushi-ji , Nara City , Nara Prefecture , Japan	0 / 0	5.1	186.3	191.4	1998
Tôshôdai-ji , Nara City , Nara Prefecture , Japan	0 / 0	9.1	0	9.1	1998
Nara Palace Site , Nara City , Nara Prefecture , Japan	0 / 0	128.9	464.6	593.5	1998
<b>Total (ha)</b>		<b>616.9</b>	<b>1962.5</b>	<b>2579.4</b>	

### 1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Map indicating the nominated property and the surrounding natural and built environment	30/06/1997	

### 1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

#### Comment

The Agency for Cultural Affairs 3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959 TEL: +81-3-5253-4111 FAX: +81-3-6734-3822

### 1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- KOIDE Tsuneki  
"Cultural Affairs Division, Culture and Tourism Division Bureau,

#### Comment

FUNAKI Yutaka Cultural and Education Division, Regional Development Department, Nara Prefectural Government

### 1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [View photos from OUR PLACE the World Heritage collection](#)
2. [SORAMITSU : History and Geography of Nara, Japan](#)
3. [Nara Prefecture](#)

### 1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

## 2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

### 2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

#### Comment

Nara was the capital of Japan from 710 to 784. During this period the framework of national government was consolidated and Nara enjoyed great prosperity, emerging as the fountainhead of Japanese culture. Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara include the following eight component parts: the Tôdai-ji, the Kôfuku-ji, the Kasuga-Taisha, the Kasugayama Primeval Forest, the Gangô-ji, the Yakushi-ji, the Tôshôdai-ji, and the Nara Palace Site. They provide a vivid picture of religion and life in the Japanese capital in the 8th century, a period of profound political and cultural change. Thus, the property possesses Outstanding Universal Value.

### 2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

### 2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Criterion ( ii ) Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara bear exceptional witness to the evolution of Japanese architecture and art as a result of cultural links with China and Korea which were to have a profound influence on future developments. Criterion ( iii ) The flowering of Japanese culture during the period when Nara was the capital is uniquely demonstrated by its architectural heritage. Criterion ( iv ) The layout of the Imperial Palace and the design of the surviving monuments in Nara are outstanding examples of the architecture and planning of early Asian capital cities. Criterion ( vi ) The Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines of Nara demonstrate the continuing spiritual power and influence of these religions in an exceptional manner.

### 2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

nothing in particular

### 2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

nothing in particular

**3. Factors Affecting the Property**


























**3.14. Other factor(s)**

**3.14.1 - Other factor(s)**

nothing in particular

**3.15. Factors Summary Table**

**3.15.1 - Factors summary table**

Name	Impact	Origin				
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Buildings and Development</b>					
3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities	  					
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Services Infrastructures</b>					
3.3.1 Water infrastructure	  					
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Social/cultural uses of heritage</b>					
3.8.1 Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses	  					
<b>3.10</b>	<b>Climate change and severe weather events</b>					
3.10.1 Storms	  					
<b>3.11</b>	<b>Sudden ecological or geological events</b>					
3.11.2 Earthquake	   					
<b>3.13</b>	<b>Management and institutional factors</b>					
3.13.3 Management activities	  					
<b>Legend</b>	 Current	 Potential	 Negative	 Positive	 Inside	 Outside

**3.16. Assessment of current negative factors**

**3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors**

No factor is both current and negative.

This law has very strict provisions relating to the protection, preservation, and management of designated properties and sites. Any infringements entails severe penalties.

### 3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

#### 3.17.1 - Comments

Related to the decision by the World Heritage Committee (33 Com 7B. 76), our basic policy is already shown in the letter submitted January, 2011. We will examine concrete actions with close communication and cooperation amongst relevant authorities concerning this matter.

## 4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

### 4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

#### 4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is a buffer zone

#### 4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

#### 4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

#### 4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

#### 4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are **known** by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

#### 4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

nothing in particular

### 4.2. Protective Measures

#### 4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

The 78 buildings included in the nomination are designated as National Treasures (26) or Important Cultural Properties (52) under the terms of Article 27 of the 1950 Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. The areas in which they are located are also designated, under Article 69 of the same statute, as Historic Sites or Places of Scenic Beauty, and this article is used for the designation of the Kasugayama Primeval Forest as a Special Natural Monument and the Nara Palace Site as a Special Historic Site.

#### 4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

#### 4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

#### 4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity

#### 4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **excellent** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property

#### 4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

nothing in particular

### 4.3. Management System / Management Plan

#### 4.3.1 - Management System

Ownership of the various properties is diverse. The places of worship (the Buddhist temples and the Shinto shrine) are the property of their respective religious communities. Certain parts of the Tōdai-ji are owned by the Ministry of Finance (which also owns the Kasugayama Primeval Forest and part of the Kōfuku-ji) and by the Imperial Household Agency. The Agency for Cultural Affairs is the official proprietor of the Nara Palace Site.

It is the responsibility of owners of designated buildings and areas to manage, repair, and open them to the public. Any alterations require the permission of the national government. There are clearly defined and adequate buffer zones and historic environment harmonization areas around all the properties. These are provided for in the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, the Law concerning Special Measures for the Preservation of Ancient Cities, and various prefectural and municipal laws and regulations related to urban planning, notably the very comprehensive 1990 Nara Municipal Ordinance concerning the City Landscape.

Overall supervision of the properties is the responsibility of the Agency for Cultural Affairs. It carries out this work in collaboration, where appropriate, with the Council for the Protection of Cultural Properties (for matters relating to the 1950 Law), the Ministry of Finance, the Imperial Household Agency, the Prime Minister's Office (for matters relating to the Ancient Capitals Preservation Law), the Ministry of Construction (for matters concerning the City Planning Law), the Environment Agency (for matters related to the Natural Parks Law), the Forestry Agency (for matters related to the Forest Law), Nara Prefecture, Nara Prefectural Board of Education, Nara City, and Nara Municipal Board of Education.

**4.3.2 - Management Documents**

**Comment**

nothing in particular

**4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?**

There is **excellent coordination** between all bodies / levels involved in the management of the property

**4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?**

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

**4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?**

The management system is being **fully** implemented and monitored

**4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?**

An annual work / action plan exists and **most or all activities** are being implemented and monitored

**4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following**

Local communities / residents	Fair
Local / Municipal authorities	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Fair
Visitors	Fair
Researchers	Fair
Tourism industry	Fair
Industry	Fair

**4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?**

Local communities have **some input** into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management

**4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and /**

**or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?**

**No indigenous peoples** are resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

**4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?**

There is contact but only **some cooperation** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

**4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training**

nothing in particular

**4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report**

nothing in particular

**4.4. Financial and Human Resources**

**4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)**

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	
Governmental (National / Federal)	55%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	3%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	3%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	
Other grants	39%

**4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)**

**Comment**

not applicable

**4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?**

The available budget is **acceptable** but could be further improved to fully meet the management needs

**4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?**

The existing sources of funding **are secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

**4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?**

There is a **major flow** of economic benefits to local communities from activities in and around the World Heritage property

**4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?**

There are **adequate** equipment and facilities

**4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?**

Equipment and facilities are **well maintained**

**4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure**

Stabilization and strengthening of finances is needed to ensure ongoing preservation and management of the property.

**4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)**

Full-time	100%
Part-time	0%

**4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)**

Permanent	100%
Seasonal	0%

**4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)**

Paid	100%
Volunteer	0%

**4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?**

Human resources are **adequate** for management needs

**4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines**

Research and monitoring	Fair
Promotion	Fair
Community outreach	Fair
Interpretation	Fair
Education	Fair
Visitor management	Fair
Conservation	Fair
Administration	Fair
Risk preparedness	Fair
Tourism	Fair
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Fair

**4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines**

Research and monitoring	Low
Promotion	Low
Community outreach	Low
Interpretation	Low
Education	Low
Visitor management	Low
Conservation	Low
Administration	Low
Risk preparedness	Low
Tourism	Low
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Low

**4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?**

A capacity development plan or programme is **in place and fully implemented**; all technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, who are assuming leadership in management

**4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training**

nothing in particular

**4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects**

**4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?**

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient**

**4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?**

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme of research**, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

**4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?**

Research results are **shared with local participants and some national agencies**

**4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report**

Commission for Compilation of Nara City History, History of the City of Nara: General History, vol. 1–4 (Nara City, 1988–95); Fukutaro Nagashima, Nara, Library of Japanese History, vol. 3 (Yoshikawa Kobunkan, 1963); etc.

**4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects**

nothing in particular

**4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building**

**4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?**

In many locations and easily visible to visitors

**4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups**

Local communities / residents	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Excellent
Local Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Local landowners	Excellent
Visitors	Excellent
Tourism industry	Excellent
Local businesses and industries	Excellent

**4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?**

There is a **planned and effective** education and awareness programme that contributes to the protection of the World Heritage property

**4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?**

World Heritage status has been an **important influence** on education, information and awareness building activities

**4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?**

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted **but improvements could be made**

**4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property**

Visitor centre	Adequate
Site museum	Adequate
Information booths	Adequate
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Adequate
Information materials	Adequate
Transportation facilities	Adequate
Other	Adequate

**4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building**

nothing in particular

**4.7. Visitor Management**

**4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years**

Last year	Decreasing
Two years ago	Minor Increase
Three years ago	Minor Increase
Four years ago	Minor Increase
Five years ago	Minor Increase

**4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?**

Entry tickets and registries
Accommodation establishments
Transportation services

**4.7.3 - Visitor management documents**

**4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?**

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is **effectively managed** and does not impact its Outstanding Universal Value

**4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?**

There is **limited co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

**4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?**

The fee is collected and makes a **substantial contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

**4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property**

nothing in particular

**4.8. Monitoring**

**4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?**

There is a **comprehensive, integrated** programme of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

**4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?**

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for defining and monitoring key indicators for measuring its state of conservation

**4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups**

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities	Excellent
Local communities	Average
Researchers	Average
NGOs	Average
Industry	Average
Local indigenous peoples	Not applicable

**4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?**

Implementation is **underway**

**4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee**

As per response to 3.17.1

**4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring**

nothing in particular

**4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs**

**4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)**

Please refer to question 5.2



## **5. Summary and Conclusions**

### **5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property**

#### **5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property**

No factor is both current and negative.

### **5.2. Summary - Management Needs**

#### **5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs**

Answers provided have not outlined any serious management need.

**5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property**

**5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity**

The authenticity of the World Heritage property has been **preserved**

**5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity**

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

**5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value**

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

**5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values**

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

**5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property**

**5.4.1 - Comments**

The entire property is maintained in an excellent state of conservation.

**6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise**

**6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas**

Conservation	Very positive
Research and monitoring	Positive
Management effectiveness	Positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Positive
Recognition	Positive
Education	Very positive
Infrastructure development	Positive
Funding for the property	No impact
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	No impact
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	No impact
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

**6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status**

There is a need to promote understanding of the property's OUV.

**6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report**

Governmental institution responsible for the property
Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff

**6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?**

yes

**6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire**

Please make it possible for the tools to be used by multiple property managers.

**6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities**

UNESCO	Fair
State Party Representative	Good
Advisory Body	Fair

**6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?**

All required information was accessible

**6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following**

Monitoring and reporting
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**6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities**

UNESCO	Not Applicable
State Party	Not Applicable
Site Managers	Not Applicable
Advisory Bodies	Not Applicable

**6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee**

**• Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance**

Reason for update: Nara was the capital of Japan from 710 to 784. During this period the framework of national government was consolidated and Nara enjoyed great prosperity, emerging as the fountainhead of Japanese culture. Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara include the following eight component parts: the Tōdai-ji, the Kōfuku-ji, the Kasuga-Taisha, the Kasugayama Primeval Forest, the Gangō-ji, the Yakushi-ji, the Tōshōdai-ji, and the Nara Palace Site. They provide a vivid picture of religion and life in the Japanese capital in the 8th century, a period of profound political and cultural change. Thus, the property possesses Outstanding Universal Value.

**6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise**

nothing in particular