

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

• Japan

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

972

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2000


1.3 - Geographic Information Table






Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Tamaudun , Naha City , Okinawa Prefecture , Japan	26.2 / 127.683	1.1	136.9	138	2000
Sonohyan-utaki Ishimon , Naha City , Okinawa Prefecture , Japan	26.2 / 127.683	0.008	0	0.008	2000
Nakijin-jō site, Nakijin-son , Kunigami-gun , Okinawa Prefecture , Japan	26.696 / 127.92	7.9	25.3	33.2	2000
Zakimi-jō site, Yomitanson , Nakagami-gun , Okinawa Prefecture , Japan	26.422 / 127.735	4.4	78.9	83.3	2000
Katsuren-jō site, Katsuren-chō , Nakagami-gun , Okinawa Prefecture , Japan	26.334 / 127.881	13.2	44.2	57.4	2000
Nakagusuku-jō site, Kitanakagusuku-son Nakagusuku-son, Nakagami-gun (both Okinawa Pref.) , Nakagami-gun , Okinawa Prefecture , Japan	26.289 / 127.809	12.3	178.1	190.4	2000
Shuri-jō site , Naha City , Okinawa Prefecture , Japan	26.2 / 127.683	7.3	0	7.3	2000
Shikinaen , Naha City , Okinawa Prefecture , Japan	26.2 / 127.683	4.2	84.2	88.4	2000
Sêfa-utaki, Chinen-son , Shimajiri-gun , Okinawa Prefecture , Japan	26.161 / 127.807	4.5	12.1	16.6	2000
Total (ha)		54.908	559.7	614.608	

Comment

Katsuren-jō site, Uruma City , Okinawa Prefecture , Japan
Sêfa-utaki, Nanjō City , Okinawa Prefecture , Japan

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Map showing the location of Tamaudun, Sonohyan-utaki Ishimon, Shuri-jō and Shikinaen	25/06/1999	

Map showing the location of Nakijin-jō site	25/06/1999	
Map showing the location of Zakimi-jō site	25/06/1999	
Map showing the location of Katsuren-jō site	25/06/1999	
Map showing the location of Nakagusuku-jō site	25/06/1999	
Map showing the location of Sêfa-utaki	25/06/1999	

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

• MIYAZATO Jun
"Cultural Resources Management Division

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

Comment

nothing in particular

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

Comment

nothing in particular

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Comment

Five hundred years of Ryukyuan history (12th -17th century) are represented by this group of sites and monuments. The ruins castles, on imposing elevated sites, are evidence for the social structure over much of that period, while the sacred sites provide mute testimony to the rare survival of an ancient form of religion into the modern age. The wide-ranging economic and cultural contacts of the Ryukyu Islands over that period gave rise to a unique culture. Thus the property possesses Outstanding Universal Value.

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

(ii)(iii)(vi)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Criterion (ii) For several centuries the Ryukyu islands served as a centre of economic and cultural interchange between south-east Asia, China, Korea, and Japan, and this is vividly demonstrated by the surviving monuments. Criterion (iii) The culture of the Ryukyuan Kingdom evolved and flourished in a special political and economic environment, which gave its culture a unique quality. Criterion (vi) The Ryukyu sacred sites constitute an exceptional example of an indigenous form of nature and ancestor worship which has survived intact into the modern age alongside other established world religions.

**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
3.1	Buildings and Development				
3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities					
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure				
3.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure					
3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure					
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage				
3.8.1 Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses					
3.8.2 Society's valuing of heritage					
3.8.5 Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community					
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events				
3.10.1 Storms					
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events				
3.11.2 Earthquake					
3.11.3 Tsunami/tidal wave					
3.13	Management and institutional factors				
3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities					
3.13.3 Management activities					
Legend	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.

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

3.17.1 - Comments

nothing in particular

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)

Comment

The monuments and remains comprising the property have been variously designated by the national government as important cultural properties, historic sites, or places of scenic beauty under the law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, and measures have been taken for their protection. In areas given these designations, no alterations may be made without authorization by the national government. The buffer zones are protected by a variety of national legislation.

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 properties is varied. Sêfa-utaki and Zakimi-jô are owned by the relevant local authorities. Nakijin-jô, Katsuren-jô, and Nakagusuku-jô are largely on public land, with small portions in private ownership. Shuri-jô belongs to the Government of Japan and Okinawa Prefecture. Ownership of Tamaudun is shared by the Prefecture and Naha City, whilst Sonohyan-utaki Ishimon and Shikinaen are on lands belonging to Naha City.

Maintenance, repair, and presentation of these properties is the responsibility of the owners or custodial bodies. However, there is financial and technical support available from the national and prefectural administrations.

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?

No annual work / action plan exists

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

Local communities / residents	Good
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Good
Visitors	Good
Researchers	Fair
Tourism industry	Good
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 **regular contact** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone and **substantial co-operation** on management

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)	0%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	28%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	1%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	41%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	30%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0%
Other grants	0%

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 **sufficient** but further funding would enable more effective management to international best practice standard

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 **some flow** of economic benefits to local communities

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?

There is **basic** maintenance of equipment and facilities

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

nothing in particular

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

Full-time	22%
Part-time	78%

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

Permanent	18%
Seasonal	82%

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?

A range of human resources exist, but these are **below optimum** to manage the World Heritage Property.

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	Good
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	Medium
Promotion	Medium
Community outreach	Medium
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Medium
Visitor management	Medium
Conservation	High
Administration	Medium
Risk preparedness	Medium
Tourism	Medium
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Medium

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

Okinawa Department of Education Cultural Division, World Heritage: Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (Marumasa Printing Company, 2001)
Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education, Basic Policies Concerning the Preservation, Maintenance, and Utilization of World Heritage Sites (PREC Institute, Inc., 2002)
Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education, Our Common Treasure: World Heritage: Reviving Memories of Ryukyu (supplementary upper-level elementary school reader); I Want to Know More: World Heritage (supplementary middle school reader); World Heritage: Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (supplementary high-school reader) (Marumasa Printing Company, 2002)

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	Average
Tourism industry	Average
Local businesses and industries	Average

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 education and awareness programme but it only partly meets the needs and could be improved

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
Tourism industry
Visitor surveys

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment

nothing in particular

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	Non-existent
Researchers	Non-existent
NGOs	Non-existent
Industry	Non-existent
Local indigenous peoples	Not applicable

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

No relevant Committee recommendations to implement

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

nothing in particular

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

Please select your top management needs in question 4.9 before filling in the summary table.

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

nothing in particular

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	Positive
Infrastructure development	Positive
Funding for the property	No impact
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	No impact
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	No impact
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	No impact
Other (please specify)	No impact

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

nothing in particular

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

nothing in particular

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

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: Five hundred years of Ryukyuan history (12th -17th century) are represented by this group of sites and monuments. The ruins castles, on imposing elevated sites, are evidence for the social structure over much of that period, while the sacred sites provide mute testimony to the rare survival of an ancient form of religion into the modern age. The wide-ranging economic and cultural contacts of the Ryukyu Islands over that period gave rise to a unique culture. Thus the property possesses Outstanding Universal Value.

• Geographic Information Table

Reason for update: Katsuren-jô site, Uruma City , Okinawa Prefecture , Japan Sêfa-utaki, Nanjô City , Okinawa Prefecture , Japan

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

nothing in particular