



Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) and identifying attributes



At the end of the session, trainees:

- ✓ Will understand the concepts of **integrity and authenticity**
- ✓ Will be able to relate the **Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)** and the **justification for the World Heritage criteria**
- ✓ Will understand why the identification of attributes is vital for understanding authenticity and integrity, and why these are the **focus of protection, conservation and management of World Heritage properties**
- ✓ Will understand the difference between **Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV)** and **Statement of Outstanding Universal Value** and the review process of RSOUV



I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

1. Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
2. What is Outstanding Universal Value?
3. The three pillars of Outstanding Universal Value
4. Criteria for the assessment of Outstanding Universal Value
5. Integrity and Authenticity
6. Protection and Management

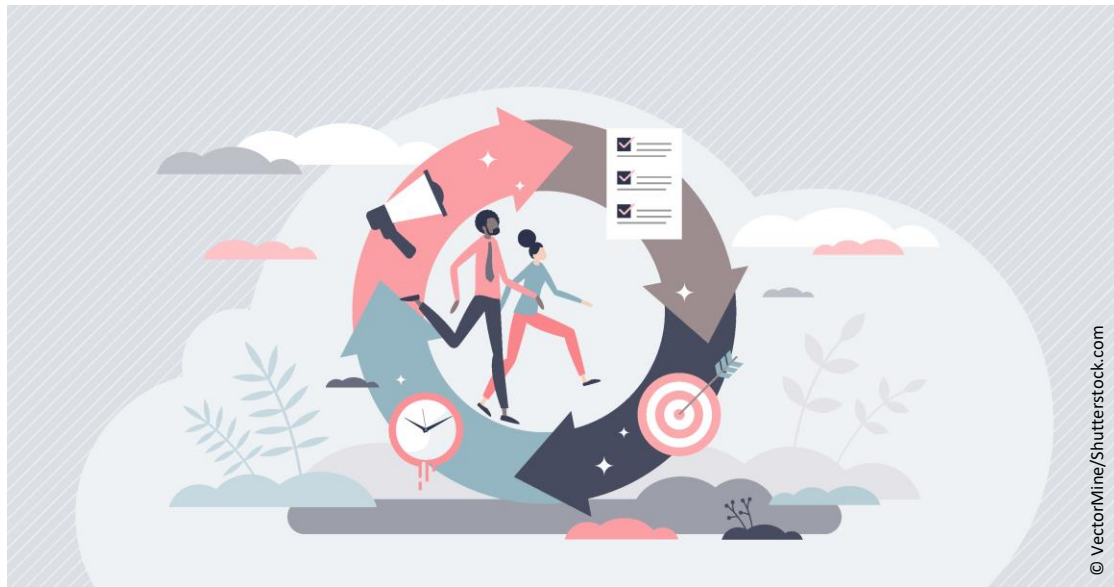
II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

1. What is Statement of Outstanding Universal Value?
2. What is Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV)?
3. Format of RSOUV
4. Identifying attributes
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I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage



World Heritage Convention, Article 4: “Each State Party to this *Convention* recognizes that the duty of ensuring the:

- **identification,**
- **protection,**
- **conservation,**
- **presentation and**
- **transmission** to future generations

of the **cultural and natural heritage** referred to in Articles 1 and 2 and situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State.”

I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

What is Outstanding Universal Value?

Paragraph 49 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*:

- “ 49. Outstanding Universal Value means **cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional** as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole. The Committee defines the criteria for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List.”

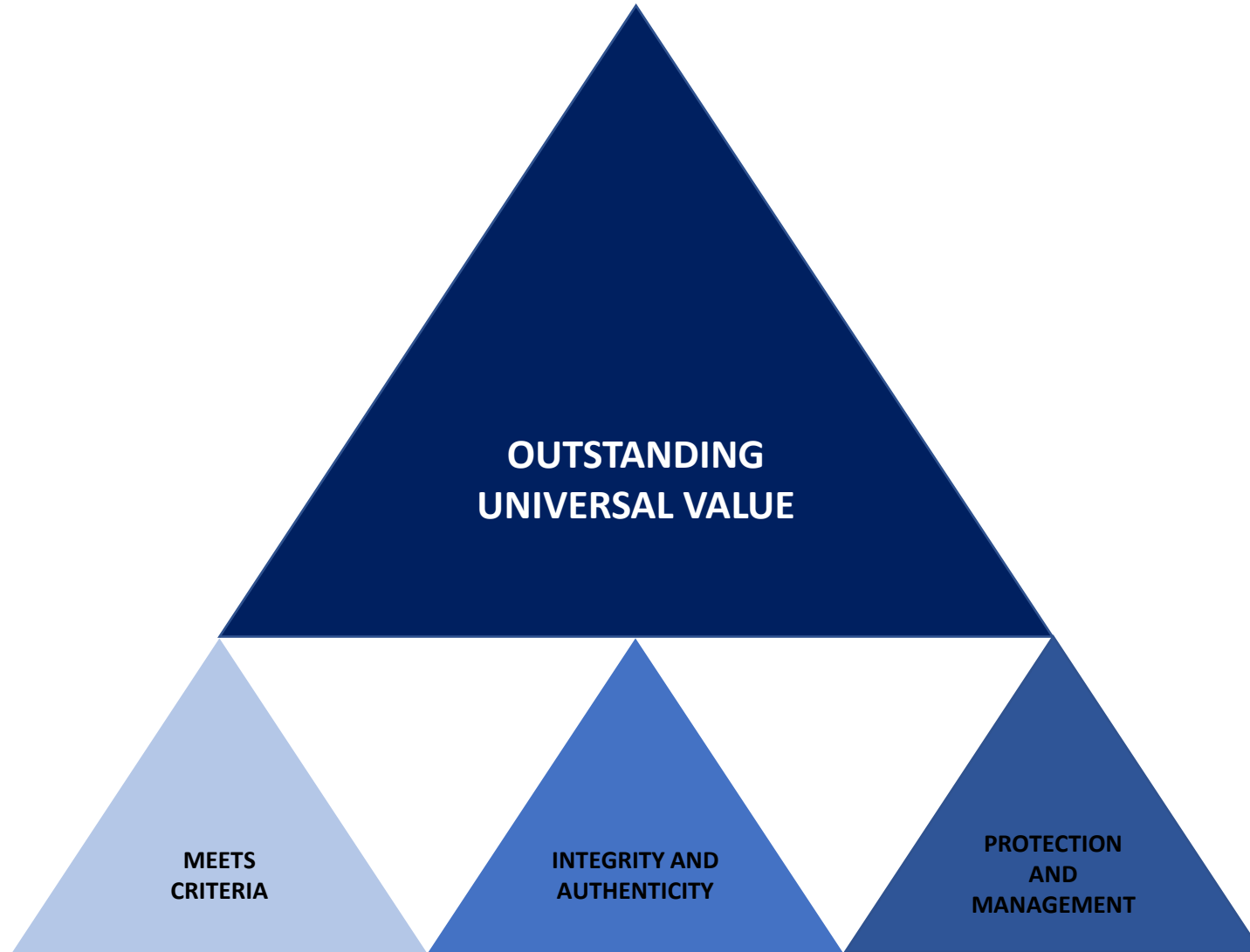
Source: [The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#), UNESCO



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I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

The three pillars of Outstanding Universal Value



Note: Authenticity is not applicable to natural properties



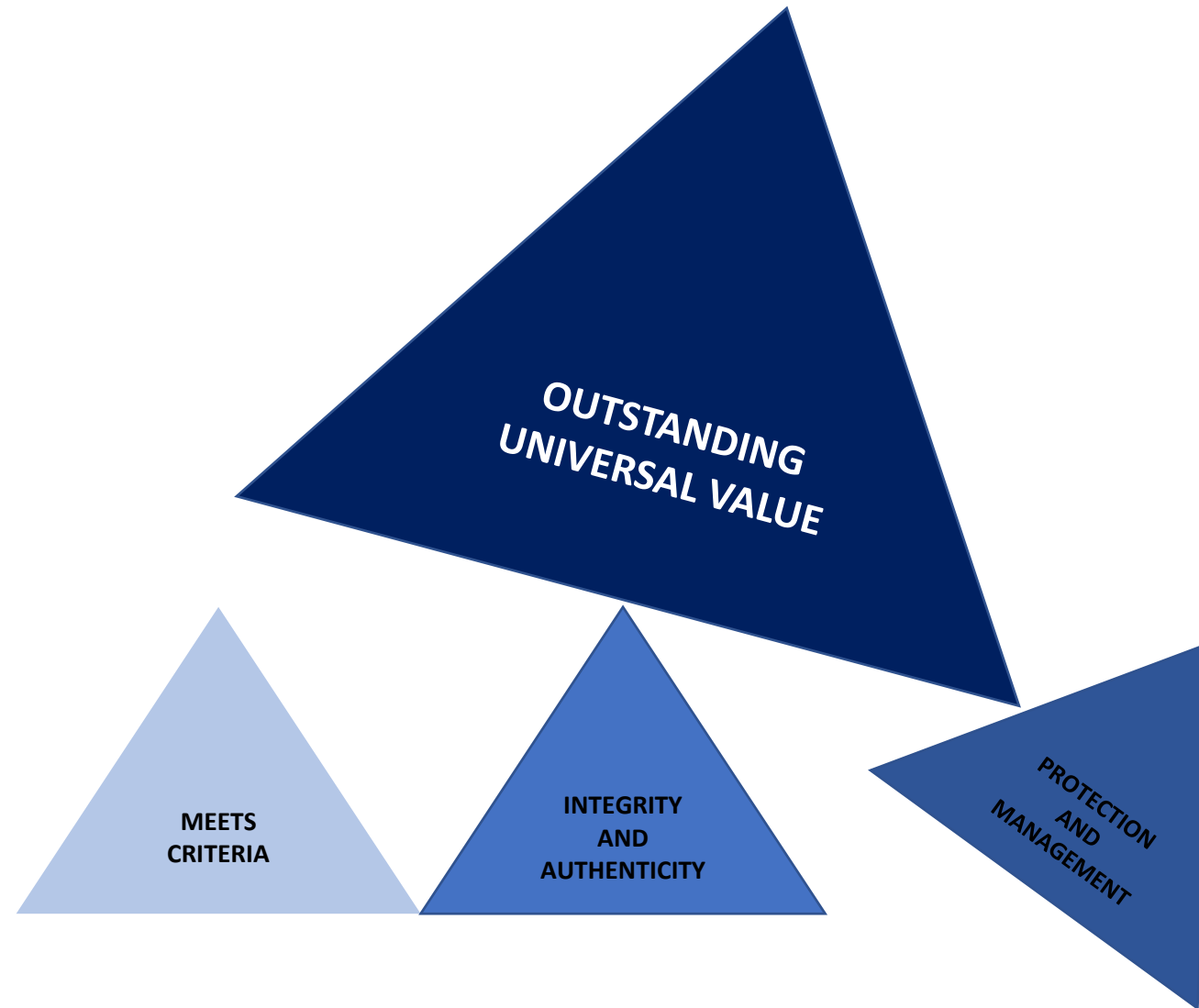
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I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

The three pillars of Outstanding Universal Value

Paragraph 78 of the *Operational Guidelines*:

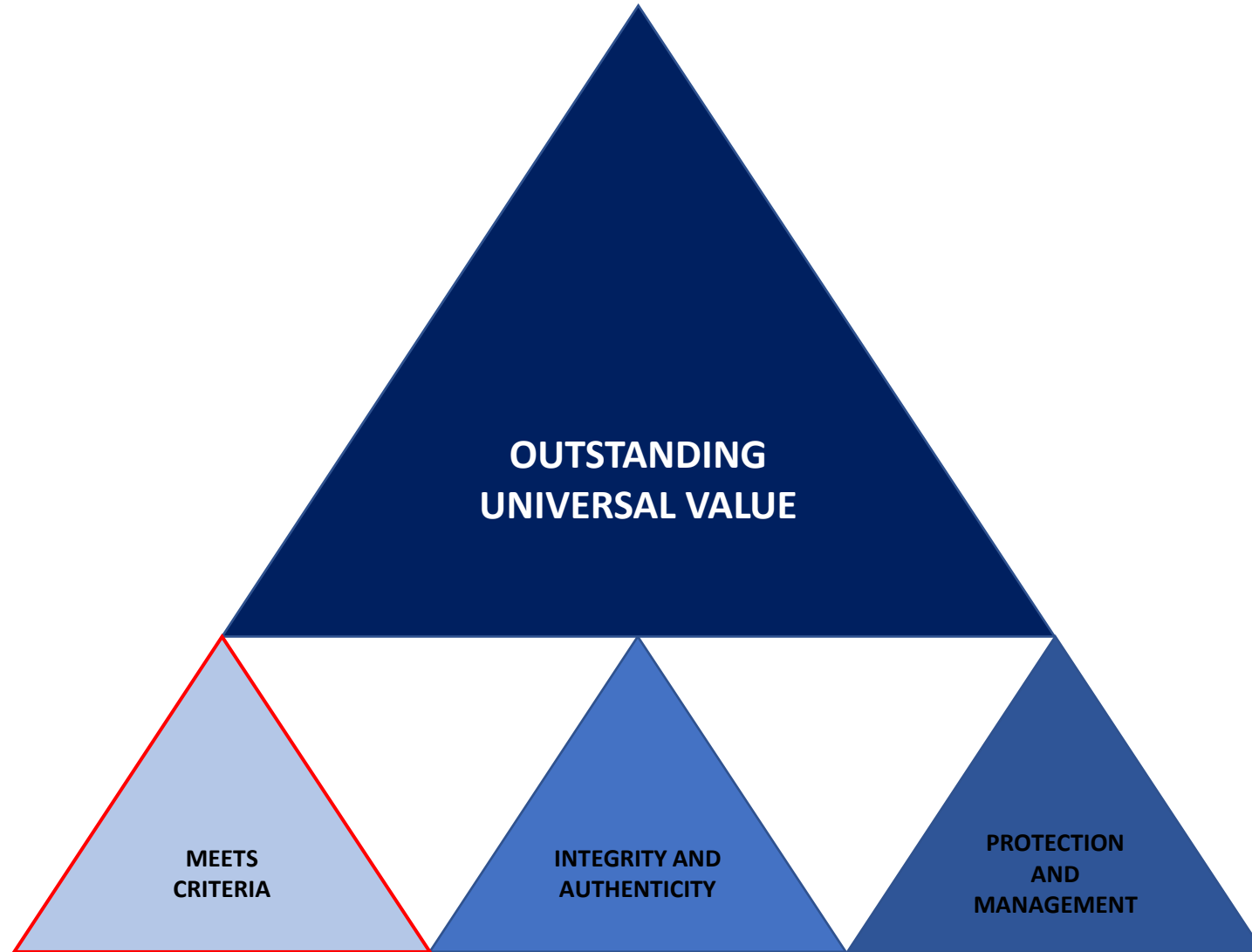
“ 78. To be deemed of Outstanding Universal Value, a property must also meet the conditions of **integrity and/or authenticity** and must have an **adequate protection and management system** to ensure its safeguarding.”



Note: Authenticity is not applicable to natural properties

I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Criteria for the assessment of Outstanding Universal Value



I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Criteria for the assessment of Outstanding Universal Value

Paragraph 77 of the *Operational Guidelines*:

“ 77. The Committee considers a property as having Outstanding Universal Value if the property meets **one or more of the following criteria**. Nominated properties shall therefore:

- i. Represent a **masterpiece of human creative genius**;
- ii. Exhibit an important **interchange of human values**, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- iii. Bear a unique or at least exceptional **testimony** to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- iv. Be an **outstanding example** of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which **illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history**;
- v. Be an **outstanding example** of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or **human interaction with the environment** especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- vi. Be **directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions**, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
- vii. Contain **superlative natural phenomena** or **areas of exceptional natural beauty** and aesthetic importance;
- 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;
- ix. Be **outstanding examples** representing **significant on-going ecological and biological processes** in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- 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.”

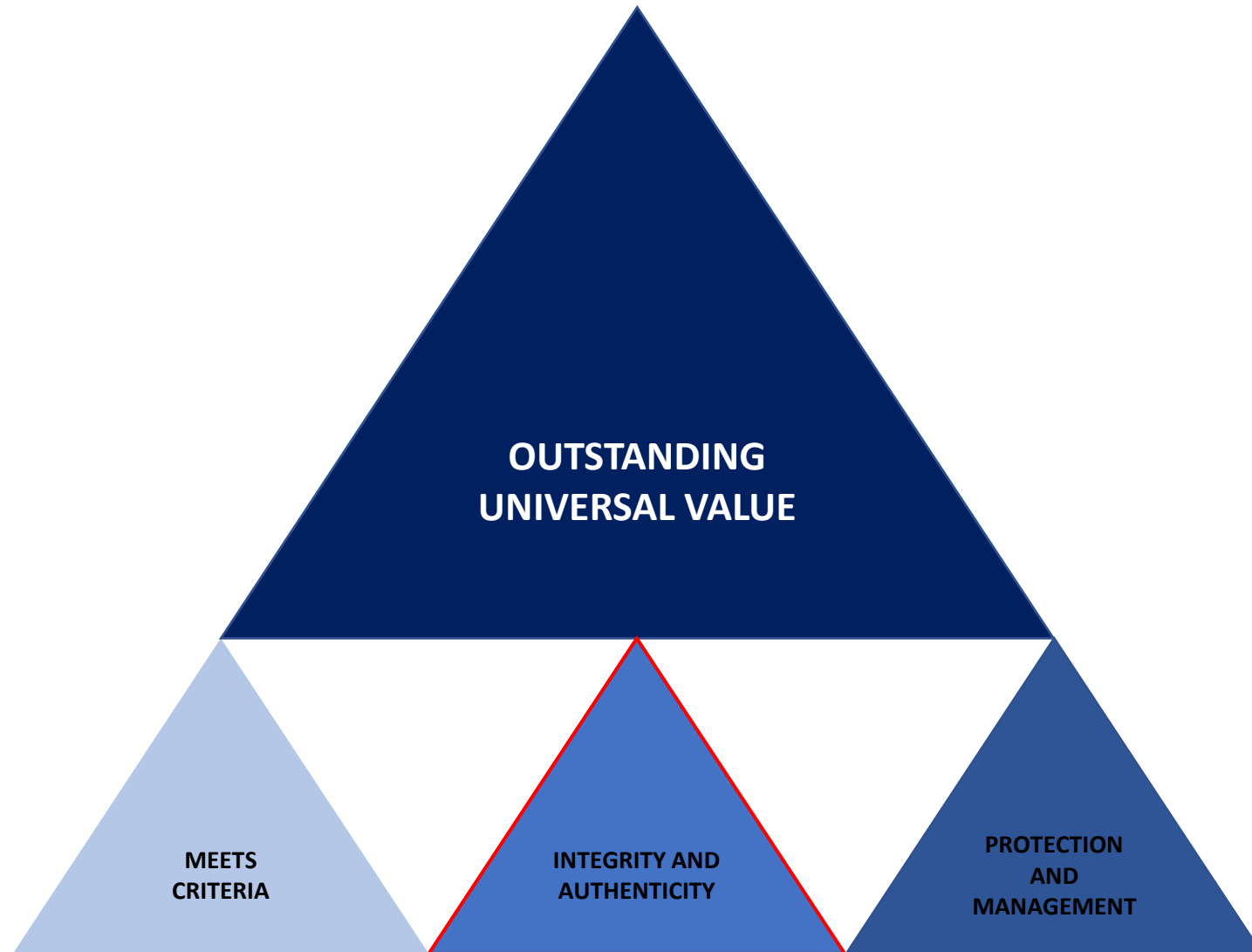
Source: [The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#), UNESCO



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I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Criteria for the assessment of Outstanding Universal Value



Paragraph 89 of the *Operational Guidelines*:



89. For properties nominated under cultural criteria (i) to (vi), the physical fabric of the property and/or its significant features:

- should be in good condition (**intactness**),
- and the impact of deterioration processes controlled (**absence of threats**).
- A significant proportion of the elements necessary to convey the totality of the value conveyed by the property should be included (**wholeness**).
- Relationships and dynamic functions present in cultural landscapes, historic towns or other living properties essential to their distinctive character should also be maintained. (**functional/structural/visual integrity**).”

Source: [The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#), UNESCO

I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Integrity in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

Section II

5. Protection and Management of the Property

12. Summary and Conclusions

(SII, Q5.1.1 ; Q12.3.2)

Question 5.1.1

✓ Not completed

Guidance

Reset ↻

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

To answer this question, please refer to the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value referenced in chapter 3. Please indicate which of the suggested answers most closely reflects the current status of the property.

- | | | |
|---------|--|-----------------------|
| 5.1.1.1 | The boundaries are inadequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value because some attributes of the property are outside the boundary | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5.1.1.2 | The boundaries are inadequate , which makes it difficult to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5.1.1.3 | The boundaries do not limit the ability to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value but they could be improved | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5.1.1.4 | The boundaries are adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value | <input type="radio"/> |



I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Integrity in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

Section II

5. Protection and Management of the Property

12. Summary and Conclusions

(SII, Q5.1.1 ; Q12.3.2)

Question 12.3.2

✓ Not completed

Guidance

Reset ↻

Following the analysis undertaken for this report, what is the current state of Integrity of the World Heritage property?

Considering the answers given in on attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, on protection, management and monitoring of the property and the summary of factors affecting the property and management needs, please choose the answer which best describes the current state of Integrity of the World Heritage property.

- | | | |
|----------|--|-----------------------|
| 12.3.2.1 | The Integrity of the World Heritage property is intact | <input type="radio"/> |
| 12.3.2.2 | The Integrity of the World Heritage property has been compromised by factors described in this report | <input type="radio"/> |
| 12.3.2.3 | The Integrity of the World Heritage property has been seriously compromised by factors described in this report | <input type="radio"/> |
| 12.3.2.4 | The Integrity of the World Heritage property has been lost | <input type="radio"/> |



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I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Authenticity



© UNESCO, Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda), World Heritage Centre's website



© CRA-terre, Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda), World Heritage Centre's website

Paragraph 82 of the *Operational Guidelines*:



82. Depending on the type of cultural heritage, and its cultural context, properties may be understood to meet the conditions of authenticity **if their cultural values** (as recognized in the nomination criteria proposed) **are truthfully and credibly expressed through a variety of attributes** including:

- form and design;
- materials and substance;
- use and function;
- traditions, techniques and management systems;
- location and setting;
- language, and other forms of intangible heritage;
- spirit and feeling; and
- other internal and external factors.”

I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Authenticity in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

Question 12.3.1

✓ Not completed

Guidance

Reset ↻

Following the analysis undertaken for this report, what is the current state of Authenticity of the World Heritage property?

Considering the answers given on attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, on protection, management and monitoring of the property and the summary of factors affecting the property and management needs, please choose the answer which best describes the current state of Authenticity of the World Heritage property.

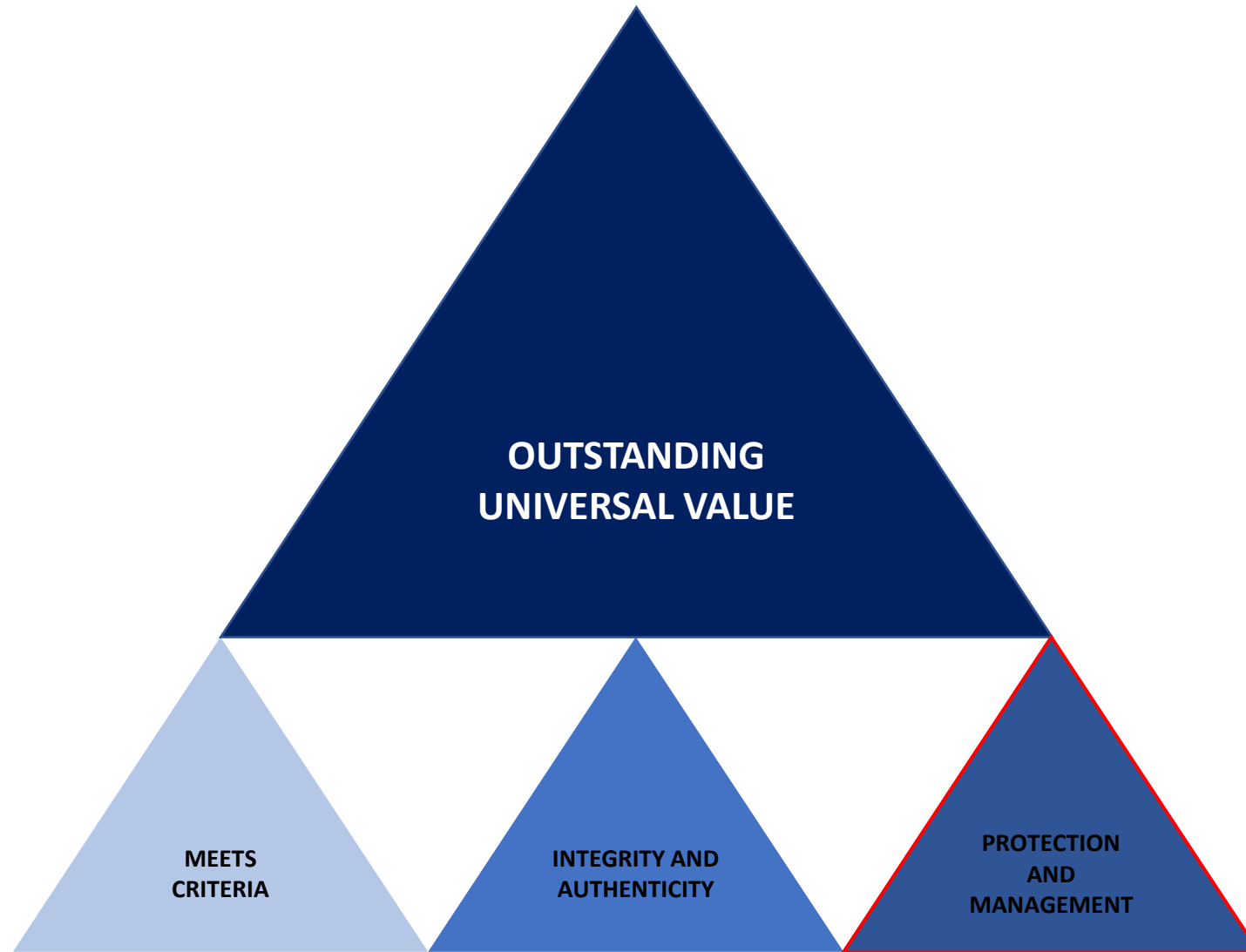
- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| 12.3.1.1 | Not applicable (sites inscribed exclusively under criteria vii to x (natural World Heritage properties)) | <input type="radio"/> |
| 12.3.1.2 | The Authenticity of the World Heritage property has been lost | <input type="radio"/> |
| 12.3.1.3 | The Authenticity of the World Heritage property has been seriously compromised by factors described in this report | <input type="radio"/> |
| 12.3.1.4 | The Authenticity of the World Heritage property has been compromised by factors described in this report | <input type="radio"/> |
| 12.3.1.5 | The Authenticity of the World Heritage property has been preserved | <input type="radio"/> |



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I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Criteria for the assessment of Outstanding Universal Value



Management systems (Paragraphs 108, 109, 110 and 111 of the *Operational Guidelines*):



108. Each nominated property should have an **appropriate management plan or other documented management system** which must specify how the Outstanding Universal Value of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means.

109. The purpose of a management system is to ensure the **effective protection of the nominated property** for present and future generations.

110. An effective management system depends on the **type, characteristics and needs of the nominated property** and its **cultural and natural context**. Management systems may vary according to **different cultural perspectives**, the **resources available** and other factors. They may incorporate traditional practices, existing urban or regional planning instruments, and other planning control mechanisms, both formal and informal. **Impact assessments** for proposed interventions are essential for all World Heritage properties.”

Source: [The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#), UNESCO

- “ 111. In recognizing the diversity mentioned above, common elements of an effective management system could include:
- a thorough **shared understanding** of the property by **all stakeholders**, including the use of participatory planning and stakeholder consultation process;
 - a respect for **diversity, equity, gender equality** and **human rights** and the use of **inclusive and participatory planning** and stakeholder consultation processes
 - a cycle of **planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation** and **feedback**;
 - an **assessment of the vulnerabilities** of the property to social, economic, and other pressures and changes, as well as the monitoring of the impacts of trends and proposed interventions;
 - the **development of mechanisms** for the **involvement** and **coordination** of the various activities between different partners and stakeholders;
 - the allocation of **necessary resources**;
 - **capacity-building**; and
 - an accountable, transparent **description of how the management system functions.**”

Source: [The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#), UNESCO

I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Protection and Management in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire: SII, Q5.2.3

Question 5.2.3

✓ Not completed

Guidance

Reset ↻

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

Please indicate which of the suggested answers most closely reflects the current status of the property. Please also refer to the answers you provided in 5.2.2.

The question can help identify if there is no legal framework (i.e., there are no laws that specifically provide protection to the property), or these laws are not adequate to maintain the OUV for the property or its Integrity and/or Authenticity.

- | | | |
|---------|--|-----------------------|
| 5.2.3.1 | There is no legal framework for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5.2.3.2 | The legal framework for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property is inadequate | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5.2.3.3 | An adequate legal framework for maintaining of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists but there are some deficiencies in implementation | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5.2.3.4 | The legal framework for maintaining of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an adequate basis for effective management and protection | <input type="radio"/> |



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I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Protection and Management in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire: SII, Q5.3.12

Question 5.3.12

✓ Not completed

Guidance

Reset 

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

If the management system is not comprehensive and fully adequate to maintain all aspects of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, then please check one of the top three answers. Please also consider the answers you gave in 3.1 and 5.3.

- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| 5.3.12.1 | No management system/plan is currently in place to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5.3.12.2 | The management system/plan is not adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5.3.12.3 | The management system/plan is only partially adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5.3.12.4 | The management system/plan is fully adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value | <input type="radio"/> |

I. Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Protection and Management in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire: SII, Q12.3.3

Question 12.3.3

✓ Not completed

Guidance

Reset ↻

Following the analysis undertaken for this report, what is the current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value?

Considering the answers given in on attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, on protection, management and monitoring of the property and the summary of factors affecting the property and management needs, please choose the answer which best describes the current state of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.

- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| 12.3.3.1 | The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been maintained . | <input type="radio"/> |
| 12.3.3.2 | The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been impacted by factors described in this report, but this situation is being addressed through effective management actions . | <input type="radio"/> |
| 12.3.3.3 | The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been seriously impacted by factors described in this report, but this situation can be addressed, or is currently being addressed through management actions . | <input type="radio"/> |
| 12.3.3.4 | The World Heritage property has lost its Outstanding Universal Value | <input type="radio"/> |



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II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

What is Statement of Outstanding Universal Value?

Paragraph 51 of the *Operational Guidelines*:

“ 51. At the time of inscription of a property on the World Heritage List, the Committee adopts a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value which will be the **key reference for the future effective protection and management of the property.**”

According to the **paragraph 155 of the *Operational Guidelines***, the **Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be composed of:**

- Brief synthesis
- Justification for criteria
- Statement of integrity (for all properties)
- Statement of authenticity for properties nominated under criteria (i) to (vi)
- Protection and management requirements

Source: [The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#), UNESCO



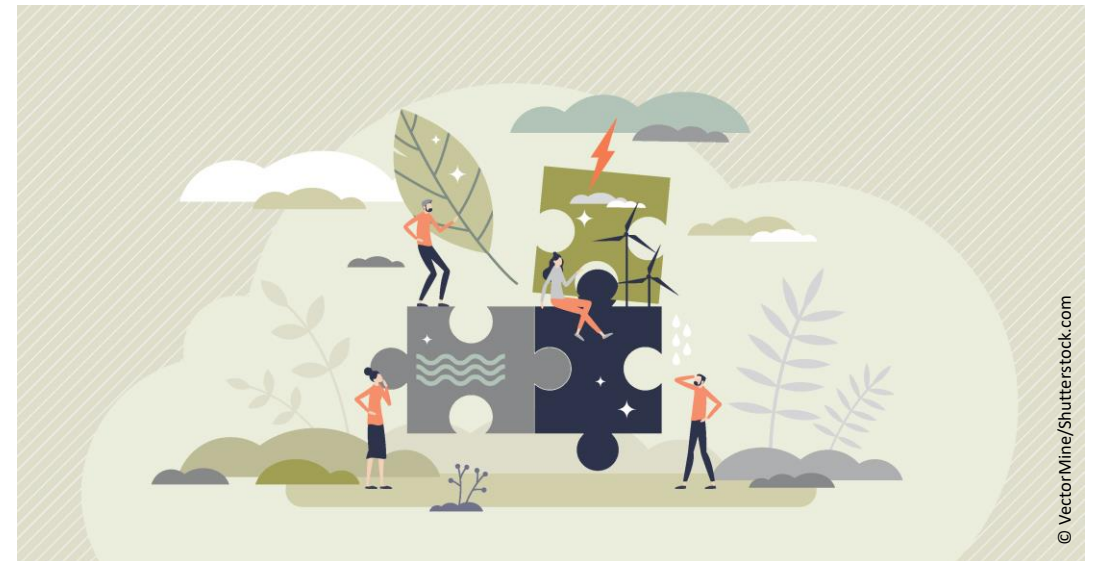
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II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

What is Statement of Outstanding Universal Value?

SOUV encapsulates why the property is considered to be of Outstanding Universal Value:

- How does it **satisfy criteria**?
- What are the **attributes** that make manifest OUV?
- How/ to what extent do **attributes convey OUV**? (conditions of authenticity – integrity)
- What are the needs/arrangements for **protection and management** to sustain OUV?



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II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Attributes

Attributes

According to the handbook *Preparing World Heritage Nominations*, **'Attributes are aspects of a property which are associated with or express the OUV.** Attributes can be tangible or intangible. **The *Operational Guidelines* indicate a range of attribute which convey OUV, including:**

- form and design;
- materials and substance;
- use and function;
- traditions, techniques and management systems;
- location and setting;
- language, and other forms of intangible heritage; and
- spirit and feeling (Para 82).

This list is for **guidance**. It is essential that the attributes identified for a property should flow from the Statement of OUV and the justification for the criteria. Attributes must be identified as they are vital to understanding authenticity and integrity, and are the focus of protection, conservation and management.

For natural properties, it is more common to speak of **'features'**, although the word attributes is sometimes used. **Examples of attributes for natural properties could include:**

- visual or aesthetic significance;
- scale of the extent of physical features or natural habitats;
- intactness of physical or ecological processes;
- naturalness, and intactness of natural systems;
- viability;
- rarity.

Source: [The World Heritage Resource Manual Preparing World Heritage Nominations](#) (2nd edition, UNESCO 2011)



II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

Question 3.1

✓ Not completed

[Guidance](#)

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property as adopted by the World Heritage Committee

This information will be prefilled by the World Heritage Centre. Please tick the "update" box and use the comment field to submit your updates

Agree with current data ?

Validate Update



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II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

What is Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV)?



The **Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)** was introduced in the *Operational Guidelines* in 2005 as an **essential requirement for the inscription** of a property on the World Heritage List. All properties inscribed since 2007 present such a Statement

In 2007, the World Heritage Committee requested that SOUVs be drafted and adopted **retrospectively** for all World Heritage properties **inscribed between 1978 and 2006**

A **Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV)** is a **Statement of Outstanding Universal Value** drafted for properties that were inscribed on the World Heritage List **before 2007**

II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

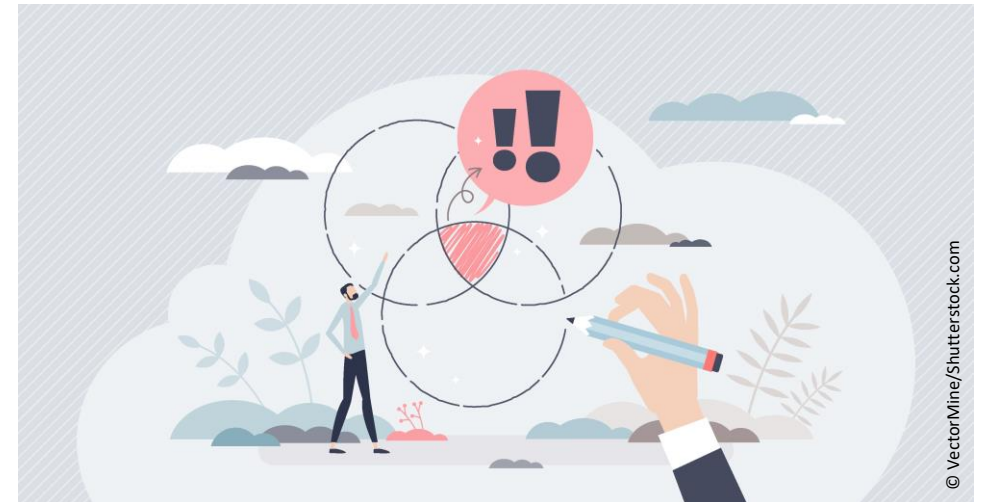
Format of Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV)

The formats of SOUV and RSOUV are same. The suggested overall length is 1-2 A4 pages.

- **Brief synthesis**
 - Summary of factual information
 - Summary of qualities
- **Justification for criteria**
- **Integrity**
- **Authenticity** (*not applicable to natural properties*)
- **Protection and management requirements**
- **Overall framework**
 - Specific long-term expectations

Format of RSOUV, Brief synthesis:

- **Where** is the property situated?
- **What** it is?
- **What historical period** does it refer to?
- Presents briefly **why** the property has OUV (and identifies the attributes)



II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Identifying attributes



© OIPC, Sudanese style mosques in northern Côte d'Ivoire (Côte d'Ivoire), World Heritage Centre's website

Attributes, more commonly called **features** in the case of natural properties, are those elements, processes or features that convey and make manifest the OUV of a property

Identification and understanding of their interrelationships are crucial to understanding OUV and therefore to ensuring appropriate protection and management mechanisms

II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Identifying attributes

Attributes can be **physical qualities or fabric**, or even the **relationship between them**. Attributes can also be processes impacting on physical qualities, such as natural or agricultural processes, social arrangements or cultural practices that have shaped distinctive landscapes

For **natural properties**, they can include landscape features, habitats, aspects of environmental quality (such as intactness, high/pristine environmental quality), scale and naturalness of habitats, and size and viability of wildlife populations



© takawildcats/Shutterstock, Los Glaciares National Park (Argentina)

II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Attributes in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire: SII, Q3.2

Question 3.2

✓ Not completed

[Guidance](#)

[Reset](#)

Please list the key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of your property and give an assessment of their condition. As a guideline, it is suggested to focus on approximately five key attributes (no more than 15 overall).

	Brief identification of attribute	Preserved	Compromised	Seriously compromised	Lost
3.2.1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.2.2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.2.3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.2.4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.2.5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.2.6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.2.7	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Condition of attributes

The condition of the attributes of OUV is a good guide to the **overall state of conservation** of a World Heritage property

The **categories of the condition of the attributes** can be defined as follows:

- **Lost:** loss or alteration to most aspects of this attribute has occurred and has caused a major loss of significance of this attribute
- **Seriously compromised:** loss or alteration of many aspects of this attribute has occurred, which is leading to a significant reduction in the significance of this attribute
- **Compromised:** some loss or alteration of the aspects of this attribute has already occurred, but their overall condition is not causing persistent or substantial effects to this attribute
- **Preserved:** this attribute is essentially intact, and its overall condition is stable or improving. Available evidence indicates only minor, if any, disturbances, to this attribute

Source: Presentation by Jon Day – ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (Bonn, 2015)



II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Attributes in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire: SII, Q4.18

Question 4.18.1

✓ Not completed

[Guidance](#)

[Reset](#)

Please predict what the state of conservation of each attribute will be approximately 6 years from now (at the time of the next cycle of Periodic Reporting)

	Attribute	Preserved	Compromised	Seriously compromised	Lost
4.18.1.1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.18.1.2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.18.1.3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.18.1.4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.18.1.5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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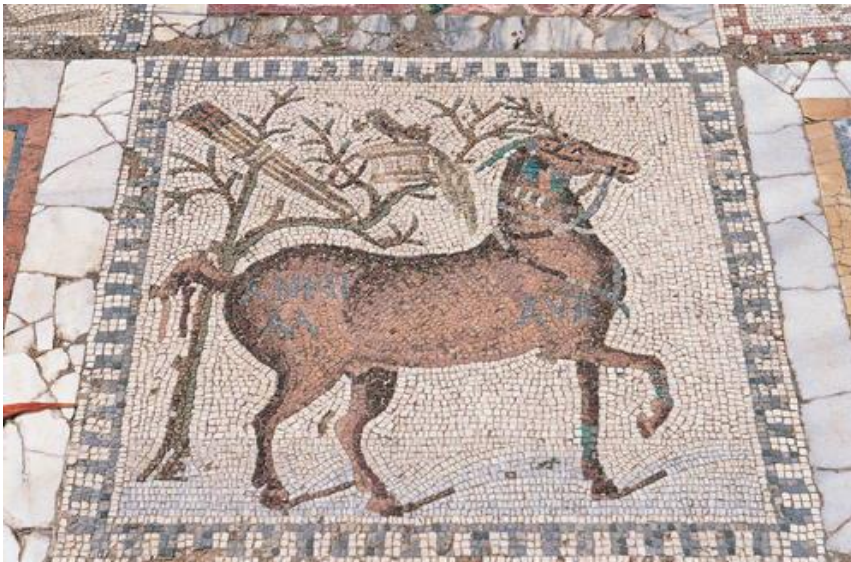
II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Brief synthesis



Example: Archaeological Site of Carthage (Tunisia), 1979

- Founded by the Phoenicians, **Carthage** is an extensive archaeological site, located on a hill dominating the Gulf of Tunis and the surrounding plain. Metropolis of Punic civilization in Africa and capital of the province of Africa in Roman times, Carthage has played a central role in Antiquity as a great commercial empire. During the lengthy Punic wars, Carthage occupied the territories that belonged to Rome, which then destroyed its rival in 146 AD. The town was rebuilt by the Romans on the ruins of the ancient city
- **Exceptional place of mixing, diffusion and blossoming of several cultures that succeeded one another** (Phoenico-Punic, Roman, Paleochristian and Arab), this metropolis and its ports have encouraged wide-scale exchanges in the Mediterranean. Founded at the end of the 9th century BC by Elyssa-Dido and having sheltered the mythical love of Dido and Aeneas, Carthage produced a warrior and strategy genius in the person of Hannibal, the navigator-explorer Hannon, and a famous agronomist, Magon. Carthage has always nourished universal imagination through its historic and literary renown
- The property comprises the **vestiges of Punic, Roman, Vandal, Paleochristian and Arab presence**. The major known components of the site of Carthage are the acropolis of Byrsa, the Punic ports, the Punic tophet, the necropolises, theatre, amphitheatre, circus, residential area, basilicas, the Antonin baths, Malaga cisterns and the archaeological reserve



II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Format of RSOUV: Justification of criteria

Example: Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda), 1994

- **Criterion (vii):** The Rwenzoris are the legendary “Mountains of the moon”, a reflection of the mist-shrouded mountains of this rugged massif that tower almost 4,000 m above the Albertine Rift Valley, making them visible from great distances. These mountains offer a **unique and pristine landscape of alpine vegetation** studded with **charismatic giant lobelias, groundsels, and heathers** which have been called “Africa’s botanical big game”. The **combination of spectacular snow-capped peaks, glaciers, V-shaped valleys, fast flowing rivers with magnificent waterfalls, clear blue lakes and unique flora** contributes to the **area’s exceptional natural beauty**

- Check whether **criteria statements were adopted by the World Heritage Committee at the moment of inscription**: if so, they cannot be modified (new text can be added – but these additions need to refer to what the property was inscribed for)
- Use **criteria definitions** in force at the time of the inscription
- Present the **attributes per criterion**
- Do **not add new criteria**



II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Format of RSOUV: Integrity

Integrity

The concept of integrity is described in the *Operational Guidelines* paragraphs 87-95. Integrity applies to **both natural and cultural properties** and is defined as a **measure of the completeness or intactness of the attributes that convey OUV**

According to the handbook *Preparing World Heritage Nominations*, the key words to understanding integrity are (...):

- **Wholeness**: all the necessary attributes are within the property;
- **Intactness**: all the necessary attributes are still present – none are lost or have been significantly damaged or have decayed;
- **Absence of threats**: none of the attributes are threatened by development, deterioration or neglect.”

For example, a property whose scenic value depends on a waterfall, would meet the condition of integrity if it includes adjacent catchment and downstream areas that are integrally linked to the maintenance of the aesthetic qualities of the property (*Operational Guidelines*, paragraph 92). “

- Are all the identified attributes **included within the boundaries** of the property?
- Is the size of the boundaries **adequate to reflect the OUV**?
- Is any of the identified attributes **endangered**?
- Is the property **vulnerable**?

Source: [The World Heritage Resource Manual Preparing World Heritage Nominations](#) (2nd edition, UNESCO 2011)

II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Format of RSOUV: Integrity



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Example: Khangchendzonga National Park (India), 2016

- Khangchendzonga National Park has an adequate size to sustain the **complete representation of its Outstanding Universal Value**. The Park was established in 1977 and later **expanded** in 1997 to include the major mountains and the glaciers and additional lowland forests. The more than doubling in size also accommodated the larger ranges of seasonally migrating animals
- The property comprises some 178,400 ha with a buffer zone of some 114 712 ha included within the larger Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve which overlays the property. The property encompasses a **unique mountain system comprising of peaks, glaciers, lakes, rivers** and an entire range of **ecologically-linked biological elements**, which ensures the sustainability of **unique mountain ecosystem functions**
- The **key human-made features** that shape the sacred geography embedded in the Sikkimese belief systems, are included in the property

II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Format of RSOUV: Authenticity

Authenticity

- Authenticity **only applies to cultural properties** and to the cultural aspects of ‘mixed’ properties. Authenticity can be seen as the link between attributes and OUV
 - According to paragraph 82 of the *Operational Guidelines*, a World Heritage property “may be understood to meet the conditions of authenticity if their cultural values (as recognised in the nomination criteria proposed) are **truthfully and credibly expressed through a variety of attributes including:**
 - form and design;
 - materials and substance;
 - use and function;
 - traditions, techniques and management systems;
 - location and setting;
 - language and other forms of intangible heritage;
 - spirit and feeling; and
 - other internal/external factors.”
 - The concept of authenticity is described in the *Operational Guidelines* paragraphs 79-86
 - A comprehensive definition of authenticity in relation to cultural heritage is contained in the **Nara Document on Authenticity** which was drafted in 1994 in Nara, Japan
- Do the attributes **well reflect the OUV** of the property?
 - Do the restorations **undertaken affect the OUV** of the property?
 - Are the **materials used for the restorations** the same as the original ones?
 - Does the property **still play its original function**?

Source: [The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#), UNESCO



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II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Format of RSOUV: Authenticity

Example: Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru), 1986

- In terms of its form and design, the **archaeological site still expresses truthfully the essence of the monumental urban landscape** of the former Chimú capital
- Also, the **hierarchical arrangements reflecting the high political, social, technological, ideological and economic complexity** attained by Chimú society between the ninth and fifteenth centuries **are still clearly to be discerned**
- The original earthen architecture with its religious feature and decorations, although subject to decay, **is undergoing conservation interventions using earthen materials and still truthfully represents the construction methods and the spirit** of the Chimú people



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II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Format of RSOUV: Protection and management



A good example: Aldabra Atoll (Seychelles), 1982

- The property is legally **protected under national legislation and is managed by a public trust**, the Seychelles Islands Foundation, with daily operations guided by a management plan
 - **Boundaries are ecologically viable** but the **extension** of the seaward boundary some 20 km into the sea would provide additional protection to the marine fauna
 - While the remoteness of the property has limited human interference, thus contributing for the protection of the biological and ecological processes, it also poses **tremendous logistical challenges**
 - **Tourism is limited and carefully controlled.** Whilst the property displays an almost intact ecosystem, protection and management need to address the constant threats posed by invasive alien species, climate change and oil spills, particularly in the event that oil exploration increases in the wider region
- Summarize in one or two phrases the **overall legal framework and management system** concerning the property
 - **Do not put a long list of law articles**
 - Present the **long-term expectations** for the **effective conservation** of the property
 - **Propose solutions to address the threats** identified in the integrity/ authenticity paragraphs

II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Review process of RSOUV

The **State Party**, using the official sources linked to the inscription of the concerned property (World Heritage Committee Decision, Advisory Bodies Evaluation and original Nomination file) prepares a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

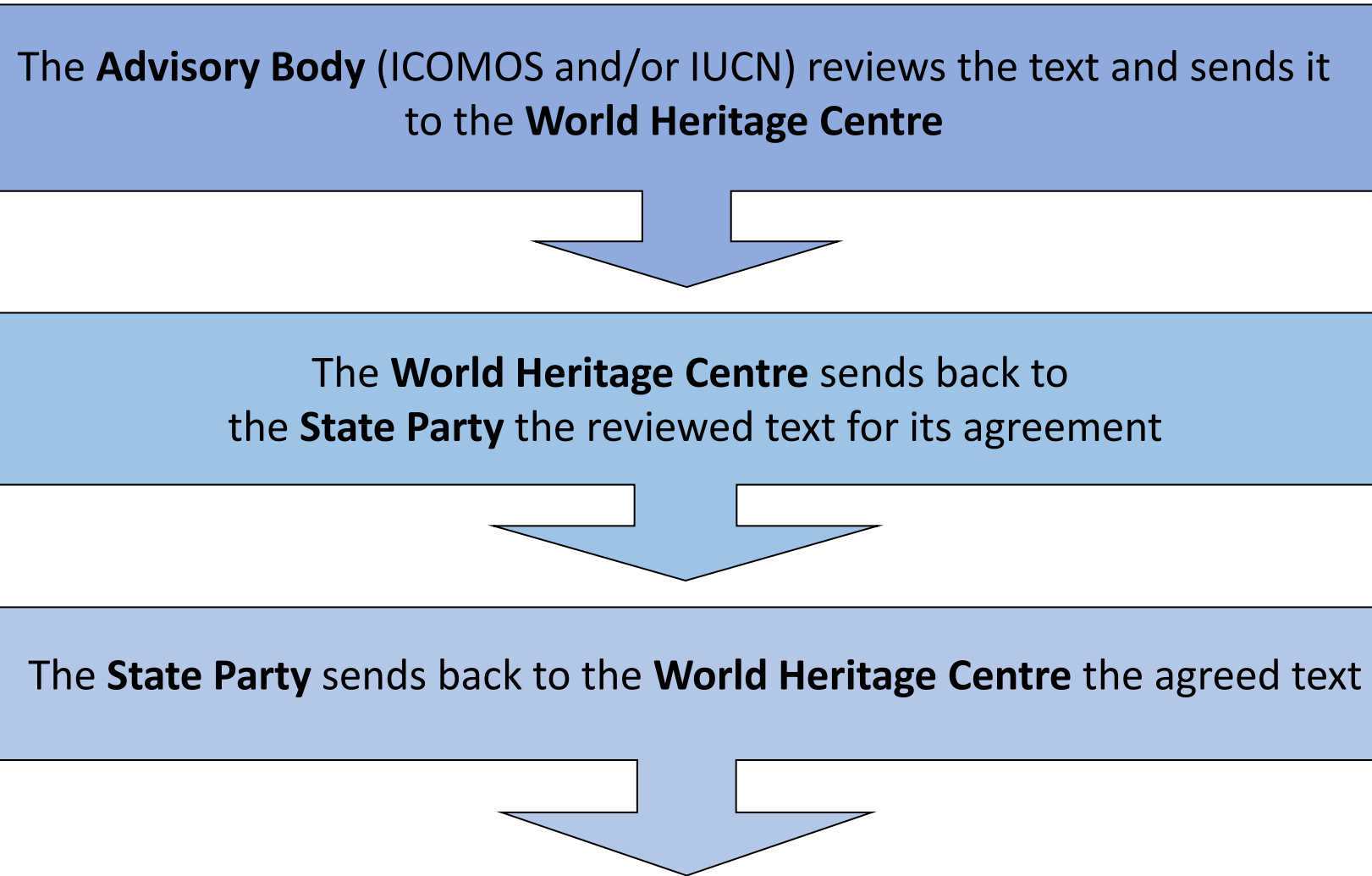
The **State Party** submits officially the Statement of OUV to the **World Heritage Centre**

The **World Heritage Centre** checks for completeness and transmits the received Statement to the relevant **Advisory Body** (ICOMOS and/or IUCN)



II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

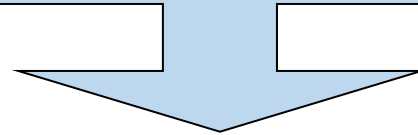
Review process of RSOUV



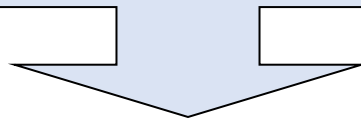
II. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Review process of RSOUV

World Heritage Centre inserts the proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value in a working document for the Committee



The **World Heritage Committee** adopts the Statement of OUV



World Heritage Centre publishes the Statement of OUV on the webpage of the relevant property, on the World Heritage Centre's website



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