

3 Understanding management in the World Heritage context

Extract from the *Operational Guidelines*

77 The Committee considers a property as having Outstanding Universal Value (see paragraphs 49-53) 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 ongoing 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.

GOOD TIPS

Section 3.1 b of the nomination format (OG Annex 5) provides space to describe in detail the applicable criteria for a given property. It can be a lengthy description but it is important to describe the values that are of outstanding nature (i.e. OUV), based on one or more of the above criteria, and to identify the attributes that carry those values. Identification of attributes, both tangible and intangible, that convey the OUV is important for the management of the property. Helpful guidance to understand and describe attributes is provided in the *Nomination Manual*. Further guidance on writing criteria can be found there.

GOOD TIPS

Understanding attributes: extract from the Resource Manual *Preparing World Heritage Nominations*

Attributes are aspects of a property which are associated with or express the Outstanding Universal Value. Attributes can be tangible or intangible. The *Operational Guidelines* indicate a range of types of attribute which might convey Outstanding Universal Value, including:

- form and design;
- materials and substance;
- use and function;
- traditions, techniques and management systems;