

- location and setting;
- language, and other forms of intangible heritage; and
- spirit and feeling (Paragraph 82).

This list is for guidance. It is essential that the attributes identified for a property should flow from the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value 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.

Identifying attributes and features

World Heritage properties are places that convey their Outstanding Universal Value. Cultural value may relate to intangible qualities such as social structure, economic needs and political context, in space as well as time. It may relate to famous events, persons or works of art, literature, science or music. However, the World Heritage Convention is a property based convention – properties themselves are inscribed on the List, not ideas or people as such, however great their global influence. Listed properties are required to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value through their attributes.

Having considered what the potential Outstanding Universal Value of a natural or cultural property might be, it is essential to consider the attributes, more commonly called features for natural properties, which convey that value and allow an understanding of it.

These attributes will be the focus of protection and management actions, and institutional arrangements, and their disposition will inform the boundary of the property.

Attributes might be physical qualities or fabric but can also be processes associated with a property that impact on physical qualities, such as natural or agricultural processes, social arrangements or cultural practices that have shaped distinctive landscapes. For natural properties they can be specific landscape features, areas of habitat, aspects relating to environmental quality (such as intactness, high / pristine environmental quality), scale and naturalness of habitats, and size and viability of wildlife populations.

A useful technique for complex properties, and in particular cultural properties, with a complex layering of attributes is to map the important attributes and the values they convey. This mapping can assist with understanding the relationship between attributes, but it can also highlight conflicts or management issues, and it is essential for the delineation of boundaries.

(World Heritage Resource Manual Preparing World Heritage Nominations – 2010)

Integrity

Another condition that must be met and that has implications for management is integrity. Integrity is about the completeness of the site and is primarily concerned with (OG para 88):

- boundaries – does the property contain all the attributes to sustain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?
- completeness – is the property of adequate size to ensure the complete presentation of the processes and features that convey its significance?
- state of conservation – are the attributes conveying Outstanding Universal Value at risk from neglect or decay?