

3 Understanding management in the World Heritage context

GOOD TIPS

Section 3.1 c of the nomination format (OG Annex 5) provides the space to write the Statement of Integrity. Further guidance on assessing integrity can be found in the *Operational Guidelines* and the *Nomination Manual*, as can specific guidance on writing the Statement of Integrity for the property.

Authenticity

Authenticity is the other key concept that has implications for management. It refers to the truthfulness or the credibility of attributes that reflect the OUV. For this reason, the OG mention that the properties nominated under criteria (i) to (vi) must meet the conditions of authenticity. OG paragraphs 79-86 and Annex 4, which includes the text of the Nara Document on Authenticity, provide a practical basis for examining the authenticity of properties. The *Preparing World Heritage Nominations* Resource Manual also offers guidance.

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Extracts from World Heritage documents regarding authenticity

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.

(OG para 82)

For each property the attributes that have been identified as conveying the potential Outstanding Universal Value should be considered for the way they might be said to 'truthfully' convey or express that value. For example, for an urban area it might be appropriate to consider structures, spatial plans, as well as traditions and socio-economic-environmental structures of the living communities that populate the property, and which allow it to express its value.

Authenticity is therefore a measure of how well attributes convey potential Outstanding Universal Value. Authenticity can be compromised if the attributes are weak – communities cease to thrive, buildings collapse, traditions disappear, and so on.

In the case of archaeological sites, authenticity is judged according to the ability of the archaeological remains to truthfully convey their meaning. In many cases, conjectural reconstruction might hinder this process and compromise authenticity. Similarly, while reconstruction of incomplete buildings and structures can be justified in some circumstances, this can also impact on their ability to truthfully convey meaning.

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

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Section 3.1 d of the nomination format (OG Annex 5) provides a space for writing the Statement of Authenticity. Specific guidance on writing the Statement of Authenticity for the property can also be found in the *Nomination Manual*.