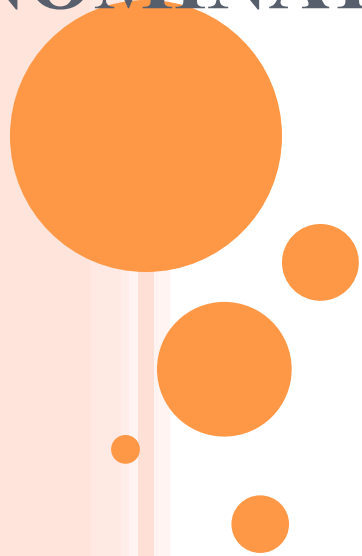


# PREPARING WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATIONS



# Introduction

- ❑ Preparing a World Heritage nomination can be one of the most satisfying and rewarding of experiences for those involved. The preparation of a nomination provides a chance to:
  - understand and present a property to the international community;
  - critically review the known values of a property and assess its relationship to global natural and cultural themes – to locate the property in the broad sweep of natural history, human history, culture and development;
  - compare the property on an international level with other potentially similar properties;
  - test, challenge and improve the adequacy of the property's protection, conservation and management, including the protection of its setting;
  - engage and support communities and stakeholders in the protection, conservation and management of a property; and
  - recognize the range of interests in a property, sometimes including conflicting interests, and seek ways of effectively addressing the various interests



## **Some possible benefits from World Heritage status are:**

- providing an opportunity for the State Party and for the local community to celebrate the property as one of the most important natural and cultural places on Earth;
- the property often becomes a flagship for the national protected area / site system, including a deeper recognition and better protection for heritage in the life of the community
- international interest in World Heritage often provides a stimulus for international cooperation and joint efforts to ensure the protection of the property;
- providing opportunities to mobilize funding and support, including from donors, and the World Heritage Fund; and
- providing techniques and practices for protection, conservation and management that can be applied to national and local heritage properties.



- Developing a World Heritage nomination involves a journey that takes time and effort.
- Preparing a nomination usually involves at least two years' work – sometimes many years. Being well prepared and organized for developing a nomination will keep this time and effort to a minimum
- The character of the nominated property can also influence the time and effort required. For example, a well-researched cultural monument or site can require a much less complicated and less time-consuming nomination process than, for example, a large multi-use natural property, a historic town, a cultural landscape or a cultural route.



### *Timing to prepare a nomination*

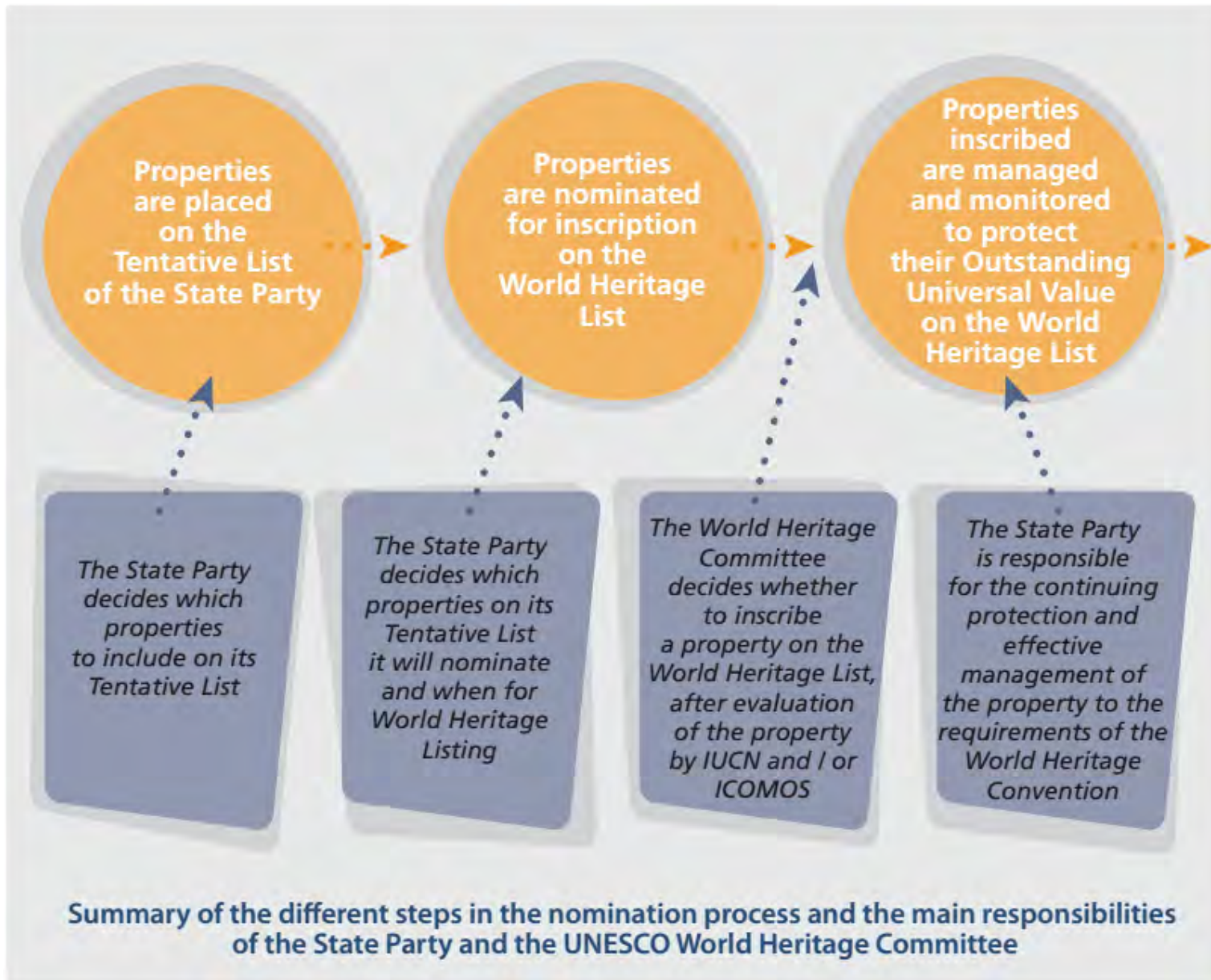
*Canal du Midi (France) – This property was inscribed in 1996 after a two-year process to prepare the nomination. The short timeframe is a considerable achievement given the long length of the property (360 km) and large number of communities involved. Elements which were important in achieving a relatively short timeframe included:*

- *the quick establishment of an effective steering committee and scientific committee;*
- *committee members were intellectually and practically ready and able to develop the nomination;*
- *the various communities fully supported the nomination;*
- *funding for preparing the nomination was quickly arranged;*
- *the local offices of national ministries contributed fully and effectively;*
- *an effective coordinator was appointed and accepted by the many stakeholders;*
- *good basic information was readily available at the start of the process;*
- *drafting the nomination was collectively understood as an intellectual exercise aiming at excellence, not as a bureaucratic task of completing a form; and*
- *the various government agencies worked cooperatively and effectively in favour of the nomination.*





# OVERVIEW OF THE WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION PROCESS



- States Parties should submit Tentative Lists to the World Heritage Centre, at least one year prior to the submission of any nomination.

### *Why are Tentative Lists important?*

*The World Heritage Committee cannot consider a nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List unless the property has already been included on the State Party's Tentative List.*

- *They allow for preliminary consultation, collaboration and agreement in relation to properties with potential for World Heritage status among relevant stakeholders, including federal, national, regional and local governments, property owners and/or managers, local communities, the private sector and NGOs such as the local committees / representatives of ICOMOS and IUCN. This process might usefully include a study or studies involving such stakeholders.*
- *They help States Parties to carry out preliminary studies to identify natural and cultural heritage properties of potential global importance.*
- *They help States Parties to identify needs in management and measures for protection, allowing for input from natural and cultural heritage experts where necessary.*
- *They are useful planning tools for the States Parties, the World Heritage Committee, World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to indicate future potential nominations.*
- *They are a useful resource in undertaking a comparative analysis as part of the process to develop a nomination.*

# ILLUSTRATIONS OF WORLD HERITAGE CONCEPTS

- **CULTURAL HERITAGE**

- The World Heritage Convention defines cultural heritage as:
- **monuments:** architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of history, art or science;



Hiroshima Peace Memorial  
(Genbaku Dome) (Japan)



Minaret and Archaeological Remains  
of Jam (Afghanistan)



- **groups of buildings:** groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of history, art or science;



Old Town of Lijiang (China)



Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen (Germany)

prepared by Meseret T.

© Heike Oevermann

© Fiona Starr

- **sites:** works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of Outstanding Universal Value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view



Sukur Cultural Landscape (Nigeria)



Botanical Garden (Orto Botanico),  
Padua (Italy)

## ○ NATURAL HERITAGE

- The World Heritage Convention defines natural heritage as:
- natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of Outstanding Universal Value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;
- geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation;
- natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty



© UNESCO/Ian Redmond

Virunga National Park  
(Democratic Republic of the Congo)



© UNESCO/Yves Lefèvre

Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary  
(Colombia)



- **MIXED PROPERTIES**

- The Operational Guidelines define mixed properties as those which satisfy part or the whole of the definitions of both cultural and natural heritage
- Examples of listed mixed properties



© UNESCO/Bousquet

Tassili N'Ajjer(Algeria)



© B. Doucin/Lalaité

Tikal National Park(Guatemala)



- CULTURAL LANDSCAPES
- The Operational Guidelines define cultural landscapes as cultural properties which represent the 'combined works of nature and of man'
- There are three main types of cultural landscape:
  1. landscapes designed and created intentionally by people;
  2. organically evolved landscapes; and
  3. associative landscapes



- A designed landscape: Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic)



© UNESCO / Feng Jing



prepared by Meseret IT

© UNESCO / R. Engelhardt

- An organically evolved landscape: Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras(Philippines)



### **Mixed properties**

Meet at least  
one cultural  
and one  
natural criterion

•  
•  
•

### **Natural properties**

Properties in this

# KEY CONCEPTS

- **OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE (OUV)** is:
  - the main focus of the nomination;
  - what is evaluated;
  - why a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List; and
  - what needs to be sustained through protection, conservation and management.





# KEY CONCEPTS

## ○ **ATTRIBUTES OR FEATURES**

Attributes are aspects of a property which are associated with or express the Outstanding Universal Value. Attributes can be tangible or intangible.

- 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



# KEY CONCEPTS

## ○ ATTRIBUTES OR FEATURES

**For natural properties, it is more common to speak of 'features', although the word attributes is sometimes used. 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 of populations of rare species; and
- rarity



# WORLD HERITAGE CRITERIA

1. represent a masterpiece of human creative genius
2. 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
3. bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared
4. be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history
5. 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

# WORLD HERITAGE CRITERIA

6. 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.)
7. contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance
8. be outstanding examples representing major stages of Earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features
9. 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
10. 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





# DEFINING AND UNDERSTANDING THE PROPERTY

- Identifying and defining potential Outstanding Universal Value

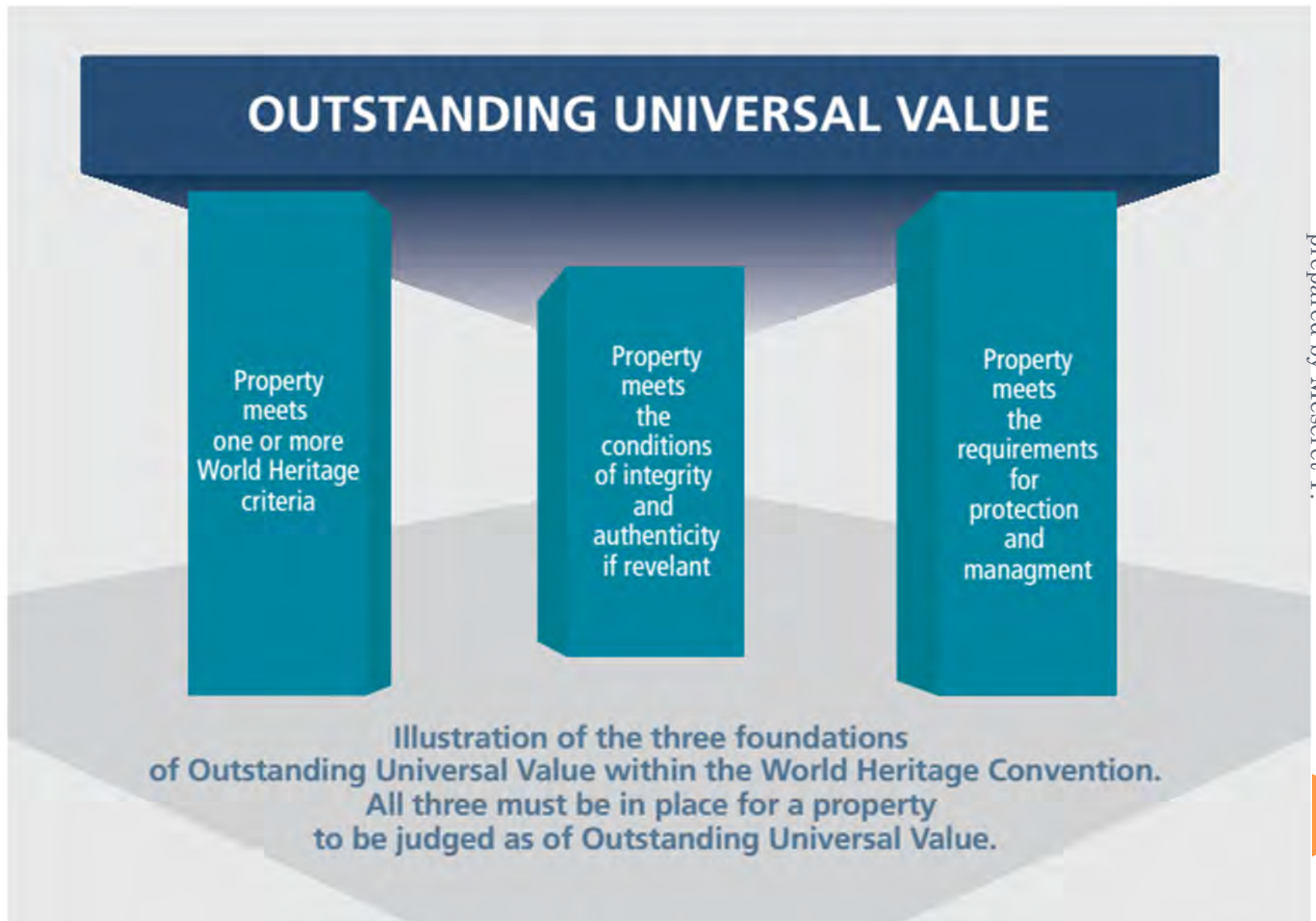
□



Impossibile visualizzare l'immagine. La memoria del computer potrebbe essere insufficiente per aprire l'immagine oppure l'immagine potrebbe essere danneggiata. Riavviare il computer e aprire di nuovo il file. Se viene visualizzata di nuovo la x rossa, potrebbe essere necessario eliminare l'immagine e inserirla di nuovo.



# DEFINING AND UNDERSTANDING THE PROPERTY



# DEFINING AND UNDERSTANDING THE PROPERTY

□



Impossibile visualizzare l'immagine. La memoria del computer potrebbe essere insufficiente per aprire l'immagine oppure l'immagine potrebbe essere danneggiata. Riavviare il computer e aprire di nuovo il file. Se viene visualizzata di nuovo la x rossa, potrebbe essere necessario eliminare l'immagine e inserirla di nuovo.

prepared by Meseret T.



- Identifying attributes and features
- Checking potential Outstanding Universal Value against World Heritage criteria and identifying appropriate criteria
- Assessing authenticity The Operational Guidelines suggest that the following types of attribute might be considered as conveying or expressing Outstanding Universal Value:
  - 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



## ***Authenticity and integrity for cultural properties***

### ***Aflaj Irrigation Systems of Oman (Oman)***

*The collection of aflaj irrigation systems represents some 3,000 still-functioning systems in Oman. Ancient engineering technologies demonstrate long-standing, sustainable use of water resources for the cultivation of palms and other produce in extremely arid desert lands. Such systems reflect the former total dependence of communities on this irrigation and a time-honoured, fair and effective management and sharing of water resources, underpinned by mutual dependence and communal values.*

*Initially, only a portion of each aflaj system was nominated – from the mother well to the shari'a. Those parts of the system in the settlements, serving the needs of the community through the provision of water for cooking, washing and agriculture, were added to the nomination and the property now reflects the integrity of the whole aflaj system.*



prepared by Meseret T.



### ● ● ● *Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (Japan)*

*The level of authenticity of the various properties included in the property is high. Japanese conservation principles have ensured that replacement of damaged or degraded architectural elements has respected the materials and techniques used by the original builders.*

*There has been some in situ reconstruction on the Nara Palace Site. The continuity of traditional architecture in Japan and the substantial amount of data recovered by archaeological excavation has ensured that the reconstructed buildings have a high level of authenticity in design and materials.*

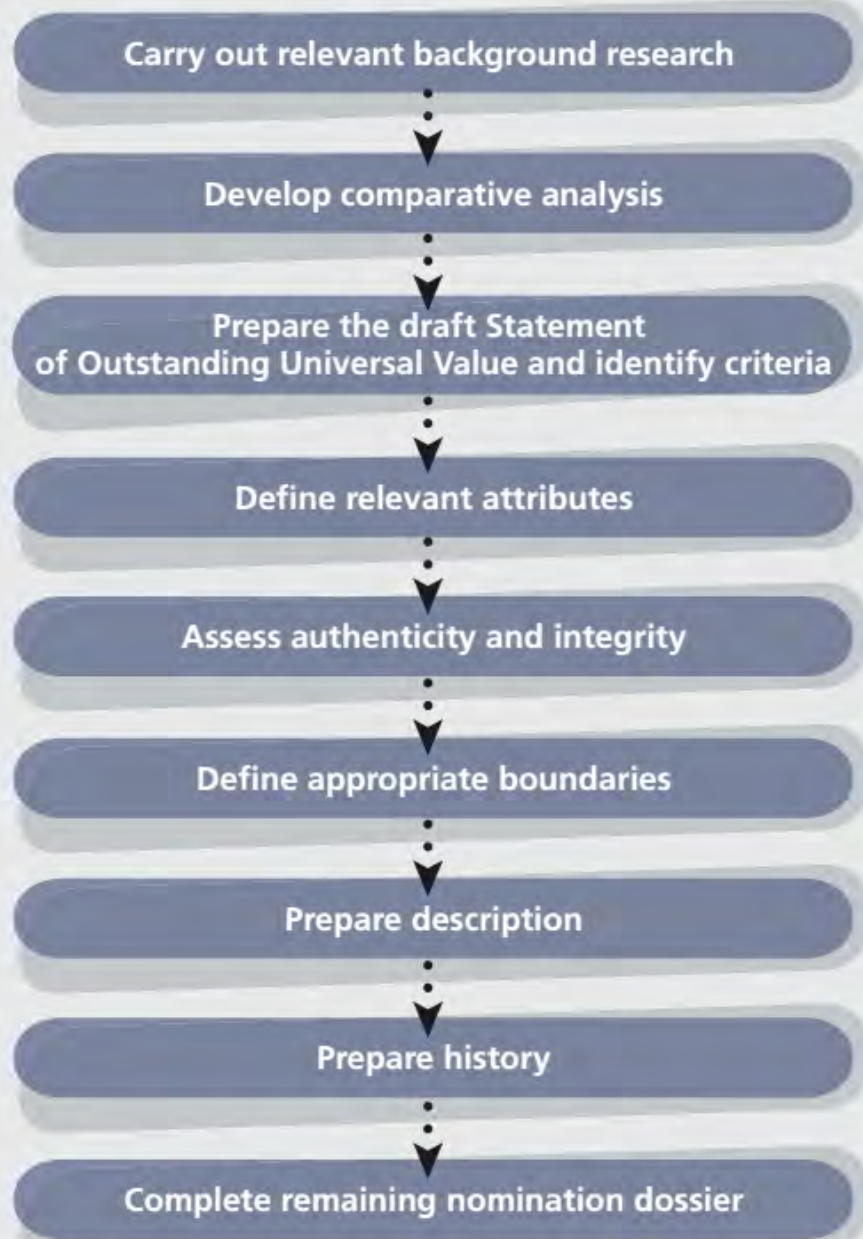
*The same assessment applies to the garden reconstructions. The only reconstruction that might be considered to involve a significant element of conjecture is that of the Suzaku (south gate). Much of the constructional and decorative details depend upon archaeological evidence and that from surviving structures from the same period elsewhere.*



prepared by Meseret T.

# PREPARING THE NOMINATION FILE

## Basic outline of the suggested sequence for preparing a nomination



prepared by Meseret T.