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PREPARING WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATIONS

ICOMOS PERSPECTIVE



ICOMOS

International Council of Monuments and Sites

- International organization of heritage professionals
- National committees: Australia ICOMOS, US ICOMOS, ICOMOS Pasifika
- **Advisory Body** to the World Heritage Committee
- **Evaluates** World Heritage nominations and State of Conservation
- **Provides guidance** for World Heritage nominations, management and conservation



Shared Cultures – Shared Heritage – Shared Responsibility

ICOMOS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SYDNEY, 2020

[HTTP://ICOMOSGA2020.ORG/](http://icomosga2020.org/)



PREPARING WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATIONS



KEY ELEMENTS

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Nomination Format

1. Identification of the Property
2. Description and History and Development of the Property
3. Justification for Inscription
4. State of Conservation
5. Protection and Management of the Property
6. Monitoring
7. Documentation

WHC.19/01
10 July 2019

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE



WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>

OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE



Taputapuatea
French Polynesia (2016)



TEN WORLD HERITAGE CRITERIA

SIX ARE FOR CULTURAL SITES AND VALUES

CULTURAL CRITERIA

- (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.

OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

Chief Roi Mata's Domain, Vanuatu (2008)
(iii) (v) (vi)



Kuk Early Agricultural Site PNG (2008)
(iii) (iv)



OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of
Eastern Micronesia, FSM (2014)
(i) (iii) (iv) (vi)



Rock Islands Southern Lagoon,
Palau (2012)
(iii) (v) (vii) (ix) (x)

IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

Places get put on the World Heritage List

(not stories or histories or events ..)

- Getting people involved: is there support?
- Telling the story: Why is this place important?
- Attributes: Identifying and recording the evidence in the place
- Where is the boundary?
- Looking after the site: How is it looked after? Who is looking after it?
- Developing and writing the nomination: Who can help?

GETTING PEOPLE INVOLVED



*Who needs to be involved?
Who needs to be consulted?
What do they need to know?*

'Free Prior and Informed Consent'

TELLING THE STORY – WHY IS THIS PLACE IMPORTANT?



*Why is it important to a community?
Why is it important to a region?
Why is it important to the world?
What big story does this place tell?*



ICOMOS 'Thematic Studies' for World Heritage values

CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL
DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

World Heritage Convention

Cultural Landscapes of the Pacific Islands



ICOMOS Thematic study

Anita Smith and Kevin L. Jones

December 2007



ICOMOS
International Council on Monuments and Sites

Early Human Expansion and Innovation in the Pacific

Thematic Study
Ian Lilley (co-ordinator)

December 2010



<https://www.icomos.org/en/about-the-centre/publicationsdoc/monographic-series-3/198-thematic-studies-for-the-world-heritage-convention>

IDENTIFYING AND RECORDING THE EVIDENCE (ATTRIBUTES)



Documenting specific tangible and intangible evidence of the values or story you are telling.

This can be a lot of work!

BOUNDARIES (AND BUFFER ZONES)



How big does the nominated place need to be?

Who owns the land?

Is a larger area needed to protect the values of the place?

HOW WILL THE SITE BE LOOKED AFTER? THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

What needs to be protected and looked after?

Who looks after the place?

How do they look after the place?

What is the customary protection?

Is there legal protection?



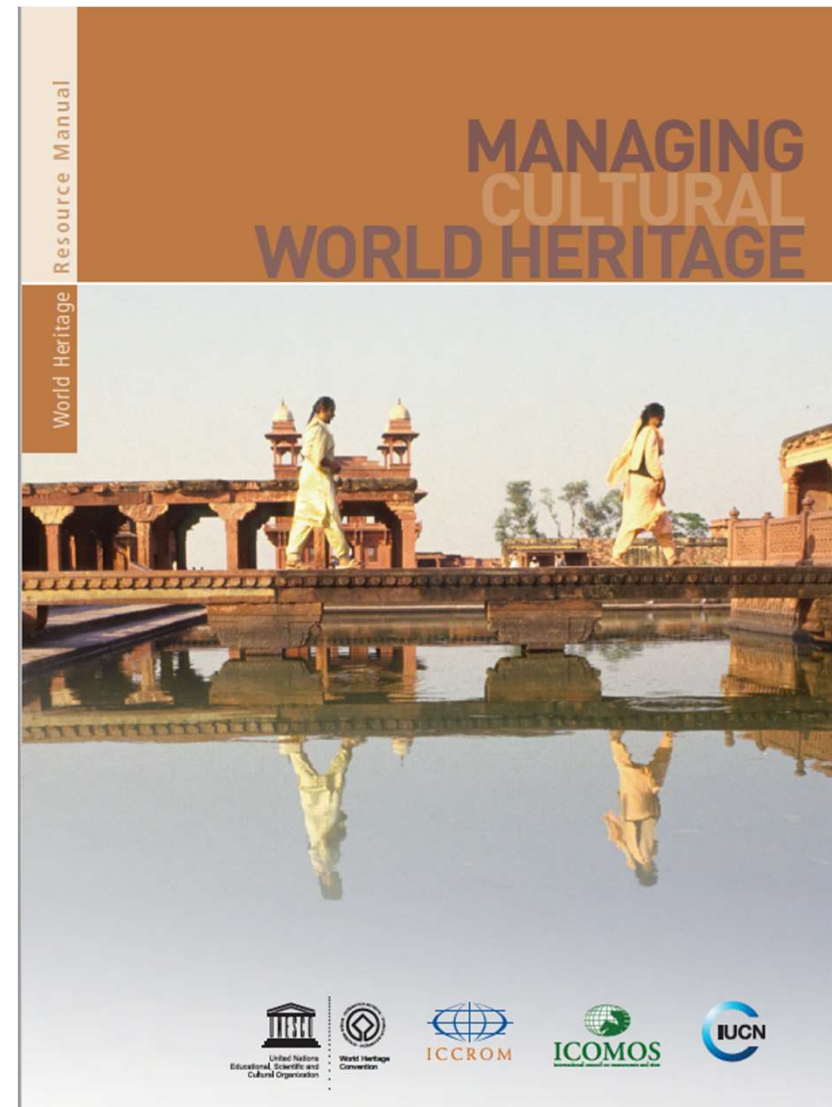
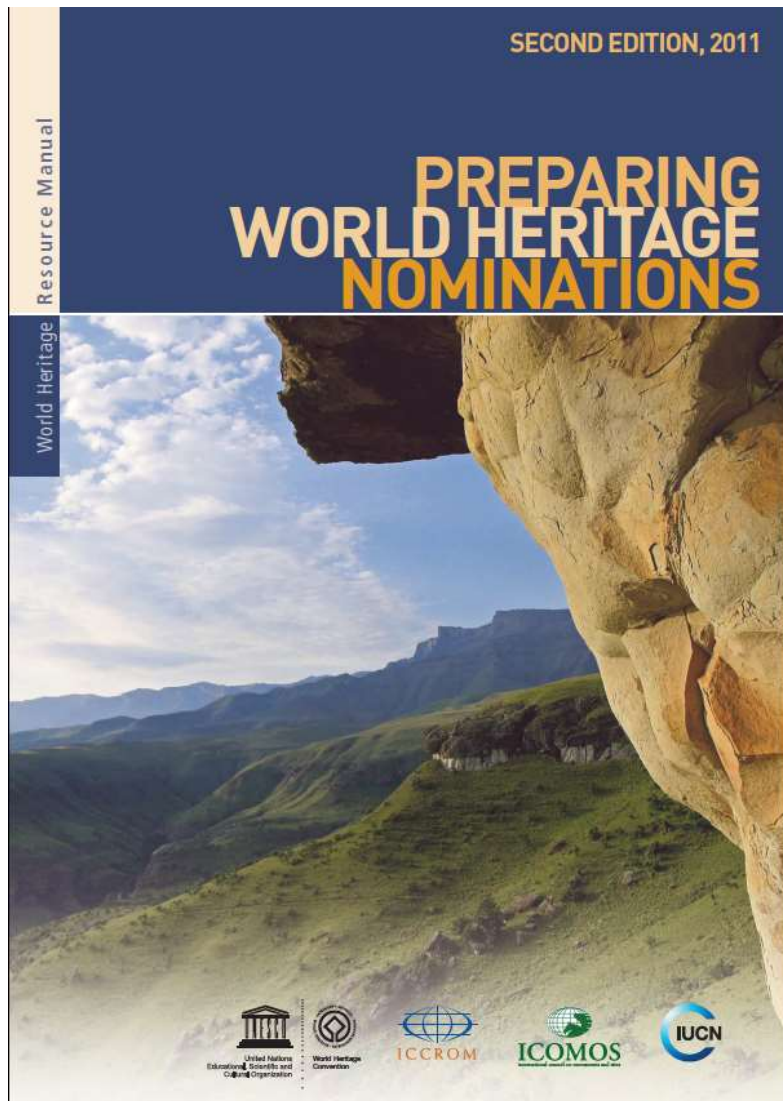
WRITING THE NOMINATION: GETTING ASSISTANCE

Nobody does it on their own!

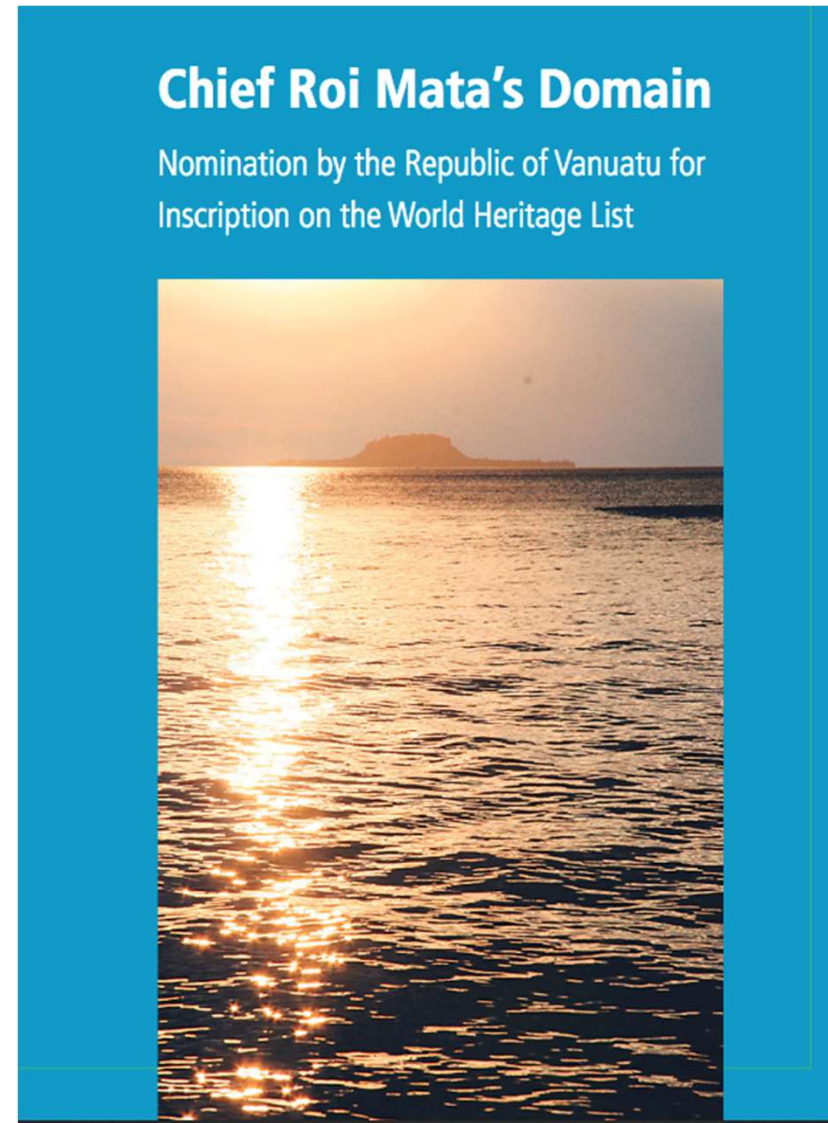
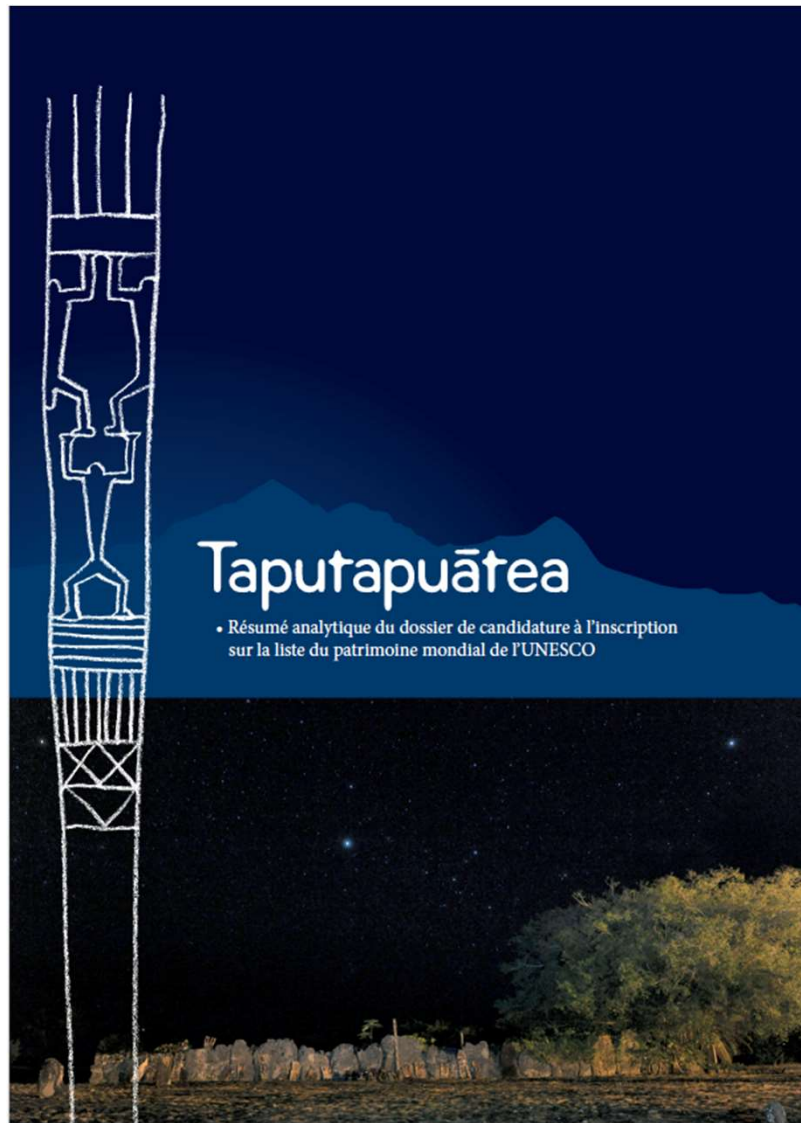
Draw on local resources, government officials, regional organisations (including UNESCO) and outside expertise especially ICOMOS and/or IUCN.

Early in the process, find someone who is experienced in the WH system and the requirements of the Operational Guidelines who will assist in writing or reviewing the nomination.





<http://whc.unesco.org/en/resourcemanuals/>



World Heritage papers **34**



World Heritage in a Sea of Islands
Pacific 2009 Programme



World Heritage papers **38**



Safeguarding Precious Resources
for Island Communities



<http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/>