

Annex D – Singapore’s UNESCO World Heritage Site Bid Process (2010 to September 2014)

1. Site Selection

- a. In 2010, a study was commissioned by then-Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA) to identify sites that would potentially fulfil UNESCO’s criteria as a World Heritage Site (WHS). Targeted consultation was also done with members of the Singapore Heritage Society who consist of academia, heritage advocates and heritage experts.
- b. Of the sites identified, the Singapore Botanic Gardens was considered the one that would stand the best chance for successful inscription. It meets the following UNESCO World Heritage Site listing criteria:
 - a. criterion (ii) – exhibiting an exchange of human values on developments in landscape design, and
 - b. criterion (iv) – outstanding example of landscape which illustrates significant stage in human history

2. Tentative Listing of the Singapore Botanic Gardens

- c. In June 2012, Singapore ratified the World Heritage Convention and in December 2012, submitted its World Heritage Tentative List to UNESCO to indicate interest in inscribing the Singapore Botanic Gardens as a World Heritage Site.

3. Submission of Official Nomination Dossier

- d. To formalise the nomination, Singapore has to submit an official Nomination Dossier, comprising of a Nomination Document and a Site Management Plan, to UNESCO. The former provides supporting evidence on how the Singapore Botanic Gardens fulfils UNESCO’s inscription criteria, while the latter proposes how the Gardens will be managed if successfully inscribed.
- e. Prior to the submission of the Garden’s official Nomination Dossier, the National Heritage Board (NHB) and the National Parks Board (NParks) led a four-month public consultation process for the draft Nomination Document, and subsequently, the draft Site Management Plan. By January 2014, more than 200 feedback submissions were received for both documents, with most participants contributing memories or pledging their support for the bid.
- f. In January 2014, the official Nomination Dossier for the Gardens was submitted to UNESCO. The dossier detailed the Gardens’ historical, economic and socio-cultural importance. It also includes a proposed site management plan, which outlines the nation’s long-term commitment towards the Gardens’ protection, if it is successfully awarded World Heritage status.

4. Evaluation of Singapore Botanic Gardens and its Official Nomination Dossier by ICOMOS

- g. In September 2014, a technical assessor from the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) visited the Gardens as part of the bid evaluation process.