

Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas

(People's Republic of China)

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PART I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

In accordance with the World Heritage Committee's Decision at its 39th Session in Bonn in 2015 (39 COM 7B.9), China has implemented measures to mitigate the Committee's concerns regarding the issues of mining, water infrastructure, electricity network, Strategic Environmental Assessment, apparent decline in wildlife populations and management systems/ management plan in Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas.

Part I of the report focuses on the analysis of contradictions between the characteristics of property and argued local demand of social and economic development. It is that the poor living condition of the local communities is a severe factor that restricting sustainable development of the property.

Part II is the response to the World Heritage Committee's Decision at its 39th Session. The State Party highly identifies with the significance of "authenticity" and "relative integrity" for the property. Responses are given regarding the referred 6 problems. First, the State Party promises that mining activities are not and will not be carried out within the scope of the property and its buffer zone. Moreover, mineral development is not allowed within the area of property and its buffer zone at law level and there are a series of strict management measures for mining rights near but beyond the scope of the property and its buffer zone too. Second, the State Party promises that the existing and planned hydroelectric projects nearby the property will not have direct impact on the OUV of the property; the Environmental Impact Assessment in the watershed shows that the current hydropower development is not located within the scope of property or its buffer zone and it has no direct impact on the OUV of the property; the "west-east power transmission" project concerned by the World Heritage Committee has no direct impact on the property, and the hydropower project is necessary for the State Party according to their national conditions. Third, the State Party promises that no transmission facilities will be installed within the property. Fourth, although there is no similar case for reference due to the wide coverage and complex technology and the fact that current actual operating range exceeded that of normal Strategic Environmental Assessment, the People's Government of Yunnan Province still has made active attempts and obtained preliminary achievements. Fifth, in terms of biodiversity, the State Party agrees with the necessity of biodiversity protection and takes practical actions such as carrying out laws and regulations, scientific research projects and wildlife monitoring plan, and has obtained obvious achievements. At present, the wildlife population is in stable development and the quantity has increased significantly. Sixth, the State Party highly agrees with the significance of Management Effectiveness Assessment (MEA). At present, a series of actions, such as system construction, law and planning construction, community participation and educational display, are adopted to promote the management of heritage site scientifically, comprehensively and efficiently.

PART II. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THREE PARALLEL RIVERS OF YUNNAN PROTECTED AREAS, CHINA

I. General Introduction of the property of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas

(I) Introduction of the property

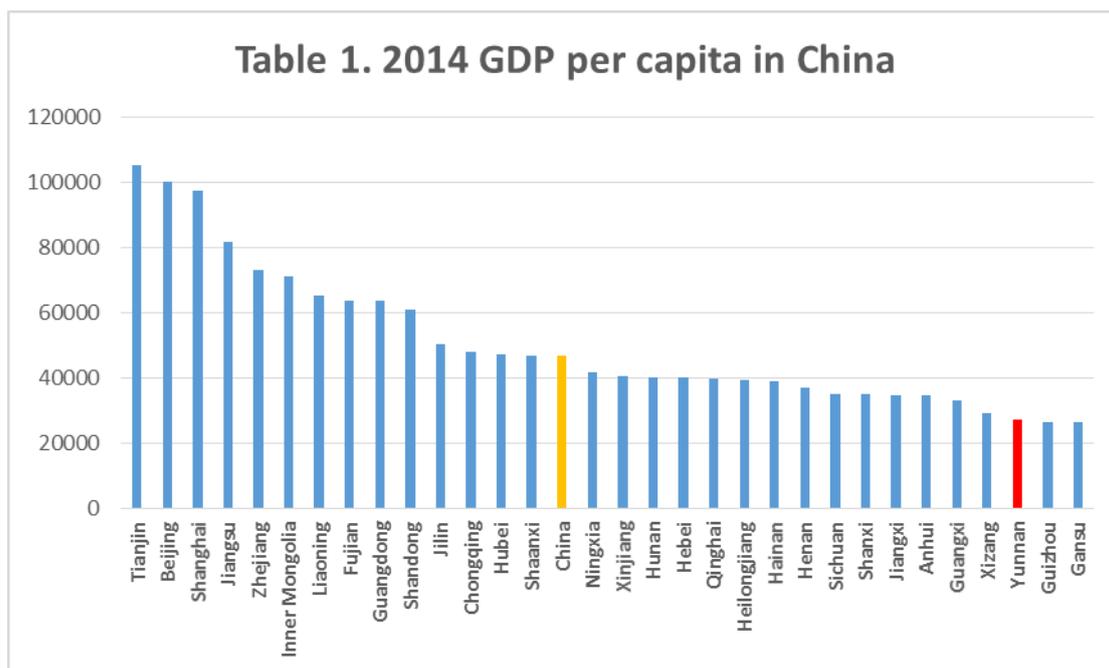
On July 2, 2003, “Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas” was listed in *World Heritage List* by UNESCO as a World Natural Heritage (in accordance with Criterion vii, viii, ix and x). Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas World Natural heritage site (hereinafter referred to as: the property) has features of large scope, high mountains and deep valley, complex topography and huge altitude difference and is composed of eight relatively independent geographical areas (including 5 natural protected areas and 10 historic and scenic areas). It covers a total area of 1.7 million hectares, including 960084 hectares of core areas and 816413 hectares of buffer zone.

(II) Contradictions between the characteristics of the property and local demand of social economic development

The unique landform in the property and its buffer zone is composed due to complicated and special geological evolutionary history, geological landform and geographical environment characteristics. The natural framework constitutes the natural value of the property, but it also restrains the economic and social development of the local communities to some extent. Meanwhile, diverse animals and plants and local communities coexist in the natural framework composed of rivers and mountains, endowing the space different functions. It is the survival and conservation space of precious and rare plants and animals as well as the living and development space of the local communities. The development of the local communities is in the same degree restrained by the conservation requirements of plants, animals and their biodiversity. In recent years, especially since its inscription in the world heritage list, the State Parties has a deeper understanding of outstanding universal value of heritage site and has carried out a series of laws, regulations and measures to restrict economic development activities so as to prevent heritage resources from damaging. In 2010, the Chinese government issued *Planning of National Major Function Oriented Zoning* and Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas was defined as “prohibited development region” with strict protection strategy, by which the poverty in the property was aggravated objectively. On December 6, 2011, the Chinese government issued *National Program for Rural Poverty Alleviation (2011-2020)* and the mountainous border in western Yunnan where the property is located was listed as one of 14 concentrated destitute areas. The contradiction between heritage conservation and development of social and economy development of the local community is becoming more and more prominent.

The property and its buffer zone involves 8 counties or prefecture-level cities under 3 cities or prefectures in Yunnan Province. The property and its buffer zone in Diqing cover a total area of 9109.8km², which accounts for 38.16% of land area of Diqing. It involves 130,000 of population. The property and its buffer zone in Nujiang cover a total area of 6388.64km², which accounts for

43.45% of land area in Nujiang. It involves 17 villages and 10 towns in four counties with 269,000 of population. The property and its buffer zone in Lijiang cover a total area of 1324.77km², which accounts for 6.43% of land area. It involves 5 villages and towns in one county in the whole city, with 4930 of population. From Table 1, it can be seen that GDP per capita in Yunnan Province in 2014 ranks the third lowest in China. And GDP per capita in Lijiang and Nujiang is under the provincial average level in 2014. Only the figure of Diqing is slightly higher than the average level of Yunnan Province. The property and its buffer zone directly relate to the survival issue of over 400,000 people, and the livelihood issues here have seriously concerned by the governments of State Parties.



In recent decades, the understanding of world natural heritage has developed greatly, with protection and management of heritage site being more and more emphasized. In early period, it is thought that natural heritage sites should completely reject any human intervention. However, people have gradually realized that when living standard is too low to afford basic necessities in communities of underdeveloped or developing countries, the conservation objectives of heritage sites cannot be realized. The conservation attitude has changed from passive to active. In terms of participants for heritage conservation, it has also experienced the process from emphasizing the core role of the central government to the integrated action of all government agencies, local communities, non-governmental organizations and private enterprises. It is gradually realized if local communities cannot benefit from conservation, the protection of the property will not be sustainable. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas faces similar challenges for heritage conservation in other poverty-stricken area in the world. If community poverty is not solved while conservation is emphasized unilaterally and mechanically, sustainable development in the heritage site will not be truly realized.

Though the issue is complex due to the wide range of the property, China as a state party has already taken many measures to ensure the conservation of the property, and a number of laws and regulations have been passed too. However, it takes time to resolve all the problems and we hope

for understanding from the World Heritage Committee and also technical support from experts abroad.

II. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

(I) The “Integrity” principle of heritage

“Authenticity” and “integrity” are key principles for the world heritage and important measurements in heritage value. Besides, they must be obeyed during the conservation and management of properties. “Integrity” is mainly used to evaluate natural heritages. Integrity requires the property scope should cover the area that is closely related to the OUV of the nominated property. Just as *Operational Guidelines* indicates, all properties nominated for inscription in the World Heritage List shall satisfy the conditions of integrity, as long as it is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property’s significance. It can be seen that integrity in heritage conservation means relative integrity of heritage value rather than infinite integrity.

Therefore, the States Parties should formulate the management plan, laws, rules and regulations according to *Operational Guidelines*, and take all effective measures to protect the authenticity and relative integrity within the scope of commitments (core zone and buffer zone). Whereas, beyond the scope of commitments, if authenticity and relative integrity of the property are not directly affected, the continuing growth of the economy and people's livelihood are inevitable concerns for all States Parties.

China, as a State Party for *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, will undoubtedly protect the “authenticity” and relative “integrity” of the properties as other States Parties do. China will protect the heritage site and coordinate social and economic development with the reference to international customs and international practice: we will protect the “authenticity” and relative “integrity” of the properties within the scope of commitments (core zone and buffer zone) for *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, and beyond the scope of commitments, as long as the authenticity and relative integrity of the property are not being directly affected, proper social economic activities are allowed to be conducted.

Since “Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas” was successively listed as the world cultural heritage in 2003, China, as a responsible State Party has invested lots of human, materials and financial resources into the conservation and management of the property according to the requirements of World Heritage Committee.

It cannot be ignored that the property is located in to poverty-stricken area and there are hundreds of thousands of people living below the poverty line. Protecting the resources within the area of property and its buffer zone while using the resources beyond the scope of the property and its buffer zone scientifically and rationally is an important way for local communities to overcome poverty and achieve prosperity, to achieve social and economic development and to fulfill the regional basin ecological environmental protection. During the developing process, Chinese government at all levels have been and will try to protect and manage the property through overall

planning and scientific investigation according to the relevant laws and regulations. Besides, Chinese government departments will handle the harmonious coexistence relationship between development and nature.

(II) Response

With reference to the opinions and decisions of the World Heritage Committee, China, as a State Party, will adhere to the conservation of the properties. Particularly, China will control and manage the mining projects, actively carry out hydroelectric project planning and environmental impact evaluations, make clear the construction of electric transmission lines and conduct Strategic Environmental Assessment, maintain and monitor biodiversity and improve management and conservation capacity for the properties. Under conditions of heritage value not being directly affected, China will scientifically and rationally conduct social economic development beyond the scope of the property and its buffer zone to improve the living standard of people in the region. Based on investigation results, response to the six aspects referred in the Decision (WHC-15/39.COM/7B.9) are as follows:

1. About mining

1) Mining activities are prohibited within the scope of the property and its buffer zone according to China's relevant laws and regulations

There are strict rules and restrictions for mineral resources in the specific areas according to national and Yunnan provincial laws and regulations to protect the areas with important value. Mining is prohibited in the national parks and natural protected areas (heritage sites) according to the *Law of The Mineral Resources of the PRC*, *Regulations on the National Parks*, *Regulations on the Nature Protection Regions of PRC* and *Regulations on Protection of Three Parallel Rivers of Heritage Site in Yunnan Province*. Environmental impact assessment should be conducted for the exploitation of mineral resources in other areas and report for approval according to laws. According to the regulations of *Law of The Mineral Resources of the PRC*, exploitation of mineral resources is prohibited in the following areas: within a certain distance between both sides of important rivers and dams; natural protected areas, national parks, sites with historical relics, scenic and historic areas and historic sites that cannot be moved and are protected by the state and so on. According to *Regulations on the Management of Scenic and Historic Areas*, activities destroying landscape, vegetation topography and landforms, such as cutting into a mountain, quarrying, mining, land clearing, grave repairing and tombstoning, are forbidden in related areas. According to *Regulations on the Natural Protected Areas of PRC*, activities, including deforesting, herding, hunting, catching, herb gathering, reclaiming, burning grass, mining, quarrying and dredging, are forbidden in the natural protected areas. According to *Regulations on Protection of Three Parallel Rivers of Heritage Site in Yunnan Province*, the relevant authorities will manage the land, mineral resources, geological relics, forest, grasslands, rivers, lakes, wild animals and plants, genetic resources, cultural relics and historic sites, folk dwellings, tourism resources, natural protected areas and landscape and famous sceneries within the scope of the property and its buffer zone according to relevant laws and regulations. In case of involving major protection and utilization issues, the relevant authorities shall ask the administration of provincial people's government for Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas for opinion. According to

Mineral Resource Planning in Deqin County in Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, in order to prohibit or restrict investigation of mineral resources within the scope of the property and its buffer zone, there are four kinds of areas in the mineral resource planning zone: key investigation area, encouraged investigation area, restricted investigation area and prohibited investigation area.

Notice of Centralized Control Measures for Violation of Exploitation of Mineral Resources and Strengthening Protection of Mine Ecological Environment in People's Government of Yunnan Province(2016) issued by Yunnan Province recently points out: to carry out special actions for centrally controlling violations of exploitation of mineral resources, strictly fighting violations of privately excavating and mining mineral resources (in event of private excavation, disorder mining and unlawful act in the natural heritage site, national parks, basic farmland preservation area, water resource conservation zone, Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas, important cities and towns, urban visual mountain surface, railway, highway, national roads and provincial roads and other environmentally sensitive areas within the active area along important traffic lines, joint law enforcement will be carried out and severe blow will be struck legally immediately), and severely strike violations such as mining production that damages ecological environment.

2) There is no and will not be mining activities within the scope of property and its buffer zone

There are 3 mines within the scope of the property and its buffer zone, and all of them are in Hongshan District and approval of mining right and exploration right had been finished before the nomination of the property. They are respectively Sige Antimony Mine (in core zone), Sangdugele Tungsten and Molybdenum Mine (in core zone) and Xiuwacu Tungsten and Molybdenum Mine. At present, all of them have been shut down. According to *Notice of Centralized Control Measures for Violation of Exploitation of Mineral Resources and Strengthening Protection of Mine Ecological Environment in People's Government of Yunnan Province*, in event of illegally mining mineral resources, the relevant authorities shall not approve any administrative license. Thus, Chinese government promises that there is no and will not be mining activities within the scope of the property and its buffer zone.

3) Strict regulation on mining rights is conducted in areas that is near but beyond the scope of the property and its buffer zone

Chinese government will strictly execute *World Heritage Convention, Regulations on Protection of Three Parallel Rivers of Heritage Site in Yunnan Province* and other laws and regulations as always. Besides, Chinese government have compiled the mineral resource plans in prefecture (city), county (city and district) and include certain areas beyond the scope of property and its buffer zone as the forbidden mining areas to prohibit mining right and illegally mining. According to *Mineral Resource Planning in Deqin County in Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture*, Diqing government will implement investigation strategy at different levels for the mineral resources beyond the heritage site to meet different protection requirements. According to *Notice of Centralized Control Measures for Violation of Exploitation of Mineral Resources and Strengthening Protection of Mine Ecological Environment in People's Government of Yunnan Province (2016)*, the linkage mechanism has been established and coordinated. That is, the land and resources organization, water department, environmental protection department, forestry

department and safety supervision department take joint actions to fulfill activities related to mineral development and management. In addition, in case of illegal exploiting mineral resources, the relevant authorities shall not approve administrative licensing; the electric power department shall not supply electricity; the public security department shall not approve the purchase and transportation of civil explosives. Moreover, timely reporting system and strict accountability system are prescribed for illegal exploitation of mineral resources.

2. About hydroelectric development

1) Existing and planned hydroelectric projects nearby have no direct impact on the OUV of the area of property

Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas is a mountainous property and all of its eight districts are located in high altitude areas. Nujiang River Basin is located above 2000m of altitude; Lancang River Basin is located above 2400m of altitude and Jinsha River Basin is located above 2500m of altitude. At present, there are 13 planned large hydroelectric projects in the adjacent areas of property. The above hydroelectric projects are far away from the scope of property and its buffer zone horizontally and the completed Environmental Impact Assessment reports of hydroelectric projects show no negative impact from the construction and operation of the projects on the outstanding universal value of the property. No Project with Environment Impact Assessment that is undergoing approval or research has been constructed. According to 2013 IUCN *Reactive Monitoring Report of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas*, the Reactive Monitoring mission agree that the statement made by State Party about that no water dams, reservoirs or road infrastructures are located within the area of property and its buffer zone is true and the construction of water dam has no significant direct impact on the heritage site.

2) Environmental Impact Assessment of sub-watershed shows that hydropower development area is beyond the scope of property and its buffer zone and has no direct impact on the outstanding universal value (OUV) of the property

There are 13 hydropower dams planned and constructed along Jinsha River, Lancang River and Nujiang River. None of these hydropower dams are located in the scope of the property and its buffer zone and they have no direct impact on the OUV of the property.

National Development and Reform Commission and the former State Environmental Protection Administration reviewed *Environmental Impact Report of Hydropower Planning in Middle and Lower Reaches of Nujiang River* in November 2004. In the report, “one reservoir and four levels” scheme developing Magee, Yabiluo, Liuku and Saige power stations is proposed. Several relevant environmental impact assessment reports indicate that the sites of Nujiang River hydropower plants development project are neither located in the natural protected area, nor within the scope of property and its buffer zone. Thus, there is no direct impact on the heritage. The site investigation proves that all of four planned hydropower stations nearby the main stream of Nujiang River and the property are not under construction. Besides, no hydropower development project in main stream of Nujiang River is approved by the state. Meanwhile, Nujiang River basin is not under development.

Environmental Impact Report of Hydropower Planning in Upstream of Lancang River from Gushui to Miaowei River was completed and reviewed in June 2007. From the report, it can be

seen that none of the planned hydropower stations are located within the scope of property and its buffer zone. Besides, in the conclusion of Environmental Impact Assessment, the negative impact of construction cascade power station is identified in rather early stage under the principle of “early intervention”. The environmental sensitive area has been rationally bypassed when the scheme of cascade combination is selected. Besides, development of some river sections are even abandoned or the scale of the cascade lowered. From the perspective of environmental protection, the hierarchical planning and implementation plan well reflect the principles of ecology priority, overall consideration, moderate exploitation and ensuring bottom line. And the overall scheme is feasible.

Environmental Impact and Countermeasure Research Report of Hydropower Cascade Development in Middle Reach in Main Stream of Jinsha River passed the state examination in May 2009. There are no planned hydropower stations within the scope of property and its buffer zone. The report has scientifically predicted and estimated the impact of hydropower station construction on regional biodiversity and ecosystem stability. Thus, the conclusion is that the planned hydropower station project has no negative impact on the outstanding universal value of the heritage, and hydropower cascade development is feasible overall.

3) “West-east power transmission” project has no direct impact on the property

In the decisions of the world heritage session, the Strategic Environmental Assessment of “West-east power transmission” project has been requested to analyze its indirect and cumulative impact. The “West-east power transmission” hydropower project involves Guizhou, Yunnan, Guangxi, Gansu and Sichuan and covers a wide scope. Reasonable opinions are presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment of all sub-watershed for the hydropower construction of “West-east power transmission” located in three parallel rivers areas. Moreover, it proves the construction has no direct impact on the heritage site. In addition, China, as a State Party, promises to keep the status quo ante that the project and early works will not be carried out before the Environmental Impact Assessment report is completed and approved.

4) Hydropower project development is necessary for China as a developing country

China is still a developing country and it is inevitable to shoulder the task of promoting economy and protecting natural environment at the same time. The economic growth surely leads to growing demand of electrical energy. Various countries in the world invariably have developed hydropower resources in priority. China is rich in water power resource. Water is a type of clean and renewable energy source. Thus, water is a good resource for electricity generation. IUCN also agrees that water power is more environmental friendly compared with thermal power and nuclear power during the site inspection of Reactive Monitoring missions in 2013.

On one hand, China aims to strengthen protection of natural resources and environment by the nomination of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas as a World Natural Heritage; on the other hand, only through scientific and reasonable development and utilization of hydropower promoting sustainable development of social economy in this region, can China achieve conservation of natural resources and regional sustainable development.

As a State Party, China promise to protect the authenticity and integrity of the property in the

specific hydropower construction. Under the premise of protection, China will responsibly handle the sustainable utilization of water resource and harmonious coexistence relationship between human and nature.

3. About transmission line facilities

Yunnan Provincial Government and heritage management authority have studied the possible plan of electric transmission line facilities in the property in advance according to laws and coordinated with stakeholders to directly eliminate the potential threat of transmission line facilities to the property. The heritage management authority of Yunnan provincial government, together with other related departments, carried out preliminary works of infrastructure projects, and the final plan of this project was implemented after being studied and approved by the development and reform administration according to *Regulations on Protection of Three Parallel Rivers Heritage of Yunnan Protected Area*. The provincial government and Yunnan branch of China Southern State Grid carried out several deep discussions in respond to the proposed suggestions by 2013 IUCN *Reactive Monitoring Report*. After that, both of the management authority and the developer had an agreement on the important value of the world heritage to the nation and world. Further, an agreement has been reached with the heritage management committee that the route of ultra-high-pressure hydro-electricity transmission line shall keep away from the scope of the property and its buffer zone based on the precise location map of the property and its buffer zone offered by the heritage management committee, in the planning process.

4. About Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the heritage has been carried out according to the decisions in the 36th and 37th sessions of World Heritage Committee, which aims to evaluate the direct and indirect as well as accumulative influence of hydropower projects and mining on the environment. Despite the fact that there is no similar case worldwide for reference due to wide coverage and technological difficulties of such assessment, and the limit of current operating range as well, Yunnan provincial government still made an active attempt and obtained preliminary achievements. Yunnan Institute of Environmental Science, as the specific implementation organization, undertakes the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the region and its adjacent areas. Based on the ecological integrity of the compound ecosystem of the property, adhering to the principles of predicting and evaluating the potential comprehensive and accumulative environmental impacts of the heritage site under the guidance of the existing planning, Geographic information system (GIS), remote sensing (RS), Global Positioning System (GPS) adopted as important technical means, and matrix method, expert consultation, trend extrapolation, SWOT analysis, ecological suitability assessment, scenario analysis, graphics overlay, etc. as the main evaluation methods, the *Strategic Environmental Assessment about the Area of property and its buffer zone of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas* has been completed, including assessment of the comprehensive accumulative impact of hydropower development, mining development, and transmission line and management effectiveness on the heritage site. The result of assessment shows that the protection of the property is in good condition. 13 hydropower plants planned or under construction along Jinshang River, Lancang River and Nujiang River are not located within the scope of property or its buffer zone. The mine exploitation in and around the heritage site has been already effectively restrained and the power

transmission and transformation keep away from the property as early as the site selection period. In general, under the premise of continuously strengthening ecological environmental protection, overall planning of construction projects and management of heritage site, the outstanding universal value of the property, together with its authenticity and integrity, has been stressed.

5. About the diversity of wildlife

1) Necessity of protection of wildlife diversity in the property

The property is one of the areas with the most abundant wildlife diversity in the world as well as the areas with the most abundant biocenosis in the Eurasia, possessing 10 vegetation types, 23 vegetation subtypes and over 90 formations. Besides, in the property, all of the biocenosis types in the northern hemisphere, except those inhabited in desert and ocean, are found. The “three parallel rivers” area covers less than 0.4% of China’s total land territory, but is the home of more than 20% of higher plants of China. At present, there are 34 China’s national protected plants, 37 Yunnan provincial protected plants, 77 China’s national protected animals, and 79 CFFES listed animals. Totally, there are 173 mammals, 417 birds, 59 reptiles, 36 amphibians, 76 freshwater fishes and 31 swallowtails in the area, and the animal species account for more than 25% of the total species in China.

The current biodiversity is distributed in the heritage site as follows: alpine coniferous forests, mountain vegetation perpendicular band and Yunnan snub-nosed monkey are mainly protected in Baima Snow Mountain National Nature Reserve, which is the largest national nature reserve of Yunnan snub-nosed monkey; mid-mountain moist evergreen broadleaf forest and subalpine temperate and cold temperate coniferous forest perpendicular band and the holonomic biodiversity forest ecosystem are main protection objects in Gaoligong Mountain national nature reserve which is the largest one in Yunnan, and there are 26 national first and second-class protected plants, 67 national first and second-class protected animals, 22 Yunnan provincial second-class protected plants, 5 Yunnan provincial protected animals, 424 endemic plants and 12 endemic animals. *Abies georgei* is distributed in the core zone of Haba Snow Mountain nature reserve which has complete vegetation vertical zone spectrum; Bita Lake provincial nature reserve is to protect wetlands ecosystem of inland plateau and lakes and swamp meadow, typical original mountain and alpine cold temperate coniferous forest and terrestrial and aquatic organisms. There are 7 families and 17 varieties of fishes, 5 families and 13 varieties of amphibians and multiple invertebrates, 38 families and 171 varieties of birds, 23 families and 67 varieties of animals, 140 families, 568 categories and 2275 varieties of wild seed plants as well as 25 families, 45 categories and 133 varieties of ferns in the Bita Lake and river. Yunling Mountain provincial nature reserve is to protect Yunnan snub-nosed monkey, *Taxus wallichiana*, rare and endangered species and their habitats, cuckoo and alpine flowers germplasm, primeval forest ecological system as well as important water conservation area and so on.

The State Party, as the protector of heritage, is unequivocally committed to protecting the biodiversity of the property, and ensuring its authenticity and integrity. We promise to actively carry out wildlife monitoring plan, conduct protection study of the species and promote protection of wildlife to gradually promote the biodiversity protection to a systematical, standard and institutional pattern.

In view of the poaching activities reported by the non-governmental organization and with consideration of the serious impact and potential extinction of some precious species due to poaching, we promise to further strengthen the management and arrange staffs to prohibit poaching with relevant authorities. Meanwhile, we will encourage the whole society to take actions and educate the public to enhance the consciousness towards ecosystem protection so as to combat poaching. In order to protect biodiversity, we have already formulated relevant laws and regulations and carried out scientific research projects of biodiversity, implemented wildlife monitoring plan as well as conducted multiple protection actions. Obvious achievements has been obtained so far. As investigation shows, the wildlife population is under stable development, whose quantity has increased obviously.

2) Laws, regulations, rules and conservation plannings guarantee the protection of biodiversity

The *Revision of Yunnan Three Parallel Rivers National Park Master Plan (2005-2020)* requires “Protect biodiversity resources and their value, conserve and protect wildlife resources in the national park, especially strengthen the protection of local species. Conserve and protect gene resources and species in the national park and ensure integrity of ecosystem and continuity of ecological process”. Meanwhile, *Regulations on Environmental Protection in Yunnan, Regulations on Protection of Three Parallel Rivers Heritage of Yunnan Protected Area* and over 40 local regulations, rules and relevant policy have been published in Yunnan Province successively to protect the biodiversity in the property. With consideration of impact of deforestation on the wildlife, relevant documents have been published by Yunnan Government recently in 2016, asking for special actions to strictly control and strike activities destroying forest resources and ecological environment, highlighting the supervision and management of forest resources and calling for establishing relevant system to protect forest resources which is habitats for wildlife.

3) Lots of scientific research projects have been carried out to protect biological diversity

In order to protect biological diversity of heritage site and restore the quantity of wildlife species to the reasonable scale, special studies on endemic species have been conducted in the property to provide effective basis for the future protective measures. At present, Beijing Imaging Biodiversity Expedition Institute has investigated imaging biodiversity in Gaoligong Mountain. Besides, the current condition of wildlife resources in Biluo Snow Mountain has been investigated. Meanwhile, special investigations and studies have been carried out for special animals and plants in the heritage site, such as snub-nosed monkey, trachypithecus pileatus, Gaoligong Mountain antelope and other primates, including *Status Survey of Wildlife Resources in Biluo Snow Mountain, Imaging Survey of Biodiversity in Laojunshan Mountain in Lijiang, Study of Feeding Habits for Trachypithecus Pileatus, Survey of Distribution of Primates, Survey of Imaging Biodiversity in GaoliGong Mountain and Survey and Monitoring of Flousiana Forest in Wawa in Fugong County*, which have well obtained the base data of their distribution and living conditions. On basis of this, specific species conservation programs have been conducted and study of protection of snub-nosed monkey in Nujiang River has been carried out.

4) Wildlife monitoring plan is implemented to protect biodiversity

In response to the request of planning and implementing wildlife monitoring plan from the 36th and 37th sessions of the World Heritage Committee, the government of Yunnan Province has already conducted the Strategic Environmental Assessment of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas as well as wildlife diversity monitoring. Biodiversity monitoring is required to be implemented and explained in the report in the process of carrying out Strategic Environmental Assessment.

5) Take multiple protective actions to protect biodiversity

Along with the implementation of biodiversity research, the heritage site encourages multiple parties to participate in management and offer their suggestion and organize multiple types of protective activities. For example, “Protective Action in Colorful Yunnan Shangri-la”, natural forest protection project and “Meri Eternity” and other public welfare programs have obtained great achievements in prevention and controlling of water pollution in river basin, protection of wildlife habitats, promotion of wildlife quantity increase, increasing the forest covered area and conservation of water and soil. Besides, action has been taken by local force of the property to protect the biodiversity and restore various wildlife species.

6) Presently obtained achievements show wildlife population in stable development and a significant increase for individual quantity

Progress and obvious achievements have been achieved in wildlife protection in the property at present, especially for the protection of rare or endangered species and local special species.

For example, wildlife’s habitat in Diqing has been constantly extended, forest coverage rate increased from 65% of 2000 to 73.9% and the quantity of wild animals has been multiplied. Baima Snow Mountain national nature reserve, since established in 1983, has surveyed and monitored the population and individual quantities of Yunnan snub-nosed monkey. When the reserve was established, there only were 500 Yunnan snub-nosed monkeys; the survey between 1993 and 1994 found that there were 8 species and about 800 monkeys; the survey found 8 species and about 1200 monkeys in 2004. Then continuous monitoring was carried out after 2005 and 8 species and about 1500 monkeys exist at present. Nature Protection Bureau of Lanping County has successively carried out monitor and habitat conservation projects of Yunnan snub-nosed monkey together with The Nature Conservancy and Yunnan Green Environment Development Foundation. In addition, full-time monkey attendants are hired to strictly implement the protective measures which help to continuously increase Yunnan snub-nosed monkey population and their habitat. The monkey population increased from 2 to 3 and the quantity increased from 220 in 2004 to about 300 in 2009.

6. About the Management Effectiveness Assessment

China agrees to the necessity of a comprehensive management effectiveness assessment (MEA). Taking into account the technical complexity, state party believes that it is necessary and practical to refine the management measures, policy and law. Although the economy is underdeveloped and protection is arduous in the property, governments at all levels have always remained positive to protect heritage and put protection in a leading position. Besides, institutional improvement and

legislation construction have been carried out to protect the outstanding universal value in heritage site and ensure “authenticity” and “integrity” of heritage site. A series of measures have been taken to ensure effective management in the property.

1) Institutional construction is carried out for effective management

The institutional construction of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas is reflected by Three-grade Management System and GIS Location Query system.

① Three-grade Management System

Three-grade Management System means that the protection and management of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas are implemented by governments of three level, respectively province, city and county, according to the principles of hierarchical management and partition management. The office of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas of Yunnan Housing Bureau is established in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province. The management organizations at the city level have been established in Diqing, Lijiang and Nujiang. Management offices and stations have been established in their counties.

Take Diqing for an example, management organizations have been established in Diqing, such as management center and office of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas are established, management offices in Shangri-La, and Deqin County, landscape management station in Weixi County, authority of Meri snow mountain national park, authority of Pudacuo national park, management office of Balog Zon in Hongshan District and authority of Shudu Lake in Haba Snow Mountain District.

② GIS Location Query

Notification of Work Related to Querying Project Location in Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Area requires that the location of any local project must be searched and checked in the specific system before the project is constructed in the scope of the property. That is to say, geographical location information query must be carried out before the construction of all projects that may involve the world heritage site and national park, including construction and development projects carried out by the water and soil conservation department, forestry department and National Development and Reform Commission, to check out whether the projects are located in the scope of the property and its buffer zone. If it turns out that the project is located in the scope of the property or its buffer zone after querying, the preliminary environmental impact assessment shall not be carried out, and the project shall not be approved, and thus qualification certificate shall not be granted. All development projects that may damage heritage site are prohibited to prevent potential damage to the property.

2) The protection and management of the heritage site is gradually legislated

Since the nomination of the property, its protection and management has always been always in accordance with *Law of Environmental Protection of the PRC*, *Forest Law of the PRC*, *Regulations on the Management of Landscape and Famous Sceneries*, *Regulations on the Nature Protection Regions of the PRC*, *Regulations on Management of Nature Protection Regions in Yunnan*, *Regulations on Management of Landscape and Famous Scenery in Yunnan* and other high-level laws. In addition, multiple laws, rules and regulations targeting the heritage

conservation have been issued in Yunnan Province to safeguard and promote protection of the property, including *Regulations on Protection of Three Parallel Rivers of Heritage Site in Yunnan Province* in 2005. In 2006 “Protective Action in Colorful Yunnan Shangri-la” plan began to be comprehensively implemented by the People’s Government of Yunnan Province to enhance the efforts of implementing biodiversity protection in north-western Yunnan. Besides, *Several Opinions of Strengthening Biodiversity Protection in Northwest Yunnan* and *Main Task Decomposition Scheme of Biodiversity in Northwest Yunnan* have formed. Besides, Declaration of Biodiversity Protection in Northwest Yunnan was published in Lijiang in 2008. In November, *Biodiversity Protection Action Plan in Northwest Yunnan*, *Biodiversity Protection Planning Outline in Northwest Yunnan* and *Directory of Limited, Prohibited and Withdrawn Industries in Northwest Yunnan (Provisional)* were compiled. Moreover, *Biodiversity Protection Strategy and Action Plan in Yunnan (2012-2030)* was approved in 2013.

A legislation system from the national level to the local level has formed in order to conserve the property which reflects the ideas of developing in protection and strengthening protection in development. Besides, the resources in the heritage site is to be scientifically and rationally utilized. China, as a State Party, has fulfilled its commitments to legislating the protection of the property, to enhance consciousness of the entire society about world heritage conservation and to further strengthen measures of protection and management.

3) The plannings of the property is developing into a complete system

After the property was listed as a World Natural Heritage, planning was rapidly compiled, approved and implemented in Yunnan Province to reconcile the relation between protection and development, to establish the important role of planning for effective protection, and safeguard legal management and reasonable development with scientific planning and promote permanent preservation and sustainable utilization of local culture, historical site and natural resources in the property. Standing on a high starting point, the planning of the property adheres to 3 principles, namely ecological balance, ecological ethics and legislation. In terms of technology, the master plan and sub-region plan of the property have been conducted based on high-precision digital map to guarantee the quality. The planning compilation, approval and management have been carried out in time according to the principle “scientific planning, unified management, strict protection and rational utilization”.

On June 19, 2012, *Revision of Three Parallel Rivers National Park Master Plan (2005-2020)* was approved by the State Council and Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development. The planning of Meri Snow Mountain District is listed as the planning model in heritage site and is highly prized by IUCN. Under the organization and coordination of provincial housing and urban-rural construction department and World Heritage Management Committee Office in Yunnan, the following plans have been carried out, including *Master Planning of Laowo Mountain* (preliminary assessment of master planning achievement finished in April 2005), *Master Planning of Baima Snow Mountain National Nature Reserve*, *Master Planning of Haba Snow Mountain District in Three Parallel Rivers National Park in Yunnan Province*, *Master Planning of Bita Lake Protection Area*, *Master Planning of Moon Mountain Scenic Spot* (approved by the People’s Government of Yunnan Province on January 2010), *Master Planning of Pianma Scenic Spot* (approved by the People’s Government of Yunnan Province on January 2010), *Detailed Planning*

of Meri Snow Mountain National Park in Three Parallel Rivers in Yunnan Province, Detailed Planning of Balog Zon District in Hongshan National Park in Three Parallel Rivers in Yunnan Province, Detailed Planning of Laojun Mountain National Park in Three Parallel Rivers in Yunnan Province (approved by the housing and urban-rural construction department), *Detailed Planning of Haba Snow Mountain National Park in Three Parallel Rivers in Yunnan Province* (reviewed by the housing and urban-rural construction department). The preliminary work of master planning of Thousand Lake Mountain District in Three Parallel Rivers National Park and detailed planning were carried out in 2014. In June 2014, the opinions of the related departments at city level of Master Planning Revision in Gongshan District in Three Parallel Rivers National Park in Yunnan (2014-2025) were finished. The departments at city level will ask for opinions next phase. On December 23, 2014, Master Planning of Luoguqing Scenic Spot of Lanping County (2014-2025) was approved by the People's Government of Yunnan Province.

4) Community participation and educational display of protection and management of the property

Community participation of the property means that the communities participate in the protection and construction of the property as well as operating activities such as ecological tourism to improve villagers' ecological protection consciousness and to realize the purpose of education. Meanwhile, the exhibition hall in Diqing management center (awarded as "Yunnan Science Popularization Education Base") has been established to effectively educate tourists and local teenagers to protect ecological environment and to improve management staffs' skills of implementing related laws and regulations concerning heritage conservation. Pudacuo National Park in the heritage site have implemented ecological compensation measures and make differentiated economic repay according to different scopes and classifications with consideration of livelihood issues of the property.

The protective infrastructure in the Moon Mountain District of the property carried out by Fugong Bureau of Housing was completed in April 2013. The protection infrastructures mainly consist of popularization display center rooms (1260m²) in the Moon Mountain District, displays construction, management institute room (300m²), office facilities, reconstructed patrol footpaths (10.25km), water supply and drainage, fire protection and security, environmental sanitation facilities, signboard, and boundary signs and so on. Besides, training and education have been carried out to improve staffs' professional capacity. Science-popularizing activities have been conducted to strengthen the public's protection consciousness of the property.

**PART III. OTHER CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES
IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE PARTY WHICH MAY HAVE AN
IMPACT ON THE PROPERTY'S OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL
VALUE**

See the above 'I General Introduction of the property of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas' of 'PART II STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THREE PARALLEL RIVERS OF YUNNAN PROTECTED AREAS, CHINA'.

**PART IV. POTENTIAL MAJOR RESTORATIONS,
ALTERNATIONS AND/OR NEW CONSTRUCTION(S)
INTENDED WITHIN THE PROPERTY, THE BUFFER ZONE(S)
AND/OR CORRIDORS OR OTHER AREAS, WHERE SUCH
DEVELOPMENT MAY AFFECT THE OUTSTANDING
UNIVERSAL VALUE OF THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING
AUTHENTICITY AND INTEGRITY**

None.

**PART V. PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE STATE OF
CONSERVATION REPORT**

The State Party agrees that this report will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>).

PART VI. SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORITY

Annex 1. Introductory Information about *The reply for the establishment of "Three Parallel Rivers" National Park Administration Office in Yunnan Province*

In 1999, the "Three Parallel Rivers" National Park Administration Office was established in Yunnan Province government, which is a subordinate unit of the of Yunnan Housing and Urban-Rural Development Department. Diqing, Nujiang and Lijiang government was also required to establish national park administration offices at local level for management, and accept the technical guidance from provincial administration office.

Annex 2. Introductory Information about *Notice concerning the establishment of World Heritage Management Committee of Yunnan Province*

To meet the conservation and management needs of the property, in 2000, People's Government of Yunnan Province set up the World Heritage Management Committee of Yunnan Province with a Management Office responsible for it. The committee works under the framework of the provincial Housing and Urban-Rural Department of Yunnan Province.

Annex 3. Master Plan of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas

Master Plan of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas

