

CHINA (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF)

Wulingyuan

II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1992

Organisation Responsible for the Report

- Wulingyuan Scenic Resort Administrative Bureau, Zhangjiajie City, 427 400 Hunan Province PRC

II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria N iii

Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows: "Wulingyuan is located in the subtropical evergreen broadleaf belt. Of the 3,000 plants found in the site, 35 species are listed in the inventory of China's Rare Plants. The area is also a "hotbed for fungi". Class I & II protected species of animals include leopards, red & yellow-belly pheasants, pangolins, otters, black bears, civets and giant salamanders.

Status of Site Boundaries

- The State Party wishes to re-nominate the area according to natural biodiversity criterion iv.
- The borders are considered inadequate because "the division between Zhangjiajie Forest Park and the neighbouring Xinglong and Shati townships in Yongding is unreasonable. On one side of the mountain is the core area of world heritage; on the other are the two townships engaged in agricultural production."
- An extended buffer & peripheral zone have been implemented.

"China wishes to renominate the property according to natural biodiversity criterion (iv)."

II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

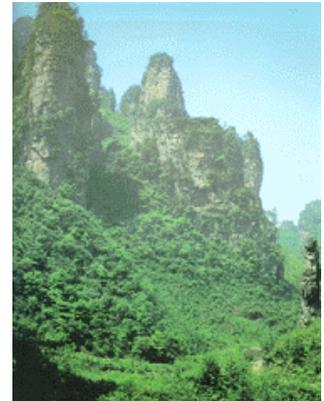
Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- The WH value is considered to have been maintained.
- It is proposed to further include the Wuling Mountain in the protection zone to improve management effectiveness. However, this "problem should be solved at a higher level of government."

II.4 Management

Administrative and Management Arrangements

- The property is managed under a range of national laws and the local Wulingyuan WH regulations.
- The 1992 General Plan for the Wulingyuan Scenic Resort was revised in July 2001.
- A 'peripheral area' has been enlarged to protect the ecological integrity of the site consisting of a: (i) core area; (ii) buffer zone; (iii) development area; and (iv) peripheral area.
- Furthermore, the core area has been subdivided into: (i) special protection areas; (ii) first-class protection; and (iii) second-class protection.
- In 2001, Wulingyuan also became a 'Geological Park of the State'.



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Present State of Conservation

- Three separate cable cars have been built to "offer convenience to tourists". Holes had to be drilled into the rocks to do this.
- In 2001, with the help of the security dept., 446 guns were confiscated in the area which has "effectively stopped hunting".

Staffing and Training Needs

- 4,500 staff (500 managerial, 4,000 workers).
- Training needs are identified in management techniques, computers, and language training.

Financial Situation

- "Revenue from admission tickets and tax can maintain the routine work." No figures are supplied.
- Funding is considered "almost" adequate.
- Loans from the Japanese Government amounting to US\$ 6 million were received for 2 large-scale sewerage disposal plants.
- 5 million Yuan (US\$ 605,000) have been invested in specialised research in digital scenery, geological and topographical research.
- * International Assistance from WHF as follows: (i) 1999, US\$60,000 Emergency Assistance for rehabilitation of Wulingyuan and Flood damage control.

Access to IT

- 500 PCs with internet access.
- There is an ARCInfo GIS system used for township surveying, vegetation coverage mapping, relief analysis, surface water analysis, and 'residents expansion analysis'.

Visitor Management

- Visitor numbers increased from 980,000 in 1996 to 4.46 million in 2001 (16,000 foreign to 132,000).
- Facilities include accommodation, sewerage, transport infrastructure. There is a need for a tourist centre and museum, monitoring system, and 'high-class' hotels.
- According to the management plan, the authorities are "going to pull down all residential facilities in the core scenic area", control the number of tourists, and build a "World Heritage Museum".

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

Threats and Risks

- Increasing commercialisation and "unbalanced development of the economy",
- "Confusion" in tourist facilities,
- Township functions not clearly defined,
- Geological disasters, floods & forest fires.

Counteractive Plans

- Emergency plans have been developed for geological & climatic disasters, forest fires, and forest pests.
- Sand dredging and quarrying is forbidden.
- The authorities wish to further strengthen law enforcement, scientific research, and spread the tourists out over a wider area.

II.6 Monitoring

Monitoring Arrangements

- Monitoring regulations include the 'Measurement Law of the PRC' and various regulations and manuals issued by the Environment Protection Bureau for water, air & sewerage quality.

Monitoring Indicators

- Wulingyuan uses the "general monitoring indices of the state" which cover: (i) water; (ii) air; (iii) biological indicators; (iv) hydrographs; and (v) geological & geographical monitoring.

II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- The quartzite sandstone and Karst topographical features are in good condition. The authorities also hope to re-submit the site for natural criterion iv.
- On account of the many different levels of zoning, the management "involves the division of the administrative area [which] is very complicated [and] is subject to further research and proof."
- The number of foreign tourists and tourism pressure has been increasing sharply since 2000.
- Support from the WHF may be required for the construction of a Wulingyuan Natural World Heritage museum, to establish specialised monitoring systems for air, water, fauna, flora, electromagnetic radiations, etc. to set up a tourist centre, to increase training and to carry out research concerning biological diversity.

* State of Conservation Reports

1998 Ext Bureau WHC-CONF.202/4 The Bureau was informed of the findings of a September 1998 WH Centre/IUCN mission to the site which found the site to be overrun with tourist facilities, this causing a considerable impact on the aesthetic qualities of the property. The Chinese authorities had not taken any steps to implement the recommendation of the Committee, made at the time of the site's inscription in 1992, to prepare a species status conservation report in order to determine whether the site would qualify for inscription under natural heritage criterion (iv). The mission also found that several buildings and roads had been damaged by the recent floods in China, and that the site required enhanced support from the Central and Provincial Governments owing to its relatively remote location with a poorly developed economy.

1998 Committee WHC-CONF.203/8 rev The Committee invited the Provincial and Central Government authorities to augment the resources for the management of the site. Co-operation with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and other such institutions may be needed in order to assess the WH value of the site's biodiversity. The Committee drew the attention of the State Party to manage tourism development in and around the site on a sustainable basis. Furthermore, the Committee urged the State Party to assess the extent of damage caused to the site by the recent floods and prepare a rehabilitation plan for implementation with financial support from Provincial and Central Governments, the WHF and other sources.