

## CHINA (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF)

# Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains



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### II.1 Introduction

**Year of Inscription** 1994

#### Organisation Responsible for the Report

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### II.2 Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C i, ii, vi

#### Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows (new):  
"The Wudang Ancient Building Complex is a huge complex of ancient buildings constructed in China in the early Ming Dynasty with national resources mobilized by the emperor and through 12 years of efforts. Thanks to personal command by the emperor and unified planning and layout, the chief buildings of the complex were completed within a comparatively concentrated period of time. Representing the construction thinking, architectural skill, architectural aesthetics, and science and technology of the imperial court of the early Ming Dynasty, the complex has an outstanding and universal value. Particularly, the ancient buildings were carefully planned not only in terms of design but also construction. They stand in extreme harmony with environments so far as their shape, volume, spacing and colour are concerned and give people the impression of a heavenly palace on the earth. It is a masterpiece of genial planning and construction. Because the complex lies deep in the Wudang Mountains with a comparatively closed environment,

*"The report proposes to consider renomination by including natural criteria iii and iv. It also proposes to extend nomination to the whole of the mountain as a World Heritage natural site."*

their authenticity and integrity have been carried down fairly successfully."

#### Status of Site Boundaries

- The demarcation line and buffer zone are considered as sufficient for the protection and preservation of the site's value as World Heritage.
- There is no need to revise the site boundaries.
- The report proposes to consider renomination, by including natural criteria iii and iv. It also proposes to extend nomination to the whole mountain as a WH natural site.

### II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- Values and authenticity/integrity well preserved.
- Changes to the authenticity/integrity may occur in the future: water diverting project will rise water levels by 15 meters above actual ones. Ancient buildings and monuments need to be moved and their integrity may be affected.

### II.4 Management

#### Administrative and Management Arrangements

- The report refers to national legal instruments specific local rules and plans and regulations excerpts.
  - In terms of management arrangements, locally, the Bureau of Cultural Heritage is in charge of administrative co-ordination of management. The local government formulates protective regulations and rules, demarcates protection zones and construction areas.
  - Overall management made at the local, provincial and national levels and the above arrangements are considered sufficient.
- Since 1994, 4 protection and management plans have been implemented for specific areas of the site, with protection positive effects.
- To preserve the values in the future, no information provided.

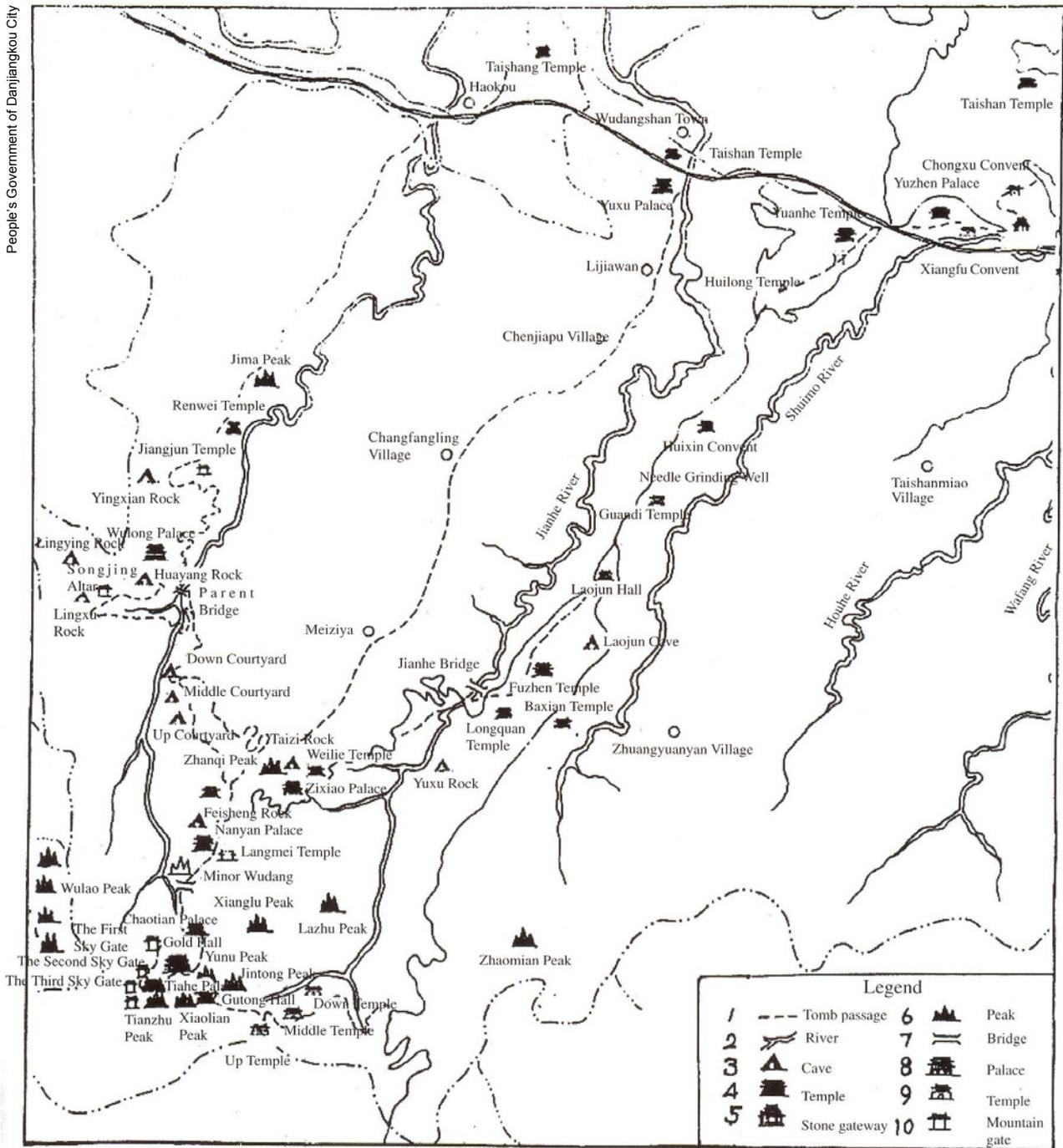
## Present State of Conservation

- All management plans announced in the inscription were implemented successfully, and values conserved.
- Changes since inscription: a 5 km ecological tourist route since 2001, stop to tilling, return of farmland to forests, emigration of local residents, and annexation of villages. From 1994 to 2001, 6,785 hectares of farmland have been returned to forests and 326 people in 85 households emigrated in 2 years.

## Staffing and Training Needs

- Staff total number: 90, including 75% educated, but higher level training is needed. Staff is sufficient to monitor the site.
- The staff need training in ancient buildings, archaeological appraisal, conservation of ancient sites, repair of cultural relics, protective technology, space environment study and administration.

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Map of the distribution of the Wudang Ancient Building Complex

## Financial Situation

- Sources of fund: local government. Amount: RMB10,000 Yuan (US\$1,208), state subsidies for 5 individual buildings and tourism income (RMB20 million/year, US\$2.42 million), foreign NGO donations (RMB 2 million, US\$241,620).
- Funding is considered insufficient. International aid is needed.
- \* No International Assistance from WHF nor from UNESCO, UNDP, WB or Bilateral.

## Access to IT

- 2 sets of computers with Internet and email access.
- No use of GIS.

## Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics available, with 695,000 visitors in 2001.
- Facilities described seem sufficient. Need to build an airport outside the controlled construction areas of the Wudang Ancient Building Complex.
- Plan on tourist service facilities in Section IX of the Overall Plan on the Wudangshan Scenic Spot.
- Communication of WH values through: publicity, tourism festival, meetings, conferences & Internet.
- Education by including lessons in the curriculum.
- Role of the inscription into the List of World Heritage: increase in number of visitors, research plans and awareness, through special laws and regulations, a better equipment and active scientific participation.

## II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

### Threats and Risks

- Economy closed and backward, no exposure to pressures from development.
- No environment-polluting units nearby. One factory discharging wastewater, improvement made. A final solution, timely treatment and formulation of a plan and timetable for after-purification discharge of industrial wastewater.
- Major floods in 1996: dredging the Jianhe River flanking to the south and the north of the Wudang Mountains, consolidation of its banks, and clearance of its bed.
- Environmental capacity of landscapes is 3.2 million tourists/visitors in the short term, 4.55 million in the middle term, and 6.27 million in the long term. The number of tourists/visitors is below this capacity, tourism does not pose any pressures to the property.
- 42,000 inhabitants in the Wudangshan Scenic Spot, including 2,044 in the protection zone. Campaign of emigration of inhabitants and return of farmland to forests. 326 inhabitants in 85 households have been relocated.



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*Ancient Tomb Passage of the Ming Dynasty*

### Counteractive Plans

- No emergency plan.
- No sign of great potential dangers. The site is watched and this is enough to cope with any possible threats to the safety of the property.
- Improvements needed: strengthening exchange and cooperation, introduction of successful and advanced experiences in heritage conservation and protection.
- Human impact is decreasing and natural factors tend to increase.
- Measures adopted or planned: prevention of thunder, storms and scientific prevention of weathering.

## II.6 Monitoring

### Monitoring Arrangements

- No monitoring system in place.
- An index providing geographical information, surveying environmental and climactic changes, as well as building, site, forestry, vegetation, stone-carved and bronze-cast cultural relics evolution, is planned.
- Partners: local government and authorities.

- Foreseen improvements: WHF international assistance for conservation is needed, especially for establishing monitoring and GIS.

### Monitoring Indicators

- Indicators described as lightning prevention, quality tested successfully since 1998.
- Indicators used in the future: indexes on maintenance and conservation of wood-structured buildings, prevention of weathering of stone-structured buildings, and changes of terrain environments.

## II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

### Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- Values: well conserved and protected. They have not undergone any changes.
- Management and factors affecting property: well conserved and protected. Extremely high authenticity and integrity. The focus of future works will be how to continue strict management and prevent natural pressures.
- Future actions: increase awareness on protection and adoption by Government of appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures, appraisal, protection, conservation, presentation, and restoration. Furthermore, efforts to promote timely communication of information and seek international assistance for equipment, technology and funding.
- Timetable for the implementation of the Plans: 2002/2006.

### \* State of Conservation Reports

1998 Ext Bureau, WHC-98/CONF.202//4 - a report submitted by the authorities in July 1998, informed that a commission of experts was established, legal measures put into effect. The transfer of the local residents to areas outside the site has been undertaken. Restoration work carried out to repair the Purple Cloud Hall and a number of ancient buildings. An Administration established to enhance the management and preservation. Increased financial resources made available. A "Master Plan for the Development of Wudang Mountains" formulated. The local authorities included protection, presentation and restoration of cultural properties as a top priority within their programme for social development. However, the World Heritage Centre received information that rapid development to accommodate tourists is affecting the site's historical setting.

"The Bureau takes note of the state of conservation report submitted by the Chinese authorities and efforts made by the local authorities to implement adequate management measures to protect this site. The Bureau urges the national and local authorities to incorporate sustainable tourism development strategies within the site management plan to ensure that the integrity of the site's cultural and historical setting is protected."