

**Report on the State of Conservation  
Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (C705)  
Executive Summary**

According to the 37<sup>th</sup> World Heritage Committee Decision, the State Party prepared the 2013 State of Conservation on the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains, and invited a joint Reactive Monitoring Mission to the property by World Heritage Center, ICOMOS and ICCROM, which will be carried out in March, 2014.

The macro background of the lift-up & conservation project of Yuzhen Palace is the South-to-North Water Diversion Project. After the water source of the Middle Route, Danjiangkou Reservoir, raised its volume, the water level will rise above Yuzhen Palace's original height. After several years' assessment, design and preparation (including Heritage Impact Assessment), the Government of China finally decided to adopt the "Lift-up and Conservation" Plan. Through the in-situ elevation of important buildings and elevation of the site by filling soil, etc., to protect Yuzhen Palace properly.

In 2013, the three gates were elevated to the planned height, and in stable condition, the pad project was also completed. According to the technical requirements, the project has to be examined by water storage test and natural sedimentation process. Till all conditions are stable, the restoration and representation of other buildings and archeology site can be carried out. It is estimated that the planned water level can be reached after the flood season of 2014, 14 meters higher than the original water level.

What should be clarified is that after the project, the raised area around Yuzhen Palace will become a terrace connecting to the hill and facing the reservoir of 85,000m<sup>2</sup>, but not an isolated island. The setting of Yuzhen Palace has no major change.

On the overall conservation management of the property, In 2013, SACH and Hubei Provincial Administration of Cultural Heritage launched several reactive monitoring missions to the property, together with local authority, to enhance a series of conservation issues: preservation of the ancient buildings, environment enhancement, control in property area & buffer zone, heritage monitoring. Besides, The *Master Plan on Conservation Management of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains* was pushed forward in 2013. The outline of the Master plan will be submitted to the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) in February, 2014, and the Master Plan is estimated to be completed in Jul, 2014.