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COMMISSION NATIONALE DE LA REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DE CHINE POUR L'UNESCO

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Subject: State of Conservation Report of the Three Parallel Rivers Yunnan Protected Areas World Natural Heritage Site

Dear Mr. Rao,

Referring to Decision 37 COM 7B.12 concerning the conservation state of the Three Parallel Rivers Yuannan Protected Areas World Natural Heritage Site, I am pleased to forward to you the State of Conservation Report provided by the The Management Committee of the Three Parallel Rivers Yunnan Protected Areas World Natural Heritage Site.

Thank you for your continued support to the protection of the World Heritage in China.

Yours sincerely,



Du Yue

Secretary-General

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cc: Chinese Permanent Delegation to UNESCO

**Report on the Status of Conservation
for the Three Parallel Rivers
Protected Areas of Yunnan, China**

**The Management Committee of the Three Parallel Rivers
Yunnan Protected Areas World Natural Heritage Site**

**Yunnan, China
Jan., 2015**

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1. GENERAL STATUS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE

On July 2, 2003, UNESCO inscribed “The Three Parallel Rivers Yunnan Protected Areas” on the World Heritage List. The Three Parallel Rivers Yunnan Protected Areas World Heritage Site (hereinafter referred to as the property) is consisted of eight geographically standalone units (in which five nature reserves and 10 scenic and historic interest areas are encompassed), totaling 1,698,419.3 hm².

Sub-areas	Core area (hm ²)	Buffer area (hm ²)	Total (hm ²)
1. Gaoligongshan	305,306.1	208,176.3	514,022.4
2. Baima-Meili Snow Mountains	267,507.8	81,511.0	349,018.8
3. Laowoshan	17,426.1	31,735.0	49,161.2
4. Yunlingshan	31,346.0	58,441.4	89,787.4
5. Laojunshan	44,265.7	87,161.0	131,426.7
6. Haba Snow Mountains	28,356.3	73,419.1	101,775.4
7. Hongshan	205,603.8	159,083.6	364,687.4
8. Qianhushan	39,629.6	58,910.4	98,540.0
Total:	939,441.4	758,437.9	1,698,419.3

2. THE “AUTHENTICITY” PRINCIPLE OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES

“Authenticity” and “integrity” are two of the fundamental principles in world heritage conservation. They are important criteria for assessing the values of world heritage sites and they are the principles that must be observed in heritage conservation and management. As far world natural heritage sites are concerned, the “integrity” is particularly important. As elaborated in the *Operational Guidelines*, in demarcating the scope of a world heritage site, the integrity of the heritage resources must be pursued as far as it fully represents the features and processes that demonstrate the importance of a site. Therefore, the integrity in heritage conservation refers to the relative integrity based on the heritage values, rather than an unconditioned integrity.

In this regard, in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines*, the State Party of the

property shall formulate management plans, promulgate laws and regulations and institute mechanisms to undertake any possible and effective ways to protect the authenticity and integrity of the site within the scope of the its commitment areas - the nominated property and its buffer areas. In the spaces beyond the commitment areas, sustained economic growth and considerations over people's livelihood are realities of concern for each and every State Party.

Like other state parties, as one of the signatories to the Convention, China shall coordinate the conservation and socio-economic development in the property with reference to common practices that accord with relevant international conventions and that other state parties may implement so that the "authenticity" and "integrity" of the nominated site and its buffer areas can be protected sound and safe. Whereas in other areas beyond, compatible socio-economic activities may take place under the conditions that the relative integrity of the property will not be affected.

Since 2003, in accordance with the requirements of the World Heritage Commission and relevant domestic laws and regulations, as a responsible state party, the government of China has appropriated enormous human resources, physical materials and financial means for the conservation and management of the Three Parallel Rivers World Natural Heritage Site.

What should not of negligence is that, the region where the Three Parallel Rivers World Heritage Site spans is a poverty-stricken area, where several hundreds of thousands of people are still living under the poverty line. Science-based and rational resources use outside the scope of the property are important means not only for the poverty alleviation and socio-economic development of the indigenous people living in the region, but also for the ecological and environmental protection in the watersheds. In the process of economic development, Chinese government at all levels, as committed, will surely develop comprehensive plans, conduct scientific research and appraisal to implement heritage conservation and management pertaining to relevant laws and regulations, and harmonize the coexistence and relationship between development and the nature.

3. REPLIES TO THE DECISIONS OF THE WHC SESSIONS

In view of the comments raised at the sessions of the World Heritage Committee, China, as a state party, shall sustain its commitment in the sound protection of the heritage, through actively developing the planning for the hydropower

projects and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs), regulate and manage the mining projects, monitor and maintain the biological diversity, and ultimately promote the overall management and protection of the heritage site. For those areas beyond the scope of the property (core areas and buffer areas), under the conditions that the heritage values will not be adversely affected, science-based and rational economic development will be given due attention so as to improve the living standards of the peoples in the Three Parallel Rivers Region. By synthesizing available inventory data and information, we hereby present the following four points of replies:

3.1 Hydropower development projects

(1) Developing hydropower projects in the adjacent areas of the Property will not pose direct impact on the values of the core and buffer areas of the property

Three Parallel Rivers Yunnan Protected Areas is a heritage site of the mountain type and all of its eight subareas are situated at high elevation areas. The subareas of the property on the Nujiang River watersheds are located over 2,000 meters above sea level (asl.); those on the Lancang River watersheds over 2,400 meters; and those on the Jinsha River watersheds over 2,500 meters. Presently, a total of 13 hydropower plants have been proposed in the adjacent areas of the property. The horizontal distance of these hydropower plants are far from the buffer areas of the property and the minimal vertical distance reaches several hundred meters. Adding to the fact of geographical separation by high mountains and steep-incised river valleys, **all the completed EIA reports of the hydropower plants do not consider that the development and operation of corresponding projects may pose adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Values of the property.** According to the Report on the Reactive Monitoring of the Three Parallel Rivers World Heritage Site by IUCN mission experts in 2013, the IUCN mission team, based on the information acquired, considered that the State Party's statements that none of the relevant dams, reservoirs or highway infrastructure are located within the scope of the property or its buffer areas are accurate; and moreover, the report considered that **the construction of the hydropower plants may not pose obvious direct impact on the Outstanding Universal Values of the property.** For the projects for which the EIA reports are being reviewed or the EIAs are being carried out, the pre-stage auxiliary projects have not started.

(2) Excerpts from the EIAs by individual watersheds

In November 2004, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), together with the former National General Environmental Protection Bureau, reviewed the EIA Report on Hydropower Planning on the Lower Reaches of Nujiang River, and proposed a plan of “one headwater reservoir with four cascade hydropower plants”. Multiple EIA reports showed that **the areas involved in hydropower development on Nujiang River are not located inside the environmentally sensitive areas, including the nature reserves, world heritage site and key sites for preserving cultural monuments;** and that hydropower development on the Nujiang River Watershed will not pose direct impact on the Three Parallel Rivers WHS, the scenic areas and Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve. **The development and construction on Nujiang River may pose insignificant impact on terrestrial ecosystems, but will affect aquatic ecosystems to some extent. However, by building artificial fish multiplication and acclimatization stations, fish ladders,** and taking enrichment planting and rehabilitation measures, various adverse impacts resulting from project construction can be drastically mitigated. Through practical implementation of various environmental protection measures, the construction of the hydropower projects is feasible. Moreover, relying on hydropower development, the environment will be effectively rehabilitated and protected.

The Report on Hydropower Development Planning on the Segments of the Middle Reaches of Jinsha River was approved at the national level in January 2003. A hydropower development plan of “one headwater reservoir with eight cascade power plants”, respectively at Longpan, Liangjiaren, Liyuan, Ahai, Jin’anqiao, Longkaikou, Ludila and Guanyingyan was proposed. **The Report on the Environmental Impact and Research of Countermeasures for the Cascade Hydropower Development on the Segments of the Jinsha River Artery** passed state review in May 2009. **None of the above planned hydropower plants are located within the scope of the property.** The latter conducted science-based projection and assessment on the possible impacts that the above proposed hydropower plants may impose on the biodiversity, ecosystems and integrity of the protected areas in the Three Parallel Rivers Region, and concluded that the above projects will not pose adverse impacts on the outstanding universal value of the property. The implementation of the hydropower projects may cause impact on the wild animals in a short period of time, which may be demonstrated in shrinking adaptable habitats and changes in the population and distribution patterns of wildlife species in the study area

(the flooded zone located beyond the scope of the property). **However, upon the completion of project construction, alone with the gradual ecological environmental restoration, the wildlife populations that were affected will also revive to some extent. Furthermore, through taking corresponding rehabilitation and management measures, such adverse impacts can be mitigated.**

Formulation of the Report on Hydropower Development Planning on the Section from Gushui (including the flooded area) to Miaowei of the Lancang River was completed toward the end of 2003. The report proposed a hydropower development plan of "one headwater reservoir with seven cascade hydropower projects", respectively, at Gushui, Wunonglong, Lidi, Tuoba, Huangdeng, Dahuaqiao and Miaowei on the upper reaches of Lancang River. Of these hydropower plants, **Gushui, Wunonglong, Lidi, Tuoba, Huangdeng and Dahuaqiao are in the vicinity of the property.** China Hydropower and Water Resources Planning and Design General Institute started formulating the EIA Report for Hydropower Development Planning on the Section from Gushui (including the flooded area) to Miaowei of the Lancang River toward the end of 2003, which passed state review in March 2007. None of the above proposed hydropower plants are located within the scope of the property and its buffer areas. The EIA Report for Hydropower Development Planning on the Section from Gushui(including the flooded area) to Miaowei of the Lancang River assessed **that the river segment that involves the Baima-Meilixueshan subarea of the Three Parallel Rivers WHS as inadequate for hydropower development, and removed Guonian dam that was originally planned on this river segment from the alternative plans.** In the subsequent research and defending, no major environmental constraints were identified that may affect the feasibility of the five alternative plans which proposed to further lower the normal water level at Gushui dam. The countermeasures proposed in the report, including release of ecological flow, establishment of fish reserves in the river tributaries, artificial multiplication of endemic fish species, and transplanting and ex-situ conservation of rare and endangered plant species, are in general feasible. From an environmental protection perspective, the implementation of the proposed planning is feasible under the conditions that the various countermeasures for environmental protection put forward in the EIA report are duly taken.

(3) The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the West-East Electricity Transfer Project (WEEPT) concerning the Three Parallel Rivers Region

The WHC session requested the implementation of **the SEA for the West-East Electricity Transfer Project** to assess the cumulative impact the project may bring about to the property. The WEEPT involves vast areas spanning Guizhou, Yunnan, Guangxi, Gansu, Sichuan and other provinces, and will entail research on the environmental impact of all the hydropower development projects involved in the scope of the WEEPT. As it involves too broad a range of areas and complex technologies, and furthermore, no similar references can be made internationally, the feasibilities of such an SEA are beyond practical operation. However, for the hydropower development projects in the Three Parallel Regions as part of the WEEPT, the EIAs of individual watersheds have furnished rational recommendations having proven the absence of direct impact on the property.

With regard to the decisions at the 36th and 37th sessions of the World Heritage Committee, Yunnan Provincial Peoples' Government has made a decision at its meeting: **The SEA of the Three Parallel Rivers World Heritage Site is to be carried out to assess the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts of the WEEPT projects in Yunnan Province.** Yunnan Institute of Environmental Sciences (YIES) was identified as the executive agency for the SEA. The institute will be responsible for carrying out the SEA for the Three Parallel Rivers Region and its adjacent areas. In the confirmed work plan, YIES will be primarily in charge of data and information collection for the SEA. It was planned that the expert group will be assembled in January 2015 and the field visit will follow to carry out ecological environmental monitoring and biodiversity monitoring, as well as formulating the SEA Report on the Property and its adjacent areas and other work in depth.

In addition, as the State Party, China reaffirms its commitment **that no project implementation and preparatory construction will take place** prior to the final approval of the EIAs, or adequate EIA reports are completed for involved projects.

(4) Necessities for developing hydropower projects

China remains to be a developing country and that the trend of economic growth and protection of the natural environment is an inexorable trend. The growing

demand for power energy will accompany such economic growth. Enhancing the natural environmental protection necessitates developing production means for clean and renewable energy. All countries worldwide, with no exception, give priority to developing hydropower energy. Hydropower generation is still regarded as the cleanest, renewable and can be achieved in large scale. **China is relatively rich in hydropower resources that are clean and renewable and are high quality resources for power generation.** Hydropower and nuclear power generation are most effective measures that the United Nations requested to implement as much as possible in the Kyoto Protocol as alternatives to the non-renewable and environmentally polluting ways of power generation with mineral fuels, reduction of CO₂ emission and energy production.

In one way, the China's inscription of the Three Parallel Rivers as the world natural heritage was intended as means to enhancing its efforts on the protection of the natural resources and the environment; on the other, only when science-based extraction and utilization of the "hydropower of the three rivers" is implemented to promote the sustainable socio-economic development of the Three Parallel Rivers Region, can the ideal win-win goals of natural resources protection and sustainable development can be attained. The Three Parallel Rivers Region of Yunnan Province is a poverty-stricken area, several hundreds and thousands of people are still living below the poverty line. Science-based extraction and utilization of the hydropower resources of the three great rivers is an inevitable choice not only for sustaining China's economic growth, protection the natural resources and environment, but also for the socio-economic development, poverty reduction in these regions of Yunnan and environmental protection in the watersheds in Yunnan Province.

In actual implementation of the hydropower projects, as the State Party, China shall ensure that the commitment for the integrity of the property is fulfilled, and will responsibly and adequately harmonize the relationship between the sustainable uses of the hydraulic resources and the co-existence of man and the nature.

3.2. Mining Projects

(1) No ongoing or proposed mining sites that may impair the property' OUVs in the vicinity of the property

Since the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List in 2003, the

government of China, having taken into account of the possible impact on the OVUs of the property, has strictly controlled the issuance of mining permits in this region. **Both the central and local government has never approved any mining projects within the scope of the property.** Due to historical reasons, some legal mining sites exist predating the inscription of the property. We requested minor modifications to the boundary of the property to exclude the main legal mining sites and areas encroached by forest degradation from the scope of the property. The modification plans passed review at the WHC 34th Session. **Presently, there are no more mining sites within the scope of the property.**

(2) Status of management for the mining rights outside the scope of the property

As mining activities within the scope of the property may gravely impair the heritage values, Chinese government shall not approval any new exploration and mining activities in the property and its buffer areas, and will actively engage in cracking down illegal mining activities. As always, the Government of China will enforce rigorously the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Regulations of Yunnan Province on the Protection of the Three Parallel Rivers World Heritage Site, as well as the stipulations in relevant laws and regulations. The planning for mineral resources will be formulated at prefecture (city), county and district levels in accordance with the laws and regulations and a certain area outside the property will be delineated as no-mining zone where mining permits may not be approved. **As no more exploration and mining sites exist in a considerable extent in the adjacent areas (nor in the core and buffer areas) of the property, it is not necessary to submit a map of relevant mining permits.** In the meantime, publicity and public awareness education for laws and regulations and patrolling will be strengthened to crack down on illegal mining, so that environmental protection can be consolidated fundamentally. As the property spans vast areas, and moreover the land tenure of some areas are of collective ownership of the indigenous people, there were indeed minor mining activities and illegal mining activities that were not approved in the scope of the property due to historical reasons. From the beginning of 2005 to July 2007, relevant government departments organized thorough checkup of mining resources, and the local government phased out and closed down the remaining small mining sites. A total of 106 small mining sites were closed down by law.

(3) Relevant Chinese laws and regulations stipulate that opening mining sites in the property is prohibited

The laws and regulations of the state and Yunnan Province established strict stipulations and restrictions on mineral resources in specially designated areas in order to areas of important values. The Mineral Resources Law of the People's Republic of China, the Regulations on the Scenic and Historic Interest Areas, the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on the Nature Reserves and the Regulations of Yunnan Province on the Protection of the Three Parallel Rivers World Natural Heritage Site ALL prohibit mining operations in the scenic and historic interest areas and in the nature reserves. And EIA must be carried out for the projects for extracting mineral resources in other areas, and the EIA report submitted for legal approval. The Mineral Resources Law of the People's Republic of China stipulates that mining mineral resources in the following areas are prohibited: within certain distance limits on both sides of important rivers and embankments; nature reserves and important scenic areas designated by the state, major sites of immovable historical relics and places of historical interest and scenic beauty listed for key state protection. The Regulations on Scenic and Historic Interest Areas of the State Council stipulates that the following activities that may damage the landscape, vegetative cover and the natural physiognomy are prohibited in the scenic and historic interest areas, including tunneling, quarrying, mining, land reclamation for agriculture and tomb building. The Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Nature Reserves stipulate that the following activities are prohibited in the nature reserve: logging, grazing, poaching, fishing, collecting medicinal materials, land reclamation for agriculture, slash and burn, mining, quarrying, and sand harvesting. The Regulations of Yunnan Province on the Protection of the Three Parallel Rivers World Natural Heritage Site stipulate that, the land, mineral resources, geological relics, forest, prairie, rivers, lakes, wild animals and plants, germplasm resources, cultural relics and ancient monuments, ethnic folklores and architecture, tourism resources, nature reserves and the scenic and historic interest areas are managed respectively by relevant competent administration departments in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. When important matters concerning conservation and resources use arise, the leading competent administration department shall consult opinions of the management institutions of the Three Parallel Rivers in the provincial people's government.

3.3. Wildlife diversity

(1) Necessities for protecting wildlife diversity in the Three Parallel Rivers Region

The Three Parallel Rivers Region is one of the biologically most diverse areas in the world. As a result of over 6,000 meters of elevation difference, the region encompasses a broad range of climatic types that are equivalent to the southern subtropics, central subtropics, northern subtropics, and warm temperate, temperate, cold temperate and frigid zones in the Northern Hemisphere. Meanwhile, the region also underwent most drastic speciation of wildlife species and populations since the Cenozoic Era. All the mountain ranges and great rivers in the region spread out from north to south. As most of the region was not covered by the continental glaciers during the Quaternary Period, it has shaped major biological corridors and sanctuaries for S-N migrating wildlife species on the Eurasian Continent.

The Three Parallel Rivers Region, although occupying merely about 0.4% of China's land territory, harbors over 20% of China high plant species, reaching over 6,000 species in 1,200 genera of 200 families. Found in the region include 173 mammal species, 417 bird species, 59 reptile species, 36 amphibian species, 76 freshwater fishes, and 31 papillio (swallowtail butterfly) species. They account for over 25% of the total species in China. The Three Parallel Rivers Region is also most diverse in terms of floral communities on the Eurasian Continent, harboring 10 vegetation types, 23 subtypes and over 90 formations, representing all types of floral communities in the Northern Hemisphere, except for desert and ocean. The region have nurtured 24 wild plant species listed for national protection, 37 plant species for key protection of Yunnan Province, and 77 wild animal species for national protection; 79 animal species were listed on the CITES appendices. The region is also one of the most well-known sites in the world for type specimens, where type specimens of about 1,500 plant species and more than 80 animal species were collected.

As the guardian of the heritage site, we are duty-bound to protect such an enormous biodiversity and secure the authenticity and integrity of the Three Parallel Rivers WHS. We are committed to enthusiastically formulating wildlife monitoring plans, carrying out various types of research on species protection, and promoting activities for wildlife protection so as to promote the legalized, standardized and institutionalized actions for protecting the biological diversity.

Yunnan Province has promulgated over 40 local laws, regulations and relevant policies and circulars, including *The Regulations of Yunnan Province on Environmental Protection*, *The Regulations of Yunnan Province on the Management of Nature Reserves* and *The Regulations of Yunnan Province on the Protection of Terrestrial Wild Animals*. In order to protect the biodiversity in the Three Parallel Rivers Yunnan Protected Areas more effectively, on July 1, 2005, the Standing Committee of Yunnan Provincial People's Congress adopted *The Regulations of Yunnan Province on the Protection of the Three Parallel Rivers World Natural Heritage Site*. **Biodiversity conservation in northwest Yunnan is incorporated into the legislative planning in the current standing committee, bringing biodiversity conservation in the Three Parallel Rivers Region to legislation.** Law enforcement is steadily enhanced and illegal activities damaging wildlife and the ecological environment are intensively investigated and prosecuted to ensure the continuity of effectively biodiversity conservation. For the poaching activities and grave consequences resulting from poaching discovered and reported by the non-governmental organizations (NGOs), **our promise is that we will strengthen management and mobilize human resources to act with heavy blows in the competent departments to crack down on poaching activities that impair the biodiversity.** Meanwhile, we encourage the entire society to take action in this effort, and to educate the general public with better conservation awareness so that poaching can be pulled under control.

(2) Wildlife monitoring plans

With regard to **the preparation and implementation of wildlife monitoring plans requested in the decisions at the WHC 36th and 37th sessions**, Yunnan Provincial Government called for a meeting and decided **that biodiversity monitoring in the Three Parallel Rivers WHS will be carried out concurrent to the SEA.** During the implementation of the SEA and ecological monitoring, biodiversity monitoring in the property will be carried out simultaneously, and relevant explanations will be synthesized into the SEA report. Yunnan Institute of Environmental Sciences was identified as the executive agency for this particular project. The institute will primarily accomplish data and information collection for the SEA. The expert teams will start field work beginning 2015 to accomplish ecological environmental monitoring and biodiversity monitoring.

(3) Implementation of biodiversity research projects

In order to protect the biodiversity in the property and promote the restoration of wildlife populations to a reasonable level, the management institutions of the property has carried out thematic research projects on some endemic species, which will provide valid bases for developing conservation measures in the future. Presently, the ongoing biological monitoring plans include imaging the biodiversity in Gaoligongshan Mountain. Besides, wild animal and plant inventory in Biluo Snow Mountain is underway. In the meantime, **thematic inventories and studies on endemic animal and plant species within the scope of the property, e.g. Yunnan snob-nosed monkey (*Pygathrix roxellanae bieti*), capped leaf monkey (*Trachypithecus pileatus*), Gaoligongshan takins (*Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor*), as well as other primates, were also carried out. Baseline data for the distribution and daily living conditions of these species were acquired with good quality. Annex 3 gives introductory information on these thematic inventories.** Based on the outputs, thematic conservation plans were developed and are being implemented for some selected species. Presently, the conservation plan for Nujiang golden monkey is being formulated.

(4) Wildlife conservation actions

Along with progressing biodiversity research projects, the management institutions of the property concerted our efforts in delivering commitments through encouraging multiple stakeholders to contribute their wisdoms and efforts and to embark on diverse conservation actions. Of these efforts, the Colorful Yunnan – Shangri La Conservation Actions, the Natural Forest Protection Program and Meili Blessing Forever public welfare project have made outstanding achievements in preventing and controlling water pollution in rivers and streams, protecting wildlife habitats, boosting the populations of wild animals, increasing forest areas, and enhancing soil and water conservancy. Through enthusiastic actions, we endeavored to protect the biodiversity, sustain and promote the resilience and restoration of various wildlife species to a desirable status.

Through the overall implementation of the Colorful Yunnan – Shangri La Conservation Actions, Diqing Prefecture has substantially strengthened its efforts in implementing key ecological projects, including forest and grassland reclamation from agriculture, shelterbelt forest establishment and science-based

cattle rearing. Integration of ecological environmental protection with poverty reduction of local populations has been resolutely pursued. **All the “smoking” factories polluting the environment were shut down and a series of regulations on environmental protection were promulgated**, ensuring the effective protection of the forest, rivers and streams, lakes, grassland, wetlands, glaciers, snow mountains and wild animals and plants. Through making strenuous efforts, the trend of continually deteriorating ecology in some local areas was effectively curbed, water and soil erosion reduced and biodiversity increased considerably, and the ecological environment was substantially ameliorated. Forest cover in Diqing Prefecture increased from 65% in 2000 to the present 73.9%; Wildlife habitats are constantly expanding and the populations of wild animals are doubling: populations of Yunnan snob-nosed monkey (*Pygathrix roxellanae bieti*) increased from the beginning 300 to over 1,000 individuals.

Diqing Prefecture also implemented the Natural Forest Protection Program and converted its efforts in building “Forest Diqing”. The acreage of forest landuse in Diqing Prefecture is 28.2663 million *mu*, accounting for 78.95% of its land territory. Its forest cover reaches 73.95% and the total standing stock 241 million cubic meters. Diqing Prefecture demarcated 26.5061 million hectares of ecological forest for public welfare, of which 12.5113 million *mu* were covered by the forest ecological compensation, which is 47.2% of the total public welfare forest in Diqing. By implementing forest ecological compensation throughout the prefecture, the forest resources in Diqing Prefecture are effectively protected, the ecological environment substantially improved and frequencies and intensities of natural disasters pulled under control to a certain extent. Forest ecological compensation and the protection of welfare forest contributed significantly to the rapid growth in forest acreage and the standing stock, as well as the overall enhancement of its ecological services.

In the **Meili Blessing Forever serial public welfare activities** organized by Yunnan Natural and Cultural Conservation Council (YNC), hiking along the inner pilgrimage loop of Meili Snow Mountain, the participants addressed in-depth attention to Meili Snow Mountain and researched the status of biodiversity and cultural conservation in the region by conducting interviews for a broad range of disciplines and topics, including nature conservation, ethnology, anthropology, cultures and arts, heritage operation and management, as well as needs and complaints of the local community residents. The focal sites include the Feilai Gomba, the glaciers at Mingyong and Yubeng village. Through

implementing tourism and maintenance of the ecological environment in Meili Snow Mountain Scenic Area, the researchers contributed their wisdoms and innovations.

4. MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

Rapid development were achieved in the management of the property. For the request for implementing the **Management Effectiveness Assessment (MEA)** made at the WHC decisions, Yunnan Province has demarcated the “ecological redline” for the property, and have progressively improved its planning system and legalized ratification protocols. The Three Parallel Rivers WHS has established its own legislated planning system, including the master plans and detailed plans of the scenic areas, and the conservation and management plans of the property. Moreover, most of these plans have been officially reviewed and replied. Protection of the property can be implemented based on categorized areas and a zoning system, legal bases and management plans.

4.1 Management laws and regulations

Laws and regulations for the protection and management of the property were promulgated at the national and local levels, which have well manifested the strategies of rigorous protection and sustainable use. The management institutions of the property will fulfill its commitments at the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations, embarking the protection of the Three Parallel Rivers WHS has on the legal track. The conservation awareness of the entire society for the heritage site will be further promoted and the protection and management measures further enhanced.

The Three Parallel Rivers WHS is conscientiously managed pursuant to relevant Chinese laws and regulations, which include mainly the Environmental Law, the Forest Law, the Regulations on the Management of Scenic and Historic Interest Areas, the Regulations on Nature Reserves, the Regulations of Yunnan Province on the Nature reserves, and the Regulations of Yunnan Province on the Management of Scenic and Historic Interest Areas, the Regulations of Yunnan Province on the Protection of the Three Parallel Rivers World Natural Heritage and so on. In order to protect the Three Parallel Rivers Yunnan Protected Areas more effectively, the 11th Session of the Standing Committee of Yunnan Provincial People’s Congress incorporated biodiversity conservation in

northwest Yunnan into the legislature planning in the current standing committee, **bringing biodiversity conservation in the Three Parallel Rivers Region to legislation.**

4.2 Management planning

Since the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, Yunnan Province has duly started formulating, reviewing and ratifying, and implementing relevant plans. Through such planning efforts, the relationship between conservation and development can be well dealt with and the important roles of the planning for effective protection are recognized. These science-based plans will ensure lawful management and promote the long-term preservation and sustainable use of the ethnic cultures, historical monuments and the natural resources in the property.

In accordance with the principles of “science-based planning, holistic/integrative management, strict protection and sustainable use”, the formulation and submission of relevant plans for review and approval, and management were timely conducted for the scenic areas in the scope of the property. On June 19, 2012, The Master Plan of the Three Parallel Rivers Scenic and Historic Interest Areas (Year 2005 – 2020) (Revision) was ratified by the State Council, and the MOHURD has also granted the official reply. As an integral component of the Master Plan, the plan for Meili Snow Mountain subarea were evaluated as the model template for planning other subareas of the property, which received high compliment from IUCN. Organized by Yunnan Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (Yunnan DOHURD), the following plans were formulated: The Detailed Plan for Meili Snow Mountain Subarea of the Three Parallel Rivers Scenic Area of Yunnan Province, The Detailed Plan for Balagezong Region of Hongshan Mountain Subarea of the Three Parallel Rivers Scenic Area of Yunnan Province, The Detailed Plan for Laojunshan Mountain Subarea of the Three Parallel Rivers Scenic Area of Yunnan Province (MOHURD approval issued), The Master Detailed Plan for Haban Snow Mountain Subarea of the Three Parallel Rivers Scenic Area of Yunnan Province, The Master Plan for Haban Snow Mountain Subarea of the Three Parallel Rivers Scenic Area of Yunnan Province, The Detailed Plan for Haba Snow Mountain Subarea of the Three Parallel Rivers Scenic Area of Yunnan Province (submitted to MOHRUD for review and approval). In 2014, preparation for formulating the Master Plan

and Detailed Plan of Qianhushan (Thousand-lake Mountain) Subarea of the Three Parallel Rivers Scenic Area of Yunnan Province was launched. As of June 2014, the Master Plan for Gongshan Mountain Subarea of the Three Parallel Rivers Scenic Area of Yunnan Province for Year 2014 – 2025) (Revision) was distributed to relevant competent departments to invite comments and recommendations at the prefecture level.

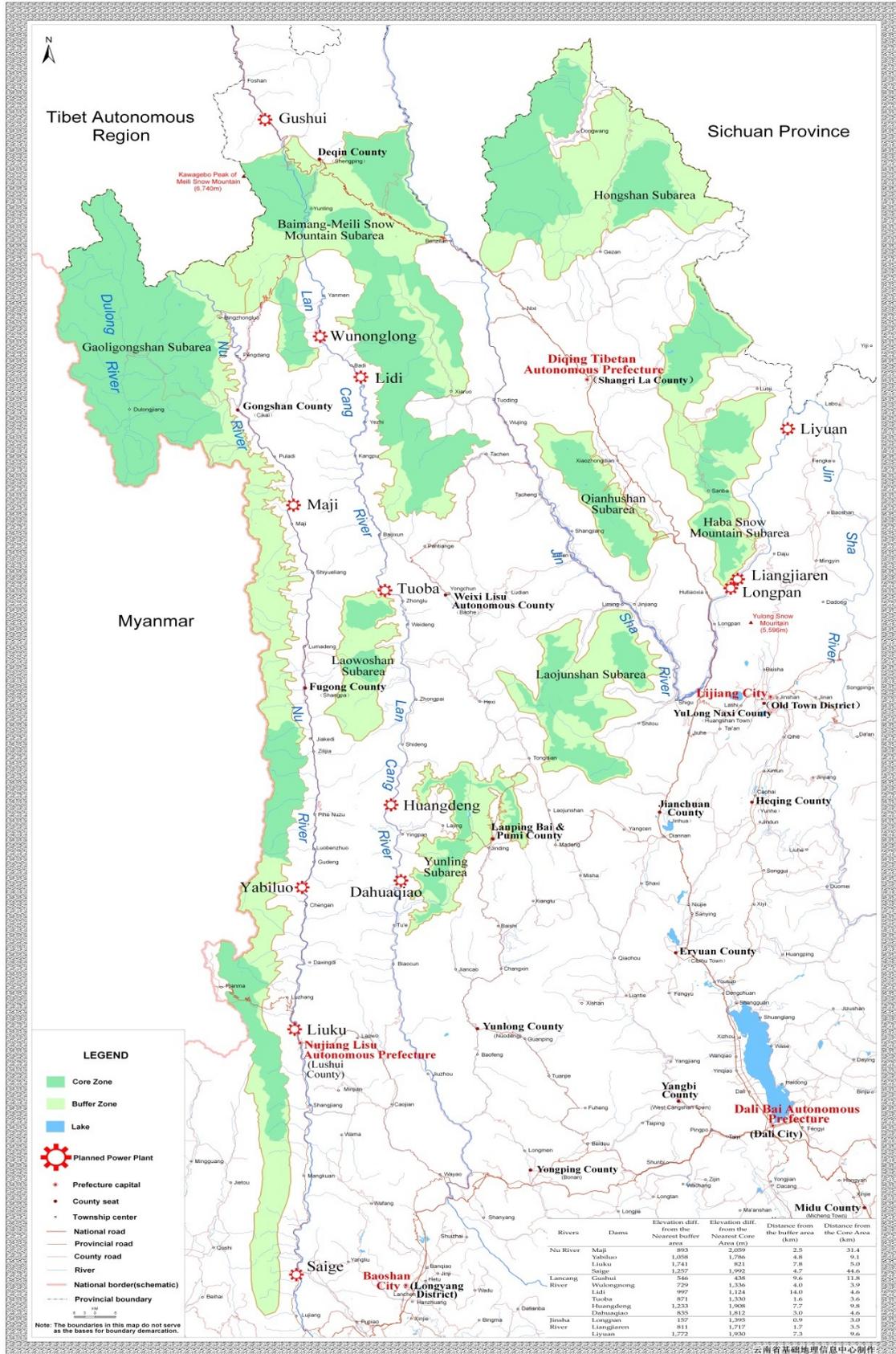
4.3 Community Participation, Education and Exhibition at the property

Communities in Diqing Prefecture have enthusiastically participated in the protection and development of the property. Through engaging in the business operations in ecotourism in the scenic areas, the conservation awareness of local villagers were raised, thus attaining the goal of conservation education. **Diqing Prefecture also constructed the Exhibition Hall of Diqing Management Center** which was certified as a “Science Popularization and Education Base of Yunnan Province” where effective education on ecological and environmental protection for local youths and tourists were carried out. Meanwhile, **the capacity of the management staff in law enforcement and technical skills were improved.** Business activities in the scenic areas were managed through a concession mechanism which complies with the requirements of national parks and enables regulated control of the business activities and sound protection of the property.

Annex 1. Status of Hydropower Dam Construction in the Adjacent Areas of the Property

Watershed	Name of Project	Elevation	Status of the Watershed EIAs	Status of Project EIAs	Progress of Construction
Nujiang River Watershed	Maji	1,573	The Chinese government has not ratified the Hydropower Development Planning Report for Nujiang River Watershed and the EIAs. Construction for the proposed "one reservoir and four cascade dams" has not yet started.	Project EIA has not started.	Preparatory construction not started.
	Yabiluo	1,082		Project EIA has not completed.	Surveying for feasibility study completed.
	Liuku	826.5		EIA for Liuku (Revised) completed.	-do
	Saige	739.0		Project EIA not completed.	-do
Jinsha River Watershed	Liyuan	1,625.8	The Hydropower Development Planning on the Middle Reaches of Jinsha River ratified by the State in January 2003; The Report on the Environmental Impact and Research on Countermeasures for the Cascade Hydropower Dev. on the Middle Reaches of the Jinsha River Artery passed state review in May 2009.	EIAs passed review in April 2009; and Sept. 2010, pending approval.	Preparatory construction started.
	Liangjiaren	1,780		Not formulated	No preparation construction started.
	Longpan	2,016		Not formulated	No preparatory construction launched. Ongoing prefeasibility study
Lancang River Watershed	Gushui	2,265	Formulation of The Report on Hydropower Development Planning for the Section from Gushui (including the Reservoir Area) to Miaowei of the Lancang River was completed at the end of 2003; and its EIA Report passed state review in March 2007.	Not formulated	Ongoing prefeasibility Study
	Wunonglong	1,909		Not formulated	Preparatory construction started.
	Lidi	1,828		MEP Approval issued in August 2011.	Preparatory construction not started.
	Tuoba	1,720		Not formulated	-do
	Huangdeng	1,627		Not formulated	-do
	Dahuaqiao	1,486		Not formulated	-do

Annex 2. Sketch Map of Proposed Hydropower Plants in the Adjacent Areas of the Three Parallel Rivers Yunnan Protected Areas



Annex 3. Introductory Information about the Wildlife Research and Inventory Projects

The Resources Inventory of Wild animals and Plants in Biluo Snow Mountain

Aiming at bridging the gap for our understanding of the animal and plant resources in Biluo Snow Mountain both domestically and internationally, Nujiang Prefecture Nature Conservation Bureau, together with Yunnan Provincial Institute for Forest Inventory and Planning (YPIFIP), invited experts from research institutes and universities in Yunnan and organized a multidisciplinary team to carry out the resources inventory of wild animals and plants in Biluo Snow Mountain. In March 2013, The Coordination and Leading Group for Resources Inventory of Wild Animals and Plants in Biluo Snow Mountain traveled to Gongshan for the preliminary resources inventory. Presently, the leading group is working with YPIFIP to formulate the inventory plans.

Conservation of and Research on Nujiang Golden Monkey (*Rhinopithecus strykeri*)

In April 2013, Nujiang Prefecture Nature Conservation Bureau concluded a research agreement with Institute of Zoology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences(CAS). It was planned that the collaborating parties will spend three years from 2013 to 2015 to carry out full-scale research on Nujiang golden monkey, including the genetic ecology, molecular ecology and behavioral ecology, etc.. In May 2015, field research was officially launched. The first field research lasted about two months, focusing mainly on the preparatory activities, including the habituation of monkey populations, materials collection for biological tests and phonological monitoring of the habitats.

Imaging Biodiversity Expeditions in Laojunshan Mountain

The cooperation was launched with the Institute of Botany, CAS for biodiversity monitoring. Over 20 quadrats and transects were set up for monitoring activities. Imaging biodiversity expeditions were accomplished in cooperation with the IBE teams from Beijing. Thematic conservation actions were carried out for conserving Yunnan golden monkeys. Branding protection with awareness signage of rare and endangered plants and compilation of resources archives for

rare and endangered plants and animals were also carried out. As a result, the overall research capability is constantly improved.

Research Progress on the Food Preferences of Capped Leaf Monkey (*Trachypithecus pileatus*)

The Capped leaf monkey is an endemic species in the Nujiang Region and possesses very high values for conservation and research. Starting 2010, Nujiang Prefecture launched the research program on capped leaf monkey. Since then, research on the populations and distribution, as well as food preferences was carried out. In 2013, the research on the habitat use was launched. This research project was accomplished by Nujiang Management Bureau of Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve in collaboration with Southwest Forestry University (SWFU). In February 2013, staff of Gongshan Nature Reserve shot video streams of capped leaf monkeys in the wild, which provided important science evidences for analyzing the food choices, food preferences and for developing conservation activities.

Status of the Resources Inventory of Gaoligongshan takins (*Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor*)

In an effort to understand the distribution and populations of *B. taxicolor taxicolor* in Nujiang Prefecture, Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve launched the resources inventory of Gaoligong takins on May 1st, 2012. The inventory project was carried out by Nujiang Management Bureau of Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve in cooperation with the Institute of Eastern-Himalaya Biodiversity Research in Dali University. As of January 2013, the inventory teams have accomplished all the research activities for Gaoligong takins. The populations, distribution and living conditions of the species were accurately obtained.

Inventory of the distribution of primate species

In order to understand the distribution of primate populations in Nujiang Prefecture and to improve the baseline data of wildlife resources in Nujiang Prefecture, the inventory project on the distribution of primate species in the Gaoligongshan section in Nujiang Prefecture was implemented with support from the capacity building project for Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve. With the technical support from Dali University, the inventory lasted eight months and covered the key areas of Gaoligongshan and Biluo Snow Mountain

in the territory of Nujiang Prefecture, as well as Yunling Mountains and Dulongjiang River area. Through interviews, field visits and data analysis, the GIS tool was applied to produce digital maps synthesizing data and information of the species composition, distribution and population sizes of primates in the target areas. The primate distribution, viability and living conditions as well as status of conservation were assessed which was used to develop specialized recommendations on the conservation and research of primate species. The field inventory and data analysis of this project was completed, and currently the inventory reports are being compiled.

Imaging Biodiversity Expeditions in Gaoligongshan

The Nature Conservation Bureau of Nujiang Prefecture mandated the Imaging Biodiversity Expeditions Institute, Beijing the tasks of implementing the biodiversity inventory with imaging techniques. In August and December 2013, the involved staff of Nujiang Prefecture Nature Conservation Bureau and a team from IBE jointly conducted two biodiversity inventories in Gaoligongshan in summer and autumn. The inventories involved the core areas of resource distribution in the nature reserve areas in Lushui, Fugong and Gongshan counties. The inventory covered animal and plant resources that are most representative regionally and seasonally. Images of more than 300 species representing the biodiversity of the region were taken. The outputs from the inventories will be mythicized and compiled to serve as the baseline databank for the biodiversity in Gaoligongshan Mountains.

Inventory and Monitoring of *Taiwania flousiana* Forests in Wawa Area of Fugong County

With support from the capacity building project of the nature reserve management, the Nature Conservation Bureau of Fugong County carried out the inventory and monitoring of *Taiwania flousiana* forests distributed in contiguous areas in Wawa Village in Pihe Township. A comprehensive assessment on the geographic locations, areas of distribution and accessible routes was conducted and maps illustrating the populations and distribution of *Taiwania flousiana* forests were produced.