

## WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION - IUCN SUMMARY

### 547 MOUNT HUANGSHAN SCENIC BEAUTY AND HISTORIC SITE (CHINA)

Summary prepared by IUCN (April 1990) based on the original nomination submitted by the People's Republic of China. This original and all documents presented in support of this nomination will be available for consultation at the meetings of the Bureau and the Committee.

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#### 1. LOCATION

Lies in the south of Anhui Province. The property extends over a core area of 15,400ha and is surrounded by a designated buffer zone of 14,200 ha.

#### 2. JURIDICAL DATA:

Proclaimed a site of scenic beauty and historic interest by the State Council of the People's Republic of China in 1982. Protection measures date back to 1935 when the administrative area of Mt Huangshan was delimited, the boundaries providing the basis to the configuration of the existing designation. Management and preservation of the property have been strengthened with the establishment of the Huangshan Municipality directly under Anhui Provincial Government, providing an unified administration to better protect the mountain and its surrounding natural heritage. Legal protection measures are provided under the state's Forestry Law, Environment Protection Law and Provisional Regulations Concerning Scenic Beauty and Historic Interest Sites. Provincial regulations regarding the Conservation of Huangshan Scenic Beauty and Historic Interest Site were issued on 13 April 1989. Regulations have also been promulgated for forest protection and fire prevention (28 September 1987).

#### 3. IDENTIFICATION:

Huangshan is the mountain best renowned for its scenery in China. It features numerous imposing peaks (77 exceed an altitude of 1,000m), whose formation dates back some 100 million years to the Mesozoic Era when the ancient Yangtze Sea disappeared as a result of crustal movements and subsequent uplift. U-shaped valleys, striations and boulders are evidence of later glaciation during the Quaternary Period. Forests of stone pillars are numerous; other features include grotesquely-shaped rocks (many of which are individually named), waterfalls, caves, lakes and hot springs. The vegetation comprises moist forest below 1,100m, deciduous forest from 1,100m to 1,800m, and alpine grassland above the treeline. The flora is diverse (1,650 species), with one-third of China's bryophyte (mosses and liverworts) families and over half of its pteridophyte (ferns) families represented. Endemics to Huangshan total 13 species of pteridophytes and 6 of higher plants. A number of rare and locally or nationally endemic species are threatened with extinction. The vertebrate fauna comprises 300 species and includes 170 of birds, 38 of reptiles, 20 of amphibians and 24 species of fish. A total of 13 species is under state protection, including clouded leopard Neofelis nebulosa (V) and Oriental white stork Ciconia boyciana (E).

Huangshan has been eulogised throughout much of Chinese history, resulting in a rich legacy of art and literature. Ever since it was named Huangshan by imperial order in 747, the property has attracted many visitors, including literary scholars and other celebrities. By the end of the Yuan Dynasty (1368), 64 temples had been constructed on the mountain. In 1979 over 280,000 people visited the site.

4. STATE OF PRESERVATION/CONSERVATION:

The property is administered by Huangshan Administrative Committee in Charge of Sites of Scenic and Historic Interest, set up under the Huangshan Municipality and responsible to the Bureau of Urban and Rural Construction and Environmental Protection of Anhui Province for protection, management and development of the property, including the implementation of the management plan for Huangshan. The property is divided into six tourist and five protection zones for management purposes. Construction is not permitted either within the core or surrounding buffer area if it is likely to detract from the quality of the landscape or be detrimental to the environment. Cultivation, livestock grazing, fuelwood gathering and industrial and mining enterprises are prohibited within the core area under the regulations.

The property is well protected but certain scenic areas are spoilt by the large number of tourists received during holidays and festivals. Technical capabilities for fire fighting, communications, environmental monitoring and pollution control are lacking. These problems, addressed in the management plan, are gradually being resolved.

5. JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST:

The Huangshan nomination, as presented by the People's Republic of China, provides the following justification for designation as a World Heritage property:

a) Natural property

- (iii) Exceptional natural beauty. Huangshan is renowned for its magnificent scenery. Grotesquely-shaped rock formations and trees contribute to the impressiveness of the landscape which is often further enhanced by cloud and mist effects.
- (iv) Habitats of rare and threatened species. Provides habitat for a number of locally or nationally endemic plant species, several of which are threatened with extinction.

## WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION - IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

### 547 MOUNT HUANGSHAN (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA)

#### 1. DOCUMENTATION:

IUCN Data Sheets.

- ii) Consultations: P.H.C. Lucas, J. Hemming, Government authorities from Ministry of Construction, Anhui Province and Huangshan Municipality.
- iii) Additional Literature Consulted: Wenhua and Xianying. 1989. China's Nature Reserves.
- iv) Field visit: May 1990

#### 2. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

China has more than 20 nature reserves in the Oriental Deciduous Forest Biographical Province in which Huangshan is also located. None of these areas is as well known for its scenic values although several are of a larger size. Huangshan is not one of China's five Holy Mountains (as is the Mt. Tai World Heritage site) but it has been listed in "China Pictorial" as one of the top ten scenic attractions in the country. Noted travellers such as Xu Xiake of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) described Huangshan as the loveliest of all China's mountains, although others consider the Wuyi Mountain Nature Reserve in Fujian Province equally impressive. Other comparable important natural sites are found in the nature reserves of Mount Fanjing, Dinghu Mountain, Mount Taibai and the Changbai Mountains. All of these areas have important remnant forests, are sanctuaries for wildlife and possess great scenic beauty.

Compared to the Mt. Tai World Heritage site, Huangshan is higher, more imposing, has a much greater variety of peaks (72), a richer flora and a number of rare species including clouded leopard and the oriental white stork. Its natural values then are predominant over the cultural, the opposite case as occurs in Mt. Tai.

#### 3. INTEGRITY

Since 1987, Huangshan's administration and legislation has been directly under the Anhui Provincial Government Regulations passed in 1989 prohibited livestock grazing, cultivation and all other forms of extractive use. In limited areas near the northern and southern entry points, there is a controlled harvest of bamboo and tea, but this is a historical activity which does not affect the integrity of the reserve. With a unified administration and a management plan in place, the legal and policy basis for management has a strong foundation. The plan provides for six tourist zones and five protection zones and a buffer zone. Some 1600 people live within the area, most of whom are staff and their dependants. A policy is in force to reduce these numbers as well as the accompanying buildings as opportunities arise.

The main management issue at Huangshan is the consequence of the high number of visitors approximately 500,000 in 1989. Combined with the high altitude, fragile soil and concentrated use, visitors have created a major problem with sewage treatment and water quality. Management is making efforts to address this but there are constraints on technical capabilities for fire fighting, communications, monitoring and pollution control. People living adjacent to the mountain have a reverence toward it and generally support its protection. In the outer 140 km<sup>2</sup> buffer zone no new immigration or polluting industries are allowed.

#### 4. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

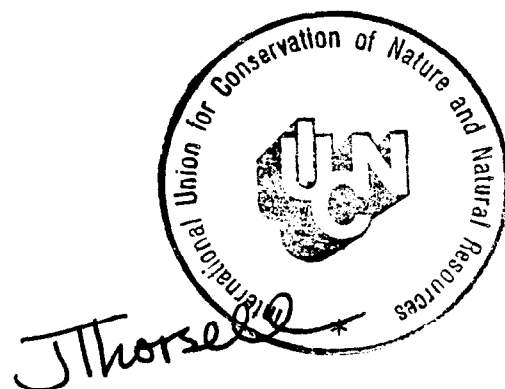
The Chinese authorities have agreed, after discussion, to shorten the name of the site to Mount Huangshan.

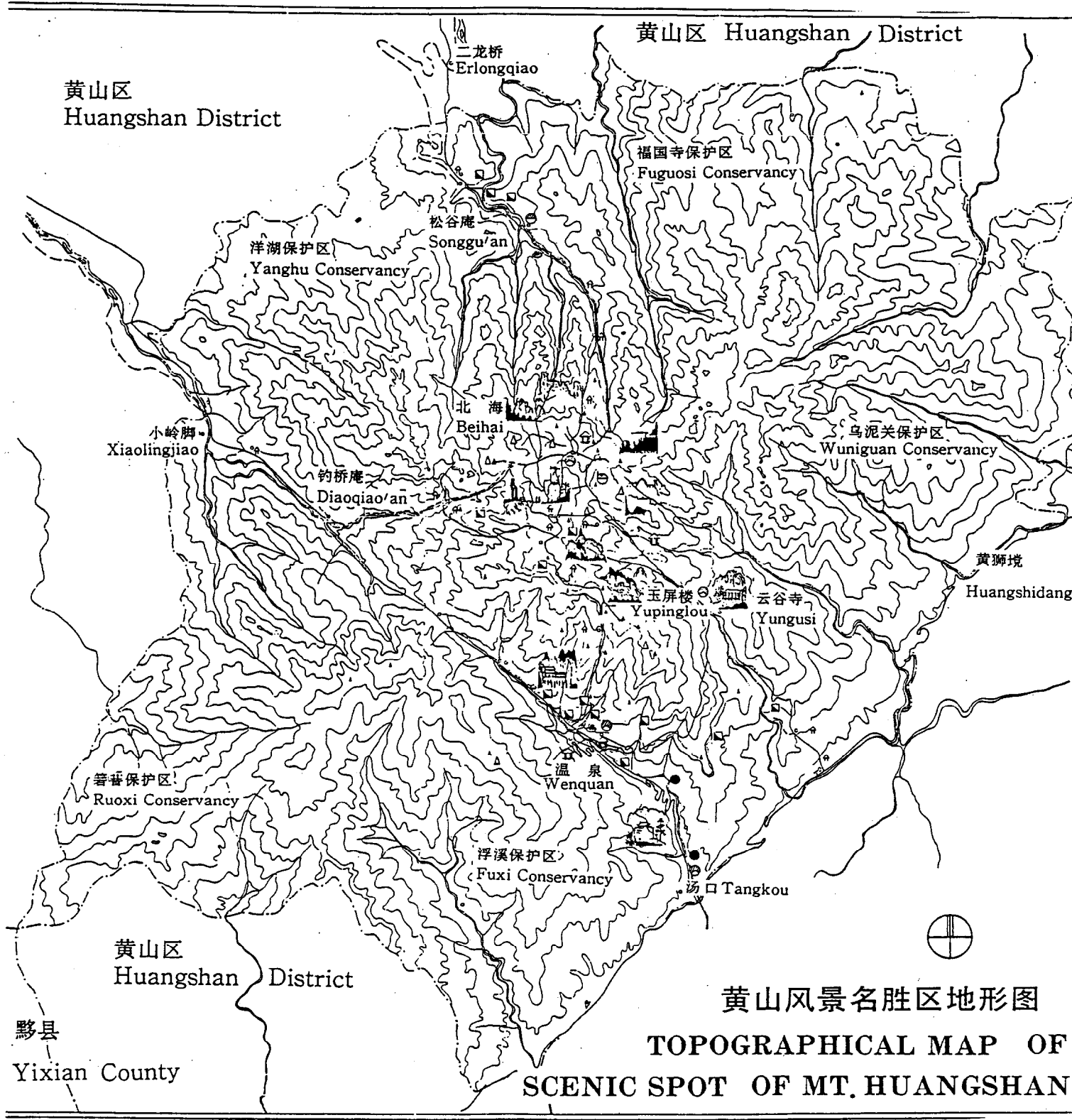
#### 5. EVALUATION

Mount Huangshan occupies a central spot in China's artistic, cultural and environmental heritage. It is a highly scenic natural area that has been embellished by a rich legacy of art, literature and architecture in the form of 64 religious temples. Apart from the interaction of man and nature in a highly scenic setting the area has important botanical values. 1450 plant species have been recorded including 25 endemics. There are a number of one thousand year old specimens of juniper and pine trees. The status of the faunal resource is less well-known but is not considered exceptional. Huangshan thus meets criterion (iii) exceptional natural beauty and combination of natural and cultural elements and (iv) habitat for rare and threatened species.

#### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Mount Huangshan should be added to the World Heritage list. The three levels of government responsible for the site should be commended for the cooperative efforts in addressing the pressures of recreational use and be encouraged in the implementation of the management plan which aims to reduce the evidence of human influence on the mountain.





黄山区 Huangshan District

黄山区  
Huangshan District

福国寺保护区  
Fuguosi Conservancy

洋湖保护区  
Yanghu Conservancy

松谷庵  
Songgu'an

北海  
Beihai

乌泥关保护区  
Wuniguan Conservancy

小岭脚  
Xiaolingjiao

钓桥庵  
Diaoqiao'an

黄狮境  
Huangshidang

玉屏楼  
Yupinglou

云谷寺  
Yungusi

芙蓉保护区  
Ruoxi Conservancy

温泉  
Wenquan

浮溪保护区  
Fuxi Conservancy

汤口  
Tangkou

黄山区  
Huangshan District



黄山风景区地形图

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF  
SCENIC SPOT OF MT. HUANGSHAN

黟县  
Yixian County