

WORLD HERITAGE MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATION PROPOSAL – IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

MOUNT WUYI (CHINA) – ID N° 911 Bis

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mount Wuyi is a mixed World Heritage Site that was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1999 under criteria (iii), (vi), (vii), (x) (See decision CONF 209 VIII.B.1). The currently inscribed property is recorded as having an area of 99,975 ha, with a buffer zone of 27,888 ha. It is a serial property, and comprises one large and one small component part, in a single buffer zone, and is located in Fujian Province. The property has not had any State of Conservation reports since its inscription.

2. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BOUNDARY MODIFICATION

The proposed modification adds a section of Mount Wuyi lying in Jiangxi Province to the large component part of the property, and reconfigures the buffer zone. The majority of the area proposed is located within the present buffer zone of the property and was described and mapped in the original nomination document. If approved it would result in a modified property of 107,044 ha and a new buffer zone of 40,170 ha. The area to be added is 7,069 ha (c.7.1% of the current area of the property).

3. IMPACT ON OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

As noted in the proposal document, “Mount Wuyi (Jiangxi) borders directly onto the inscribed Mount Wuyi World Heritage property and the extended boundary accords with the core and intermediate zones (both equivalent to IUCN category I protected areas) of Wuyishan National Nature Reserve of Jiangxi Province. The narrow north-eastern extension of the Jiangxi Wuyishan NNR is considered unsuited to be added to the World Heritage site as it is fragmented from the rest of the site by the construction of a major highway and railway line.”

The proposal justifies the addition by noting that the “original nomination includes only the southern, albeit larger, side of the Mount Wuyi mountain ecosystem. The modification extends the boundary and enlarges the forest portion of the property by adding important sections of the adjoining Jiangxi Wuyishan National Nature Reserve. The northern sectors are somewhat different from the original property being steeper, colder, more natural, contain different variants of vegetation formations (including some deciduous broadleaf forest), with more tropical broadleaf forest, more rare wildlife and many additional species not found on the southern side of the mountain.”

The proposal document is complete in relation to the natural criteria, and related conditions of integrity and protection and management arrangements, and the documentation is available directly to the World Heritage Committee. It provides a sound description of the additional attributes and how this relates to the existing property, and is presented clearly with a set of companion maps. The proposal does strengthen further the basis for inscription of the property under criteria (vii) and (x) but does not fundamentally change the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, considering the areas included are part of the same mountain system and fully contiguous with the existing inscribed property. The areas included are already functioning protected areas, and the proposal notes how integrity considerations have been taken into account in defining the boundaries proposed. Both provinces are already involved in the currently inscribed property, in view of the area of buffer zone that already extends into Jiangxi, thus there is not a significant change in relation to the administrative complexity of the site, even if the proposal would entail additional recognition and responsibilities within Jiangxi Province by including current buffer zone areas, and some additional areas on the World Heritage List.

IUCN notes that the proposal document makes reference to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook analysis undertaken by IUCN in 2014. IUCN recommended in this report the possible extension of the site across the provincial boundary to include the relevant habitats in Jiangxi, and notes the proposal is stated as directly responding to that suggestion.

IUCN considers that the proposal meets the requirements to be considered as a minor modification to the boundaries of the property, and therefore recommends its approval.

4. OTHER COMMENTS

IUCN notes that Mount Wuyi is a mixed site, and that ICOMOS will also need to make an evaluation of the proposal in relation to cultural criteria. As the proposal does not make reference to cultural values, and presents the justification only in relation to the strengthening of the site in relation to the relevant natural criteria, there appears to be a lack of information in that regard.

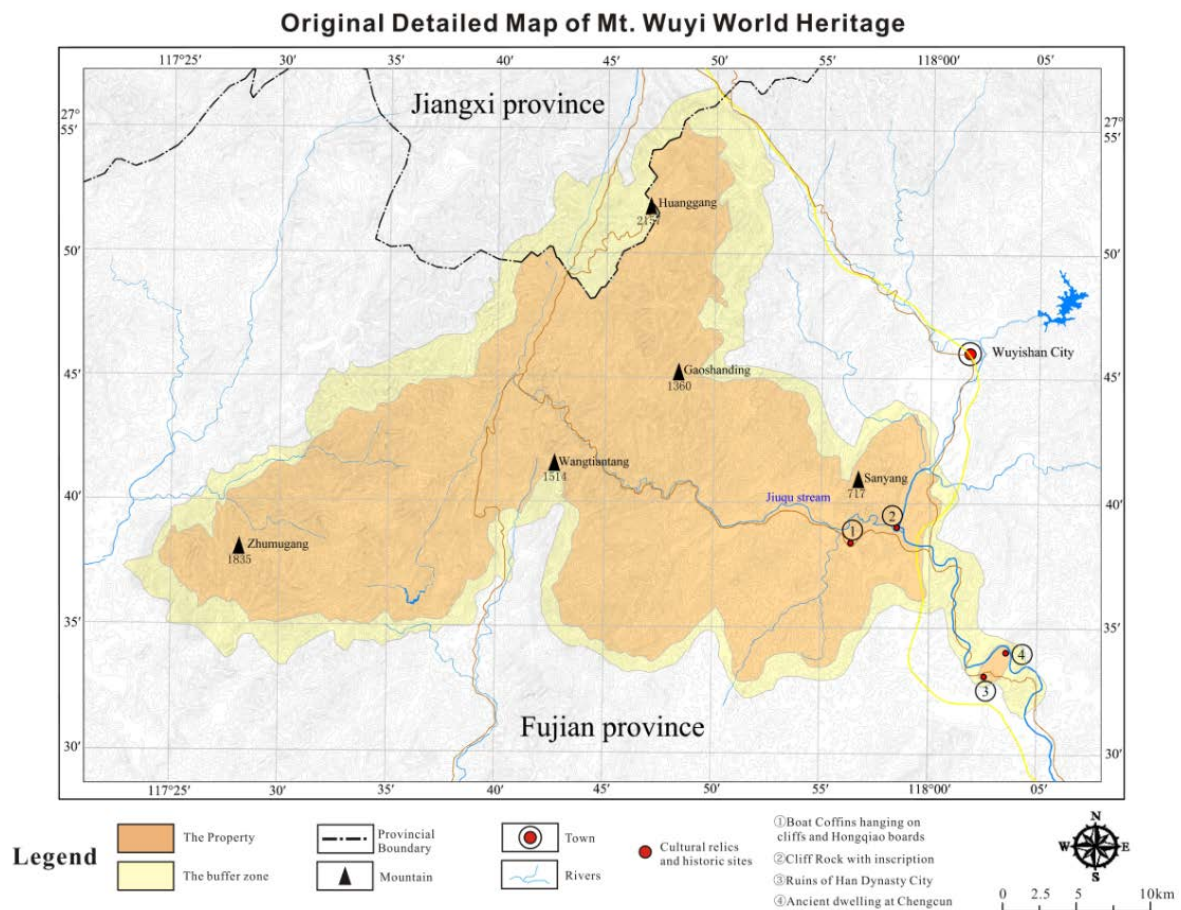
5. RECOMMENDATION

IUCN recommends that the World Heritage Committee adopt the following draft decision:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents
WHC/17/41.COM/8B.ADD and
WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2.ADD;
2. Recalling Decision CONF 209 VIII.B.1;
3. Approves the minor boundary modification of **Mount Wuyi (China)**.

Map 1: World Heritage property as inscribed



Map 2: Proposed Minor Boundary Modification

