

CHINA (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF)

Huanglong Valley



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II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1992

Organisation Responsible for the Report

- Huanglong Administration,
Seercuozhai, Songpan County 623 300
Sichuan Province
PRC

II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria N iii

Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows:
“Huanglong valley comprises one of the biggest travertine formations in the world. These sinter deposits with various forms and great scenic value are situated in a high lying valley, surrounded by mountains over 5000m altitude.”
- Huanglong has also been a borderland between Han and Tibetans cultures for many centuries.

“The World Tourism Organization has developed the ‘Sichuan Province 2000-2010 Tourist Development Plan’, which covers Huanglong in its examination of transport infrastructure, hotel standards and ‘recommended souvenirs’.”

Status of Site Boundaries

- The State Party is considering the re-nomination of Huanglong according to natural criterion iv following a biodiversity survey completed in 2001.
- Borders and buffer zone of the property are considered adequate.

II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- The WH value is considered to have been maintained. No changes are foreseen.

II.4 Management

Administrative and Management Arrangements

- The property is managed under both legal as well as traditional arrangements, and, is preparing to implement ISO 9001 & 14001 standards to improve administrative performance.
- At the national level, ‘National Scenic Spot’ legal regulations cover the protection of “scenery, fauna and flora”, while, at the Sichuan provincial level, a specific World Heritage regulation is being finalised.
 - The General Plan for the Huanglong Scenic District (approved by the State Council in 1987 and revised in 1991) states that all construction in the scenic area must be for preservation purposes only.
 - The site management has the status of a ‘county administration’ of the Aba Autonomous Region and is in charge of both the nature reserve and the local communities in the area, including for police matters.

Present State of Conservation

- The waste management has been improved with the opening of a new waste treatment facility in 2002.
- Illegal timber felling has been fully stopped, and hunting has declined a great deal.
- A new plank walk-way has been constructed from “long-lasting steel covered by concrete with a wood-like finish” and planks purchased from outside the reserve.

Staffing and Training Needs

- 200 staff are employed (30 have a university/college education, including 7 scientists, and 170 are hired from local villages during the tourist season).
- Staffing level is considered inadequate.
- Training needs are identified in quality management and foreign languages.

Financial Situation

- The main source of funding comes from entrance fees which are used for “maintenance and development”. In 2001, this amounted to 70 million Yuan (US\$ 8.5 million).
- Funding is considered adequate.
- A bilateral co-operation agreement exists with the Frankfurt-based ‘Centre for International Migration’ to provide 2 German experts (an ecologist and a linguist).
- * International Assistance from WHF: none.

Access to IT

- At least 1 PC with internet access for each of the 9 administrative departments. No GIS capacity.

Visitor Management

- Visitor numbers increased threefold from 260,000 in 1998 to 823,354 in 2001. The tourist season runs from April to November.
- Facilities include a reception area, information centre, 2 hotels, parking lots for buses and an 8km round trail.

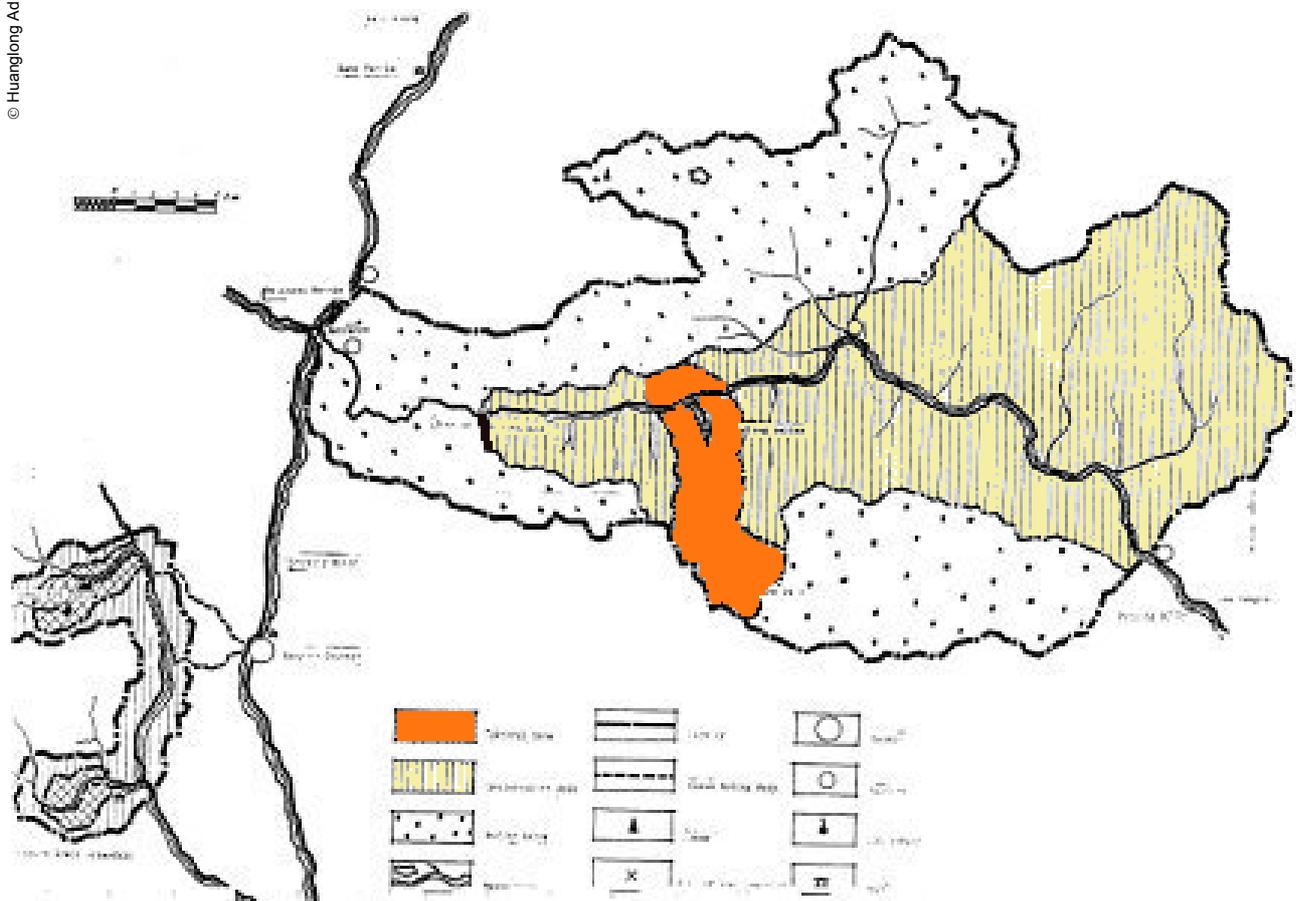
- There is an identified need for a ropeway/cable car on a parallel slope from 3100-3650m to allow tourists to descend on a “one-way trail”; a bigger visitor centre; and an enlarged parking lot.
- The World Tourism Organisation has developed the ‘Sichuan Province 2000-2010 Tourist Development Plan’ which covers Huanglong in its examination of transport infrastructure, hotel standards and “recommended souvenirs”.
- There is a proposal to consider the experience of a WWF-GTZ eco-tourism project in the neighbouring Wanglang Reserve in Pingwu County.

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

Threats and Risks

- ‘Underdevelopment’ of local inhabitants due to remoteness,
- Landslides in zones with low vegetation cover,
- Earthquakes,
- The number of tourist is expected to reach 1 million (estimated to be the maximum carrying capacity),
- Over-harvesting of wild medicinal plants.

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Map of Huanglong Valley showing Core (orange), Protective (yellow) and Buffer (white) zones

Counteractive Plans

- No emergency plan has been developed.
- Qinghua and Beijing University have been commissioned to review infrastructure plans.
- A fund has been released by the Central Government to tackle the risk of landslides in the Danyun Gorge.
- The authorities will install a “computer-based video camera observation system” to increase security.
- A nursery was set up with local farmers to propagate local varieties of medicinal and ornamental plants for domestic and international markets.

II.6 Monitoring

Monitoring Arrangements

- Scientific studies have been carried out on (i) travertine formations (Karst Research Institute, Guilin & University of Newcastle, Australia); (ii) natural resources (Forest Research Institute, Sichuan); and (iii) landslides (Chinese Mountain research Institute, Academy of Science, Chengdu).
- The wildlife population and forest coverage evaluation is planned for 4 weeks every ten years.

Monitoring Indicators

- Regular monitoring indicators include (i) weather data (temperature, moisture, precipitation, wind); and (ii) water volume & quality.
- Other water measurements are also planned for pH, conductivity, selected nutrients, algae and bacteria.

II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- A biodiversity survey was carried out in 2001, along with an improvement in the basic infrastructure, including a new waste treatment facility.
- The “development of a monitoring system for the human impact on the property” is planned.
- Support from the WHF may be required for a “sophisticated water-analysis system”.

* State of Conservation Reports

1998 The Bureau was informed that a Centre/IUCN mission to this site in September 1998 was favourably impressed with the tourism management. The site is located within the same Minshan Mountain range as the Jiuzhaigou WH area. Tourist accommodation facilities in Huanglong are limited and future development of facilities is being confined to the town of Chuan Zhu Si, in Songpan County, 40 km from the Huanglong WH area.

The mission team urged the Chinese authorities to implement the recommendation of the Committee, made at the time of inscription of this site and Jiuzhaigou in 1992, to link the two sites into a single Minshan Mountain WH Area. The Bureau learned that the Chinese authorities had pointed out the need for undertaking scientific studies to link the two sites into a single WH area nomination and the difficulties in co-ordination between two different County administrations. The mission also urged the Chinese authorities to explore possibilities for linking the Jiuzhaigou-Huanglong cluster with a selected number of reserves set aside for the protection of the giant panda in Sichuan.

1998 Committee WHC-CONF.203/8 rev The Committee commended the State Party for effectively managing tourism in Huanglong, and requested the WH Centre and IUCN to co-operate with the State Party to undertake necessary studies for preparing a Minshan Mountain Range WH area nomination linking Jiuzhaigou and Huanglong WH sites and other giant panda reserves as appropriate.