

CHINA (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF)

Chengde Mountain Resort and its Outlying Temples

II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1994

Organisation Responsible for the Report

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II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C ii, iv

Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows:
“Chengde Mountain Resort and its outlying temples represent the great achievements of art in ancient architecture and garden building. It is a typical example of perfect combination of royal palace and royal temples in ancient China. The site embodies the ruling ideology of the emperors of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) and relevant practices, and thus they are of social, political and historic significance. With explicit characteristics of Eastern gardens, it has an important impact on the worlds garden art.”
Chengde Mountain Resort and its outlying temples are a large-scale ancient architecture group that combines a royal garden with royal temples. They were a witness to a united and consolidated Chinese nation of many ethnic groups. They have epitomized the achievements of the ancient Chinese art in aspects of garden construction, architecture and religion, and at the same time embodied the achievements in many areas of ancient Chinese culture. Therefore, they have an outstanding universal value.

Status of Site Boundaries

- The demarcation line and buffer zone are considered as sufficient.
- There is no need for revising the site boundaries.



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II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- Values and authenticity/integrity well preserved.
- Changes to the authenticity/integrity: demolition of buildings that are not cultural relics within the resort has enhanced the integrity and authenticity of the heritage and the actual environment of the resort.

II.4 Management

Administrative and Management Arrangements

- National Laws are not sufficient and the “Administrative Methods for the Protection of Chengde Mountain Resort and Its Outlying Temples” are under preparation since 1999.
- In terms of management arrangements, the Government of Chengde city is responsible for the WH site and the arrangements are considered sufficient.
- In co-operation with the Getty Conservation Institute, an “Overall Planning for the Protection and Management”, a “Management Plan of Daily Operation of the Heritage” and an “Expenses for Protection and Management Plan” are being developed.
- To preserve the WH values in future, the rules for the management of the WH Area are being formulated for adoption.

Present State of Conservation

- Commercial activities reduced from 72 down to 18.
- Modern houses of 19,600 square meters demolished to make room for 21,400 square meters. A total of 44,200 cubic meters of trash has been removed.
- Various demolitions to enlarge open spaces, planted with trees.
- Between 1996 and 2001, almost 57 restoration projects have been undertaken and accomplished for a total amount of 21.95 million Yuan (US\$2.65 million). Efforts have particularly concentrated on cultural relics, gardens and pavilions.

Staffing and Training Needs

- 1,225 staff members in the Cultural Relics Bureau of Chengde City, including 243 technicians or professionals, 37 with senior professional titles. This staff is sufficient.
- The staff need training in up to date management techniques and information technologies, as well as a better security awareness, exhibition and display, management and protection, appraisal, techniques of restoration, assortment and recording of materials.

Financial Situation

- From ticketing, 30 million Yuan (US\$ 3.62 million).
- Funding is considered insufficient. Need of Government allocations, social support and donations from enterprises.
- Constraints in funding. Government allocation is inadequate.
- * International Assistance from WHF as follows: (i) 1996, US\$34,150 Technical Co-operation for Security Equipment; US\$20,000 Training; (ii) 1999, US\$34,150 Technical Co-operation for Chengde Mountain Resort Museum.

Access to IT

- 62 sets of computers with Internet and email access.
- A cultural relics database has been established.
- No use of GIS.

Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics available, with 650,000 visitors in 2001.
- Facilities: minimum facilities such as chairs, litterbins, toilets and clinics. Needed, tourist centre, star toilets, wheelchairs, umbrellas, electronic screens to introduce the scenic spots and touch-sensitive electronic captions.
- Plan for public use under development with the Getty conservation Institute including 12 plans among which the Special Plan for the Management of Tourists.
- Communication of WH values through: communication, publicity, blackboards, photos, books, website, TV, seminars, lectures, etc.
- A Tourism College was established and teaching materials on tourism developed.
- Role of the inscription on the List of World Heritage: (i) increased number of visitors; (ii) increased tourism income; (iii) public interest and experience.

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

Threats and Risks

- Unauthorized buildings and polluting factories. Some of them were demolished. All these alleviated the development pressure.
- Pollution through smog, waste gas and noise from the city. The project to carry natural gas into the city,

the campaign to plant trees and grass and the ban on motor horns in the city districts have improved the environment.

- To prevent flooding, the river flows are dredged yearly, and dykes consolidated. Four rubber dykes have been constructed.



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The Red Terrace of Putuozongchenzhimiao before renovation



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The Red Terrace of Putuozongchenzhimiao after renovation

- Lightning arresters fixed in 43 key architectural points.
- Biological & pesticide measures taken against pests. These measures have proven to be effective.
- Tourism concentrated in particular seasons and areas. Pressure is heavy around May. Measures should be taken to redirect the flow of tourists.
- Human pressure: 150,000 residents bought yearly tickets, and about 20,000 do morning exercises in the resort, with pressure on paths, ancient pines and ancient constructions.

Counteractive Plans

- No emergency plan, but a lot of equipments and organisation.
- Improvements needed: intensify technological protection and increase technological protective means. Input into scientific research to be increased.

Qualified professionals to be recruited. Efforts to raise funding from a wide range of channels.

- Impacts of factors: demolitions decreased the impact, bringing better protection. The planting of trees and grass increased authenticity. However, changes in the natural environment as well as atmospheric pollution, sandstorm, acid rain and drought increase the impact.
- Measures to address factors: commercial activities prohibited, demolition of unauthorized buildings, restoration of the diversion works inside the resort, a forest-tending project in the mountainous areas.

II.6 Monitoring

Monitoring Arrangements

- Monitoring centre established for regular and responsive monitoring, with human-operated and physical monitoring.
- Partners: local administrations.
- Foreseen improvements: use of high technology, GIS for both tourists and scientific researches.

Monitoring Indicators

- Regular observation and survey; issuance of construction permits; indexes for environment monitoring, and increasing tourist influx.

II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- Values: the authenticity of the resort has been respected. The restoration of its original look has made the resort closer to its original appearance and better reflects its authenticity.
- Management and factors affecting property: formulation of the overall plan and 12 special plans for the protection and management of the property in collaboration with the Getty Conservation Institute.
- Future actions: co-operation with the Getty Conservation Institute in the pipeline to put the site under overall protection.
- Timetable for the implementation of the Plans: 2003.

* State of Conservation Reports

1996 Committee - WHC-96/CONF.201//7B - A UNESCO mission in September 1996, noted that plans of conservation brought remarkable achievements in the restoration but that major investments were needed for its restoration. Many buildings are still in bad state and visitor management needs to be upgraded.

The major issue is to create development plans to meet conservation needs and improve buffer zone protection, improve the visual qualities of the site and reduce air pollution.

"The Bureau (...) requests the authorities to inform the Committee of the management and conservation and restoration programme for this site, particularly regarding the development of the town of Chengde."

1998 Committee - WHC-98/CONF.203//8 rev - The authorities submitted a state of conservation report in July 1998, stating that WH protection is included in the urban development plan. Conservation works continued since inscription in 1994. A 10-year Renovation Plan was prepared and approved in 1995 and an "Overall Management Plan for Chengde City" adopted in 1995.

Forestation measures taken, training and education efforts, promotion "week" and "month", management of the site strengthened, security conditions at museum improved.

"The Bureau has been informed (...) that increasing urban and tourism development pressures negatively affected the historical setting within the buffer (...) The Bureau (...) expressed concern over the rapidly increasing urban pressure within the buffer zone and encouraged the relevant authorities to take appropriate measures to integrate tourism development and urban heritage conservation issues in the Management Plan of the site."