

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Classical Gardens of Suzhou

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

• China

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

813bis





Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1997, 2000

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

| Name | Coordinates | Property (ha) | Buffer zone (ha) | Total (ha) | Inscription year |
|--|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| The Humble Administrator's Garden, Suzhou City , Jiangsu Province , China | 31.327 / 120.626 | 5.195 | 0 | 5.195 | 1997 |
| The Linger Garden, Suzhou City , Jiangsu Province , China | 31.318 / 120.588 | 2.331 | 0 | 2.331 | 1997 |
| The Master-of-Nets Garden, Suzhou City , Jiangsu Province , China | 31.3 / 120.63 | 0.54 | 0 | 0.54 | 1997 |
| The Mountain Villa with Embracing Beauty, Suzhou City , Jiangsu Province , China | 31.313 / 120.609 | 0.218 | 0 | 0.218 | 1997 |
| The Canglang Pavilion, Suzhou City , Jiangsu Province , China | 31.297 / 120.621 | 1.174 | 16.362 | 17.536 | 2000 |
| The Lion Forest Garden, Suzhou City , Jiangsu Province , China | 31.323 / 120.625 | 0.874 | 4.79 | 5.664 | 2000 |
| The Garden of Cultivation, Suzhou City , Jiangsu Province , China | 31.315 / 120.605 | 0.38 | 1.117 | 1.497 | 2000 |
| The Couple's Retreat, Suzhou City , Jiangsu Province , China | 31.318 / 120.635 | 0.789 | 3.039 | 3.828 | 2000 |
| The Retreat & Reflection Garden, Tongli , Jiangsu Province , China | 31.16 / 120.715 | 0.421 | 1.531 | 1.952 | 2000 |
| Total (ha) | | 11.922 | 26.839 | 38.761 | |

1.4 - Map(s)

| Title | Date | Link to source |
|--|------------|---|
| A map of the protection area and the construction control zone around the Humble Administrator's Garden | 01/07/1996 |  |
| A map of the protection area and the construction control zone around the Linger Garden | 01/07/1996 |  |
| A map of the protection area and the construction control zone around the Master-of-Nets Garden | 01/07/1996 |  |
| A map of the protection area and the construction control zone around the Mountain Villa with Embracing Beauty | 01/07/1996 |  |

| | | |
|---|------------|---|
| Plane figure of the Canglang Pavilion Protection Area & Buffer Zone | 06/07/1999 |  |
| Plane figure of the Lion Forest Garden Protection Area & Buffer Zone | 06/07/1999 |  |
| Plane figure of the Garden of Cultivation Protection Area & Buffer Zone | 06/07/1999 |  |
| Plane figure of the Couple's Garden Retreat Protection Area & Buffer Zone | 06/07/1999 |  |
| Plane figure of the Retreat and Reflection Garden Protection Area & Buffer Zone | 06/07/1999 |  |

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

Comment

Organization: Jiangsu Provincial Administration of Cultural Heritage
Address: No.98, Zhongshan South Str., Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, 210005
Tel: 025-84699287 Fax: 025-84699409

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

• Zhijian Xue

Comment

Xueling Yi Director of Suzhou Garden and Landscaping Bureau, Jiangsu Province, PRC. Address: 255, Gongyuan RD, Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, PRC. Tel: +86 512 65224929, +86 512 67552106 Email : Info@ylj.suzhou.gov.cn, whcgc@yahoo.cn

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

- 1001wonders.org : visit this site in panophotographies - 360 x 180 degree images
- [View photos from OUR PLACE the World Heritage collection](#)
- [Suzhou Classical Gardens \(ChinaVista\)](#)

Comment

Http://www.ylj.suzhou.gov.cn

1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

Comment

None

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Comment

The classical gardens of Suzhou are located at Suzhou city, Jiangsu Province in China. Gardens in Suzhou have an ancient history, while the first garden was a royal hunting garden belonged to the king of Wu State in BC 600; Private gardens emerged in the 4th century and reached the pinnacle in 18th century. More than 50 of them have survived to the present day. Among them, 9 gardens, namely the Humble Administrator's Garden, Linger Garden, Net Master's Garden, the Mountain Villa with Embracing Beauty, the Canglang Pavilion, the Lion Grove Garden, the Garden of Cultivation, the Couple's Garden Retreat, the Retreat & Reflection Garden, bore the reputation of the finest specimens of the landscape gardens, built according to the style of freehand poetic and picturesque brushwork in traditional Chinese painting. They are noted for their imagination-

inspiring atmosphere, exquisite workmanship, artistic elegance and rich cultural implications, and are considered to be perfect interpretation of ancient Chinese intellectuals' culture, their desire to shun from worldly affairs, their aesthetics ideology, and their wisdom about an amicable environment that brings human residence into harmony with the nature. Garden masters in all ages adopted unique Chinese garden craft skills to simulate nature, to suit local conditions, and to make adroit use of environment. Laid out within a limited area by the house, a classical garden of Suzhou is a microcosm of the world made of the basic elements of water, stones, plants and different kinds of buildings with literary allusions. It is a manifestation of high achievements of garden masters' superior craftsmanship and wisdom. The unique design concept of the gardens is to learn from nature and go beyond nature, which has profound influence on the evolution of eastern and western gardening arts. The gardens are ensembles of buildings, rockery, calligraphy works, furniture, decorative artistic works, serving as a showcase of paramount artistic achievements at East Yangtze Delta region, a carrier of essence and connotations of traditional Chinese culture.

2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Criterion I : The creation of literary allusion with delicate arrangements of waters, stones and abundant plants II : The variety in different type of architectures III: Plateaux, parallel couplets, painting, craving and calligraphy works that are rich in literary connotations and harmonious with natural scenery IV: Antique and exquisite decorations and furnishings V: The harmonious layout that perfectly combines gardens and houses, natural sceneries and literary allusion

2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

None

2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

None

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

| | Name | Impact | | | | | Origin |
|--|---|--------|--|--|--|--|--------|
| 3.1 | Buildings and Development | | | | | | |
| 3.1.1 Housing | | | | | | | |
| 3.1.2 Commercial development | | | | | | | |
| 3.1.3 Industrial areas | | | | | | | |
| 3.1.4 Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure | | | | | | | |
| 3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities | | | | | | | |
| 3.2 | Transportation Infrastructure | | | | | | |
| 3.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure | | | | | | | |
| 3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure | | | | | | | |
| 3.3 | Services Infrastructures | | | | | | |
| 3.3.1 Water infrastructure | | | | | | | |
| 3.3.3 Non-renewable energy facilities | | | | | | | |
| 3.3.4 Localised utilities | | | | | | | |
| 3.3.5 Major linear utilities | | | | | | | |
| 3.4 | Pollution | | | | | | |
| 3.4.2 Ground water pollution | | | | | | | |
| 3.4.3 Surface water pollution | | | | | | | |
| 3.4.4 Air pollution | | | | | | | |
| 3.4.5 Solid waste | | | | | | | |
| 3.4.6 Input of excess energy | | | | | | | |
| 3.5 | Biological resource use/modification | | | | | | |
| 3.5.5 Crop production | | | | | | | |
| 3.7 | Local conditions affecting physical fabric | | | | | | |
| 3.7.1 Wind | | | | | | | |
| 3.7.2 Relative humidity | | | | | | | |
| 3.7.3 Temperature | | | | | | | |
| 3.7.4 Radiation/light | | | | | | | |
| 3.7.5 Dust | | | | | | | |
| 3.7.6 Water (rain/water table) | | | | | | | |
| 3.7.7 Pests | | | | | | | |
| 3.7.8 Micro-organisms | | | | | | | |
| 3.8 | Social/cultural uses of heritage | | | | | | |
| 3.8.1 Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses | | | | | | | |
| 3.8.2 Society's valuing of heritage | | | | | | | |
| 3.8.4 Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system | | | | | | | |
| 3.8.5 Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community | | | | | | | |
| 3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation | | | | | | | |
| 3.9 | Other human activities | | | | | | |
| 3.9.1 Illegal activities | | | | | | | |
| 3.9.2 Deliberate destruction of heritage | | | | | | | |
| 3.10 | Climate change and severe weather events | | | | | | |
| 3.10.1 Storms | | | | | | | |
| 3.10.2 Flooding | | | | | | | |
| 3.10.3 Drought | | | | | | | |

| | Name | Impact | | | | Origin |
|---------------|---|---|----------|----------|--------|---------|
| 3.10.6 | Temperature change | | | | | |
| 3.10.7 | Other climate change impacts | | | | | |
| 3.11 | | Sudden ecological or geological events | | | | |
| 3.11.2 | Earthquake | | | | | |
| 3.11.5 | Erosion and siltation/ deposition | | | | | |
| 3.11.6 | Fire (wildfires) | | | | | |
| 3.12 | | Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species | | | | |
| 3.12.1 | Translocated species | | | | | |
| 3.12.2 | Invasive/alien terrestrial species | | | | | |
| 3.12.3 | Invasive / alien freshwater species | | | | | |
| 3.12.5 | Hyper-abundant species | | | | | |
| 3.13 | | Management and institutional factors | | | | |
| 3.13.1 | Low impact research / monitoring activities | | | | | |
| 3.13.3 | Management activities | | | | | |
| Legend | Current | Potential | Negative | Positive | Inside | Outside |

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

| | Spatial scale | Temporal scale | Impact | Management response | Trend | |
|--|---|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| 3.1 Buildings and Development | | | | | | |
| 3.1.1 | Housing | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | decreasing |
| 3.1.3 | Industrial areas | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | decreasing |
| 3.1.5 | Interpretative and visitation facilities | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | increasing |
| 3.2 Transportation Infrastructure | | | | | | |
| 3.2.1 | Ground transport infrastructure | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | decreasing |
| 3.2.4 | Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | decreasing |
| 3.3 Services Infrastructures | | | | | | |
| 3.3.1 | Water infrastructure | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | static |
| 3.3.3 | Non-renewable energy facilities | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | decreasing |
| 3.3.4 | Localised utilities | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | decreasing |
| 3.3.5 | Major linear utilities | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | decreasing |
| 3.4 Pollution | | | | | | |
| 3.4.2 | Ground water pollution | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | static |
| 3.4.3 | Surface water pollution | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | decreasing |
| 3.4.4 | Air pollution | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | decreasing |
| 3.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric | | | | | | |
| 3.7.1 | Wind | localised | intermittent or sporadic | insignificant | medium capacity | static |
| 3.7.2 | Relative humidity | localised | intermittent or sporadic | minor | high capacity | static |
| 3.7.3 | Temperature | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | static |
| 3.7.4 | Radiation/light | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | static |
| 3.7.5 | Dust | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | static |
| 3.8 Social/cultural uses of heritage | | | | | | |
| 3.8.4 | Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system | restricted | intermittent or sporadic | minor | high capacity | static |
| 3.8.5 | Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community | restricted | intermittent or sporadic | insignificant | high capacity | static |
| 3.8.6 | Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation | localised | intermittent or sporadic | insignificant | high capacity | decreasing |
| 3.10 Climate change and severe weather events | | | | | | |
| 3.10.6 | Temperature change | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | medium capacity | static |
| 3.12 Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species | | | | | | |
| 3.12.2 | Invasive/alien terrestrial species | restricted | one off or rare | insignificant | high capacity | decreasing |
| 3.12.3 | Invasive / alien freshwater species | restricted | intermittent or sporadic | insignificant | high capacity | decreasing |
| 3.13 Management and institutional factors | | | | | | |

| | | Spatial scale | Temporal scale | Impact | Management response | Trend |
|--------|---|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------|
| 3.13.1 | Low impact research / monitoring activities | restricted | intermittent or sporadic | insignificant | high capacity | static |

3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

3.17.1 - Comments

None.

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is a buffer zone

4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are known by the management authority but **are not known by local residents / communities/landowners**.

4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

None

4.2. Protective Measures

4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

The gardens are protected by a series of statutes, stemming from the Constitution of the PRC and including the Law of Cultural Relics Protection, the City Planning Law, the Environmental Protection Law, and the Penal Law. The Cultural Relics Protection Law operates through a number of sets of regulations, and these are reinforced by other regulations relating to fire prevention, prevention of noise pollution, etc.

Since 1982 Suzhou has been one of the designated Historical and Cultural Cities of the PRC. It has an urban master plan within which the gardens are placed in the highest category, requiring Class A protection; this includes the delineation of three levels of protection area around each: these amply comply with the requirements of the World Heritage Committee for buffer zones. There are special Regulations for

the Preservation and Administration of the Classical Gardens of Suzhou, promulgated in 1996. The Canglang Pavilion, the Lion Forest Garden, and the Retreat and Reflection Garden have been protected cultural relics of the People's Government of Jiangsu Province since 1982, and the other two gardens making up this proposal for extension were added in 1995.

Suzhou is also a key city for environmental protection in China, and the control of environmental pollution is stringent, which benefits the classical gardens in particular. Complete protection is afforded by these measures to the gardens and to their immediate environs.

Comment

The Law of People's Republic of China on Protection of Cultural Relics; Regulations on the Protection and Management of the Classical Gardens of Suzhou

4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity

4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **excellent** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property

4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

None

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

Overall responsibility for National Cultural Relics lies with the National Administration for Cultural Heritage of the PRC. At national level the Ministry of Construction is responsible for overseeing all interventions. Management is delegated down to provincial level, in this case to the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Culture and the Jiangsu Provincial Committee for Construction, and then further to their equivalents within

Periodic Report - Second Cycle

the Suzhou municipal administration. Day-to-day management has been in the hands of the Suzhou Municipal Administrative Bureau of Gardens since it was set up in 1952.

The Suzhou Classical Garden Construction Company is an autonomous group, created in 1980, with special expertise in this field. A management plan has been drawn up, within the framework of the existing legislation and regulations. This lays down precise requirements regarding the protection, funding, monitoring, maintenance, manning, administration, and educational role of the gardens. This forms part of the Overall City Plan for Suzhou, which also includes a Tourism Development Plan, which has special provisions relating to the presentation and use of the classical gardens.

Comment

Suzhou General Documents on Urban Planning ; Regulations on the Protection and Management of the Classical Gardens of Suzhou ; Regulations on Monitoring and Management of the Classical Gardens of Suzhou

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

The Protection Plan for the Classical Gardens of Suzhou (2006-2015)

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is **excellent coordination** between all bodies / levels involved in the management of the property

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is **only partially** being implemented

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **many activities** are being implemented

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Local communities / residents | Fair |
| Local / Municipal authorities | Good |
| Indigenous peoples | Not applicable |
| Landowners | Good |
| Visitors | Fair |
| Researchers | Good |
| Tourism industry | Fair |
| Industry | Fair |

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer

Section II - Classical Gardens of Suzhou (813)

zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities have **some input** into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

No indigenous peoples are resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is contact but only **some cooperation** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

None

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

None

4.4. Financial and Human Resources

4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

| | |
|---|-----|
| Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc) | 0% |
| International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc) | 0% |
| Governmental (National / Federal) | 0% |
| Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State) | 0% |
| Governmental (Local / Municipal) | 43% |
| In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc) | 0% |
| Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.) | 57% |
| Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.) | 0% |
| Other grants | 0% |

4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

Comment

Not applicable

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **acceptable** but could be further improved to fully meet the management needs

Periodic Report - Second Cycle

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding are **secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is **some flow** of economic benefits to local communities

4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **some** adequate equipment and facilities, but deficiencies in at least one key area **constrain** management at the World Heritage property

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

Equipment and facilities are **well maintained**

4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

None

4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Full-time | 100% |
| Part-time | 0% |

4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Permanent | 100% |
| Seasonal | |

4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Paid | 100% |
| Volunteer | |

4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

A range of human resources exist, but these are **below optimum** to manage the World Heritage Property.

4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Research and monitoring | Fair |
| Promotion | Fair |
| Community outreach | Poor |
| Interpretation | Fair |
| Education | Fair |
| Visitor management | Good |
| Conservation | Good |
| Administration | Good |
| Risk preparedness | Fair |
| Tourism | Good |

Section II - Classical Gardens of Suzhou (813)

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Enforcement (custodians, police) | Good |
|----------------------------------|------|

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Research and monitoring | Not available |
| Promotion | Not available |
| Community outreach | Low |
| Interpretation | Low |
| Education | Low |
| Visitor management | Low |
| Conservation | Low |
| Administration | Low |
| Risk preparedness | Low |
| Tourism | Low |
| Enforcement (custodians, police) | Low |

4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is in place and **partially implemented**; some technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally **but most of the technical work is carried out by external staff**

4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

None

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for most key areas **but there are gaps**

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is **considerable** research but it is **not directed** towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared with local participants and some national agencies**

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

"Suzhou Gardens", Suzhou institute of Landscape Architectural Design CO. LTD, Published by China Architecture and Building Press, May, 2010.;

4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

Suzhou Gardens and Landscaping Administration has set up the monitoring and warning information systems of Suzhou Classical Gardens, and the draft of several standards have been tested.

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In many locations and easily visible to visitors

4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Local communities / residents | Average |
| Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property | Average |
| Local Indigenous peoples | Not applicable |
| Local landowners | Excellent |
| Visitors | Average |
| Tourism industry | Average |
| Local businesses and industries | Average |

4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a planned education and awareness programme but it only **partly meets the needs** and could be improved

4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has influenced education, information and awareness building activities, **but it could be improved**

4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted **but improvements could be made**

4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Visitor centre | Adequate |
| Site museum | Adequate |
| Information booths | Adequate |
| Guided tours | Adequate |
| Trails / routes | Adequate |
| Information materials | Adequate |
| Transportation facilities | Adequate |
| Other | Not needed |

4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

None

4.7. Visitor Management

4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Last year | Minor Increase |
| Two years ago | Static |
| Three years ago | Decreasing |
| Four years ago | Static |
| Five years ago | Decreasing |

4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

| |
|------------------------------|
| Entry tickets and registries |
| Transportation services |
| Tourism industry |
| Visitor surveys |

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed but **improvements could be made**

4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is **excellent co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

The fee is collected and makes a **substantial contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

None

4.8. Monitoring

4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme** of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient and key indicators have been defined but **monitoring the status of indicators could be improved**

4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

| | |
|--|----------------|
| World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff | Excellent |
| Local / Municipal authorities | Excellent |
| Local communities | Non-existent |
| Researchers | Excellent |
| NGOs | Poor |
| Industry | Excellent |
| Local indigenous peoples | Not applicable |

4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

Implementation is **complete**

4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee

None

4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring

Suzhou Garden and Landscaping Bureau started the full-scale monitoring in 2004 and established special agency in 2005 ,which set "3 full-scales_ as the guidelines of monitoring, by making a comprehensive research of influential factors, including basic surveying of each components, historic information, management and personnel information, and basic conditions of buffer zones.second by conductingreal time monitoring and recording of the monitored objects; third by establishing rules and procedures of monitoring and pre-warning standards.

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

| | | World Heritage criteria and attributes affected | Actions | Monitoring | Timeframe | Lead agency (and others involved) | More info / comment |
|---------------|---|---|---|--|---|--|---------------------|
| 3.1 | Buildings and Development | | | | | | |
| 3.1.5 | Interpretative and visitation facilities | Unfitted facilities disturb the scenery in the gardens. | Make the design and the shape of interpretative and visitation facilities harmonious with the scenery, and place them in the right space. | Conduct the real-time monitoring on the regular basis, and rectify the mistakes directly. | Take half a year as the periodic frame for the monitoring actions. | Suzhou Gardens and Landscaping Administration | No comment. |
| 3.7 | Local conditions affecting physical fabric | | | | | | |
| 3.7.1 | Wind | The summer wind threat the stability of ancient architectures and plants growing in the gardens. | Enhance monitoring for the affected elements, refine the Monitoring and Warning Information System for the Classical Gardens of Suzhou, and take protective measures in the typhoon season. | Keep track of weather changes and report the forward warning information. | From 2006 to 2011, the Monitoring and Warning Information System has been set up and refined, and the periodic monitoring actions are conducted. | Suzhou Meteorological Bureau ; Suzhou Gardens and Landscaping Administration; Suzhou Conservation and Monitoring Center for the Classical Gardens of World Heritage. | No comment |
| 3.7.2 | Relative humidity | The humid environment brings about pests that are destructive for wooden structures and plants, leading to short intervals between each restoration and unpredictable destructions. | Improve the wet-proof ability for wooden structures and deal with the dampened area immediately. | Assign staff for regular checking and monitoring. | From 2006 to 2011, the Monitoring and Warning Information System has been set up and refined, and the periodic monitoring actions are conducted. | Suzhou Gardens and Landscaping Administration | No comment. |
| 3.8 | Social/cultural uses of heritage | | | | | | |
| 3.8.4 | Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system | Changes of people's lifestyle and work orientation produce less and less brilliant craftsmen dedicated to preserve the Classical Gardens of Suzhou. | Make the supportive public policies and initiate the training programs; encourage the comfortable environment that cultivates traditional craftsmanship . | Calculate the talent pool of traditional craftsmen and check the changes on the regular basis. | Set up the Brilliant Traditional Craftsmen Information System in 2011- 2013; Set up the Traditional Craftsmanship Training Base in 2012- 2013. | Suzhou Labor and Social Security Bureau; Suzhou Gardens and Landscaping Administration | No comment |
| 3.10 | Climate change and severe weather events | | | | | | |
| 3.10.6 | Temperature change | | | | | | |
| 3.13 | Management and institutional factors | | | | | | |
| 3.13.1 | Low impact research / monitoring activities | Get the authentic three dimensional information of the Classical Gardens | Use Laser- Scanner to record the point cloud and measure size of Classical Gardens | Make a regular record of laser scanning result | 2010-2012, get the information from the first round of three dimensional measure of point cloud; 2013-2014, get the information from the second round of three dimensional measure of point cloud; 2015-2016, compare and contrast the situation of world | Suzhou Gardens and Landscaping Administration Bureau | No comment |

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

| 4.1 Boundaries and Buffer Zones | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---------------------|--|--|
| | | Actions | Timeframe | Lead agency (and others involved) | More info / comment | | |
| 4.1.5 | The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are not known by local residents / communities/landowners | Establish the buffer zones marks; promote the buffer zone awareness of local residents/communities; | 2012.1-2012.3. Make the plan of marks setting in the buffer zones for Suzhou Classical Gardens. 2012.4-2012.10 Establish the buffer zones' marks. 2012.11-2012.12 Check. | Suzhou People's Government; Suzhou Gardens and Landscaping Administration; communities and local residents | No comment. | | |

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

The authenticity of the World Heritage property has been **preserved**

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.4.1 - Comments

None

6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Conservation | Positive |
| Research and monitoring | Positive |
| Management effectiveness | Positive |
| Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples | No impact |
| Recognition | Positive |
| Education | Positive |
| Infrastructure development | Positive |
| Funding for the property | Positive |
| International cooperation | Positive |
| Political support for conservation | Positive |
| Legal / Policy framework | Positive |
| Lobbying | Not applicable |
| Institutional coordination | Positive |
| Security | Positive |
| Other (please specify) | Not applicable |

6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

None

6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

| |
|--|
| Governmental institution responsible for the property |
| Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff |
| Staff from other World Heritage properties |
| Local community |

| |
|------------------|
| External experts |
| Advisory bodies |

6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

yes

6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

It would be great if the character limitation can be expanded.

6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| UNESCO | Very good |
| State Party Representative | Very good |
| Advisory Body | Very good |

6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Most of the required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

| |
|---|
| The World Heritage Convention |
| The concept of Outstanding Universal Value |
| The property's Outstanding Universal Value |
| The concept of Integrity and / or Authenticity |
| The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity |
| Managing the property to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value |
| Monitoring and reporting |
| Management effectiveness |

6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| UNESCO | Satisfactory |
| State Party | Excellent |
| Site Managers | Excellent |
| Advisory Bodies | Satisfactory |

6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

• Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Reason for update: The classical gardens of Suzhou are located at Suzhou city, Jiangsu Province in China. Gardens in Suzhou have an ancient history, while the first garden was a royal hunting garden belonged to the king of Wu State in BC 600; Private gardens emerged in the 4th century and reached the pinnacle in 18th century. More than 50 of them have survived to the present day. Among them, 9 gardens, namely the Humble Administrator's Garden, Lingering Garden, Net Master's Garden, the Mountain Villa with Embracing Beauty, the Canglang Pavilion, the Lion Grove Garden, the Garden of Cultivation, the Couple's Garden Retreat, the Retreat & Reflection Garden, bore the reputation of the finest specimens of the landscape gardens, built according to the style of freehand poetic and picturesque brushwork in traditional Chinese painting. They are noted for their imagination-inspiring

atmosphere, exquisite workmanship, artistic elegance and rich cultural implications, and are considered to be perfect interpretation of ancient Chinese intellectuals' culture, their desire to shun from worldly affairs, their aesthetics ideology, and their wisdom about an amicable environment that brings human residence into harmony with the nature. Garden masters in all ages adopted unique Chinese garden craft skills to simulate nature, to suit local conditions, and to make adroit use of environment. Laid out within a limited area by the house, a classical garden of Suzhou is a microcosm of the world made of the basic elements of water, stones, plants and different kinds of buildings with literary allusions. It is a manifestation of high achievements of garden masters' superior craftsmanship and wisdom. The unique design concept of the gardens is to learn from nature and go beyond nature, which has profound influence on the evolution of eastern and western gardening arts. The gardens are ensembles of buildings, rockery, calligraphy works, furniture, decorative artistic works, serving as a showcase of paramount artistic achievements at East Yangtze Delta region, a carrier of essence and connotations of traditional Chinese culture.

6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise

None