

**WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE
ANCIENT BUILDING COMPLEX IN THE
WUDANG MOUNTAINS
(C705)**

**STATE OF CONSERVATION (SOC)
2017**

State Administration of Cultural Heritage, P.R.China

Hubei Provincial Bureau of Cultural Relics

Wudang Mountains Tourism Economic Special Zone Administrative Committee

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1. Profile of the World Cultural Heritage

Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains

Location: Wudang Mountains Tourism Economic Special Zone, Shiyan, Hubei, China

Year of Inscription: 1994

Criteria: Criteria (i), (ii) and (vi)

Profile: The palaces and temples of the Ancient Building Complex are located amongst the peaks, ravines and gullies of the picturesque Wudang Mountains, Hubei Province. Established as a Taoist centre from the early Tang Dynasty, some Taoist buildings could be traced back to the 7th century. However the surviving buildings exemplify the architectural and artistic achievements of China's secular and religious buildings of the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. The Ancient Building Complex reached its apogee during the Ming dynasty, with 9 palaces, 9 monasteries, 36 nunneries and 72 temples, following the major building campaign undertaken by Emperor Zhu Di to align his imperial regime with Taoism. Today, 53 ancient buildings and 9 architectural sites survive, including the Golden Shrine and the Ancient Bronze Shrine, which are prefabricated buildings in bronze made in 1307; the stone-walled Forbidden City of 1419; Purple Heaven Palace built originally in the 12th century, rebuilt in the 15th century and extended in the 19th century; the Nanyang Palace of the 12th and 13th centuries; the Fuzhen Temple of the 15th and 17th centuries and the stone Zhishi-Xuanyue Gateway built to mark the entrance to the Wudang Mountains in 1522. The buildings in the Wudang Mountains exhibit exceptional architectural art and technology and represent the highest level of Chinese art and architecture achieved over a period of nearly 1,000 years. They are examples of religious and secular buildings closely associated with the growth of Taoism in China and lavishly endowed by successive Emperors. As an exceptionally large and well-preserved Taoist building complex it is important material evidence for studying early Ming politics and the Chinese history of religion.

2. Decision of the World Heritage Committee

Decision : 40 COM 7B.30

Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China) (C 705)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Takes note of the ongoing work and remaining design issues for the Yuzhen Palace uplift project, as well as the ongoing work on the management plan and other management issues;
4. Requests the State Party to adopt the second proposal for the final shape of the platform, infilling the small channels to form a more natural shoreline;
5. Endorses the proposal to reinstall the archaeological remains at the new grade level as outlined in the State Party report, but also requests the State Party to ensure that interpretation and presentation of these remains and the entire Yezhen Palace complex should occur in a way that allows visitors to understand the changes that the property has undergone as part of the uplift project;
6. Notes that the State Party has submitted a draft of the Protection and Management Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains, and further requests the State Party to finalize this plan, with a focus on promotion of living heritage, and a strengthened cultural landscape approach, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to institute a strong, long-term programme of monitoring of visitor management, including not only the number of visitors, but also any impacts that visitors may be having, particularly on the more sensitive areas of the property;
8. Regretting that the State Party has not yet responded to the December 2013 letter of the World Heritage Centre seeking clarification on the components of the property and its buffer zone, urges the State Party to address this matter with representatives of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in order to

reach a final agreement which, if necessary, should be presented for examination by the World Heritage Committee;

9. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

3. Executive Summary

Chinese government has attached great importance to the preservation and management of the World Cultural Heritage Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains in Hubei (C705). During the past two years, in accordance with the Decision 40COM 7B.30 at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2016 and the opinions and suggestions of experts for joint reactive monitoring from World Heritage Center (WHC), International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the State Party's government continued the construction of the platform below the Yuzhen Palace, carried out the infilling earthwork according to the plan submitted to WHC to form a natural shoreline, stably carried out restoration of the archaeological sites, organized professional institutions to roll out relevant elaboration and presentation researches on the archaeological sites and the lifting project, actively solicited opinions and suggestions of stakeholders, organized domestic industrial experts for professional reviews, further amended and improved the *Regulations of Shiyan City on the Preservation of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains*. Meanwhile, in the aspects of the legislation of *Regulations of Shiyan City on the Preservation of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains*, establishment of Wudang Mountains World Cultural Heritage Preservation and Management Department, scientific and reasonable planning of the preservation and restoration of ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains, intensified construction of the talent team of management institutions, and cooperation with higher universities and professional institutions, lots of work have been carried out, further improving the status of world cultural heritage preservation and the overall level in preservation, management and presentation etc.

4. Progress of Preservation and Management

State Administration of Cultural Heritage(SACH) teamed up with Hubei Provincial Bureau of Cultural Relics(HPBCR) to urge and guide the Wudang Mountains Tourism Economic Special Zone Administrative Committee(Wudang Mountains Committee) to stringently follow the Decision 40 COM 7B.30 at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2016 and the opinions and suggestions of experts for joint reactive monitoring from World Heritage Center, International Council on Monuments and Sites(ICOMOS) and International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property(ICCROM), and carry out the work as follows to improve the preservation, management and presentation of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains, and especially the preservation of the Yuzhen Palace Ancient Building and Site in accordance with relevant plan examined and approved by World Heritage Committee and World Heritage Center. The details are as follows.

4.1 Construction progress of the platform/peninsular for the Yuzhen Palace

Excerpt from the Decision 40 COM 7B.30 at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee:

“4. Requests the State Party to adopt the second proposal for the final shape of the platform, infilling the small channels to form a more natural shoreline;”

According to the request of the World Heritage Committee, the Wudang Mountains Committee continuously entrusted the Architectural Design and Research Institute of Tsinghua University, the designer of Yuzhen Palace Uplift Preservation Project Plan approved by the World Heritage Committee, to amend and improve the relevant executive plan for the infilling earthwork, shoreline adjustment and landscape environmental layout of the platform/peninsular for the Yuzhen Palace. The narrow valleys at eastern and western ends of the S-shaped platform/peninsular will be infilled with wave resistance treatment for the surface and sedimentation Resistance treatment to secure the overall stability of the platform/peninsular and complete connection with original bank, and create a natural and smooth border for the entire platform/peninsular.

Since the start of the Yuzhen Palace Uplift Preservation Project in October 2010, the relics archaeological research, investigation records, coding and registration and relocation and preservation of the buildings except three gates have been completed successively in accordance with the plan approved by the World Heritage Committee. The overall underlay preservation of the palace gate and the screen wall, eastern palace gate and western palace gate was completed. The infilling, rolling and nearly 4-year-long natural sedimentation was completed for the platform/peninsular for Yuzhen Palace. In recent years, according to the executive plan of the Architectural Design and Research Institute of Tsinghua University, the narrow valleys on eastern and western ends of the platform/peninsular were infilled and various buildings and sites were accurately restored. Consolidation, rehabilitation, forestation of platform/peninsular and other work are orderly progressing. The valley infilling in the western end was completed in October 2017, and the one in the eastern end will be started recently and scheduled to be completed in February 2018.

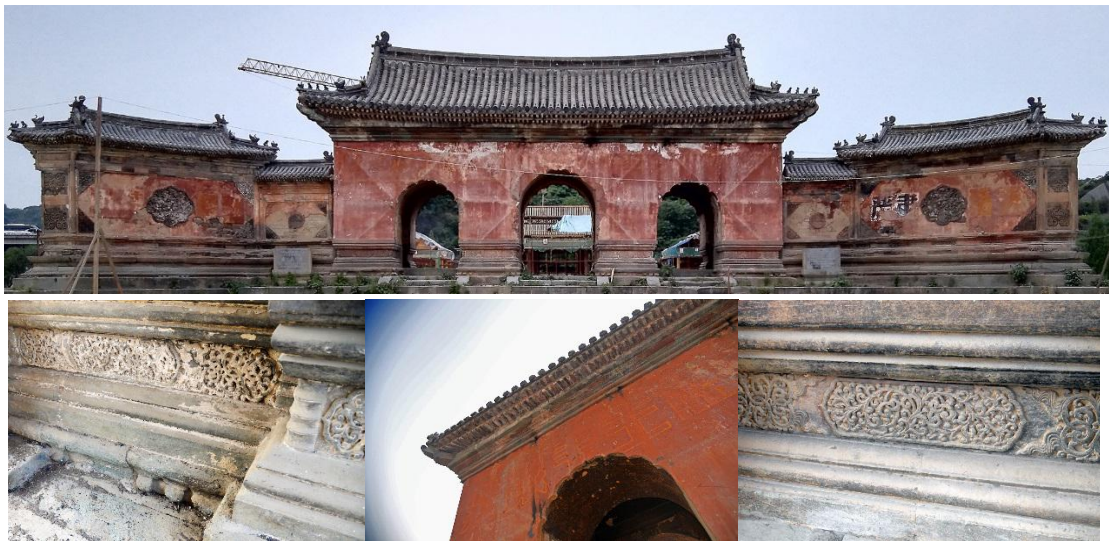


Photo 1. The palace gate after the uplift preservation project



Photo 2. The infilled valley at the western end of the platform

4.2 Progress of the re-installation of Yuzhen Palace archaeological remains

Excerpt from the Decision 40 COM 7B.30 at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee:

“5.Endorses the proposal to re-install the archaeological remains at the new grade level as outlined in the State Party report, but also requests the State Party to ensure that interpretation and presentation of these remains and the entire Yuzhen Palace complex should occur in a way that allows visitors to understand the changes that the property has undergone as part of the uplift project;”

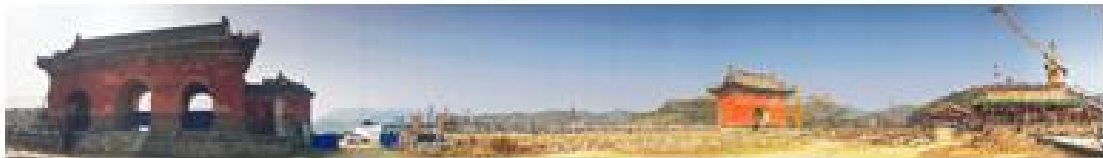


Photo 3. A panoramic view of the Yuzhen Palace Gate and the re-installed middle court and buildings on the original site

In accordance with Yuzhen Palace Uplift Preservation Project Plan, after the infilling, rolling and natural sedimentation of the platform/peninsular for Yuzhen Palace, Wudang Mountains Committee entrusted professional institutions including Beijing Landscape and Traditional Chinese Architectural Engineering Co., Ltd. through stringent bidding procedures to start the re-installation of the middle court and buildings on the new platform at the original site from July 2016. Currently, the original components were already re-installed based on the original coordinates and location according to their codes and sequence. The re-installation of the middle court

and buildings' main framework at the original site was preliminarily completed. And traditional materials and technologies were applied to amend, replace or reinforce the building components which were missing, damaged, weathered or severely deteriorated.



Photo 4. The re-installation of the middle court and buildings' main framework at the original site

During the re-installation of the middle court and buildings' main framework at the original site, SACH and HPBCR sent persons to site for inspection and evaluation. Wudang Mountains Committee also invited Prof. Lyu Zhou, former director of ICCROM and vice director-general of ICOMOS China, and other renowned experts of China in cultural heritage preservation field, to give instructions on site. Based on the instructions of experts and the experience accumulated during the re-installation of the middle court, Wudang Mountains Committee is requesting the Architectural

Design and Research Institute of Tsinghua University to alter and improve the plan for the eastern and western palaces and further define the construction technologies, materials, arrangement and other details in order to offer more scientific and standard technical instructions in the upcoming re-installation of the courts for the eastern and western palaces in the next step.



Photo 5. Prof. Lyu Zhou and other experts from China's cultural heritage preservation field give instructions on site.

Wudang Mountains Committee has directed the design, construction and supervision of the project. During the project construction, it made necessary written records, photo and video files, experiments, tests and inspections, established complete and standard construction files, and laid a sound foundation for the project presentation and interpretation upon the completion of the field construction. In accordance with the request of World Heritage Committee, Wudang Mountains Committee will build a theme exhibition hall with the field interpretation in the Yuzhen Palace area to give a complete elaboration and presentation on the historical evolution, functional layout and value connotation of the palace as well as the purpose, significance and construction of the Yuzhen Palace Uplifting Preservation Project, and the opinions and suggestions of World Heritage Committee, World Heritage Center and other international institutions, experts and scholars to enable more tourists to have a full understanding of the importance of preserving world cultural heritage and enhance the public's awareness on cultural heritage preservation. Currently, the detailed presentation and elaboration plan is under formulation.

4.3 Progress of the formulation of the overall protection and management plan

Excerpt from the Decision 40 COM 7B.30 at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee:

“6. Notes that the State Party has submitted a draft of the Protection and Management Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains, and further requests the State Party to finalize this plan, with a focus on promotion of living heritage, and a strengthened cultural landscape approach, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;”

In accordance with the request of World Heritage Committee, World Heritage Center and SACH, since 2012, Wudang Mountains Committee has entrusted Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage(CACH) and Hubei Provincial Ancient Building Protection Center to roll out the formulation of the *Protection and Management Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains(2015-2035)*. During the plan formulation, based on frequent consulting of archives and files, on site surveys and precise research and mapping, the professionals completed a draft of the *Protection and Management Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains(2015-2035)* in 2014, further clarified the protection zones, management regulations and protection requirements for each heritage site, and provided a directive scientific basis for the protection, management, presentation and utilization of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains.

After the completion of the draft plan, during 2014 and 2017, SACH and HPBCR, with a prudent and responsible attitude, organized experts on archeology, history and planning from Chinese cultural heritage preservation field to examine the plan according to the world cultural heritage protection and management requirements for several times and directed relevant professional institutions to make modifications and improvements. Currently, the amendment to the *Protection and Management Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains(2017-2035)* was completed, and SACH is organizing professionals for a further examination and review.



Photo 6. *Protection and Management Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains(2017-2035)*



Photo 7. Map of the property zone and buffer zone in *Protection and Management Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (2017-2035)*

In terms of “with a focus on promotion of living heritage, and a strengthened cultural landscape approach” requested by the World Cultural Committee, the *Protection and Management Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains(2017-2035)*, in the aspect of authenticity and completeness evaluation, includes the intangible heritage like religious faith, Taoist culture, folklore, the

spiritual and perceptive factors like the public recognition to the heritage's entire value as well as the environmental landscapes like mountains, waters and plants into the evaluation scope, and fully realizes that Wudang Mountains Ancient Building Complex, as a religious activity venue in use, has its own characteristics and demands, and the continuous religious activities therein since the Tang Dynasty are an emotionally indispensable and important part of its significance and value as a cultural heritage site. Meanwhile, the plan establishes definite regulations, raises relevant requirements for protecting, encouraging and properly standardize religious activities, and defines the regulations of "stringently maintaining the existing mountain forms and land forms within the buffer zone, recovering the natural vegetation and protecting natural landscape as the main activities in the mountainous land, and forbidding erecting any irrelevant facilities".

Recently, SACH will follow the requirement of World Heritage Committee to submit the approved final version of *Protection and Management Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains(2017-2035)* to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

4.4 Progress of the construction of long-term visitor management system

Excerpt from the Decision 40 COM 7B.30 at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee:

"7.Requests furthermore the State Party to institute a strong, long-term programme of monitoring of visitor management, including not only the number of visitors, but also any impacts that visitors may be having, particularly on the more sensitive areas of the property;"

There are numerous scenic spots in the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains. However, most of them are seldom visited by tourists due to inconvenient traffic. The Golden Top, Prince Slope, Zixiao Palace and Nanyan Palace are places with relatively more intensive visits. Currently, the actual annual visitor total is nearly 2 million. At peak seasons, such as traditional Chinese festivals including the Spring Festival, the Shangsì Festival(the 3rd day of the third lunar month), the Mid-Autumn Festival(the 15th day of the eighth lunar month), and the Chongyang Festival(the 9th day of the ninth lunar month) and Chinese holidays including the National Day and

the Labor Day, the visitor count reaches 10,000 per day. The activities like burning joss sticks and decorating the sculptures are intensive, resulting in heavy burden to the roads, stone fences, and the narrow Ancient Divine Path to the Golden Top, the negative influence to the air quality and the hidden problem to the firefighting of the ancient buildings.

In order to solve the said problems, Wudang Mountains Committee has continuously carried out the visitor monitoring and loading capacity evaluation, and adopted a series measures to control visitor number, guide and standardize the visiting behaviors. Especially, during the key holidays, sightseeing buses are dispatched to lead visitor flow to spots with fewer visitors according to the visitor monitoring data. Visitors are also encouraged to walk to the spots along the Ancient Divine Path to avoid excessive congestion in key scenic spots. Wudang Mountains Committee regulates to burn incense at fixed site with limited quantity. And joss sticks above 50cm are forbidden to burn. These measures effectively reduce the emission of smog, dusts and other air pollutants as well as the hidden problems of fire. Next, Wudang Mountains Committee will further set the Golden Top as a region which forbids burning any joss sticks. The implementation of these measures will contribute to the overall protection of the ancient cultural heritage and environmental views.

In addition, Wudang Mountains Committee has completed the construction of lightning-proof facilities across the whole mountain, and entrusted the General Institute of Project Design and Research of General Armament Department and the geological disaster department of Department of Land and Resources of Hubei to design and compile the *Work Plan for Monitoring the Visitor Number of the Golden Top and the Stability of Dangerous Rocks of Wudang Mountains* and the *Work Plan for the Monitoring and Early Warning System of the World Cultural Heritage Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains* to further strengthen the monitoring and early-warning capability and improve the overall protection and management level.

4.5 Progress of other protection and management work

In terms of protection legislation, at the end of 2016, in order to intensify the protection on the World Cultural Heritage, Shiyan city of Hubei province legislated *The Regulations of Shiyan City on the Preservation of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains(The Regulations)* (See Appendix 1). After multiple

alterations, the finalized version of *The Regulations* was considered and approved by the Standing Committee of Hubei Provincial People's Congress, the legislative institution of the province, and put into implementation as of September 15, 2017.





Photo 8. *The Regulations of Shiyan City on the Preservation of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains*

In terms of institutional construction, Shiyan city of Hubei province is applying for establishing the Wudang Mountains World Cultural Heritage Preservation Division in addition to the existing Wudang Mountains Tourism Economic Special Zone Cultural Heritage and Religion Bureau and its subordinating Cultural Heritage Management Station to improve the administrative level of the cultural heritage protection and management institution, and strengthen its implementation ability to organize and coordinate the administration, cultural heritage protection and management of the Ancient Building Complex in Wudang Mountains.

In terms of talent training, Wudang Mountains Tourism Economic Special Zone Cultural Heritage and Religion Bureau has established long-term strategic partnership with professional institutions including Zhejiang Historical Architecture Design &

Research Institute, and carried out long-term cooperation in the preservation, management, academic research, development and application and other fields of the world cultural heritage in Wudang Mountains. Meanwhile, the bureau also established education and practice bases with Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan University and other universities.

5. Re-clarification on the Components of the Property and its Buffer Zone

Excerpt from the Decision 40 COM 7B.30 at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee:

“8. Regretting that the State Party has not yet responded to the December 2013 letter of the World Heritage Centre seeking clarification on the components of the property and its buffer zone, urges the State Party to address this matter with representatives of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in order to reach a final agreement which, if necessary, should be presented for examination by the World Heritage Committee;”

In terms of the request to the State Party to clarify the so-called “62 components” in the letter from the World Cultural Heritage Center dated December 2013 and the draft of Decision 38 COM 7B.9 publicized by the World Cultural Heritage Center in May 2014, SACH has sent an official letter to explain on behalf of the government of the State Party. Regretfully, we haven’t received any responses from World Cultural Heritage Committee. In November 2015, SACH, on behalf of the State Party, submitted the Report on the State of Conservation of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains 2015 (See Appendix 2) to the World Cultural Heritage Center and also clarified relevant issues. But, regretfully, we haven’t received any direct response from the World Cultural Heritage Committee to the clarification.

Herein, the State Party would clarify the issue again:

The “62 component parts” refer to all the heritage sites listed into the State Priority Protected Cultural Heritage Site --- Building Complex of Wudang Mountains. Since some of them are far away from the Wudang Mountains, we did not include them into the World Heritage inscription. In fact, the component parts of the World Cultural Heritage the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains should be 49, and this has been identified during the nomination in 1994, but the 2 conceptions were

mixed up in the RSOUV in 2011. The State Party sincerely regret for the misunderstanding and inconvenience brought by this mistake.

However, the appendix of the state of conservation report submitted in January 2014 already reclarified the information on the property area and the buffer zone of the 49 component parts; during the Reactive Monitoring Mission in March 2014, we confirmed with you and two international experts from ICOMOS and ICCROM that the property contained 49 component parts for several times.

To ensure the accuracy of relevant information, we hope that the World Heritage Centre will notice the condition and adjust the content of the OUV of the property accordingly:

Brief synthesis of OUV: “Today, 53 ancient buildings and 9 architectural sites survive...”, can it be modified to “Today, many ancient buildings and architectural sites survive and 49 sites were included into the inscription...”; Integrity of OUV: “All the 62 ancient buildings and sites...”, can it be modified to “All the 49 ancient buildings and sites...”?

It is the reply herein.

Appendixes:

1. Regulations of Shiyan City on the Preservation of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains
2. Report on the State of Conservation of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains, 2015

Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Shiyan
Circular
(No. 1, 2017)

The *Regulations of Shiyan City on the Preservation of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains* passed at the Third Session of the Standing Committee of the 5th People's Congress of Shiyan on June 23, 2017, has been approved at the 29th Session of the Standing Committee of the 12th People's Congress of Hubei Province on July 27, 2017, and is hereby publicized. It shall come into effect from September 15, 2017.

The Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Shiyan
August 11, 2017

**Regulations of Shiyan City on the Preservation of the Ancient Building Complex
in the Wudang Mountains**

Chapter I General

Article 1. In order to enhance preservation, protection, management, inheritance and utilization of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains, promote concerted development of economic and social construction and historical and cultural protection, the *Regulations of Shiyan City on the Preservation of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains* (hereafter the Regulations) is formulated in line with the *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics*, *Regulations for the Implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics*, *Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Religious Affairs*, and other laws and regulations and the actual situation.

Article 2. The Regulations is applicable to the preservation, protection, management and utilization and other activities of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains.

Article 3. The ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains herein refers to the historical buildings and ruins which are rated as the state priority protected sites by the cultural relics administration of the State Council, located in Danjiangkou city and Wudang Mountains Tourism and Economic Special Zone.

Article 4. The preservation of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains shall stick to the guideline of giving priority to preservation, scientific planning, reasonable utilization and strict management and the principle of not altering original state of the cultural relics.

Article 5. The ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains is protected by zones, designated as the protection scope and the construction control belt.

The protection scope refers to the area implementing key preservation and protection for the physical fabric of the world heritage and the neighboring area of designated range.

The construction control belt refers to the area outside of the protection scope that is limiting construction for the protection of safety, environment and historical appearance of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains.

The boundaries of the protection scope and the construction control belt of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountain shall refer to the scope publicized by the People's Government of Hubei province.

Article 6. Shiyan municipal government shall strengthen leadership on the preservation and protection of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains, and the cultural relics administration of Shiyan shall enhance guidance and supervision over the preservation and protection of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains.

The People's Government of Danjiangkou and the Wudang Mountains Tourism and Special Economic Zone Administrative Committee are responsible for preservation and protection of the ancient building in the Wudang Mountains, allocating protection funds according to the actual situation, and including the funds in the fiscal budget of the same level; the cultural relics administration is the department in charge of preservation and protection of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains while the administrations of religious affairs, tourism and public security shall fulfill their respective protection responsibilities within their administration.

Article 7. Management units and users of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains shall accept guidance and supervision of the local cultural relics administration where the ancient building complex is located, and implement daily preservation, protection and management of the ancient building complex and affiliated cultural relics under their management and use.

Article 8. The ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains belongs to the state, and no unit or individual is allowed to illegally possess or dispose it.

All units and individuals have the obligation to protect the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains by law, and have the right to discourage, report and prosecute violations of the Regulations.

The units and individuals that have made outstanding contributions for preservation and protection of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains shall be cited or rewarded.

Article 10. September 15 is the Wudang Mountains World Cultural Heritage Preservation Day cum Ancient Building Complex Preservation Publicity Day.

Chapter II Protection measures

Article 11. Management units and users of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains shall establish a complete and sound cultural relics safety management system, formulate the fire, flood, landslide and earthquake and other disaster emergency plans, implement prevention and control measures for termite, wasp and other pests that endanger safety of wooden buildings, and measures preventing weathering of stone buildings and provide the thievery, fire, damp and lightning prevention facilities.

The internal furnishings of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains shall accord with the original state in history; pipeline and wiring shall be arranged in a scientific way; monitoring system can be installed; lighting with cold light source shall be used. The exterior repair of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains shall observe the related provisions concerning cultural relics preservation and protection to maintain the original style, tone, volume and height of the buildings.

Article 12. In case of repair and restoration because of partial damage or other reasons, approval must be obtained in line with the lawful procedure; and the repair and restoration must be entrusted to the unit with corresponding cultural relics preservation engineering qualification. After such engineering is completed, the cultural relics administration shall organize examination and acceptance in line with related provisions. Important maintenance and restoration projects shall be accepted by stage.

Article 13. In case the ancient building has been completely damaged, the ruins shall be preserved and protected. In case it needs to rebuild the building on the original site because of special reasons, such rebuilding shall be applied and approved by law.

Article 14. Within the protection scope of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains, no construction, blasting, drilling, excavation or other engineering operation is allowed.

Under special circumstance, any operation, for example constructing any building or structure related to the ancient building complex or carrying out blasting, drilling, excavation or other engineering operation, within the protection scope of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains, must ensure safety of the ancient buildings and be applied and approved by law.

Article 15. Construction activities within the construction control belt of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountain shall not damage the historical looking of the ancient building complex. The construction plan can be implemented only after being approved by law in advance.

Article 16. Within the protection scope and construction control belt of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains, the following behaviors are strictly forbidden:

- (I) Damaging the cultural relics preservation facilities;
- (II) Storing liquefied petroleum gas or other flammable or explosive items;

- (III) Picnicking, firing Kongming lantern or fireworks;
- (IV) Smoking, burning paper or incense at the area marked with no fire;
- (V) Littering or sewage discharging;
- (VI) Keeping pets;
- (VII) Other behaviors that may endanger safety of the cultural relics.

Article 17. Under the precondition that conditions are mature and safety is guaranteed, the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains shall be opened to the public as a tourist destination, and the revenue from tickets shall be mainly used for preservation and protection of the ancient building complex.

In case of any emergency or meteorological disaster, the site can be closed temporarily.

Article 18. The management units and users of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains shall install guardrail to protect the important cultural relics and components to prevent touches of tourists; proper measures shall be taken to protect the vulnerable wooden flooring of the ancient buildings.

For the tourist attractions such as Taihe Palace and Nanyan Palace where see concentrated tourists, the relevant competent administration shall formulate and implement footfall control plans, ratify and publicize the maximum bearing capacity and instantaneous maximum bearing capacity of the day of such attractions, publicize the related information at the noticeable places such as the ticket hall or tourist center to control the number of visitors.

Article 19. Burning paper, incense or candle at the religious venue of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains shall be carried out at the designated area in the non-cultural relics and under management of dedicated personnel.

Establishment of any tourist service station in the venue of religious activities shall be approved by the local cultural relics administration and the administration of religious affairs where the ancient building complex is located.

Article 20. When it is necessary to shoot the ancient building complex and its affiliated cultural relics for the purpose of producing publications, video and audio products, or for the need of publicity and scientific research, such behavior shall be under supervision and management of the local cultural relics administration to protect safety of the cultural relics. Approval must be applied for the duplication and rubbing of the cultural relics according to law.

Consent must be obtained from the local cultural administration and cultural relics administration for the commercial activities such as shooting films, TV plays or advertisement using the interior or exterior of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains; in case such settings belongs to a religious venue, consent must be obtained from the administration of religious affairs concurrently, and the shooting

must be carried out under on-site supervision of the management units and users of the ancient building complex.

Article 21. It is not allowed to change any name of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains without approval obtained by going through the legal procedures in advance.

Chapter III Legal liabilities

Article 22. Any violation of provisions of Article 14 herein shall be corrected upon instruction of the local cultural relics administration; in case such violation causes damage of the cultural relics which can be restored, a fine of no less than RMB50,000 but no more than RMB300,000 can be imposed; and the party of violation shall be liable for the restoration costs of the cultural relics administration; in case such violation causes damage of the cultural relics which can not be restored and constitute a crime, a fine of no less than RMB300,000 but no more than RMB500,000 will be imposed and the party of violation shall bear the corresponding civil liabilities by law.

Article 23. In case of any violation of provisions of Article 15 herein, such structure shall be removed within the time designated by the local cultural relics administration; in case such violation results in serious consequences but does not constitute a crime, a fine of no less than RMB50,000 but no more than RMB500,000 will be imposed.

Article 24. In case of any violation of provisions of Article 16 (I) herein, the original state shall be restored upon instruction of the local cultural relics administration, and a fine of no more than RMB200 will be imposed;

In case of any violation of provisions of Article 16 (II) herein, the local public security bureau will order to make correction; in case the party of violation refuses to make correction, a fine of no less than RMB5,000 but no more than RMB50,000 will be imposed on the management units and users of the ancient building complex.

In case of any violation of provisions of Article 16 (III), (IV), (V) or (VI), the local comprehensive law-enforcement department where the ancient building complex is located will order the party of violation to make correction and impose a fine of no less than RMB50 but no more than RMB500 according to the severity of the violation.

Article 25. Any behavior that violates other provisions of the Regulations will be dealt with by the local cultural relics administration where the ancient building complex is located or the competent authority.

Article 26. In case the related administrations, management units and users of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains and their employees practice abuse of power, or negligence of duty, or play favoritism in the preservation and management of the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains, the executive directly in charge and the other persons directly responsible for such malpractice will be punished by law.

Article 27. Anybody who refuses or impedes the staff members of the related administration from performing their duties in line with the Regulations will be dealt with by the public security department by law.

Article 28. Anyone who commits an offense in violation of the provisions of the Regulations shall be prosecuted for criminal responsibility according to law.

Chapter IV. Supplementary provisions

Article 29. The preservation and management of other ancient building complexes and ruins in the administrative region of Shiyuan that have related historical and cultural properties with the ancient building complex in the Wudang Mountains can refer to provisions of the Regulations.

Article 30. The Regulations shall come into effect as of July 27, 2017.

SACH SoC 2015-1/5

**Report on the State of Conservation of the
Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang
Mountains, 2015**

**The State Administration of Cultural Heritage
Hubei Provincial Bureau of Cultural Heritage
Wudang Mountains Tourism Economic Zone**

November, 2015

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Appendix

1. *Protection and Management Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (for approval)*

2. *The letter from Mr. Guan Qiang to Mr. Jing Feng in May 2014 (on the “62 component parts”)*

3. *List of Component Parts of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains*

Basic information

the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains

Location: Shiyan city, Hubei province

Time of inscription: 1994

Criteria: i,ii,vi



Brief introduction:

The palaces and temples which form the nucleus of this group of secular and religious buildings exemplify the architectural and artistic achievements of China's Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. Situated in the scenic valleys and on the slopes of the Wudang mountains in Hubei Province, the site, which was built as an organized complex during the Ming dynasty (14th - 17th centuries), contains Taoist buildings from as early as the 7th century. It represents the highest standards of Chinese art and architecture over a period of nearly 1,000 years.

Decisio: 38 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee:

1. Having examined document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.60** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Strongly regrets that the project to raise the Yuzhen Palace was not brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
4. Takes note of the report of the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property and the assessment made that the project, while altering the setting and context of the Yuzhen Palace, does not constitute a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the overall property;
5. Notes the recommendations of the mission in regard to the final shape of the earthwork platform, the final disposition of the archaeological remains, and the eventual landscaping, interpretation, and use of the palace, and requests the State Party to implement those recommendations in the final implementation of the project;
6. Also notes the ongoing work on the finalization of the Master Plan on Conservation Management of the property and also requests that the work on this plan be completed as soon as possible for submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Urges the State Party to institute a living heritage approach to the management of the property which ensures that it is

managed as a cultural landscape in order to protect the OUV of the 62 component parts within their overall landscape setting and context;

8. Invites the State Party to clarify with the World Heritage Centre that the buffer zone of the property corresponds to the entirety of the Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area as acknowledged at the time of inscription, and not the 62 individual buffer zones submitted in the framework of the retrospective inventory exercise;
9. Also urges the State Party to protect against the overdevelopment of tourism at the property, and in particular to enforce rules related to carrying capacity for the more fragile sites that are part of the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

Executive summary

The State Party has discussed the follow-up design and use of the earthwork platform where Yuzhen Palace locates on. The design is being pushed forward now. The final shape of the platform, the final placement of archaeological remains, the final landscape design, the interpretation and use of Yuzhen Palace and other issues have fully considered and respected the suggestions in *Report of the Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission*, and will be properly addressed. Due to the technical issue of the reservoir's water storage, the whole project will be put off until the target water level be achieved. But this delay will not influence the nature and quality of the lift-up and conservation project of Yuzhen Palace. The State Party will make full use of this period of time and further specify the preparation work.

The Master Plan has been completed and will be submitted to the World Heritage Center together with this report for review.

The State Party has adopted measures and effectively protected the cultural landscaping elements and the intangible cultural heritage of the property in line with the principle of overall protection and living heritage. The State Party also adopted detailed measures to prevent the negative impact from the overdevelopment of tourism and started to implement the carrying capacity at major heritage site.

The State Party has been conducting the nomination, periodic report, SoC reports and conservation management within the framework of separate buffer zones, and we haven't found any proof supporting the statement "the buffer zone of the property corresponds to the entirety of the Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area". The existing heritage zoning of the property and other plans implemented by the State Party already effectively protect the cultural landscaping elements. Meanwhile, the State Party also wishes to once again clarify that the property is made up by 49 rather than 62 component parts.

Response to each article in the Decision

1 Article 5. Notes the recommendations of the mission in regard to the final shape of the earthwork platform, the final disposition of the archaeological remains, and the eventual landscaping, interpretation, and use of the palace, and requests the State Party to implement those recommendations in the final implementation of the project;

Referring to the “*Report on the Mission to the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountain, (China) (705) from 8 to 13 march 2014*”, the related contents on this article are:

***1 Platform Shape.** The mission team recommends that an organic design in keeping with the natural topography of the site be used. This recommendation is made with the knowledge that considerable cost may be involved, but the team believes that the current design has a negative impact on the understanding of Yuzhen Palace including its setting.*

***2 Reinstallation of archaeological remains (East and West Palaces).** The mission team recommends, with reservations, that the archaeological remains of the East and West Palaces be reinstalled at the new grade level (and in the exact planar location) providing that the impact on authenticity is clearly stated.*

***3 Platform landscaping.** The mission team recommends, and wholeheartedly supports, the landscaping of the grounds to as natural a state as possible. The mission team further recommends that photographic documentation of the site be consulted and that the choice of trees and shrubs be substantiated by a survey of nearby tree and shrub types in the natural environment. It may also be useful to reference other complexes within the property.*

4 Site usage. *The mission team recommends that the planned usage of the site, whether passive use or active use, be systematically considered – and in reference to maintaining the significance of the site and especially its relationship to other attributes of the property. In considering a new use for the site, the principle of the new use being as close as possible to the original use should be followed. This will be one of the very few ways of maintaining the “Spirit of the Place.”*

5 Site interpretation. *The mission team recommends that the interpretation of the site be expanded to include the changes to the site noting in particular the necessity for the changes, the different options and the final decision. The team also recommends that the positive aspects of the “Yuzhen Palace Lift-up Project” be shared with the community, especially the systematic recording, documentation and information management of the project. At the same time, the impact on the authenticity and integrity of the site needs to be clearly explained.*

It will be important that the State Party implement the above recommendations, particularly in regard to the final shape of the earthwork platform which should follow a more natural contour of the land rather than creating a more artificial peninsula effect. Further consideration must also be given to the final disposition of the archaeological remains that have been excavated from the property, as well as to the eventual landscaping, interpretation, and use of the Palace.

These suggestions have been fully considered and respected in the process of follow-up design and use, and the details are as follows:

1.1 The final shape of the earthwork platform and the landscaping

The local government has entrusted a design team from

Tsinghua University for the landscaping design of the peninsula where Yuzhen Palace locates, and the design is in progress along with the overall project. The basic design principles, fully considering the suggestions of the *Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission Report*, are as follows:

First, through history research, there should be Sacred Road in front of palace and Taishan Temple besides the palace. Thus, respecting these historical elements is the first consideration in the landscaping design of this peninsula.

Second, the planting pattern around Yuzhen Palace will follow the natural phytocommunity, to avoid a bald artificial landscaping and form a picturesque rural/natural environment, with small pedestrian paths. The selection of plants will mainly refer to the local species near Yuzhen Palace and other similar buildings complex in the mountain.



Figure 1: The landscaping design plan

Third, aquatic plants are proposed to be planted in waterfront area of the whole peninsula (the red area in Figure 2, for the ultimate effect please refer to Figure 3). Or, to fill earth into the long and narrow water area at both sides of the peninsula, to

make the shoreline of the peninsula less clear-cut and as natural as possible.



Figure 2: Aquatic plants are proposed to be planted in the waterfront area of the peninsula (the red area)



Figure 3: The estimated view



Figure 4: Fill earth into the long and narrow water area at both sides of the peninsula (the red area)



Figure 5: The landscaping plan after earth filling

1.2 The final disposition of the archaeological remains

Three options had been considered for the disposition of the archaeological remains of Yuzhen Palace:

Scheme 1: Building a new underground space to put the archaeological remains inside and replicating the stylobate and

the short wall on the ground. The original archaeological remains and simulation display will coexist and the archaeological remains will be sheltered from natural impact factors.



Figure 6: The drawing for the first placement scheme of the archaeological remains

Scheme 2: Placing the archaeological remains on the ground and building individual shelters for each building remains separately.

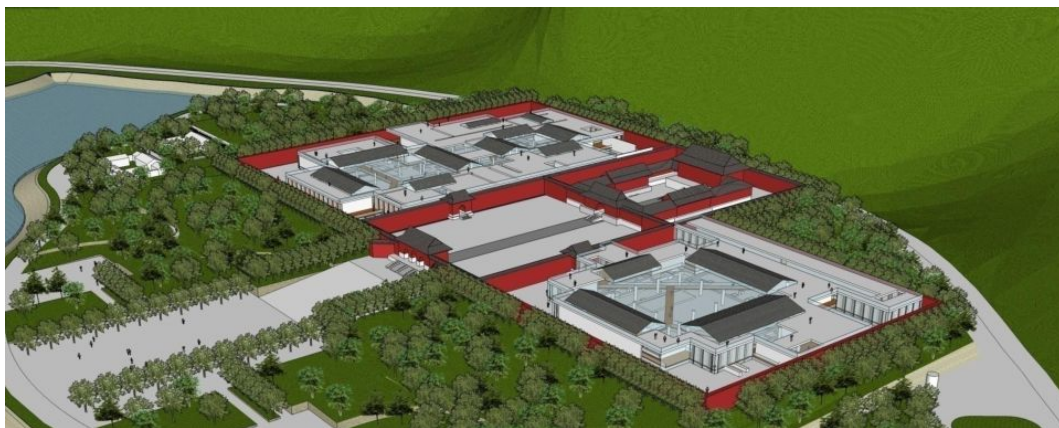


Figure 7: The drawing for the second placement scheme of the archaeological remains

Scheme 3: Placing the archaeological remains on the ground and supplementing the missing masonry components

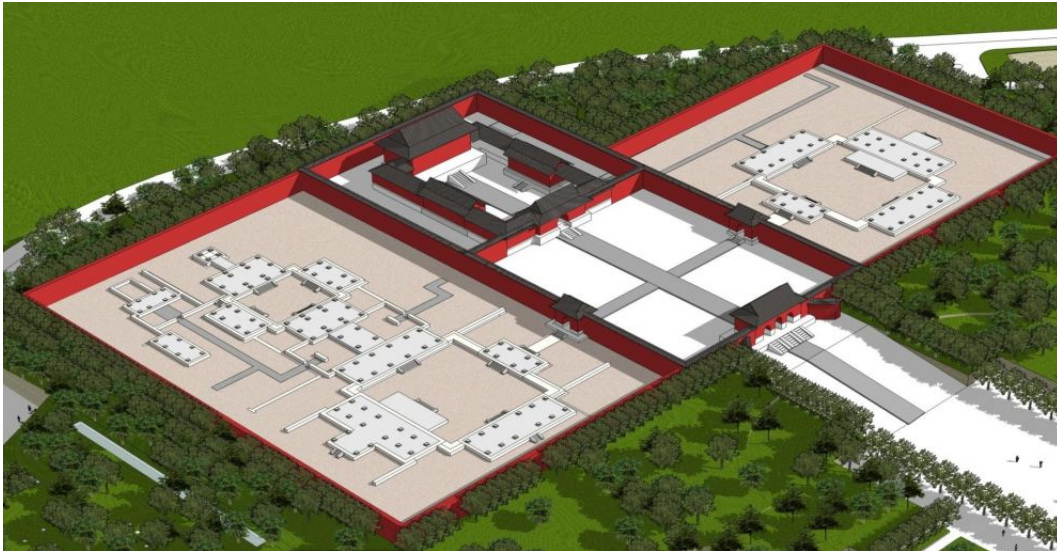


Figure 8: The drawing for the third placement scheme of the archaeological remains

After that, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage and the Office of the South-North Water Diversion Construction Committee organised experts to discuss and compare the three schemes. Although the first and second scheme can shelter the remains from natural impact factors, the first scheme involves a huge amount of construction and the relative heights of the east palace, west palace and central palace to each other will be changed permanently. In the second scheme, the multiple shelters can be of negative influence on the surrounding landscape. Furthermore, the first and second scheme do not fundamentally improve the authenticity of the remains. The influence of the three schemes on the heritage substance is basically the same.

Therefore, the third scheme is ultimately adopted for placing the archaeological remains, which correspond to the advice of the *Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission Report*, and will be implemented after the reservoir's water storage earthwork sedimentation experiment. However, precipitation in this region drops significantly in recent years, the reservoir's water has not risen to the targeted level. As a result, the project progress was delayed, but will not influence the established plan and quality of the lift-up and conservation project of Yuzhen Palace.

1.3 Site interpretation and usage

The local government plans to use this large site (including the whole peninsula) for the representation of the archaeological site, small-scale exhibition, martial arts training and performance, tourism and sightseeing, leisure for local citizen, and protection and management of the site.

- The representation of the archaeological site: marks and illustration plates will be installed for the restored site to demonstrate the name, function and history of the buildings and the information on various architectural component.

- Small-scale exhibition: small-scaling exhibitions will be arranged in the halls of the restored buildings or in semi-open space to show the history of Yuzhen Palace and the whole process of the lift-up and conservation project. Resources available for the exhibition include old photos, drawings, video, digital 3D models, some original components and project archives. In this way, people can learn about the long history of the site, while those interested in the conservation project can also learn about the complex decision-making processes involved (for example, the comparisons and selection of various proposals), the construction organization and technical details (such as the disassembling and reassembling of components, 3D scanning and the gateway lift-up).

- Martial arts training and performance: Zhang Sanfeng initiated Wudang Internal Boxing, Taiji Boxing, Wudang Swordmanship and other kinds of Wudang martial arts, and Yuzhen Palace has crucial links with him. Thus, it corresponds to historical sense to allocate part of Yuzhen Palace for martial arts activities. The front courtyard square of the Middle Palace is a suitable place for training and performance.

- Tourism sightseeing and leisure for local citizen: in the future Yuzhen Palace will become an important scenic spot and place

for citizen's leisure at the piedmont of Wudang Mountains.

- Protection and management of the site: permanent staff of cultural heritage need to be arranged by local authority to protect, safeguard and manage this large site.

2. Article 6. Also notes the ongoing work on the finalization of the Master Plan on Conservation Management of the property and also requests that the work on this plan be completed as soon as possible for submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

In March 2014 the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) approved the *Outline of Planning on the Protection and Management of the Ancient Building Complex in Wudang Mountains (2013-2030)*. The excerpts of the major content was submitted to the World Heritage Center along with the SoC report in 2014. In the subsequent year, In cooperation with the Ancient Building Protection Center of Hubei province, Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage, which formulated the *Outline*, continued to formulate the *Protection and Management Plan of the Ancient Buildings Complex in the Wudang Mountains (2015-2035)*. This *Plan*, based on the previous work and advice from SACH, has been completed and approved by Wudang Mountains Tourism Economic Zone and Hubei Provincial Bureau of Cultural Heritage, and has been submitted to SACH for examination and approval.

In the early October 2015, SACH organized experts to discuss and examine this *Plan*. According to the experts' opinions, SACH will direct the above-mentioned parties to revise, refine and improve the *Plan* in aspects including stakeholders coordination, the overall protection, tourism management, reform of management framework, heritage monitoring, etc, to protect the property more cautiously. Along with this report we also submit the text of this *Master Planning on Protection and Management* for review by the Advisory Bodies. We look forward to your advice.

3 Article 7. Urges the State Party to institute a living heritage approach to the management of the property which ensures that it is managed as a cultural landscape in order to protect the OUV of the 62 component parts within their overall landscape setting and context;

The State Party has attentioned that the World Cultural Heirtage “Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains” should be taken as a cultural landscape and living heritage. Besides the strict protection of the ancient architectures and archaeological sites, the State Party has done a series of concrete measures to comprehensively protect this living cultural landscape.

3.1 Cultural landscape

3.1.1 Scenic Area

The entire Wudang Mountains is designated as National Scenic Area, National Geopark and National Forest Park. Restrictions and protection requirements are made in perspectives including landscape, geology and ecology and are implemented by respective specialized agencies. The local government, in line with the related Planning such as *Protection and Management Plan of Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains*, formulated the master strategy of “subtraction in the mountains”, namely, construction activities will be strictly limited in the mountainous areas; no-building area and limited-building areas with different restrictions has been set; buildings and structures with serious negative impact on heritage landscape has been gradually demolished, and the disharmonic buildings were altered.

The local authority has formulated *Approaches to Manage the Outlook of Wudang Mountainous Areas* and *Approaches to Manage Infrastructures Construction in the Planning Area of Wudang Mountains Tourism Economic Zone*. It also revised the

Master Planning on Wudang Mountains Scenic Area, that was formulated in 1986 and approved by the State Council in 1991, completed the *Master Planning on Wudang Mountains Scenic Area (2006-2020)*. Area of Zone Class 1 (namely the areas to protect the landscape) was expanded, and turned 90 km² Zone Class 2 (namely limited-construction area) into Zone Class 1, which made Zone Class 1 a total area of 170 km², to further reduce the area allowed for construction.

Regarding construction activities, requirements have been made on the height, size and colors of buildings and structures in the Heritage Construction Control Zones and buffer zones. All the construction projects in the property areas and buffer zones need to apply for administrative approval according to the specified procedures. Applicants should fill out the *Approval Form for Location Selection of Constructions*, and submit it for the examination and approval of local cultural heritage department and then the joint approval of relevant departments before escalating it level by level.

3.1.2 Environment renovation

From 1994 to 2001, the local government encouraged residents to convert cultivated land into forests and gradually restored mountainous plants on areas that had not been properly farmed, which accumulatively totaled 67.85 km². The government also reached agreement with villagers to compensate them with flexible forms such as cash, housing or shopfronts, to relocate residents who lived in ancient buildings after 1949.

Structures and advertising plates in Wuya Ridge (near Nanyang Palace), Qiongtai (near the Gold Hall) that have considerable negative impact have been demolished, and pipes and lines in the air or on the ground are buried underground. Villagers in several major buffer zones, as well as along driveways of Scenic Areas and the ancient Sacred Path were relocated and compensated similarly. Temporary commercial buildings built in

recent 30 years caused by tourism development were demolished because they were against the plannings.

After that, the World Heritage site also converted the facades of hotels, restaurants and shops in the scenic area into style of Ming and Qing dynasty, and improved the greenery of buildings and building complex around mountain villages. Generally speaking, the protection of cultural landscape for this World Heritage site is satisfactory.

3.2 Living heritage

3.2.1 The protection and inheritance of intangible heritages

Wudang Mountains mainly has the following kinds of intangible heritage: martial arts, music, medicine and tea. Wudang Martial Arts and Wudang Taoist music have been listed as National Intangible Heritage, and Wudang Taoist Medicine has been listed as Provincial Intangible Heritage. Every year the central government and provincial government allocate certain funding to support the development and inheritance of intangible heritage and provide certain financial allowance to every successor.

Besides support within the legal framework, the local authority adopts all kinds of flexible measures to facilitate the protection, inheritance and publicity of the above-mentioned intangible heritage. For example, it built the Wudang Mountains Museum; conducted all kinds of activities for martial arts, tourism and photography; made documentaries on Wudang Martial Arts and Taoist Music and published the research series and publicity painting album related for the intangible heritage of Wudang Mountains. Professional institutions were established to combine martial arts and artistic performance, and have produced plays, symphony and songs featuring Wudang Mountains. It also promoted the inheritance and spreading of Taoist Medicine, and systemically sorted out the medicinal

herbs and prescriptions, and opened Taoist hospitals and health-preserving centers. Traditional crafts to produce organic products and food featuring Wudang Taoist tea were passed down and the productions are widely sold.

3.2.2 The coordination mechanism with stakeholders

Local residents participate in and benefit from the overall protection of the property. The management agencies of the scenic area, cultural heritage agencies and a huge number of service staff are from local communities. In addition, many citizen and villagers make a living from businesses related to tourism of Wudang Mountains, including operating hotels and restaurants and selling souvenirs and other goods. The income of the locals increases continuously thanks to the inscription and the increasing popularity of the property. The development of Taoism in Wudang Mountains also benefits from the protection of the site and the improvement of infrastructure. Taoism and its related heritage, including Taoist Martial Arts, Rituals, Music and Dance is being understood and learned by people all around the world.

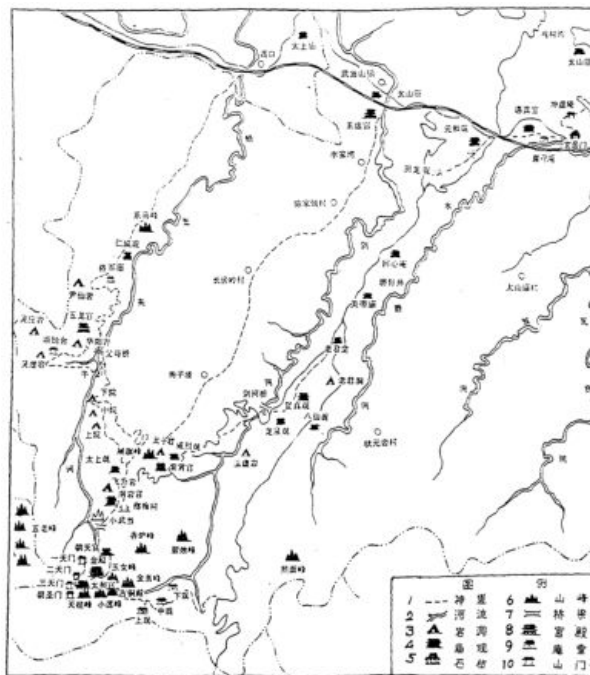
Regarding the responsibility of protection, the local authority signed contracts of cultural heritage safety responsibility with the cultural heritage bureau, the public security bureau, managing agencies for sites, villages and local communities; strengthened communication and collaboration with Taoist communions in the scenic area and delegate to them the tasks of “the four prevention” (prevention of fire, theft, robbery and vandalism). For more than 20 years, the cultural heritage departments have been hiring villagers in 38 remote sites as part-time mangement volunteers. They signed protection agreement with these villagers and grant a certain amount of allowance; staff of cultural heritage department also patrolled the sites regularly.

Next, the State Party will continue to push forward the

implementation of the work above, to ensure the comprehensive conservation and management for the cultural landscape, architecture, archaeological sites and intangible heritage of Wudang Mountains.

4 Article 8. Invites the State Party to clarify with the World Heritage Centre that the buffer zone of the property corresponds to the entirety of the Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area as acknowledged at the time of inscription, and not the 62 individual buffer zones submitted in the framework of the retrospective inventory exercise;

4.1 Buffer zones



- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Holy Road | 6. Peak |
| 2. River | 7. Bridge |
| 3. Cave | 8. Palace |
| 4. Temple | 9. Convent |
| 5. Stone Gate | 10. Gate to the Mountains |

Figure 9. Drawing of the property in the nomination dossier

The State Party has checked documents submitted since the nomination and failed to find proof to support the conclusion “the buffer zone of the property corresponds to the entirety of the Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area”. Currently the most possible drawing (refer to Figure 11, which is not in the nomination dossier but was part of the additional information for the request of ICOMOS in 1994) does not mark any buffer

zone or the entire scope of the Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area.

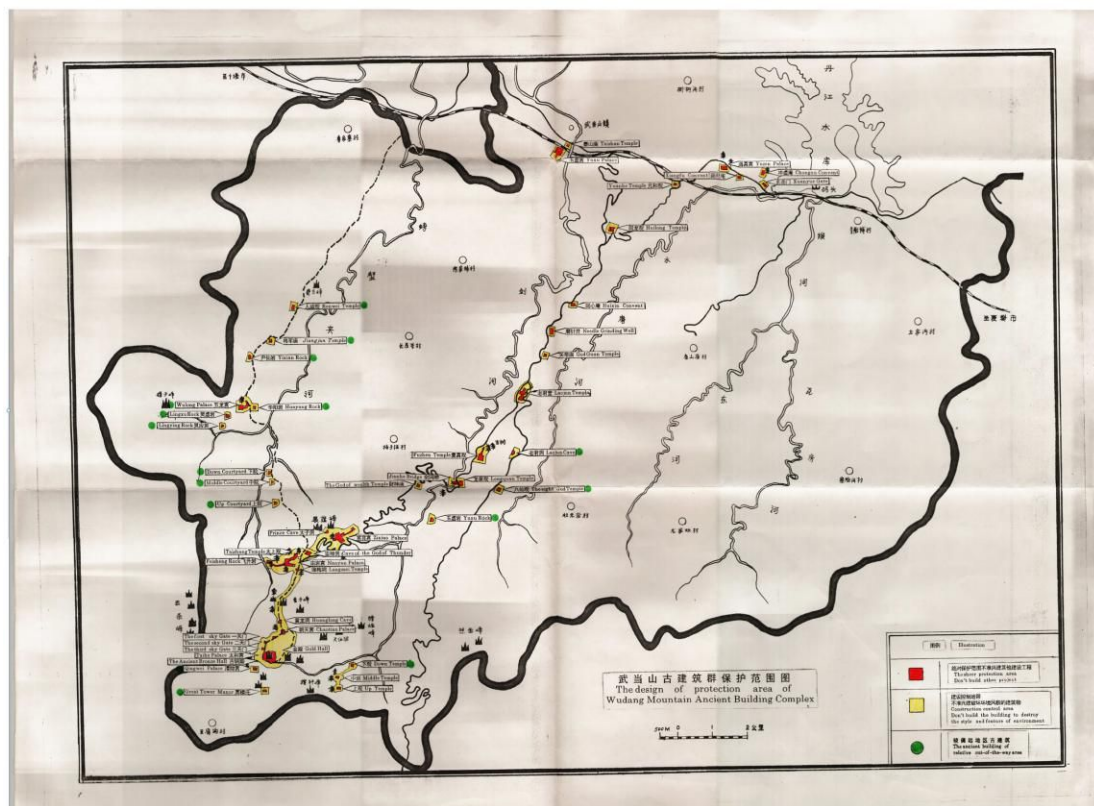


Figure 10: The drawing on heritage zoning in the additional information

This drawing clearly marks the monument sites (red squares), construction control zones (the yellow scope) and remote sites (green dots). The bold black line, which is the only thing that may be misunderstood as “the entirety of the Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area” has no legend and is not consistent with the scope of the scenic area. It was an administration division boundary back then.

After that, in all the conservation reports, periodic reports, retrospective maps and compiling of plannings, the State Party has been submitting relevant documents with individual property areas and buffer zones, and the actual protection and management work has been carried out in accordance with the existing zoning. Thus, we have reason to deduce, if the communication on zoning issues between the two sides during the nomination in 1994 was misinterpreted?

Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains

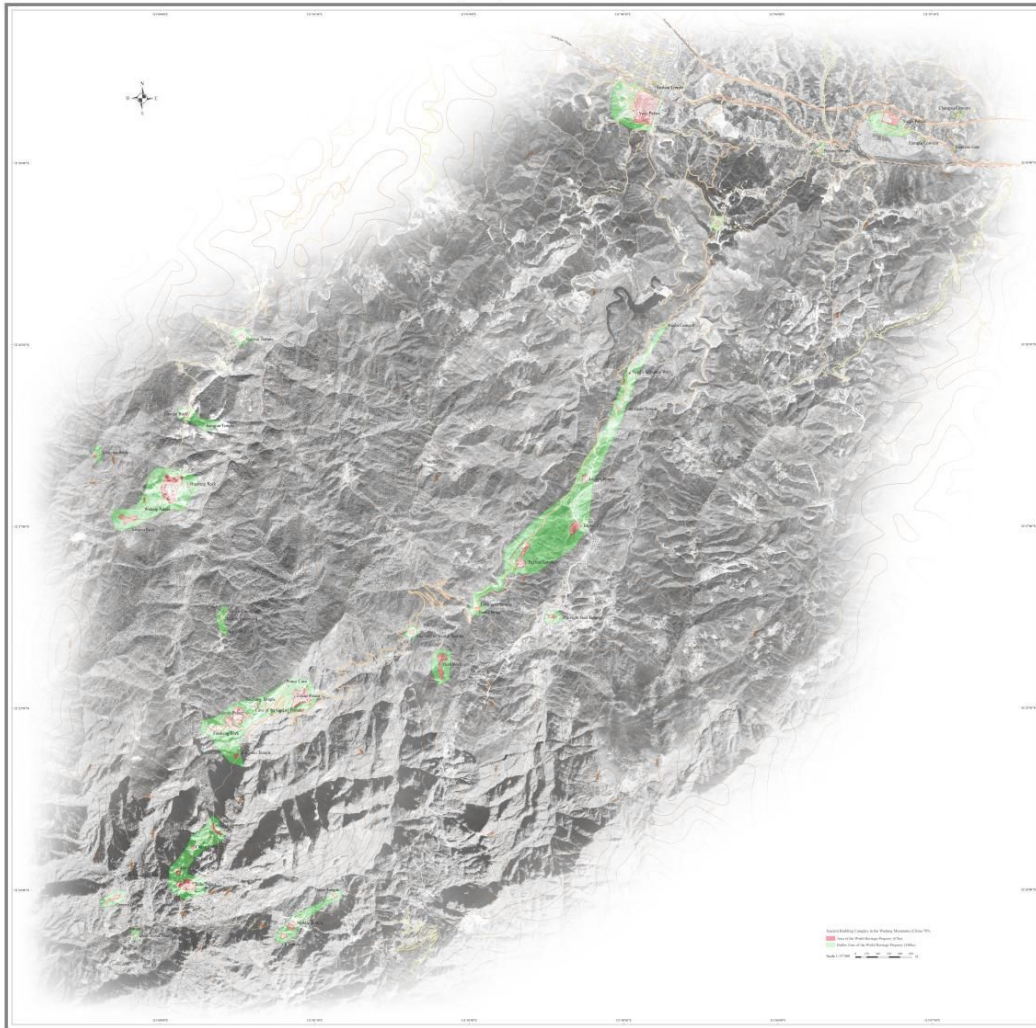


Figure 11: the retrospective map submitted by the State Party in 2012

As we have previously stated (refer to chapter 3.1), cultural landscape elements such as topography, vegetation and vision corridor within the scope of Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area have been properly protected; the revision of *Master Planning on Wudang Mountains Scenic Area (2006-2020)* has been completed; all the construction projects within the property areas and buffer zones are required to, at the guidance of local cultural heritage department, apply for administrative approval and escalate the case level by level.

The State Party believed, the current multiple conservation zoning framework, including the scenic area, the property area and buffer zone of World Cultural Heritage, as well as the Protected Scope and Construction Control Zone of the National

Monument of China, is able to properly protect this World Cultural Heritage with characteristic of cultural landscape and living heritage. Thus, we hope the World Heritage Committee can fully understand the State Party's reservation on this requirement, and the State Party will certainly implement the responsibility of controlling and protecting the landscape and environment of the scenic area within the existing legal framework.

4.2 62 component parts

In May 2014, after the World Heritage Center published the draft of Decision 38 COM 7B.9, the State Party delivered a letter to clarify the so-called "62 component parts" (refer to appendix 2). Unfortunately, we haven't received any response on this issue from World Heritage Committee. Thus, the State Party would like to once again clarify this issue:

The "62 component parts" refer to all the heritage sites listed into the State Priority Protected Cultural Heritage Site --- Building Complex of Wudang Mountains. Since some of them are far away from the Wudang Mountains, we did not include them into the World Heritage inscription. In fact, the component parts of the World Cultural Heritage the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains should be 49, and this has been identified during the nomination in 1994, but the 2 conceptions were mixed up in the RSOUV in 2011. The State Party sincerely regret for the misunderstanding and inconvenience brought by this mistake.

However, the appendix of the state of conservation report submitted in January 2014 already reclarified the information on the property area and the buffer zone of the 49 component parts; during the Reactive Monitoring Mission in March 2014, we confirmed with you and two international experts from ICOMOS and ICCROM that the property contained 49 component parts for several times.

To ensure the accuracy of relevant information, we hope that the World Heritage Centre will notice the condition and adjust the content of the OUV of the property accordingly:

Brief synthesis of OUV: “Today, 53 ancient buildings and 9 architectural sites survive...”, can it be modified to “Today, many ancient buildings and architectural sites survive and 49 sites were included into the inscription...”; Integrity of OUV: “All the 62 ancient buildings and sites...”, can it be modified to “All the 49 ancient buildings and sites...”?

5 Article 9 Also urges the State Party to protect against the overdevelopment of tourism at the property, and in particular to enforce rules related to carrying capacity for the more fragile sites that are part of the property;

5.1 Overall measures controlling overdevelopment of tourism

The number of tourists to Wudang Mountains obviously varies by different time. At festival of lunar calendar (such as March 3rd and September 9th) and during long holidays (such as the Tomb-sweeping festival of Qingming, Labor Day, Mid-Autumn Day and the National Day), the tourists is much more than other days. Plus, tourists are concentrated in several important scenic spots, and the number of tourists at less famous scenic spots is quite small. In response to this, the local authority's major strategy is to limit the total number of tourists at important dates and major scenic spots, channeling tourists to less important scenic spots. For example, private cars are forbidden to enter the scenic area, only buses can be used for transportation; at important dates, the ticket is limited and need reservation; visitor carrying capacity is established for major scenic spots; the routes to less famous scenic spots (such as Fuzhen Temple, Yuxu Cliff, Wulong Palace, the Sacred Path and also Yuzhen Palace in the future) are being developed and promoted.

Meanwhile, the new tourism service infrastructure in the scenic area must comply with the planning requirement and conduct the approval procedures, thus they are strictly restricted. The local government also strengthens management over tickets, goods, catering, accommodation and so on in the scenic area, and installed warning signs near ancient buildings and archaeological sites to avoid misbehavior's damaging of visitors.

Generally speaking, the site's management and control of

tourism development is effective. The efforts made in recent years to set and implement carrying capacity for major scenic spots, as well as channeling tourists to less famous scenic spots, ensure that the property will not be harmed by the overdevelopment of tourism.

5.2 The setting and implementing of carrying capacity

The Gold Hall is the most important and crowded scenic spot in Wudang Mountains. Currently its maximum instant carrying capacity is set at 8,000 people, and concrete measures are put in place to make sure that the quota is implemented.

Tourists need to take the cable car to arrive at the Gold Hall. This can be utilized to have real time monitoring on the tourist number in the Gold Hall area. Once tourist number exceeds 6,000, no more tourists will be transported to the Gold Hall; once the number exceeds 7,000, the sale of cable car ticket will be stopped temporarily. This measure can ensure that the instant maximum carrying capacity of 8,000 people will not be exceeded. During the limitation period, the managing agency will use broadcast, outdoor electronic display screen, the reminding of staff (those who wear red hats) to tell tourists that they can walk to the Gold Hall (which will take four hours) or wait in the queue for two hours; meanwhile, it will coordinate sightseeing buses and tour groups to prevent people from continuing to flock to the area.

