

**State of Conservation Report
of Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape**

(C 1508)

State Administration of Cultural Heritage

People's Republic of China

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1. Executive summary

On July 15th, 2016, Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape was successfully inscribed on the *World Heritage List* at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee. The WHC Decision puts forward 6 recommendations including increasing the protection level of rock paintings. It encourages the State Party to protect other rock art sites not included in the *World Heritage List*, and requires the State Party to submit an implementation report on the above-mentioned recommendations to the World Heritage Centre prior to December 1st, 2017 for review and examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018. Over the past more than one year, the government and the property management authority of the State Party have strictly implemented the Decision by the 40th World Heritage Committee. In strict accordance with the *World Heritage Convention* and its *Operational Guidelines*, the State Party has put all the other 37 rock art sites beside the Ningming Huashan Rock Art Site under the highest protection level; prepared and improved conservation plans for all the rock art sites; strengthened heritage monitoring and environmental enhancement law enforcement; reduced forest fire risks; restricted firewood collection from the forest; promoted the use of green and clean energy within the heritage area; maintained farming areas at a stable level; additionally. The State Party has carried out protection and management work for rock art sites not included as part of the property so as to make all rock sites under effective conservation and keep the landscape setting in a good state.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

a) Implementation of the recommendation on “completing the plan underway to put all 38 rock art sites under the highest protection level”.

Among the 38 rock art sites in Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape, Ningming Huashan Rock Art Site is a National Priority Protected Site, and the other 37 rock sites are under the protection of the autonomous region. In order to strengthen rock protection, Chongzuo City constantly has improved rock art cultural landscape protection planning, actively promoted rock protection level, and launched nomination for National Priority Protected Sites for the 37 rock sites. In 2016, Chongzuo City organized Ningming County, Longzhou County, Jiangzhou County and Fusui County to formulate the Plan for Zuojiang Rock Art Cultural Landscape Protection Scope and Construction Restricted Zone, which delimited the heritage area and buffer zone of Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape as the protection scope and construction restricted zone respectively, so as to realize joint and coordinated management between protected sites and the World Heritage site. This plan was approved and published by Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in November 2017. Relevant documents for declaring National Priority Protected Sites have been submitted to Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Department of Culture for review. After the State Council initiates the 8th National Priority Protected Sites recommendations, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Department of Culture will officially submit nomination materials to the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, and strive to include 38 rock sites on the list of National Priority Protected Sites.

b) Implementation of the recommendation on “preparing a conservation/consolidation programme for all the rock art sites with consequent follow-up monitoring systems”.

Together with Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Department of Culture, Chongzuo City has actively carried out disease investigation and protection on physical fabrics of rock art. On the basis of previous disease investigation and

protection for Ningming Huashan Rock Art Site, more efforts have been made to further promote investigations for other rock art sites. It is planned to finish investigation of 37 rock art sites by 2020, and carry out protection work for rock art physical fabrics in rock art sites such as Mianjiang Huashan and Longxiashan, with clear schedule and highlighted focus in place.

Furthermore, Chongzuo City has implemented a consequent follow-up monitoring system to strengthen heritage monitoring and environmental protection law enforcement. Since 2016, Chongzuo City has made continuous efforts to improve the monitoring system of Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape, and monitoring staff members of municipal and county (district) levels keep on regular or irregular patrols to heritage zones every month to collect relevant data, input the data into database for summary and analysis, realizing the data connection with China World Cultural Heritage Monitoring Platform. Relevant competent departments of municipal and county (district) levels have enhanced joint work and strengthened environmental governance and law enforcement through frequent patrolling. The municipal government issued and implemented *Technical Guidance for Planning and Construction Development Control of Villages in Heritage Zones along Zuojiang River in Chongzuo City (trial implementation)*. The transportation competent department has formulated the plan for channel safety inspection and shipping safety inspection to eliminate illegal vehicles and to supervise and monitor the safety of water and land transportation in the property. The aquatic products and livestock competent department has formulated *Management Scheme on Regulating River Channel Sand Excavation and Cage-culture Fishing* and *Implementation Scheme on Fishing Cage Clearance and Regulation along Zuojiang River*, and established an inspection mechanism. The hydraulic competent department has established a joint law enforcement working team and launched a monthly joint inspection system. The meteorology and environment competent departments are responsible for collecting and analyzing data on various elements in the property. Through coordination and cooperation,

all relevant departments work together to detect and deal with behaviors that are harmful to rock art safety and landscape, and strictly restrict constructive activities in heritage areas and buffer zones. Up to now, no severe incidents impacting rock art safety and landscape environment have occurred.

c) Implementation of the recommendation on “extending the management plan to include a risk preparedness strategy and addressing the risk of forest fire”.

In order to prevent forest fire, Chongzuo City has formulated and implemented the *Scheme for Strengthening Afforestation and Forest Fire Prevention in Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Heritage Zone* and the *Contingency Plan for Forest Fire*, and strengthened work measures, which have provided effective protection for the property. Furthermore, publicity and educational activities of forest fire prevention have been organized through dispatching publicity vehicles, distributing leaflets and calendars, posting banners in important places, renewing fire prevention billboards, etc. “Three systems” which is composed of organizational command, forest fire warning and forecasting, and firefighting have been further improved to strengthen key monitoring of Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape. At present, forest fire prevention in Huashan rock art heritage areas has been effectively strengthened, and no forest fire has occurred.

d) Implementation of the recommendation on “restricting firewood collection from the forest as a means of protecting the environment of the rock art sites”.

Chongzuo City has organized to formulate the *Planning of Heritage Zone Afforestation Project along the River*. Through new afforestation, replanting of sparse forestland, forestland ornament, closed forest and transformation of scenic forests along river courses, and other means, it has consolidated and improved green landscape along Zuojiang River. Among them, the afforestation has newly increased by 22.05 kilometers of riverway mileage, riverway forestland has been replanted for 49 kilometers, public welfare forest at tending and

management has reached 383,000 mu, and close forest has reached 6.23 mu; along the both sides of the river, 157 visible houses are provided with greening shade, and 36 afforestation demonstrative villages and 211 general greening villages have been built within 5 kilometers scope from Zuojiang River banks. Additionally, more efforts have been taken to strengthen promotion and education, strengthen law enforcement of forest resource management in heritage zones, conduct forest patrol regularly or irregularly, resolutely fight against illegal and criminal activities including disorderly quarrying and mining, deforestation and rare wild plant slash-cut, and strictly implement vegetation restoration measures like afforestation. The ecological environment in heritage zones has been well protected through all these measures.

e) Implementation of the recommendation on “considering solar heating and electric power for the operation of boats and other facilities in the surrounding villages”.

In 2016, Chongzuo City enacted and implemented the *Scheme for Promoting Utilization of Green and Clean Energy in Heritage Zones*, making popularization and utilization of green clean energy as an important driving force for improving environmental protection in heritage zones, and thoroughly further implementing rural energy construction policy, which requires adaptation to local conditions, multi-energy mix, integrated utilization and seeking efficiency. It especially highlights the promotion of clean energy in villages and towns within heritage zones and accelerates the construction of “beautiful village” strategy in these areas. Firstly, vigorously promote photovoltaic system engineering. It is planned to build 2,000 solar streetlights, 2,000 households of solar water heater users and realize solar photovoltaic power generation for 1,000 households by 2020. Secondly, vigorously promote the methane ecologicalization consolidation and enhancement project. It plans to complete renovation and repair of 3,000 households of old and existing methane pools, ensure the methane

utilization rate in heritage zones to exceed 85% and methane utilization rate in buffer zones to exceed 80% by 2020. Thirdly, vigorously implement the organic waste methane disposition project. It plans to build one rural organic waste methane disposition project in each of four counties (districts) within heritage zones by 2020. Fourthly, vigorously promote centralized biomass gasification and gas supply projects. It plans to build 10 centralized biomass gasification and gas supply projects within heritage zones by 2020 to meet daily energy demands of residents. Fifthly, vigorously promote the natural gas utilization project. Relevant towns and villages within heritage zones shall be included in the scope of gas pipeline network to meet gas demands of villages, schools, institutions, businesses and residents. Sixthly, actively promote LNG fuel (natural gas power) for the operation of boats and other facilities. Through several years of efforts, we will strive to build Huashan Rock Art heritage zones into a green energy demonstration site with methane pools underground, solar energy streetlights, solar water heaters and solar photovoltaics on the roof.

f) Implementation of recommendation on “restricting areas for farming to the present level”.

In recent years, according to the requirement of *The Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape*, Chongzuo City has strengthened supervision over construction activities in the heritage zones, strictly abided by the examination and approval system of construction land, strictly controlled tourism development projects and various construction projects, as well as land application and construction land increasing in heritage zones; all construction land will be reviewed and approved in strict compliance with laws and regulations. Currently, some presentation and utilization projects within heritage zones and buffer zones are still in the planning and review phase, and no large-scale construction and development projects have been implemented. The areas for farming keep stable and no obvious increase or

decrease has ever occurred.

Moreover, in order to realize proper utilization of land and guide the residents to establish consensus of protecting arable land, Chongzuo City has mainly taken two measures. Firstly, Chongzuo City has conducted the arable land protection and quality improvement campaign in heritage zones and surrounding areas; the good farming system that combines utilization and cultivation has been established, where green manure is applied to the farming land in winter to cultivate healthy soil, increase soil organic matter and improve fertility of arable land. Secondly, actively promote advanced technologies like soil testing and formulated fertilization to guide farmers to fertilize scientifically, change traditional fertilization concepts and methods, and make proper use of organic fertilizer sources such as livestock faeces and tapioca residue, and promote the application of formulated fertilization and organic fertilizer. These two measures have greatly improved the utilization rate of fertilizer and quality of arable land, and decreased waste of fertilizer and surface pollution caused by fertilizer. All these efforts have laid solid foundation for agricultural and ecological environment protection and sustainable development of agriculture.

g) Implementation of “encourage the State Party to ensure that other rock art sites not included in the World Heritage List are not subject to neglect”.

Rock art sites distribute in all the seven counties (county-level cities, districts) in Chongzuo City. Besides the 38 rock art sites that have been already inscribed on the World Heritage List, other rock art sites were proclaimed as municipal or county-level protected sites as early as 2006. In recent years, cultural heritage departments at all levels have strengthened routine patrol and protection management in accordance with the National Law on the Protection of Cultural Relics and other relevant laws and regulations. Furthermore, local people have also conscientiously protected the rock art, so all rock art sites have been effectively protected. In 2017, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region initiated the

nomination of the seventh batch of Protected Sites of the Autonomous Region. Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Department of Culture has recommended 40 rock art sites in Chongzuo City that were not listed on the World Heritage List into the combined property of “Zuojiang Rock Art”, an existing Protected Site of the Autonomous Region, which will be verified and promulgated by the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region very soon.

3. Other current conservation issues that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

The coordination among competent departments of the three counties and one district under the jurisdiction of Chongzuo City, where the property is located, needs to be further strengthened. The *Detailed Control Plan for Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape* needs to be compiled and announced in order to meet management and control requirements for conservation practices. Means of heritage presentation needs to be further diversified.

4. The State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China has so far not granted approval to any large-scale restoration or construction projects within the heritage area or buffer zone of the inscribed property that may affect its OUV.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

The SOC report will be uploaded to the WHC State of Conservation Information System (<http://whcunesco.org/en/soc>). It is recommended the full report should be uploaded for public access.

