

**WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE
THE GREAT WALL
2018 STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT**

Executive Summary

The Great Wall is a symbol of Chinese nation. The Chinese Government has always attached vital importance to the conservation of the Great Wall. From 2017 through 2018, under the guidance of the National Cultural Heritage Administration of China (NCHA), progress has been made to initially establish the planning system, improve the legal system, enhance talent development, promote scientific ideas, attract public engagement, carry out exchanges and cooperation between China and UK, and launch research projects regarding the conservation and utilization of the Great Wall.

In recent years, for better implementation of the Regulation on the Protection of the Great Wall, NCHA has used further efforts to strengthen the building the system of norms and standards. It has issued a series of normative documents, including the Guidance on Conservation Works of the Great Wall, the Guidance on the Work of “Four in Place” for the Great Wall, Administrative Rules for Guardians of the Great Wall, and Rules on Law Enforcement and Patrol for the Great Wall. These documents define basic principles for conservation works, specify working norms regarding protected areas, protective signs, protection institutions, and documentation and filing of the Great Wall, set administrative rules on recruitment of guardians, identify entities to carry out law enforcement and patrol, and provide macro basis for protection and management work. Legislative work for the protection and management of the Great Wall has also been launched at provincial level, in line with local characteristics of the Great Wall and practical working conditions.

Construction projects involving construction control areas and protected areas of sections of the Great Wall proclaimed as State Priority Protected Sites and construction projects involving protected areas of sections of the Great Wall proclaimed as sites under provincial-level protection shall be submitted to NCHA for its examination and approval. In recent years, in line with the Heritage Impact Assessment system for World Cultural Heritage sites, NCHA has exercised stricter requirements for examination and approval of construction projects involving the Great Wall. In addition to designing plans for construction projects, applicant entities shall also submit HIA reports and reports of archaeological surveys to explain spatial locations of construction projects in relation with protected areas and construction areas of the Great Wall and boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property, impact of construction projects on the safety of the property, and impact of construction projects on landscape settings of the property.

Regarding the construction project of the Beijing-Zhangjiakou Inter-City Railway. In the preliminary surveying and designing process, in accordance with requirements for the

protection and management of World Heritage sites, the Chinese Government organized professional institutions to carry out Heritage Impact Assessment on the construction project in 2015, thoroughly assessing possible impact of the project on the property and its landscape settings at Badaling Pass and carrying out several rounds of revision of the designing plan based on the assessment result. After scientific assessment of the revised and improved plan, professional institutions considered that vibration effect on the Great Wall by tunnel construction and railway operation is within a safe range and will not threaten the safety and stability of the property. Its ground station buildings are considered to have only minor impact on the landscape of Badaling Pass after comprehensive visual line and landscape assessment. In addition, the construction project will also help improve early warning and control of visitor flow at the Badaling Pass scenic area, the partial landscape at the Guntiangou parking area, traffic conditions from Beijing to Zhangjiakou and the Badaling Pass Scenic area, and imbalanced development among various areas in the region.

Initially establishing the planning system for the conservation of the Great Wall Under NCHA' s unified arrangement, administrative departments of cultural heritage from 15 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government along the Great Wall had prepared provincial-level conservation plans by the end of 2016. NCHA also guided professional institutions to complete the preparation of the Master Conservation Plan of the Great Wall 2018-2035 (hereinafter referred to as "The Master Plan") at the end of 2017 and revised and improved the Master Plan based on full feedbacks by relevant ministries and commissions of the State Council and local governments. The Master Plan marks a significant initiative to implement requirements of "the overall planning system for the conservation of the Great Wall" and "conservation in an integrated manner and management section by section" specified in the Regulation on the Protection of the Great Wall that was enacted by the Chinese Government in 2006.

The Master Plan contains three main parts. In the first part, background for the preparation of the Master Plan, guiding principles, planning basis, planned areas, protected properties and planned periods are defined; the state of preservation of the property and its state of management, conservation, presentation and research are analyzed; the property' s spiritual value to bear Chinese people' s spirit of persistence and self-reliance, historical and cultural value to convey confidence of Chinese people, architectural value to exhibit an ancient military defense system, and cultural landscape value to demonstrate interaction and integration between man and nature, are proposed; the spirit of the Great Wall is identified as the patriotic spirit of unity and solidarity, the national spirit of tenacity and self-improvement, and the spirit of the time that features openness and inclusion; and objectives of the conservation work for 2018-2010, 2021-2030 and 2031-2035 and six major tasks for the conservation of the Great Wall are identified.

Since 2016, NCHA has furthered its efforts for training of management professionals and organized a series of training workshops, with the aim of improving professional ability of conservators and managers of the Great Wall, enhancing capacity building for conservation and management institutions, and developing teams of technical professionals, with

particular focus on addressing excessive interventions existing in conservation works for some sections of the Great Wall that have been demonstrated in the rescue and reinforcement works of the Damao Mountain Section of the Great Wall. Ideas for the conservation of the Great Wall have been constantly updated and improved as conservation practices have been furthered. In recent years, NCHA has organized several seminars and forums to guide experts, scholars and technical professionals to carry out discussion about conservation works, presentation and interpretation, and related ideas and concepts regarding the conservation of the Great Wall.

With constant practices and theoretic explorations, cultural heritage conservators in China have reached further consensus on conservation and repair concepts regarding the Great Wall.

- The principle of not changing original state. Conservation and repair works of the Great Wall should abide by the principle of protection of original state and emphasize on comprehensive protection of values formed in the historical process and the state that conveys these values, on effective protection of historical and cultural contexts where monuments and sites are located, and on continuation of relevant cultural traditions through protection practices.
- The principle of minimal intervention. Interventions must be restricted within a range that can guarantee the safety of the Great Wall and take alleviating damages as their principal objective. Scope and size of interventions must be put under strict control. Efforts must be made to properly protect the authenticity, integrity and historic appearance of the Great Wall.
- The “prevent first” principle. Preventive conservation must be put first in order to reduce intervention to the Great Wall. Efforts should be furthered to strengthen protrol, monitoring and maintenance. Proper measures should be taken to eliminate safety risks and reduce possibility and degree of emergency damages. Interventions shall not be carried out unless preventive protection measures fail to address safety problems.
- The principle of protection by category. Scientific and reasonable measures of preventive protection and intervention measures should be worked out to address various types, forms and materials of the property as well as types of hazards, factors of destruction and speed of destruction that various materials may suffer from.
- The principle of protection by grade. Grade-specific protection measures should be worked out in accordance with state of preservation, including measures for maintenance, rescue and reinforcement, and repair. State of preservation should be identified and categorized in line with the Evaluation Criteria for the State of Preservation of Great Wall Resources in the Handbook on Surveys of Great Wall Resources.

The Great Wall symbolizes the spirit of Chinese people and its conservation has drawn extensive attention of all walks of life in China. NCHA has always supported participation of social sectors in the conservation of the Great Wall. In recent years, social organizations such as China Foundation for Cultural Heritage Conservation, Small Station of the Great Wall and the Alliance for the Conservation of the Great Wall have made tremendous efforts and

played an important role in guiding public involvement, disseminating conservation concepts, promoting education for youth, and facilitating trans-regional, cross-departmental coordination. A good momentum for public participation in the conservation of the Great Wall has been gradually developed.

The Great Wall of China and Britain' s Hadrian' s Wall are the two sites that belong to the same category of World Heritage properties. Exchanges and cooperation for the conservation and management of the two wall properties will facilitate sharing of experiences and lessons, concepts and practices, and expanding their international influence. Under the guidance and facilitation of NCHA, China Academy of Cultural Heritage and Historic England signed the Agreement on Comprehensive Cooperation Regarding Hadrian' s Wall and the Great Wall of China at Lancaster House in London in December 2017 during the China-UK High Level People-to-People Dialogue. Both parties pledged to carry out in-depth cooperation in public admission, utilization, heritage monitoring and personnel training regarding the two World Cultural Heritage sites.

From 2016 to 2018, commissioned by NCHA, China Academy of Cultural Heritage prepared and completed the Technical Regulations for Implementation of Repair Projects of the Great Wall on the basis of summarizing experiences and lessons from past conservation and repair works. The Regulations specifies norms and standards to be followed in implementation and management work and technical behaviors for conservation and repair projects of the Great Wall and identifies terminologies, definitions, basic principles, stage classification and management requirements for each stage, categorization of structures of the Great Wall, requirements for the use of repair materials, and classification of technical processes. It is a feasible technical document of professional standards for conservation and repair works of the Great Wall.