

World Natural Heritage
State Party: China

State of Conservation

Wulingyuan

Scenic and Historic Interest Area

National Forestry and Grassland Administration
the People's Republic of China

November 2018

Part I Executive Summary

In 2015, the Decision on Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area (Decision : 39 COM 7B.10) (hereinafter referred to as “the Decision”) was made on the 39th Session of the World Heritage Committee. The governments of the state party China was required to deal with the conservation issues of Wulingyuan and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, an updated report.

Governments at all levels in Wulingyuan District, Zhangjiajie City, Hunan Province and China attached great importance to the Decision, and the *Work Plan of Zhangjiajie City for implementing the Decision of the 39th Session of World Heritage Committee* was issued in April 2016, with the aim of strictly implementing related requirements of the Decision, and the replies are responded one by one as follows:

(1) The environment pollution prevention and management, remove of illegal buildings and Phase III of the demolition project in Wulingyuan were continuously and effectively promoted.

The comprehensive environmental management of the property and buffer zone were conducted, the environmental pollution prevention and control projects including water, air, and solid waste pollution were implemented, and integrated managements on river basins were carried out, effective monitoring and controlling the pollution in the property and buffer zone were continuously conducted. Great progresses have been made in the remove of illegal building and the relocation of Phase III in the property and greatly reducing the impact of unauthorized buildings on Wulingyuan Property.

(2) The governments at all levels actively took a lot of effective measures to decrease the negative visual impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property of the cable cars, elevator and electric railway. They made substantial effects in the appearance of facilities, environmental remediation and personnel training, effectively reducing negative impact of these infrastructures. No similar infrastructures are built inside the property till now.

(3) The government of the state party strictly controls the project and controls the development and construction within the property. There are no new roads constructed in the property.

(4) Wulingyuan is proposed to submit the new revised overall plan in 2020. It has been less than two years since the implementation period of the *Revised Overall Plan for Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest (2005~2020)*, and the local government has initiated the assessments and revision of the plan according to relevant national regulations, and Wulingyuan is subjected to new round of revision, which is planned to be submitted in 2019.

(5) The state party has adopted a series of measures to promote the sustainable development of tourism in the heritage property. In 2017, Wulingyuan became one of the two pilot projects of UNESCO “World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism”. The panel of Asia Pacific Heritage Center Expert conducted a number of special research activities and organized the world heritage protection training courses. And Wulingyuan, as “Zhangjiajie Observation Point for Sustainable Tourism Development of World Tourism Organization, was subjected to monitoring annually conducted by Sun Yat-sen University, who provides scientific decision-making basis for the tourism development here. These measures have played positive roles in promoting sustainable development of tourism in Wulingyuan.

The State Party China has been attaching great importance to the protection and management of ecological resources and environment. In recent years, China took numerous extremely effective measures including the amendment to the *Constitution of China*, reform of management system, establishment of long-term mechanism for environmental supervision, and designation of ecological red line. The local government where the property is located continues to do a good job in the protection and management of the property including the protection of geological heritage landscapes and biological ecological resources. The state of conservation of Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area has been significantly improved.

All in all, the outstanding universal value of Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area has been well maintained, its integrity is properly maintained, its protection and management level was significantly improved, and currently it is in an effective state. The State Party China will continue to promote the above effective protection and management in the future; strictly control the construction of tourist facilities in Wulingyuan Property, and properly handles the protections, conservation, presentation and transmission requirements of *Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage*.