According to par. 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* and the requirements of World Heritage Center, we provide the following information about an extension of the buffer zone of Mount Huangshan property.

Mount Huangshan World Heritage property is also a National Park of China. ‘The Master Plan of Huangshan National Park’, approved by China's State Council in 2007, registers 16,060 ha as the core area of Huangshan National Park and 49,000 ha as the buffer zone.

1) Area of the property (in hectares): a) The area of Mt. Huangshan property as inscribed is 15,400 ha, and the area of the buffer zone as inscribed is 14,200 ha. b) The area of the proposed Mt. Huangshan property is 16,060 ha, and the area of the proposed buffer zone is 49,000 ha.

2) Description of the modification: a) The boundary of the property remains unchanged. However, the area data of the property is now updated from 15,400 ha to 16,060 ha as a result of different measure methods. The proposed data is computerized, and hence it is more accurate than the original manually measured data. b) The original buffer zone of Mt. Huangshan property is 14,200 ha, covering the adjacent hillside section of the property and the slope side of the highways into the property. The proposed buffer zone of the property of 49,000 ha will add five more towns and a tree farm adjacent to the property, namely, Tangkou Town, Tanjiaqiao Town, Sankou Town, Gengcheng Town, Jiaocun Town and Yanghu Tree Farm. They are currently under the jurisdiction of the Huangshan District. The proposed boundary of the added buffer zone will follow the existing administrative boundaries of the above-mentioned “Five Towns and One Tree Farm”.

3) Justification for the modification: The original buffer zone of the property is comparatively small. It was planned mainly for the protection of visual landscape and environment. Not adequate considerations were given to the systematical protection of the ecological integrity, facilities coordination and management feasibility. The proposed buffer zone will help make up the discrepancies. On the one hand, it will cover the 4-km isolation zone for the efficient prevention of the *pine wood nematode disease*, contributing to more effective protection of the precious *pines taiwanensis* by the unified quarantine of the *pine wood nematode* and control of alien species. The ecological compensation fund can be more effectively practiced among the neighboring communities. On the other hand, the unity of the buffer boundaries and administrative boundaries helps clarify the responsibilities of the buffer zone management, and enhance the feasibility of the management measures, such as the protection of resources and environment, tourism development and the coordinated development of the community, etc.

4) Contribution to the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value: The extension of the buffer zone will serve to prevent the invasion of the *pine wood nematode* and alien species, thus contributing to *pines taiwanensis* and biodiversity protection. Moreover, through the protection of water, air and geological resources, the establishment of the monitoring systems and fire control facilities, the control of the tourism services and other management measures in the buffer zone, the negative impacts will be reduced markedly in the property. The
extended buffer zone will ensure the good protection of the authenticity and integrity of the property, and maintain the outstanding universal value of the property.

5) Implications for legal protection: As a national park of China, the corresponding laws and regulations will apply to the protection and utilization of the buffer zone, such as "Huangshan National Park Management Regulations", "Notional Park Regulations " and "The Prevention and Control Measure of the Pine Wood Nematode of Anhui Province ", etc.

6) Implications for management arrangements: Institutionally, Huangshan Municipal Government is in charge of the coordination between heritage site and the buffer zone. Meanwhile, the heritage site management agency will specify special personnel for the coordination with the buffer zone. In planning, a special section of "The Master Plan of Huangshan National Park" is dedicated to provide guidance for the actual operation for the coordination and management of the buffer zone. The local government of Huangshan District is also preparing "The Special Plan for Huangshan Buffer Zone" for coordinating the functional arrangement and orientation of the resource protection, tourism service facilities, traffic and other aspects of the buffer zone, which will help avoid the conflicts and duplication of constructions. Financially, the heritage site will set aside special funds with the government of Huangshan District for the resources protection, monitoring systems and fire control projects, and other aspects of the buffer zone. In addition, the heritage site will assist the Huangshan District to establish regulations for the management of scenic spots of the buffer zone, and co-build some traffic roads within the buffer zone, etc.


8) Other: None
Subject: Clarification on the “Minor Boundary modification” for Mount Huangshan (C/N547)

Dear Mr. Kishore Rao,

Referring to your letter dated 21 August 2012 concerning the aforementioned subject, I would like to forward to you the following clarification on the “Minor Boundary modification” for Mount Huangshan prepared by the Chinese Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development:

*Mount Huangshan has not conducted any boundary adjustment. The minor inconsistency in the area datas is caused by mapping error. The original area data (154 square kilometers) of Mount Huangshan was calculated manually in 1980s. In recent years, the Administrative Committee of Mount Huangshan recalculated the area data using advanced technology. The accurate result that has been officially approved by the State Council in "Huangshan Scenic Area Master Plan" (2007-2025), is 160.6 square kilometers.*

Thank you for your continued support to the protection of the World Heritage in China.

DU Yue
Secretary-General

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