

World Natural Heritage

State Party: China

**State of Conservation of
Wulingyuan Scenic and
Historic Interest Area**

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

December 2020

Part I Executive Summary

In 2019, at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, the State of Conservation of Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area was examined and the decision (Decision: 43 COM 7B.6) (Hereinafter the decision) was adopted. Requests were put forward to require the state party to submit an updated report on the state of conservation by 1st December 2020.

The State Party China and the local governments where Wulingyuan is located have been attaching great importance to the decision, strictly executing and implementing the relevant requirements of the decision. The responses to the decision were proposed as below.

1. The State Party China and the local governments where Wulingyuan is located have been adopting a series of measures to solve the problems raised by the World Heritage Committee, including implementing "River Chief" policy and strengthening the prevention, control and monitoring of environmental pollution etc. All these measures are very effective for maintaining the OUV and integrity of the Wulingyuan Property.

2. Neither infrastructures like cable cars, elevators and electric railways nor new roads have been constructed in the Wulingyuan World Heritage Property since March 2015. Only some existing infrastructure facilities were improved and upgraded, like tourist toilets, path handrails and the geopark museum. These small-scale improvements have positive rather than negative impacts on the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property. The State Party China will comply *World Heritage Convention* to inform the world heritage committee, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines of the Convention* before any decision that would be difficult to reverse is made.

3. The assessment and revision of the *Overall Plan of Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area (2005-2020)* is in progress and has not been finished owing to, firstly, China is carrying out the reform on the improvement of natural protected area system which is not yet finished, and secondly the impact of the Novel coronavirus pneumonia. The revised draft plan will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available.

4. Because of the Novel coronavirus pneumonia, the number of visitors of Wulingyuan decreases greatly in 2020. The State Party China has finalized the *Sustainable Tourism and Development Strategy of the World Heritage Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area*, in alignment with the conclusions and suggestions from the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme of Wulingyuan. The draft strategy is submitted to the World Heritage Centre as an annex of the SOC Report.

5. Efforts of the positive engagement of local communities have been made by the State Party during the relocation programmes, ensuring effective consultation, fair compensation. The State Party will ensure that any such programme is in line with the 2015 *Policy Document on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the Convention*, promote the research and conservation on both cultural and biological diversity, enhance the traditional ecological knowledge and community-based natural resource management, and strengthen the WH property protection and coordination development with the local community, facilitating the poverty alleviation.

All in all, the State Party China has been attaching great importance to the protection and management of the world natural heritages. The conservation status of Wulingyuan has been significantly improved, its outstanding universal value has been well maintained, its integrity is properly maintained, its protection and management level is significantly improved, and currently it is in an effective state. The State Party China will continue to promote the

aforementioned effective protection and management measures in the future, strictly control the construction of tourist facilities in Wulingyuan Property, and properly handle the protections, conservation, presentation and transmission in compliance to the requirements of *Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage*.