

**REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF  
THE GREAT WALL (CHINA)  
(2019-2020)**

National Cultural Heritage Administration of China  
November 2020

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The Chinese Government has always attached vital importance to the Great Wall. Pursuant to Decision 43 COM 7B.58 adopted by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the Chinese Government used utmost efforts in 2019-2020 to intensify top-level design for the conservation of the Great Wall, improve mechanisms for its conservation, presentation and use, enhance capacity for its conservation works and preventive conservation, facilitate international cooperation, encourage and guide social sectors to participate in its conservation, and move forward the conservation of the Great Wall toward a positive direction. As a result, effective progress has been made and the state of conservation of the Great Wall has continued to improve.

## **I. Ever-improved top-level design for conservation**

*The National Culture Park of the Great Wall launched.* On 24 July 2019, CPC General Secretary and Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted a meeting that reviewed and adopted the Construction Plan of National Culture Parks of the Great Wall, the Grand Canal and the Long March. National Culture Parks have been incorporated as national major cultural projects in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plans for National Economic and Social Development (2016-2025). The construction of National Culture Parks was officially kicked off in August 2019. Currently, the *Implementation Plan for the Construction of the National Culture Park of the Great Wall*, the *Construction and Conservation Plan for the National Culture Park of the Great Wall*, and provincial-level implementation schemes and plans are under preparation. The National Culture Park of the Great Wall will feature heritage properties and cultural resources related to the Great Wall from different historical periods, comprise of major components of the cultural landscape of the Great Wall and other natural landscapes and ecological environments directly associated with its heritage properties and cultural resources, and form specific public cultural spaces open to the public. The National Culture Park of the Great Wall will aim to establish itself as an important landmark of Chinese culture that offers functions in heritage conservation, continuation and use, culture and education, public service, tourism and sightseeing, recreation and leisure, and scientific research.



The press conference on the announcement of the *Master Plan for the Conservation of the Great Wall*  
(source: [www.china.com.cn](http://www.china.com.cn). Photographer: Yang Nan)

*The conservation planning system gradually improved.* The Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the National Cultural Heritage Administration co-issued the Master Plan for the Conservation of the Great Wall in order to authentically and integrally protect historical and cultural values of the Great Wall, promote and carry on the spirit of Chinese nation embodied by the Great Wall, and implement the *Regulations for the Conservation of the Great Wall* that specifies that “the state will exercise the overall planning system for the conservation of the Great Wall”. The Master Plan is a framework document that guides work for the conservation of the Great Wall. It has set out work principles, objectives, contents and management requirements for the conservation, continuation and use of the Great Wall and formulated measures for conservation and management, preservation, presentation, publicity and education, and tourist visit, providing important guidelines for the development of a long-term working mechanism. Under the arrangement and guidance of the National Cultural Heritage Administration, all provinces (including autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) along the Great Wall have prepared and completed provincial-level conservation plans. Among others, Beijing Municipality has prepared and publicized the Conservation and Development Plan of the Cultural Belt of the Great Wall, with the aim of promoting integrated and sustainable development of the conservation of heritage properties with the transmission of culture and traditions, public service, tourism and leisure, ecosystem restoration, and economic upgrading.



## **II. Ever-strengthened conservation and management capacity**

*The legal basis for conservation consolidated.* All provinces (including autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) have continued to build the legal system for conservation and management at various levels, in light of characteristics of wall sections within their boundaries and their actual work conditions. So far, China has enacted 30 regulations and normative documents involving the Great Wall. Eight provinces (including autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government), including Beijing, Hebei, Inner Mongolia, Liaoning, Heilongjiang, Shandong, Shaanxi and Gansu, has enacted provincial-level regulations or normative documents governing the conservation of the Great Wall. Among others, in 2019-2020, the *Regulations of Gansu Province for the Conservation of the Great Wall*, the *Opinions Concerning Strengthening the Conservation and Management of Sections of the Ming Great Wall in Qinghai*, and the *Interim Rules of Dingbian County for the Conservation and Management of the Great Wall* have been enacted and publicized, and the *Draft Regulations of Hebei Province for the Conservation of the Great Wall* has been completed and submitted for examination and approval. The legal system for the conservation of the Great Wall has been further improved. On 7 October 2019, the State Council announced several additional sections of the Great Wall as new entries to the Eighth List of National Priority Protected Sites, which are located in Hebei, Shanxi and Shaanxi respectively. As a result, priorities for the conservation of the Great Wall have been further identified.

*Building of conservationists strengthened.* Local governments select conservationists out of stakeholders from local communities and people. These conservationists are volunteers that carry out daily inspection, maintenance and preservation, forming important forces for the conservation of the Great Wall. In recent years, the National Cultural Heritage Administration has continued to organize trainings for conservationists of the Great Wall, with focus on improving their conservation concepts and technical capacities by standardizing training contents, optimizing organizational procedures, innovating teaching methods and inviting participation of professional institutions. Among others, in 2019-2020, Beijing, Hebei and Shaanxi organized trainings for conservationists and grassroots workers from districts and counties. Cultural heritage departments have also collaborated with professional social organizations to offer well-designed courses and more professional trainings. The Great Wall Post organized systematic, professional

and standard trainings for 577 conservationists and grassroots workers from six districts and countries of Beijing and Hebei.



A training workshop for conservationists of the Jinshanling Section of the Great Wall from Luanping County, Hebei Province (source: [www.china.com.cn](http://www.china.com.cn))

*Scientific research facilitated.* The National Cultural Heritage Administration has used continued efforts to guide research work on the Great Wall by research institutions, universities, social organizations as well as experts and scholars in archaeology, cultural heritage, planning, history, architecture, landscape design, and environmental protection. Fruitful research achievements were yielded in 2019. Among others, based on comprehensive research and assessment of conservation and management practices for the Great Wall nationwide, the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage published the *Report on the Conservation of the Great Wall 2017-2018* and completed the *Report on the Conservation of the Great Wall 2019* that will be soon published. Moreover, based on the information on surveys of the Great Wall organized by the National Cultural Heritage Administration, provinces involved have published 23 archaeological works, 13 works on scientific education, and 10 works targeting children readers. Among others, the picture book *Illustrations of the Great Wall*, produced by China Foundation for Cultural Heritage Conservation in collaboration with Tencent Foundation, presents and interprets the Great Wall from various perspectives and in a lively and simple way. The book was honored the Good Books of China 2019.



Illustrations of the Great Wall (source: China Foundation for Cultural Heritage Conservation)

*The visitor management mechanism optimized.* Improving capacity for the management of visitors' behaviors in response to the growing interest of Chinese and foreign visitors in the Great Wall and the pressure of growing visitations on its conservation and management is critical to securing the security of heritage properties of the Great Wall, its surrounding natural and cultural environments and its staff members and to improving service capacity and effects. In order to tackle such problems as crowded visitors, imbalanced distribution of visitors and unpleasant visiting experiences, the Badaling Section of the Great Wall announced the daily optimum carrying capacity of 65,000 visitors from 1 June 2019 and officially introduced the real-name online ticket booking system and the early warning response system to enable real-time response to management, service and traffic guarantee, which have effectively improved visiting experiences. The Badaling Section is the first scenic area of the Great Wall that adopts visit restrictions through online ticketing, providing valuable experience for improving management capacity of other scenic areas of the Great Wall across China.

### **III. Significantly enhanced capacity for repair works**

In 2019-2020, the National Cultural Heritage Administration used continued efforts for working mechanism innovations, multidisciplinary participation and application of new technologies for repair works of the conservation of the Great Wall, comprehensively improving the preventive conservation capacity.

*Examination of repair works tightened.* The National Cultural Heritage Administration has always adhered to the principles of protecting the Great Wall as an archaeological site, focusing on the conservation of the existing state, and avoiding direct interventions of conservation works. For that purpose, on the one hand, the National Cultural Heritage Administration organizes cultural heritage departments involved to conduct surveys and assessments of potential risks every year in order to timely identify security threats. On the other hand, it tightens examination of repair works and organizes experts and scholars to strictly examine plans of conservation works submitted so as to restrict the number of repair works. Meanwhile, efforts have been used to strengthen regulation of implementation and post-implementation processes and guide local departments to strengthen implementation, work site inspection and project acceptance, with the aim of ensuring effects of conservation works.

*Research and training with regard to conservation and repair technologies strengthened.* In recent years, under the guidance of the National Cultural Heritage Administration, Beijing and Hebei have implemented research-oriented conservation works for the Jiankou and Xifengkou sections, studying and practicing repair concepts and methods and accumulating rich practical experiences. On that basis, the National Cultural Heritage Administration has commissioned professional institutions to prepare the Guidelines for the *Conservation and Repair of Brick and Stone Sections of the Ming Great Wall* that aims to provide interpretation information for local governments and general public to understand ideas and practices for the conservation of the Great Wall. On 19 September 2020, under the guidance of the National Cultural Heritage Administration, Beijing Municipality created the Practice Base for the Conservation and Restoration of the Great Wall, the first of its kind across China. This training base aims to summarize, improve and disseminate conservation concepts and practices developed for the Jiankou Section and establish a platform to exchange repair experiences and present conservation achievements.

*Application of modern technologies moved forward.* In light of characteristics of the Great Wall that has a huge size and sophisticated structures, the National Cultural Heritage Administration has used great efforts to facilitate application of information technology to surveys and identification of resources of the Great Wall, preparation of conservation plans, and creation of monitoring and early warning systems. Comprehensive management information platforms for scientific research, management, and public service have been built by using unified codes to associate survey, geographic, identification, and conservation and management data. At the same time, 3D modeling, UAV mapping, AI technology, sonar underwater measuring, and digital photography have been used to identify hazards and draw maps, provide supportive pre-judgment for repair works, record actual conditions of different stages of repair works, and offer the basis for tracking back repair processes, evaluating repair impacts and strengthening regulation on project implementation.

#### IV. Ever-deepened international cooperation

With the support and facilitation of the National Cultural Heritage Administration, the China-UK Wall-to-Wall Collaboration between the Hadrian's Wall and the Great Wall saw significant progress and expansion in 2019-2020. On 5 July 2019, the Chinese and British delegations co-hosted a side event on the Wall-to-Wall Dialogue focusing on conservation and management cooperation during the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee held in Baku, Azerbaijan. NCHA Administrator Liu Yuzhu as well as representatives from China Foundation for Cultural Heritage Conservation, Historic England and Tencent Foundation attended the side event to share experiences and practices on legislations, resources surveys, archaeological research, planning preparation, preservation and repair, and social participation with regard to the conservation of the Great Wall and the Hadrian's Wall.

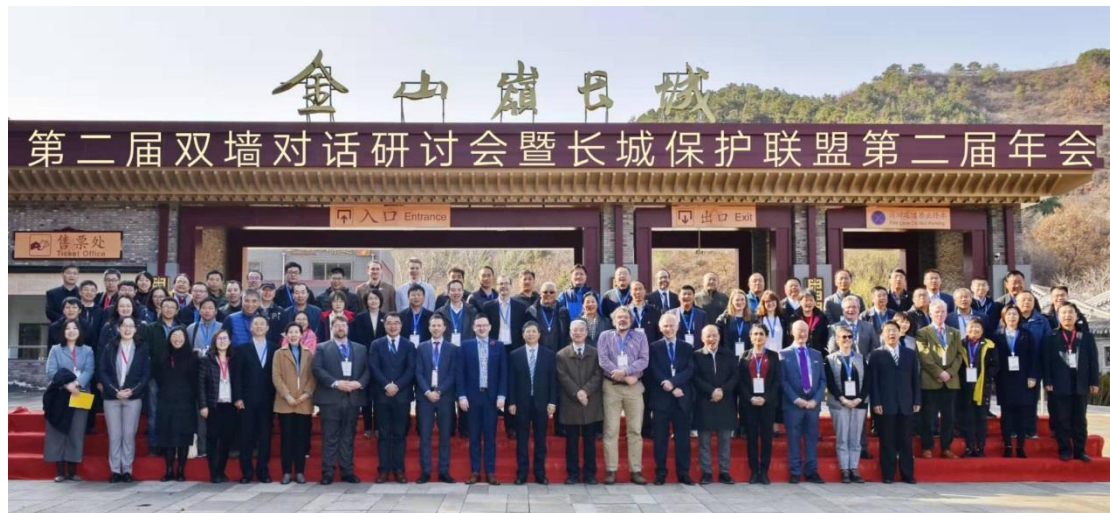


Representatives from the National Cultural Heritage Administration of China, the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage, UNESCO and the British Delegation take a group photo during the side event at the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee (source: Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage).

On 4-7 November 2019, the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage, Historic England, and the Alliance for the Conservation of the Great Wall hosted the Second Wall-to-Wall Dialogue and the Second Annual Session of the Alliance for the Conservation of the Great Wall at the Jinshanling Section of the Great Wall. Representatives from Chinese and British research institutions in the conservation and management of historic walls, the



British Council, the British Embassy in Beijing and UNESCO WHITRAP attended the event. Participants conducted in-depth discussion on the conservation and repair of historic wall heritage, monitoring and management, archaeological research, accessibility and utilization, and public participation and visited the Jinshanling Section, providing recommendations on challenges against and repair plans for the conservation for the Great Wall of China.



A group photo of participants of the Second Wall-to-Wall Dialogue (source: Administrative Office of the Jinshanling Section of the Great Wall)



Participants of the Second Wall-to-Wall Dialogue visiting the Jinshanling Section of the Great Wall (source: Administrative Office of the Jinshanling Section of the Great Wall)

Following the Second Wall-to-Wall Dialogue, on 9-13 November 2019, The Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage arranged a visit to the Jiayuguan Section for British archaeologists and mapping experts to conduct thematic study of archaeological landscapes of the Great Wall. During the study tour, British experts visited Great Wall remains of the Han and Ming Great Wall in Jiayuguan and Jiuquan, including walls, trenches, fortresses and beacon towers, as well as their surrounding environments. British experts also discussed cooperation intention with the Jiayuguan Silk Roads (the Great Wall) Research Institute, planning themes, technical routes and organizational structures for Wall-to-Wall cooperative studies.



Chinese and British archaeologists and mapping experts visiting the Han Great Wall in Jiuquan (source: Jiayuguan Silk Roads (the Great Wall) Research Institute)

During the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Chinese and British sides discussed and implemented cooperation action plans through online communication. Progress has been made in several cooperation projects. Among others, the Online Symposium on the Presentation and Interpretation of the Hadrian's Wall and the Great Wall of China 2020, co-hosted by Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture and Newcastle University on 5 October, focused on dialogue to communicate research results and practices in conservation, management, utilization and voluntary participation.

Continued cooperation in the Wall-to-Wall Dialogue has yielded fruitful research results. In November 2019, *Wall-to-Wall Dialogue: the Collection of Papers on the Symposium on the Conservation and Management of the Hadrian's Wall and the Great Wall of China*,

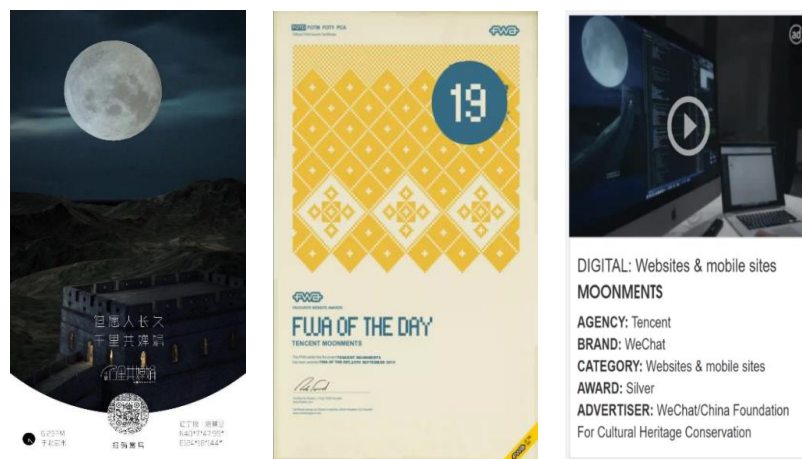


co-compiled by the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage and Historic England, was published. This is the first work of academic research results on the conservation, management and utilization of the Hadrian's Wall and the Great Wall of China. The *Wall-to-Wall Dialogue: the Collection of Papers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on the Conservation and Management of the Hadrian's Wall and the Great Wall of China* will be published in both China and Britain by the end of 2020.

## V. Wider social participation in conservation

The Chinese Government fully recognized that advancing the conservation, utilization, continuation and development of the Great Wall needs participation of all stakeholders from the whole society. In 2019-2020, the National Cultural Heritage Administration guided local governments and cultural heritage departments to strengthen publicity regarding the conservation of the Great Wall, disseminate values, conservation technologies and the legal system, and gain support and participation from various social sectors. Local governments and cultural heritage departments at various levels and professional institutions have carried out diverse publicity and education events for the conservation of the Great Wall through thematic activities during the Cultural Heritage Day, public lectures in schools and universities, cultural festivals, thematic exhibitions, and lectures on law education.

Meanwhile, the National Cultural Heritage Administration continued to facilitate deepened cooperation between China Foundation for Cultural Heritage Conservation and Internet businesses such as Tencent. “Join the Conservation of the Great Wall” launched by China Foundation for Cultural Heritage Conservation in collaboration with Tencent Foundation in 2019 has become the public good initiative that attracts the greatest attention in the field of cultural heritage. Up to 400,000 persons joined the public initiative to protect the Great Wall through the Internet platform. Other online cultural events, such as the Friends of the Great Wall Lecture Series and Overseas Chinese Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival at the Great Wall, have promoted the culture of the Great Wall and enhanced the public’s awareness of the conservation of the Great Wall.



Online cultural events on the Great Wall (source: China Foundation for Cultural Heritage Conservation)

Moreover, the National Cultural Heritage Administration has also encouraged social sectors to promote the culture of the Great Wall in various forms, such as assimilating elements of the Great Wall into online games, animations, column articles and creative products and making use of new media platforms and the Internet, so as to attract more young people to give attention to and participate in the conservation of the Great Wall.



Online games assimilating elements of the Great Wall (source: China Foundation for Cultural Heritage Conservation)

More artistic and literary works featuring the theme of the Great Wall have been created, such as films, TV documentaries, music productions, picture books, and creative products. In 2019, China Foundation for Cultural Heritage Conservation released a video series on several media platforms to share the repair works for the Jiakou Section of the Great Wall from multiple perspectives, receiving huge views and gaining wider attention.





Film and TV productions on the Great Wall (source: China Foundation for Cultural Heritage Conservation)

Cultural and creative products provide an effective tool to promote and disseminate the culture of the Great Wall and its conservation ideas. In recent years, the National Cultural Heritage Administration has released a number of policies and measures to encourage the development of cultural and creative products. Among others, “Mutianyu Section Cup: Competition of Design of Cultural Products” has triggered out a wave to develop cultural and creative products on the Great Wall. Social sectors have been mobilized to explore the culture of the Great Wall and develop diverse creative products that highlight customs, traditions, sceneries, history, landscapes, agricultural products and cuisines from the Mutianyu Section of the Great Wall. These products have been marketed and sold well online.





## 长城文创——T恤



## 长城文创产品——鱼鳞甲



- 00后文创作品



仿制明朝守关将军的盔甲  
鱼鳞甲：  
提供甲片13枚，尼龙绳1米，需自行手工按要求穿线。熟练者费时约10分钟，初学者约30分钟。



## 长城文创产品——将军棋



## 长城文创产品——保护员手工



桌游产品——长城将军棋  
集历史、文化、数学、地理于一身的少儿桌游产品。



长城脚下自己种的葫芦，  
保护员纯手工络制



长城村民手工纳制的千层底鞋垫



## 长城文创产品——环保布袋



## 长城课堂手工课



环保布袋  
黑白蓝三色  
黑&金  
白&红  
青&蓝



此碑为昌镇黄花路之  
渤海所和黄花镇守区分界  
节点标志  
历史上界碑获存数量较少，  
存此吉光片羽，  
甚为宝惜。



面向小站中低年级的长城剪纸手工课件

Cultural and creative products on the Great Wall (source: Great Wall Post)

Advocated and guided by the National Cultural Heritage Administration, a wave of protecting, studying and promoting the Great Wall is emerging across the whole society of China. In 2019, the Alliance for the Conservation of the Great Wall, founded by the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage, registered a total of 42 member institutions. Social organizations for the conservation of the Great Wall have been established in Hebei and Gansu provinces. In 2020, Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture and Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage co-founded Beijing Institute for the Culture of the Great Wall, with the aim of carrying out strategic cooperation with universities and think tanks in the conservation and utilization of sections of the Great Wall

in Beijing. Currently, cultural values and connotations of the Great Wall of China is being disseminated in a wider scope to enhance the public's awareness of the Great Wall and build the consensus on the conservation of the Great Wall among the whole society.

## **VI. Developments of the Beijing-Zhangjiakou High-Speed Railway**

The Beijing-Zhangjiakou High-Speed Railway is an important transportation infrastructure for the Beijing Winter Olympics in 2022. It was put into operation at the end of 2019. Pursuant to requirements of the World Heritage Committee, under the guidance of the National Cultural Heritage Administration, Beijing Municipal Government, cultural heritage departments and administrative bodies of the heritage site have carried out monitoring and HIA activities on the state of heritage management, visitor management, tourist facilities and high-speed train operation with regard to the Badaling Section of the Great Wall. Several rounds of communications and expert advisory work have been conducted and the HIA report has been prepared pursuant to the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments. Based on assessment results, we consider that the Beijing-Zhangjiakou High-Speed Railway does not have negative impact on the heritage property and landscape environment of the Badaling Section but instead has improved the condition of the surrounding environment and visitor management capacity. The OUV, authenticity and integrity of the Badaling Section have been placed under good and proper care (see details in the annex).