
Quanzhou (China) No 1561rev

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song–Yuan China

Location

Quanzhou City
Fujian Province
China

Brief description

The serial property illustrates the role played by Quanzhou as a maritime emporium during the Song and Yuan periods (10th - 14th centuries AD) and its interconnection with its hinterland. It encompasses religious buildings, archaeological remains of administrative buildings, archaeological sites of ceramic and iron production, elements of the transportation network and bridges, pagodas, and inscriptions.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a serial nomination of 22 *monuments, groups of buildings and sites*.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

The nominated property was included in the Tentative List on 28 March 2008 as part of a much larger serial property covering a wider historic period: *Chinese Section of the Silk Road: Land routes in Henan Province, Shaanxi Province, Gansu Province, Qinghai Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region; Sea Routes in Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province and Quanzhou City, Fujian Province - from Western-Han Dynasty to Qing Dynasty*.

Background

This is a referred-back nomination. In 2017, the State Party of China submitted a nomination for “Historic Monuments and Sites of Ancient Quanzhou (Zayton)”. The ICOMOS recommendation was not to inscribe the property on the World Heritage List.

The World Heritage Committee, in its Decision 42 COM 8B.18, decided to refer back the examination of the nomination and recommended the State Party to:

Decision: 42 COM 8B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC/18/42.COM/8B and WHC/18/42.COM/INF.8B1,*
2. *Refers the nomination of the Historic Monuments and Sites of Ancient Quanzhou (Zayton), China, back to the State Party, taking note of the high potential to meet criteria (ii), (iii) and (vi), in order to:*

- a) *Further refine and focus the justification for criteria (ii), (iii) and (vi),*
- b) *Better describe the boundaries and buffer zones of each of the nominated property components in relation to their ability to enclose and protect the nominated serial property,*
- c) *Strengthen the coordination of management between the components of the serial property,*
- d) *Consider a stronger engagement of maritime and port organizations within the management system;*

3. *Recommends that the State Party consider further integrating the significance of the Minnan Culture, of which Quanzhou is considered to be the birthplace and centre, in the attributes that convey the values of the property;*

4. *Also recommends that the State Party continue its important support and contribution to the Thematic Study on Maritime Silk Routes, and further recommends that the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, give special attention towards the preparation of a comprehensive Thematic Study on the Maritime Silk Routes, and encourages the development of a transnational dialogue on this theme.*

The State Party of China represented by the People's Government of Quanzhou City decided to request advisory assistance by ICOMOS based upon the World Heritage Committee Decision.

The objectives of the ICOMOS Advisory process were the following:

- *Further refine the justification for inscription of the nomination through documentary and other evidence in order to explore the significance of Ancient Quanzhou during the Song and Yuan Dynasties within its geo-cultural context [...];*
- *Consider key areas/components of potential value in relation to how they reflect the greatest period of prosperity of the city and its key characteristics through its cultural and economic exchanges and developments;*
- *Better describe the boundaries and buffer zones of each of the nominated property components in relation to their ability to enclose and protect the nominated serial property;*
- *Discuss the state of conservation of Quanzhou and the conditions of authenticity and integrity;*
- *Consider whether this nomination might, on the basis of this further work, have the potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value and what might be the supporting attributes and suitable World Heritage criteria.*

The ICOMOS Advisory process (January – July 2019) included desk reviews and one mission, held by one ICOMOS advisor and one expert on Asian ports and maritime exchanges.

Consultations

In 2017, ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage, on Historic Towns and Villages, and several independent experts.

Technical Evaluation Mission

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the nominated property from 24 to 29 September 2017.

Being a referred-back nomination, the timeframe for the evaluation did not allow for seeking additional desk reviews. No mission was deemed necessary by the 2019 November ICOMOS Panel, as in October and November 2019 the State Party submitted further information on the research and activities carried out since the end of the Advisory process.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

Being a referred-back nomination, the timeframe for the evaluation did not allow additional information to be requested from the State Party.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2020

2 Description of the property

Note: The nomination dossier and the documentation provided during and after the Advisory process contain detailed descriptions of this property, its history and its state of conservation. Due to limitations on the length of evaluation reports, this report only provides a short summary of the most relevant aspects.

Description and History

Quanzhou is located on the central southern coast of China. It has grown up on narrow plains formed by the Jinjiang and Luoyang Rivers delimited to the north by the impenetrable Daiyun and Wuyi mountain ranges and to the south by the ocean. This stretch of coast is rather jagged and it forms a deep bay at the end of which Quanzhou is located.

The revised nomination provides for a specific geo-historical background context to explain the key role played by Quanzhou (known as Zayton in Arabic and western texts) in the 10th – 14th centuries AD and sets out the factors that made Quanzhou excel as a maritime emporium in the Song–Yuan period, a highly significant period for maritime trade in Asia, and clearly links these factors to the nominated component parts.

The initial nomination included sixteen component parts. Through its revision six component sites and contributing elements have been added to the series. A more contextual approach has been adopted in the revised nomination dossier and, on the basis of the wealth of scholarly research on Quanzhou, six key factors have been identified as crucial for the flourishing of Quanzhou as a successful port:

- Institutional guarantee
- Multi-cultural communities
- Structure of the city
- Production sites
- Transportation network
- Overall Layout

Each of them is further articulated into simpler elements.

For this reason, the following description of the components presents them according to the above-mentioned factors, being aware that both components and contributing elements reflect more than one factor, as clearly illustrated in the nomination dossier.

The revised nomination has modified the boundaries of the nominated components so as to reduce the fragmentation that characterised the original nomination. For instance, in the Old Town of Quanzhou, seven contributing elements have been connected through key urban stretches, surviving stretches of the Bagua Ditch and of the East Moat, which delimited the town in the relevant historical period, thus forming one single component site. The Estuary docks' contributing elements have been merged into one single component with the Zhenwu Temple.

Institutional guarantee factor

An effective institutional system was necessary for a port to thrive as a maritime hub. In Quanzhou this system has two facets; the Imperial official trade institutions and the local sea god beliefs.

Jiuri Mountain Wind-Praying Inscriptions

This component, already included in the previous nomination, records prayers and ceremonies for smooth sea voyages, and reflects the uncertainty of navigation at the time. Ceremonies were organised to pray to King Tongyuan, god of the sea. There are 10 well-documented carvings, the earliest dated to between 1174 and 1266, reflecting sailing traditions during different seasons of the year.

Site of Maritime Trade Office

This is a newly-added contributing element, which resulted from recent archaeological research and excavations. The Maritime Trade Office was known from archival sources, but its archaeological remains have only recently been discovered. The establishment of this Office in 1087 was key to boosting Quanzhou's growth as a hub of maritime trade and cultural exchanges, granting the city the right to take part in international exchange. It was located in the southern part of the city along the Jinjiang riverbank. The archaeological excavations are ongoing but have already yielded abundant archaeological evidence.

Site of Deji Gate

This contributing element, also known as 'south city gate' and already included in the initial nomination, is an excavated archaeological site, located in the southern part of Old Quanzhou. Built in 1230 (Song Dynasty), with

repairs in the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties, this is the only site remaining of the seven gates of Quanzhou. Archaeological excavations in 2001 revealed the extent of the site, as well as carvings relating to Hinduism, Nestorianism, Islam and Buddhism during the Song and Yuan Dynasties.

Tianhou Temple

This is the oldest and most important existing temple for worship of the sea goddess Tianhou (or Goddess Mazu). The temple was constructed in 1196. The Song Dynasty stone foundations remain, and the wooden structure preserves the original features of the Qing Dynasty. The Temple was restored in the 1990s with money from government and private funding.

Zhenwu Temple

This contributing element was already included in the previous nomination. It was used for the worship of Emperor Zhenwu, a Taoist deity and god of the sea. Constructed between 967-990 (Song Dynasty), the preserved Song Dynasty features include the stone foundations, platform base, section of pavement, and carved lions on the staircases. The wooden features were restored in the Qing Dynasty.

The multi-cultural communities factor

The prosperity of Quanzhou as a maritime emporium owed much to the presence of foreign merchants and their communities which, along with the imperial clans, local elites and Chinese traders, formed the social fabric of the city and projected it into a global trade dimension.

Site of the Southern Clan Office

This archaeological site is a newly-added contributing element. The arrival of the Zhao-surnamed Imperial Clan of the Song Dynasty and the relocation to Quanzhou of their Office gave a strong political status to the city and further stimulated its economy through high demand for luxury products and direct involvement in trade of the clan's members. The site yielded important information on the imperial clan.

Confucius Temple and School

Located in the centre of the ancient city, this contributing element features architectural elements of the Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties in south-east China. Constructed from 976, the complex was the highest educational institution in Quanzhou, which turned out the intellectual and political elites. Its religious and educational activities continue to be carried out to this day.

Kaiyuan Temple

This contributing element was already included in the initial nominated series. This temple is notable because it incorporates Asian and western cultural influences, including Buddhist and Hindu elements. The temple was built in 686 (Tang Dynasty), but its layout has changed over time. The complex includes a scripture repository with 27,000 texts. The Houzhu shipwreck is also

preserved at the premises of the temple, attesting to Quanzhou's ship-building technology.

Statue of Lao Tze

A Stone Statue of the founder of Chinese Taoism made in the Song Dynasty is located in a scenic reserve outside Quanzhou. It represents the cultural diversity of this area.

Qingjing Mosque

Located in downtown Quanzhou, the Masjid al-Ashab is one of China's earliest mosques and demonstrates the introduction of Islam to China via the maritime trading routes. Constructed in 1009 (Song Dynasty), the mosque was restored by Ahmad ben Muhammad Quds and the famous al-Hajj Rukn al-Shirazi, in 1310. Inscriptions demonstrate that the mosque was built by business-people involved in maritime trade.

Islamic Tombs

The tombs are located in the foothills of Lingshan Mountain. They are believed to be the resting places of two Muslim people who reached Quanzhou in the 7th century AD. They were renovated in 1322 (Yuan Dynasty) and restored in 1962.

Statue of Mani in Cao'an Temple

This monument is the world's only remaining stone statue of Mani, the founder of Manichaeism or Zoroastrianism, which was introduced to China around the 6th-7th centuries. Originally built as a thatched building, the stone temple was built in the Yuan Dynasty. Some Yuan Dynasty features remain, and other elements were rebuilt in the modern period.

The structure of the city factor

The structure of the city is well illustrated by the urban component which connects, through the street network, the ditch and the moat, seven contributing elements – the Site of the Maritime Trade Office, the Site of the Southern Clan Office, Kaiyuan Temple, the Confucius Temple and School, the Qingjing Mosque, Tianhou Temple, the site of the Deji Gate - which also reflect other factors underlying Quanzhou's success as an emporium.

The production sites factor

Key for the success of an emporium was the capacity to produce large volumes of commodities that could be sold or exchanged competitively in overseas markets. Quanzhou's main export products included silk, cloth, porcelain, ceramics, copper, iron, silver and gold, although silk, porcelain and iron were the most important and widespread ones.

Sites of Cizao Kilns

The Kiln Sites at Jinjiaoyi Hill were built in the 10th century and abandoned in the 14th century. They are evidence of the prosperity of trade in these periods. Quanzhou has a high density of such kilns - more than 150 are known. Cizao kiln products have been found in archaeological excavations in South-east Asia, South Asia and East Africa, and in shipwrecks in the Xisha

Islands and South China Sea. Excavations in 2002-2003 have identified four dragon kilns, a workshop, and many artefacts.

Sites of Dehua Kilns (Weilin-Neiban Kilns, Qudougong Kiln)

The Weilin-Neiban Kilns and the Qudougong Kiln are a newly-added. They are located some 70km northwest of Quanzhou, in the Daiyun Mountains, which offered abundant and high-quality resources for porcelain production. Different types of kiln have been excavated, including a multi-chambered dragon kiln, and porcelain clay-processing workshops as well as remains of green-white and white porcelain. The products were transported by water through tributaries of the Jingjiang River.

Xiacaopu Iron Production Site of Qingyang Village in Anxi

This newly-added component part represents the production of iron which was traded from Quanzhou port. The site is located some 70km northwest from Quanzhou and was connected via waterways to the port. The site includes a mine and a smelting plant (blooming smelting and blast furnaces). It is one of the few sites where a complete production system can be found.

The transportation network factor

The success of Quanzhou as a global emporium could not be achieved without an efficient water-land transportation system to distribute rapidly the merchandise as well as a sufficient number and types of docks to load and unload the cargoes from the ships.

Shihu Dock

This dock is located in the outer port of Quanzhou and is believed to have been constructed between 713-741 (Tang Dynasty). The dock has an important strategic position, facing the mouth of the main channel. In 1068 (Song Dynasty) a fortress was built over the water here, along with a bridge, paths and stairs. The dock was restored several times during the Song Dynasty, and the Song Dynasty stone foundations remain.

Wanshou Pagoda

This is a five-storey stone pagoda constructed between 1131-1162 (Song Dynasty), situated at the highest point of Quanzhou Bay. The State Party considers that it acted as a navigation marker for the port. A 'calabash'-shaped top was added in 1981.

Liusheng Pagoda

This is a five-storey stone pagoda overlooking Shihu Dock. Its construction began in 1111 (Song Dynasty), and a restoration financed by a maritime businessman occurred in 1336-1369 (Yuan Dynasty), reflecting the prosperity of Quanzhou in the 14th century. The nomination dossier illustrates how the pagoda acted as a navigation marker for the main channel. The pagoda was restored in 1982.

Estuary Docks

The Meishan Dock and Wenxing Dock (Estuary Docks) were built in the Song Dynasty and are located at the juncture of the river and the sea. These stone docks were important for commerce and the coastal defence of Fashi Port, one of the most prosperous of Quanzhou's ancient ports. Surveys in the 1950s and 1980s have found a shipbuilding site, stone anchors and several stone Islamic tombs in this area. There is one shipwreck located within the land area of this component. These docks were restored in 2002.

The Luoyang Bridge (Wan'an Bridge)

This component was built between 1053 and 1059 (Yuan Dynasty) and was the first flat-beam sea-crossing stone bridge in China. The bridge made land-sea transport possible and brought Fuzhou and other cities within the reach of Quanzhou port. The Song Dynasty foundations are preserved, along with Ming Dynasty restorations, and further restorations in 1993-1996.

Anping Bridge

This is a newly-added component site. The bridge (2,255m long) is located some 30km south of Quanzhou city and it was the main connection with Zhangzhou and Guangzhou to the south and Anhui port, which was part of the regional maritime infrastructure of Quanzhou. It was built between 1128 and 1152 AD.

Site of Shunji Bridge

This newly-added component site was the main access to the ancient commercial district in Quanzhou and facilitated the transportation of goods. It was built near the Deji Gate to cross the Jinjiang River towards the south. It was built in 1211 and it remained in use until the 20th century. It partially collapsed in 2005-2006 due to the impact of floods.

Between the 10th and 14th centuries across maritime Asia, a complex and intense maritime network flourished into what scholarly research has defined as the "first global system". Within this system Quanzhou served as the focal point of the trade, rapidly surpassing Guangzhou, which had dominated maritime trade since the Tang Dynasty.

The beginning of the growth in importance of Quanzhou as the most prosperous port during the Song and Yuan dynasties cannot be fully traced, according to scholars. Some consider that early signs of maritime trade developments emerged as early as the 8th-9th centuries. However, from the 10th century onwards Quanzhou witnessed important growth in maritime trade that turned it into an important emporium.

This success was achieved thanks to geographical conditions, such as the deep waters of Quanzhou Bay, the accessibility to the city waterfront through the Jinjiang river, complemented by the presence of Persian, Arab and Indian merchants, and consciously-pursued efforts, e.g., making available docks at different locations in the bay and along the river, improving the north-south transportation system, exploiting the hills behind the port-

city for ceramic and metal production, and using the rivers for goods transportation. Eventually a Maritime Trade Office was created (1087 AD) which granted Quanzhou the privilege of becoming an official zone for foreign economic and cultural exchanges. Later, the Southern Imperial Clan Office was also established, further contributing to the flourishing of the maritime trade.

The Yuan Dynasty further boosted maritime trade and the success of Quanzhou, strengthening connectivity among ports along the southern coast of the continent and giving prominence to foreign merchants and achieving a concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few people.

With the collapse of the Yuan Dynasty, and the rise of the Ming Dynasty, many merchants fled to South-east Asian and Quanzhou declined.

Boundaries

The area of the 22 nominated components and contributing elements totals 536.08 ha, with buffer zones totalling 11,126.02 ha.

The nomination dossier describes the rationale adopted to delineate the boundaries of the nominated components.

The buffer zones have been established generously, to protect the immediate setting, important views and other attributes functionally important for the protection of the components. The nomination dossier also includes larger delineated wider setting zones.

The protection measures established for the buffer zones derive from protective designations and conservation plans. Further details can be found in the relevant section of this report.

However, ICOMOS notes that the maps provided in the revised nomination dossier distinguish component parts of the series from contributing elements that are located within each of them. In addition, some of the maps, in particular the one presenting the Old Town of Quanzhou shows 8 individual component parts – as presented in the Identification of the property section of the nomination dossier, with their own surface area – but which seem, on the maps, connected altogether, except for one of them, through a network of streets, bridges, canals, as if they were forming a unique and individual component part. Furthermore, ICOMOS notes that some captions of the maps are not clear enough when presenting what constitutes the component part in itself, and what are the contributing elements of the component (this is the case for the map related to the Zhenwu Temple and the Estuary docks, for example).

ICOMOS considers that the State Party should clarify and harmonise the information related to the exact number of component parts of the series, as well as the number of contributing elements which are comprised within them. The State Party should also provide the real extent of the

component parts areas, as some of the provided surfaces are related to a contributing element only, and not to the component of the series.

State of conservation

Contributing elements located in urban and peri-urban contexts, such as temples, bridges, pagodas, have a long history of conservation and restoration, whilst archaeological remains of production sites have been provided with protective shelters and enhancement of their setting. Monitoring is regularly carried out at all component parts.

The revised nomination dossier includes a table detailing the most recent conservation and presentation interventions to all component parts. Overall the conclusion of the State Party is that the nominated components exhibit a state of conservation between relatively good and good.

Based on the information provided by the State Party and the observations of the 2017 ICOMOS technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS observes that the state of conservation of the component parts that could be visited at the time can be considered overall good, although all are subject to several processes of restoration and reconstruction, especially architectural monuments. The documentation transmitted by the State Party in October and November 2019 suggests that the measures recently undertaken at newly-added sites are in line with the ICOMOS Advisory process recommendations.

ICOMOS considers that the setting of all components and contributing elements should be closely monitored to avoid further changes that can negatively affect their them as well as the ability to understand their value and meaning, as has happened with some components.

On the other hand, the wider setting of the nominated series has changed dramatically since the 1980s, due to rapid socio-economic transformation, development and population increases.

Factors affecting the property

Based on the information provided by the State Party and on the observations of the ICOMOS technical evaluation mission carried out in 2017 to the initial nominated series, ICOMOS considers that the main factors affecting the property are:

- Development pressures, particularly those components located in the urban or peri-urban contexts, which are subject to urban renewal, upgrading of infrastructure, changes in land-use and spatial organisation, and housing construction;
- Vulnerability to climate change, particularly the Shihu and Estuary Docks as well as the bridges; lightning might be a danger for the Pagodas, whilst termites might threaten the wooden structures.

The State Party has put in place a variety of protection systems, including flood control measures, lightning protection and fire control systems, disaster prevention and early warning systems.

Although Quanzhou has experienced increasing visitor numbers - in 2014 44.283 million visitors were recorded and in 2016 some 10 million people visited 16 out of the 22 nominated components – the State Party considers that the nominated components are not among the most visited sites. However, plans for tourist management, flow monitoring system and improvement of visitor services, based on carrying-capacity indicators, have been developed to prevent potential impacts from an increase of visitors.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and of the buffer zone are adequate. The state of conservation of the components of the nominated series is overall good, although less so for the setting of some of them. The major factors affecting the property are urban development, infrastructures, climate change, particularly floods and storms, and potential visitor pressures. The State Party has prepared strategies and measures to counteract these factors.

3 Proposed justification for inscription

Proposed justification

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- Quanzhou was the fulcrum of a vast trade system across maritime Asia in the 10th- 14th centuries AD as well as the gateway to Song–Yuan China and from it to the outside world;
- The serial nomination reflects in an exceptional manner the factors that made it possible for Quanzhou to become a global maritime emporium in the 10th- 14th centuries: a highly integrated territorial system, combining production and efficient transportation, institutional support, cosmopolitanism, and interchange between agricultural and commercial civilisations.

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis has been developed on the grounds of the following parameters:

- Port cities and maritime emporia throughout the world
- Period of development (10th – 14th centuries – the “first global trade system”)

The State Party has conducted its comparative analysis starting at the global level, then addressing the regional and national levels.

Fourteen World Heritage properties were selected in Europe and five located in the Arabian Peninsula and Africa, directly reflecting the international maritime trade in the relevant historical period. Eight further properties reflecting the wealth generated by maritime trade in East and South-East Asia have also been considered.

The analysis then addressed properties on the Tentative Lists of States Parties, in South-East Asia, India, the Arabian Peninsula and East Africa. Finally, the comparison examines major port cities in China active in the relevant period (10th – 14th centuries): Guangzhou, Quanzhou and Ningbo. The analysis is rather detailed and concludes that development in Guangzhou and Ningbo started much earlier, but Quanzhou flourished rapidly in the 10th – 14th centuries, surpassing both ports to face a rapid decline immediately afterwards. This was determined by a number of factors; however, despite their different stories of development, the three port cities were all under Imperial rule and should be seen as complementary in different periods.

The conclusion of the comparative analysis is that no property from Asia is inscribed on the World Heritage List under this theme and for this period. Quanzhou would complement the depiction of the Asian maritime trade system illustrated by World Heritage properties and tentative list entries and would illustrate the flourishing of a global maritime trade system before the arrival of the Europeans in the region. The other two Chinese ports examined by the comparative analysis are seen as complementary.

The twenty-two components and contributing elements have been selected as the best or only surviving tangible components reflecting one or more of the key factors underlying the success of Quanzhou as a global maritime emporium. The nomination dossier provides a detailed justification of the rationale that was followed to select the component parts and the contributing elements.

ICOMOS observes that the comparative analysis could have developed further the analysis of port cities active in the relevant historical period inscribed on the World Heritage List from other regions. It could also have considered other port cities in China, particularly Hangzhou (Lin'an), the capital city during the Southern Song period. ICOMOS also notes that the conclusions are oriented not only to demonstrate the relevance of Quanzhou for the World Heritage List but also to outline a distinct profile for all three cities – Quanzhou, Guangzhou and Ningbo.

Notwithstanding the shortcomings highlighted above, ICOMOS considers that the nominated serial property justifies consideration on its own merit.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv).

Criterion (ii): *exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the nominated serial property would reflect in its spatial structure economic and cultural interchanges between the agricultural civilisation of the Eastern Asian Empire and the maritime commercial civilisations in the Asian trade network between the 10th – 14th centuries; it would exhibit, in its architecture and landscape, blending Chinese and foreign styles, cultural interchanges among cultures - the Chinese Empire mainstream, the local and foreign cultures.

ICOMOS considers that only some of the surviving physical monuments of the serial property demonstrate some interchange of human values as reflected by both local and imported influences, primarily in terms of architectural elements. On the other hand, most of the component parts reflect the values of specific cultures, rather than a materialisation of cultural interchange. Additionally, it is difficult to see how the few tangible examples of this interchange can be seen as significant in a World Heritage context, or how the serial property as a whole demonstrates this criterion, as component parts only reflect specific aspects of the system. Other places in the world exhibit similar cultural interchanges during this and other periods that have had a fundamental rather than incidental influence on their physical form.

ICOMOS further considers that the interchange between the Chinese agrarian civilisation and the local and foreign maritime trade-based civilisations might be reflected by the historical and economic story of Quanzhou as an emporium, but it cannot be said that the serial property is able to reflect as a whole such interchange.

ICOMOS does not consider that criterion (ii) has been justified.

Criterion (iii): *bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the property would provide a full picture of a successful maritime trade system which was put into effect in the 10th – 14th centuries and made Quanzhou a window for economic and cultural exchanges; it would bear witness to the great tradition of maritime trade defined by diversity and common prosperity, which emerged in Quanzhou, by balancing official and unofficial institutions, cross-sectoral and inter-regional

development, sharing of economic opportunities, inclusive coexistence of different cultures.

ICOMOS considers that the first argument put forward to justify this criterion is better reflected by criterion (iv) than criterion (iii).

The second set of arguments presented to support criterion (iii) does not appear specific to Quanzhou but commonplace for most of the successful port cities and emporia throughout the world – inscribed or not on the World Heritage List - and at different moments in history. Cultural coexistence in the name of economic prosperity and advantages, regional interconnection and complementarity, balanced regulating role of institutions, are common traits of several similar properties throughout the world and would not make Quanzhou (or any of the other ones) stand out compared to several other similar properties.

ICOMOS does not consider that criterion (iii) has been justified.

Criterion (iv): *be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that Quanzhou would be an outstanding example of an emporium which played a role as the fulcrum and the engine of maritime trade in Asia between the 10th and 14th centuries. Quanzhou exhibits an integrated regional and territorial structure featuring a production dimension, connectivity and transportation, and marketing functions.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated serial property reflects in an outstanding manner through its components, their reciprocal location and related function, the territorial organisation and integration into one system of the key factors and their tangible manifestations (institutional offices, religious buildings, production sites, transportation infrastructure elements, harbours and docks) that made Quanzhou excel as a maritime emporium in the Song–Yuan period, which was crucial in terms of the global development of maritime trade in Asia and beyond.

ICOMOS considers that criterion (iv) has been justified.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated serial property meets criterion (iv), whilst criteria (ii) and (iii) have not been demonstrated.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The nomination dossier maintains that the nominated serial property includes all components and contributing elements that illustrate their reciprocal functional,

spatial, social and cultural links. They reflect as a whole a set of processes and key tangible elements and intangible factors of Quanzhou's success as a global maritime emporium in the 10th – 14th centuries AD. The nomination dossier then analyses the specific level of integrity of each component part and contributing elements also in relation to the role of the buffer zones and of the wider setting.

ICOMOS considers that the rationale for the serial nomination has been strengthened in the revised nomination dossier; the role of each component in contributing to the series has been explained, thereby resolving the major issues raised with regard to integrity of the initial nominated series. The initial fragmentation and disconnection of the components of the series has been reduced, by grouping contributing elements in larger component parts and by providing an overall narrative that strengthens the functional links among components. Therefore, the revised nominated series can be said to illustrate the key factors that made Quanzhou a prosperous international hub of maritime trade between East Asia, Europe and the Arab region and to convey its proposed Outstanding Universal Value, although not under all proposed criteria.

The assessment that was carried out by ICOMOS on the basis of the 2017 technical evaluation mission of the original nomination is still valid for some components, particularly with regard to the visual impacts suffered by some components due to developments or substantial restoration works. Urban development pressure still represents an important affecting factor that must be kept under control: a system for management and protection has been set up for clearly demarcated areas (buffer zones and wider setting zones).

Authenticity

The nomination dossier holds that the nominated series truthfully and credibly reflects the overall territorial layout, the historical functions, social structure and historical chronological information of Quanzhou as a global-level maritime emporium during the Song and Yuan Dynasties. All component parts and contributing elements reflect in a credible manner the proposed justification for inscription through their original location, the information yielded through archaeological research, their form and materials, traditional maintenance systems, and technical systems reflected in the physical remains.

ICOMOS considers that the revised nomination dossier has considerably expanded the overall description and contextualisation of Quanzhou as a maritime emporium and has clarified the contribution of each component part and contributing element as a tangible reflection of the key factors that turned Quanzhou into a successful global hub for maritime trade with commercial outreach in South-East Asia, the Arab Region and beyond.

For some components the assessment made by ICOMOS in the evaluation of the original nomination is still valid, particularly with regard to extensive restoration or reconstruction. On the other hand, newly-added archaeologically researched component parts seem to exhibit a high capacity to yield authentic information on the production processes.

For some component parts, no visit could be made during the advisory mission; however, the work carried out at these sites has been considered by ICOMOS in line with the Advisory process recommendations.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met for the whole series, although there is a need to ensure robust protection from potential further urban development that might undermine the understanding of the role of each component and to provide for a strong presentation and interpretation programme for the whole series at each component part.

Evaluation of the proposed justification for inscription

The revised nomination dossier has been able to provide an overall and specific geo-historical background context that explains how Quanzhou flourished and excelled as a global-level maritime emporium in a period – the 10th - 14th centuries – which was highly significant for maritime trade in Asia and was defined as the “first global system” by scholars.

The revised nomination has been able to tie together the nominated components through one single narrative that explains the key factors of Quanzhou's success as a wealthy maritime hub. The addition of further components and contributing elements also expand the facets of this economic and territorial system that developed to turn Quanzhou into a competitive emporium.

The comparative analysis suffers from some shortcomings in terms of methodology, but its conclusions are overall adequate.

The proposed Outstanding Universal Value appears coherent with the narrative presented in the nomination dossier and with the nominated components forming the series. However, out of the three proposed criteria – (ii), (iii) and (iv) – only criterion (iv) has been justified by the series as a whole and by the contribution offered by each component part. Criterion (ii) could be applicable to some of the components, but not to all of them, and where this interchange is materialised it appears ‘incidental’, e.g., limited to individual architectural elements, rather than substantial. The arguments presented to support criterion (iii) appear to be commonplace among port cities or emporia, across the world and the centuries, and do not suggest that Quanzhou would be unique or exceptional.

Efforts have been made to reduce the fragmentation of the components, by grouping some of them into larger components, thereby overcoming the major issues concerning the integrity of the series. Expanded buffer zones contribute to strengthening the integrity of each component part. However, considering the dramatic changes suffered by the wider setting of most of the component parts of the nominated series, careful control to prevent further modifications to the immediate or wider contexts of the components is necessary. Also, a careful interpretation programme is needed to facilitate the understanding by the public of the territorial system of this emporium at the time of its apogee. Long-term archaeological research will also contribute to enriching the comprehension of the nominated series and of the system as a whole, in combination with the wealth of scholarly research that has been accumulated and will continue, thanks to the rich archives. In this regard, active protection of still-surviving ancient documents and archives is crucial for enriching the understanding of Quanzhou as a maritime emporium.

Attributes

The geo-morphological setting of Quanzhou Bay, the Jinjiang and Luoyang Rivers, against the backdrop of high mountains, are the natural conditions that favoured the flourishing of several ports and docks at different locations, facilitating loading and unloading of cargoes. The construction of bridges and roads improved the connectivity between the port area and the inland, and the presence of the rivers facilitated rapid transportation of products from the hinterland to the port. All component parts and the contributing elements are essential to understanding this territorial system as well as their setting and the reciprocal visual relationships. This holds true particularly for the two pagodas, whose inter-visibility, where this survives, with other port elements and the sea must be maintained and enhanced. Within the urban component comprised within the Old Town of Quanzhou, the orthogonal intersection between the two main urban stretches, the Bagua Ditch, and the East Moat, is a key attribute for the understanding of the urban layout of Quanzhou. As a matter of fact, the whole of Quanzhou Old Town, in the buffer zone, includes attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection as well as its understanding.

The almost intact setting of the hinterland production sites is also very important for the understanding of the functional role of these components, as well as any elements related to the ancient transportation system.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed justification for inscription is consistent with the historic development of Quanzhou and the tangible and intangible evidence that is reflected by the components of the nominated serial property. Only criterion (iv) among the proposed three has been justified. The conditions of integrity and authenticity of the series have been met, although the dramatic changes to their settings require strong control over possible further modifications and a robust

interpretation programme for the whole series. The management entity is aware of these needs and has set up measures to avoid further depletion of the setting of the components of the nominated series.

4 Conservation measures and monitoring

Conservation measures

The revised nomination dossier informs that routine maintenance and monitoring are regularly implemented and that conservation interventions have been carried out at several component parts.

Conservation principles – and the definitions of repair and restoration – are established by the national law for cultural heritage as well as relevant international texts, the Beijing Document (2007) and the ‘Principles for the Conservation of Heritage Sites in China’ (2015).

The dossier presents a synoptic table summarising the main conservation and maintenance measures carried out at the various component parts in the late 20th and 21st centuries in relation to the main specific impacting factors. Some component parts and contributing elements have conservation plans developed (e.g. Kaiyuan Temple, Confucius Temple and School, the Site of the Dehua Kiln); for other components, conservation plans are being prepared and at newly-added components conservation has been improving.

Traditional conservation skills have been maintained and these prove useful for maintenance and repair of the components.

The management entity and its dedicated structures has elaborated a long-term plan for archaeological research and protection. The remains discovered in 2019’s archaeological surveys have been protected.

ICOMOS considers that the assessment ICOMOS made for some of the component parts already included in the original nomination are still valid today, particularly with regards to past restoration interventions and the high standards applied to more recent conservation work.

For the sites that could not be visited by the advisory mission, ICOMOS considers that the newly-developed work is fully in line with implementing the recommendations of the Advisory process, on the basis of the updated documentation provided by the State Party in November 2019.

Monitoring

The monitoring system links monitoring objectives, monitoring targets and indicators. Complex indicators are broken down into simpler ones. The system envisages the appropriate cycle and responsible entity. The aspects being monitored include the overall spatial structure and landscape setting of the components, their heritage fabric, the links between the nominated series and its social context, and tourism. Specific administrative

arrangements have been set up: different departments of the municipal administration are assigned to monitoring tasks and report relevant data and information to the Quanzhou Heritage Protection and Management Centre which aggregates the data. Quarterly working meetings on heritage conservation are organised to update the Management Group of the nominated property.

ICOMOS considers that a comprehensive monitoring system has been established for the nominated property, which takes into account key complex attributes and impacting factors. Streamlining monitoring indicators, affecting factors and World Heritage Periodic Reporting questionnaire would facilitate this exercise and facilitate comparability of data.

ICOMOS considers that conservation measures in place are adequate to ensure that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the component parts and of the contributing elements are sustained over time. The monitoring system is adequate for the nominated series.

5 Protection and management

Documentation

The revised nomination dossier is based on extensive documentation of the component parts and contributing elements, deriving from research and conservation interventions. This documentation is being augmented through further archaeological research and monitoring activities. It is of the utmost importance that conservation of the documentation of conservation and maintenance work is kept for future works and consultation.

Legal protection

The Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics (latest revision 2017) and its implementing regulations set out protection requirements for State Priority Protected Sites. Eighteen among the component parts and the contributing elements enjoy this type of designation. At the provincial level, the Regulations of Fujian Province for the Protection and Management of Cultural Heritage (1996, revised 2009) provides for protection and management frameworks for protected cultural heritage. Four component parts are protected at the provincial level.

The Regulations of Quanzhou City for the Conservation of Historic Monuments and Sites Relating to the Maritime Silk Road defines responsibilities at different levels.

Quanzhou historic town is protected as National-level Famous Historical and Cultural City. For this type of protected property regulations exist at the national and provincial levels. Some components are also protected as national scenic areas, whilst other ones are included within marine conservation zones.

Components protected as priority protected sites enjoy ad-hoc management plans (e.g. Kaiyuan Temple, Confucius Temple and School, Dehua Kilns, Famous Historical Cultural City of Quanzhou, Scenic Area of Qingyuan Mountain).

A four-tier administrative system for implementing protection measures exists from national to site levels.

Protection and management entities exist for all components/contributing elements. The national, provincial and municipal levels provide for guidance and supervision through regulations. Protection and management implementation is exercised at the county, city and district levels.

Management system

The legal and institutional frameworks at the national, provincial, municipal and township/district levels provide for the overall governance framework.

Quanzhou Municipal People's Government has established a working group involving representatives from 12 relevant municipal departments and 9 administrative divisions (county level), responsible for coordination, management and decision-making.

Direct management responsibilities fall on different administrative divisions which oversee the offices directly responsible for the daily management of the different components and contributing elements. A coordinating meeting is held quarterly to align criteria, ensure coherence of action in implementing plans, and discuss results on the basis of the existing legal and planning framework.

The management plan for the originally-nominated serial property was revised in 2019 to add the additional components and it has been streamlined with conservation plans for specific components, attaining approval in 2020. The management plan summarises the management objectives for the overall series, the background documents, the current state of the management, the management needs, requirements and measures for each component, and the management entity responsible for implementing those. The management plan also includes an outline of the objective for a research plan.

Other relevant planning instruments include the Urban Master Plan for Quanzhou city (2008–2030), the Conservation Plan for the Famous Historical Cultural City of Quanzhou (2018 – revised), the Master Plan for Qingyuan Mountain Scenic Area (2018–2035), Quanzhou Marine Functional Zoning (2013–2020), Plan for Marine Protection of Quanzhou city (2011–2020), and special plans for landscape settings.

Religious places are managed following State Regulations on religious affairs (revised 2017) and on the basis of the Quanzhou management system for

eight religious places, covering a variety of management tasks.

For each of the component parts, a management system has been set up addressing heritage safety, archival management, maintenance/repair, visitor safety, patrolling, emergency plan, and visitor regulations.

In total, 16 different management entities are responsible for the daily management of the components and contributing elements. These management units are coordinated by a different department of Quanzhou Municipal People's Government.

Risk and emergency management is addressed at the component level by ad-hoc instruments.

Visitor management

Various components enjoy visitor facilities such as parking lots and restrooms, and most of them offer exhibitions, signage and brochures. The Quanzhou Maritime Museum presents permanent exhibitions on different facets of the history and significance of the nominated property. Also religious places offer a variety of cultural events and proposals, beyond their religious functions. The nomination dossier details the visitor offers at different components. The main forms of presentation are museum and on-site presentation.

To ensure that the nominated serial property is promoted in coherence with its proposed Outstanding Universal Value but also to stimulate the participation of private organisations in this undertaking, the presentation of the nominated property has been included in the evaluation index of the City's tourism department.

Community involvement

This aspect has not been specifically addressed by the revised nomination dossier; however, information on the consultations held with residents was provided for the original nominated series. At that time, ICOMOS did not identify any significant issue on community involvement.

Interpretation and presentation programmes explicitly address local society.

ICOMOS recommends however that communities living in the surrounding areas of newly-added components, particularly those located in the hinterland, be adequately informed about the nomination process and the values of these sites as part of the nominated series.

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Protection and Management of nominated property

All components and contributing elements of the nominated series enjoy protection designations according to national or provincial legislation on heritage protection. A number of them are covered by multiple designations. Protective measures are established

through a multi-tiered regulatory framework and planning instruments. Conservation and maintenance are programmed through ad-hoc plans, either existing or under preparation.

The management system is multi-tiered from the national to the county/district level. Pivotal to the management system is the Quanzhou Municipal People's Government which has set up a working group meeting quarterly for coordination and implementation purposes.

An updated Management Plan for the Serial Property of Quanzhou has been prepared and approved and it has been streamlined with other planning documents.

ICOMOS considers that legal protection and protection measures are well articulated and adequate.

ICOMOS observes that the management system set up is very articulated and comprehensive. Given the high number of administrative structures involved and the multiple tiers of governance, proactive coordination and communication efforts will be needed to guarantee its effectiveness.

The management plan outlines the key management elements, and it represents a sound basis for coordinated management implementation. However, further work would be needed to specify further the attributes and, from a management perspective, a more explicit link between the existing or planned specific conservation/ management plans for individual components and the overall management plan and its objectives would assist in effective implementation. The plan for research, particularly archaeological investigation, would need to be further developed.

ICOMOS considers that legal protection and protective measures are adequate. The management system is adequate but, given its complexity and numerous actors, would require continuous coordination. The management plan for the nominated serial property represents a good basis for coordinating management implementation but would need further work on attributes, strengthening the interlinkages with specific plans for individual components, and expanding the archaeological research programme. Also closely monitor visitor pressures and implement measures to reduce them if and when needed.

6 Conclusion

Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song–Yuan China is a revised and augmented serial nomination that reflects the way in which Quanzhou arose as a global maritime emporium and trade nexus between the 10th and 14th centuries.

The State Party has made a remarkable effort to revise the initial nomination in line with the World Heritage Committee recommendations and has fully harnessed the Advisory process. The revision of the nomination has helped augment the number of components and contributing elements and has provided an overall geo-historical narrative, both of which have greatly improved the legibility of the whole system that the series intended to reflect.

The revised nomination has been able to tie together the nominated components through one single narrative that explains the key factors of Quanzhou's success as an exceptional maritime hub in the Song-Yuan period. The addition of further components and contributing elements also expand the facets of the economic and territorial system that developed to turn Quanzhou into a competitive emporium.

The proposed Outstanding Universal Value is coherent with the narrative presented in the nomination dossier and with the supporting attributes of the nominated components forming the series. The conclusions of the comparative analysis are overall justified and justify consideration of the revised series for the World Heritage List.

However, out of the three proposed criteria – (ii), (iii) and (iv) – only criterion (iv) has been justified by the series as a whole through the contribution of each component part. Criterion (ii) is not reflected by all components, and, where it is, is limited to minor elements. The arguments presented to support criterion (iii) appear to be commonplace among port cities or emporia, across the world and the centuries, and do not suggest that Quanzhou would be unique or exceptional.

To reduce the fragmentation of the previous nominated series, some contributing elements have been grouped into larger components and this has improved the overall integrity of the series. The expanded narrative has strengthened the credibility of the revised nominated series.

Expanded buffer zones contribute to strengthening the integrity of each component part. However, considering the dramatic changes suffered by the wider setting of most of the component parts of the nominated series, careful control to prevent further modifications to the immediate or wider contexts of the components is necessary. Also, a careful interpretation programme is needed to facilitate the understanding by the public of the territorial system of this emporium at the time of its apogee.

The major affecting factors for the nominated series include urban and infrastructure development, effects of climate change, and visitor pressures. The management authorities are well aware of these factors and mechanisms have been set up to control their evolution and potential negative effects.

Protective designations at different levels cover all component parts and protective measures are in place according to the legal and regulatory framework existing at the national, provincial and metropolitan levels.

The management system is multi-tiered from the national to the county/district level and includes several administrative divisions: it will require proactive coordination and communication efforts to guarantee its effectiveness.

An updated Management Plan for the Serial Property of Quanzhou has been prepared and approved: it represents a sound basis for coordinated management implementation. However, further work would be needed on attributes, and on strengthening the link between the overall management plan and the management instruments in place for individual components. The plan for research, particularly archaeological investigation, would need to be further developed.

7 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China, China, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iv)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

Located on the southeast coast of China, the serial property Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China reflects in an exceptional manner the spatial structure that combined production, transportation and marketing and the key institutional, social and cultural factors that contributed to the spectacular rise and prosperity of Quanzhou as a maritime hub of the East and South-east Asia trade network during the 10th – 14th centuries AD. The Song-Yuan Quanzhou emporium system was centred and powered by the city located at the junction of river and sea, with oceans to the south-east that connected it with the world, with mountains to the far north-west that provided for production, and with a water-land transportation network that joined them all together.

The components and contributing elements of the property include sites of administrative buildings and structures, religious buildings and statues, cultural memorial sites and monuments, production sites of ceramics and iron, as well as a transportation network formed of bridges, docks and pagodas that guided the voyagers. They comprehensively reflect the distinguishing maritime territorial, socio-cultural and trade structures of Song-Yuan Quanzhou.

Criterion (iv): Quanzhou, Emporium of the World in Song–Yuan China outstandingly illustrates, through its components, the territorial integrated structure and the key institutional, transportation, production, marketing and socio-cultural factors that turned it into a global-level emporium and key commercial hub during a highly prosperous stage of Asia's maritime trade in the 10th - 14th centuries AD. The property demonstrates Quanzhou's great contributions to the economic and cultural development of East and South-east Asia.

Integrity

The serial property includes the necessary components and attributes that reflect Quanzhou as a premier maritime emporium of the world of the 10th - 14th centuries AD. The components and contributing elements maintain close functional, social, cultural and spatial links with each other, altogether illustrating the integrated territorial system and key facets and factors of Quanzhou's maritime trade system in the Song and Yuan periods. The immediate setting of the property, important views and other supporting areas or attributes, are all included in the buffer zone; areas sensitive to visual impacts and background environments demonstrating overall association with the serial property are all contained in demarcated wider setting areas and placed under effective protection. Urban development pressures, impacts from climate change, natural threats, and tourism pressures appear under effective control, through a set of protective and management measures.

Authenticity

The series as a whole, comprised of its components and contributing elements, credibly conveys the overall territorial layout, functions of the historical trade system, historical social structure, and historical chronological information of Quanzhou as a global maritime emporium in the Song and Yuan periods. Surviving original locations; information of historical functions that can be clearly recognized and understood; historical information of forms, materials, processes and traditional maintenance mechanisms and technical systems reflected in physical remains and their historical records, as well as surviving beliefs and cultural traditions that these monuments and sites carry; all testify to a high degree of authenticity and credibility of the components. The physical evidence can be confirmed by a wealth of historical documentation and Chinese and international research results.

Protection and management requirements

All the component sites of the serial property of Quanzhou are subject to the protection of relevant laws and regulations at the national and provincial level (Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics and its Implementation Regulations and the Regulations of Fujian Province on the Protection and Management of Cultural Property). They are all owned by the state and granted with often multiple protective

designations as per laws and regulations governing Famous Historical and Cultural Cities, religious affairs, marine affairs, and Scenic Areas. Traditional maintenance and conservation mechanisms also play an active role in this regard. For protection and management effectiveness, the buffer zone and the wider setting have been incorporated into the property's protection and management system and are covered by the Management Plan for the Serial Property of Quanzhou, prepared and implemented, and the Rules of Fujian Province for the Protection and Management of Historic Monuments and Sites of Ancient Quanzhou (Zayton), as revised.

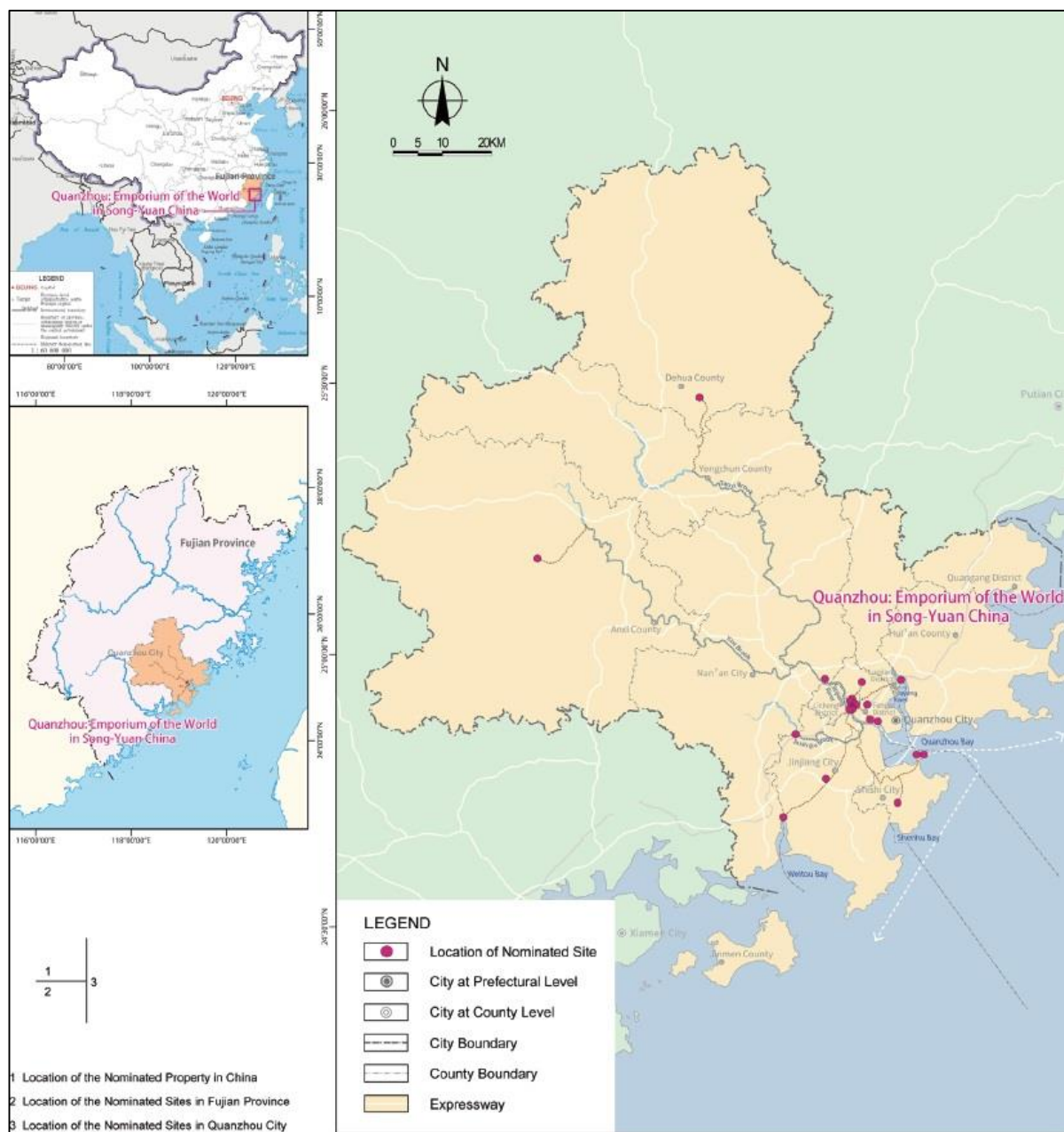
The property's management system is designed following China's administrative mechanism for cultural heritage and incorporated into the four-level administrative framework at national, provincial, city/county, and property levels. It is based on the principles of responsibilities designated at different levels, localized administration, and active community participation. A coordinated management system at the municipal level integrates management measures and implementation plans for each component. A management working group meets quarterly and guarantees overall coordination. Management entities provide sufficient financial, human and technical guarantees and enable continuous and proper conservation of the authenticity and integrity of the serial property as a whole and each of its component sites. A long-term protection and management strategy, indicating specific requirements, has been prepared for the series and its progressive implementation is crucial for the overall management effectiveness.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Providing the real extent of the component parts areas, as some of the provided surfaces are related to a contributing element only, and not to the whole surface of the component forming the series,
- b) Further developing the analysis of the attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value of the property for management purposes,
- c) Strengthening and making more explicit from an operational point of view the links between the overall management plan for the property and the other plans existing for individual components or other designations,
- d) Further developing the archaeological research programme and implementing it,
- e) Closely monitoring visitor pressures and implementing redressing measures where necessary,

- f) Implementing steadily the Long-Term Protection and Management Strategy and providing a progress report on the implementation of the above and of the strategy itself to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS by 1st December 2022;



Maps showing the location of the nominated components (February 2020)