World Natural Heritage Site

State Party: China

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

THREE PARALLEL RIVERS OF YUNNAN PROTECTED AREAS

NATIONAL FORESTRY AND GRASSLAND ADMINISTRATION

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

OCTOBER 2022

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1. Executive Summary

This report furnishes clear and complete the answers to the relevant questions, pertaining to the Decision at the 44th session of the meetings of the World Heritage Committee on the Three Parallel Rivers Yunnan Protected Areas and the 2013 Reactive Monitoring Report.

Concerning the restoration of the post-mining sites. The Property and its buffer zone are located at high-elevation regions, and due to environmental and climatic constraints, these regions were closed for natural forest restoration after mining activities were halted. Since 2021, the relevant departments of Yunnan Province have taken measures such as appropriating special funds, building an expert database, and formulating standards and procedures to effectively promote the restoration of post-mining sites in the regions of the property and its buffer zone. Various laws and regulations and supervisory measures are in place for the property and its buffer zone, and no more illegal mining activities may occur.

Concerning the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Yunnan Provincial Forestry and Grassland Administration (YFGA) delegated the SEA formulation to a formulation team composed of the technical institutes with related expertise and supported by relevant invited experts. Multiple rounds of consultation meetings and seminars were held.

Concerning the invitation of an IUCN consultancy mission. The formulation team has developed an outline for the SEA formulation. Due to the impact of the Coronal virus pandemic, the application and ratification procedures for external affairs are rather complicated. We will reach out to the IUCN specialists by email in the hope of their support and guidance.

Concerning the Conservation Management Plan of the heritage site. The main framework of the Plan has been developed, and we are in the process of consulting the authorities of involved prefectures and municipalities, experts, and soliciting the public opinions. The report will be improved based on the consultancy comments, suggestions, and pubic opinions. After the relevant ratification and review procedures are completed, the report will be submitted to the Word Heritage Center.

Concerning the building of a management effectiveness assessment system (MEES). The MEES has been built preliminarily and will be used as an important tool for the management effectiveness assessment of the Three Parallel Rivers in the future. As the world heritage site involves different categories of conservation designations at different levels, the system has yet to be further adapted and improved in actual application.

Concerning the establishment of a monitoring system between the Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountain subareas. The Smart Forestry and Grassland Big Data Center covers the entire site and its buffer zone, including the areas between Honshan and Haba Snow Mountain subareas. Moreover, all protected areas in the Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountain subareas have been incorporated in the Integrative Management Information System of Yunnan's Protected Natural Areas (iMIS-YPNRs). Both systems are operated by Yunnan Forestry and Grassland Administration (YFGA) and complementary in terms of the monitored elements. Meanwhile, other institutes and organizations are also conducting various forms of monitoring of these areas to ensure that landscape connectivity and wildlife resources are effectively protected.

Concerning power transmission line network project. The Dulong River 35kV power transmission line network project in Gongshan County is a crucial livelihood project of the Chinese government as solutions to the survival and poverty alleviation of the Dulong ethnic group. The implementation of the project will greatly improve the livelihood infrastructures for the local people and better the production and living standards of the people of Dulong ethnic group. The construction enterprises have researched fully the exclusiveness, science nature, and feasibility of the Dulong River 35kV power transmission line network project in Gongshan County, and the current scheme is the best option. The relevant management authorities and the construction enterprises have jointly implemented various environmental protection measures to ensure that the outstanding universal value (OUV) of the Three Parallel Rivers World Natural Heritage Site is effectively protected.

Concerning a holistic plan for power generation and power transmission. No request for power generation in the property and its buffer zone has been raised to date. Any power transmission project will be identified based on the practical needs of the community residents in the property and its buffer zone, and will be executed in strict conformity with the relevant regulations of the Chinese government.

2. Response to Decision WHC/44 COM 7B.182 at the 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee (Fuzhou, 2021).

2.1 Paragraph 1: Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,

2.2 Paragraph 2: Recalling Decisions 37 COM 7B.12 and 43 COM 7B.5, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,

2.3 Paragraph 3: Appreciates the clarification of the institutional responsibilities for ecological restoration in post-mining sites and the development of new plans and guidelines for implementation, and

<u>requests</u> the State Party to provide more details on the active and passive restoration measures which are being taken, to seek further advice from IUCN to facilitate natural regeneration in high altitudes, and to ensure that adequate surveillance and law enforcement measures are applied to prevent any reoccurrence of illegal mining activities;

2.3.1 Natural restoration is adopted at the post-mining sites in the property and its buffer zone

(1) Adopting natural restoration at the post-mining sites in the property and its buffer zone

The post-mining sites in the property and its buffer zone are located at high-elevation regions where several environmental and climatic constraints prevail, and few areas are suitable for artificial restoration measures, and therefore the ecological restoration at the post-mining sites is based primarily on natural restoration but promoted with the enforcement of mountain closure, afforestation, and forest tending. In other words, pursuant to the laws of nature, mountain closure and forbidden access are enforced as measures to eliminate or mitigate the impact of anthropogenic activities, while the natural resilience and regeneration capacity of the forests will gradually increase the forest vegetation and revert the fragile ecosystem to a stable status. In order to enhance the effective of mountain closure for forest regeneration, a four-level forest conservation management mechanism composed of the county, township, villages, and the conservation management stations has been instituted for these regions. A sound forest conservation management system has been formulated, in which the residents were hired as forest rangers, the patrol systems and document filing system for forest management has also been established; and the competent authorities of forestry and grassland at higher levels shall conduct regular evaluation, supervision, and inspection.

(2) Yunnan Provincial Government of China has been strengthening ecological remediation by all means

In order to expedite the promulgations of local rules and regulations on the ecological restoration of the post-mining and abandoned mining sites, Yunnan Province has formulated management measures, inspection and acceptance procedures for mine ecological restoration. At the technical level, Yunnan Provincial Government has set up a database of more than 200 experts specializing in ecological restoration covering the six categories of disciplines in ecological restoration planning of national land and space, integrative land management and governance, geological environment, ecological environment and policy consultation, geographic information, economy and consulting, to ensure that the ecological protection and restoration shall be based on laws and regulations, appropriate measures, and scientific justifications.

Since 2021, Yunnan Province has appropriated more than CNY122 million from central and provincial finances to support ecological restoration projects at historically mine-out sites in key ecological regions. The implementation of these project will effectively improve quality of the ecological environment in the post-mining areas and remediate the ecosystem services.

In the next steps, Yunnan will organize progressively the application of major national projects for ecological restoration at the post-mining sites, continue to gain funding from the central and provincial finances, and continue to explore new methods and new channels to support and encourage social capitals to invest in ecological restoration. Pursuant to *The Master Plan for the Major Projects of the National and Yunnan Provincial Government for the Protection and Restoration of Important Ecosystems*, we shall orderly carry out ecological restoration at the post-mining sites.

2.3.2 Supervision and Law Enforcement on Illegal Mining

Concerning the supervision and rectification of environmental problems, the Chinese government has launched the Green Shield Operation and the Central Ecological Environmental Protection Supervision Operation to prevent illegal mining with rigorous investigation and rectification efforts.

Article 6 of *The Several Provisions of Yunnan Province on Strengthening the Conservation and Management of the Three Parallel Rivers World Natural Heritage Site* promulgated by Yunnan provincial government stipulates that "activities that may impair natural heritage resources and the environment, including quarrying, sand and earth fetching, deforestation and land reclamation, lake reclamation for agriculture, installing tombstones, prospecting and extracting mineral resources, and so on, are strictly prohibited in the scope of the Three Rivers Parallel Rivers World Heritage Site". In accordance with the work requirements of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, Yunnan Forestry and Grassland Administration (YFGA) conducts forest supervision annually, in which, the professional and technical staff use the latest high-resolution remote sensing images to interpret the changes in image pixels, and carry out supervision and rectification together with the law enforcement authorities through on-site investigation; the local forestry and grassland bureaus hire community residents as forest rangers, and have established a forest patrol mechanism to enhance the daily management and protection of forest resources in the region. Compensation mechanism for the ecological benefits of forests is also enacted to share the benefits of protecting the forest resources with community residents, and in turn, their conservation awareness for forests resources is enhanced and they will participate in forest resources protection proactively.

Through implementing various ways of supervision and law enforcement, it is ensured that illegal mining activities may not occur in the Three Rivers Parallel World

Natural Heritage Site and its buffer zone.

2.4 Paragraph 4: <u>Urges</u> the State Party to further improve and finalise the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in line with international best practices and the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to ensure that the SEA includes an assessment of indirect and cumulative impacts of both the upstream and downstream catchments of Nujiang, Lancang and Jinsha Rivers, so that the results can inform management and decision making for future developments;

Since the 2013 Reactive Monitoring Mission recommended the preparation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Three Rivers Parallel World Natural Heritage Site, the Chinese government has attached great importance to the work on the SEA. In 2014, an expert team was mobilized to make an initial attempt to carry out the SEA of the Three Parallel Rivers, then in 2016, *The Strategic Environmental Impact Report of the Three Parallel Rivers Yunnan Protected Areas World Natural Heritage Site (First Draft)* was formulated, but the breadth and technical depth are yet to be further expanded.

As the Three Parallel Rivers World Natural Heritage Site and its buffer zone spans an enormous area across a large scope with complex situations, worldwide, no any other heritage sites like the Three Parallel Rivers have ever developed its SEA. However, Yunnan Provincial Forestry and Grassland Administration (YFGA) has never given up its SEA research efforts and has been progressively promoting and striving to explore the methods and paths of work. In 2021, YFGA appropriated special a fund and delegated the SEA task to a formulation team composed of senior experts and technicians with relevant disciplinary qualifications and work experiences. The formulation team then studied meticulously the two technical guidelines: *World Heritage Advice Note: Environmental Assessment* (IUCN, 2013) and *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context* jointly released by UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN, and held several consultation meetings and seminars with related experts (Photo 1).

2021.12.26

2022.03.15

2022.04.11

2022.05.11

2022.06.28

2022.07.02

2022.08.11

2022.08.11

Photo 1. SEA Experts Consultation Meetings and Seminars

2.5 Paragraph 5: Noting the State Party's request for further advice on the improvement and finalisation of the SEA, encourages the State Party to invite an IUCN Advisory mission to that effect;

The SEA formulation team has developed the SEA formulation outline after unremitting efforts. Due to the impact of the Coronal virus pandemic, the application and ratification procedures for external affairs are rather complicated. We will reach out to the IUCN experts by email to make consultation on the contents of the outline, and we hope IUCN experts will provide us with some assistance and guidance.

2.6 Paragraph 6: Welcomes the progress achieved at the national and provincial levels to strengthen environmental protection and promote sustainable development, but reiterates its requests to expedite the development of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and Management Effectiveness Assessment (MEA) system in line with the recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests the State Party to submit the updated draft CMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

2.6.1 Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

The Three Parallel Rivers World Natural Heritage Site consists of two major categories of protected areas: scenic and historic areas and nature reserves. Intact systems of laws and regulations have been promulgated for both the scenic and historic areas and for the nature reserves. These two categories of protected areas are managed in line with their respective legislative systems. The statutory plans for each individual protected area serve as an important foundation for practical conservation management. For the two categories of protected areas, the master plan of a national scenic and historic area is reviewed and ratified by the State Council, whereas that of a national nature reserve by NAFGA, and that of a provincial nature reserve by the government of Yunnan province.

Due to the immense expanse and widespread scope of the Three Parallel Rivers (TPR), in an effort to ameliorate the coordination and management of different categories of protected areas within the scope of the heritage site, YFGA officially launched the formulation of the conservation management plan in 2018. The task was delegated to a technical team supported with experts to conduct in-depth research on the issues of the state of resources, management progresses, and sustainable development, as well as others, and to explore the actual framework and the important and difficult aspects in the CMP, so that it will build better on real situations and provide more effective guidance and safeguarding measures for the sustainable development of the Three Parallel Rivers.

The mainframe work of *The Conservation Management Plan of the Three Parallel Rivers World Natural Heritage Site* has taken shape. Currently, efforts are made to solicit comments and opinions from the related prefectures and municipalities, experts of related disciplines, and the general public by survey and questionnaire. Based on the solicited comments and public opinions, the CMP will be further revised and finalized, and then submitted to the World Heritage Center after the required review and ratification procedures are completed.

2.6.2 Management Effectiveness Assessment (MEA)

The Three Parallel Rivers consists of eight main subareas that encompass five nature reserves and 10 scenic areas of the Three Parallel Rivers National Scenic and Historic Area. The nature reserves and the scenic and historic areas are protected and managed in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of the Chinese government, and corresponding assessment methods were also developed for the conservation management of different categories of protected areas.

Due to the large area, wide scope, and complex situations of the heritage site, in order to implement better collaborative management, YFGA delegated the work of building the MEA system of the Three Parallel Rivers to a technical team. By studying meticulously the relevant requirements for the conservation management of world heritage sites elaborated in *The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* and guided by *Managing Natural World Heritage* (UNESCO, 2012) and *Assessing Management Effectiveness of Natural World Heritage Sites* (IUCN, 2008), and taking into account the specific requirements established in *The Technical Regulations for the Management Effectiveness Assessment of Nature Reserves* (LY/T 1726-2008), *The Stipulations for the Management Assessment of Natural Nature Reserves* (July 2020), and *The Stipulations for the Management Assessment, and Supervision and Inspection of National Scenic and Historic Areas* (November 2015) of the State Party, the technical team developed the MEA and it will become an important toolkit for the management effectiveness assessment of the Three Parallel Rivers.

At present, the MEA system has been built preliminarily. As the Three Parallel Rivers involves different categories of protected areas at various administrative levels, the system will be further revised and improved in actual application to enable the assessment system to better cater for the realities of the Three Parallel Rivers and attain higher accuracy of assessment results, hence providing data with high value for reference.

The government of China is currently establishing the Protected Natural Areas System with National Park as the Mainstay (PNAS-NPM). This involves significant changes in the conservation laws, regulations and policies at the national level and it may take some time for such changes to set in. Within the scope of the Three Parallel

Rivers, some protected areas are also actively involved in the establishment of national parks. The Conservation Management Plan and the Management Effectiveness Assessment will shall be adjusted in accordance with the new conservation laws, regulations, and policies to adapt to the new system of protected areas.

2.7. Paragraph 7: Urgently requests the State Party to also implement the other recommendations of the 2013 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, and specifically to establish a monitoring system for all mining and prospecting activities between the Hong Shan and the Haba Snow Mountain components of the property in order to understand risks and impacts, particularly with regard to landscape connectivity and wildlife;

The region between Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountains is situated in Geza Township in Shangri-La city of Diqing prefecture in Yunnan, China. YFGA has established the Smart Forestry and Grassland Big Data Center and the Integrated Management Information System of Yunnan Nature Reserves (iMIS-YNR) to monitor the regions where the Three Parallel Rivers and its buffer zone are located, including the areas between Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountains. At the same time, other institutions and organizations have also carried out various forms of monitoring in the region to ensure the landscape connectivity and wildlife are effectively protected.

2.7.1 Full Coverage of the Region by the Monitoring Systems

YFGA has established the Smart Forestry and Grassland Big Data Center linking the provincial and the prefecture levels (See Photo 2-5) which is designed to monitor the state of forests, fire conditions, and community dynamics. The scope of monitoring covers all the regions where the property and its buffer zone are located, including the region between Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountain subareas. From the county level to the prefecture and provincial levels, the system is rigorously manipulated to obtain real-time status of these regions through monitoring with images, satellite hotspots, and video cameras installed at road entrances and exits, in combination with the records of forest rangers taken during routine patrol.

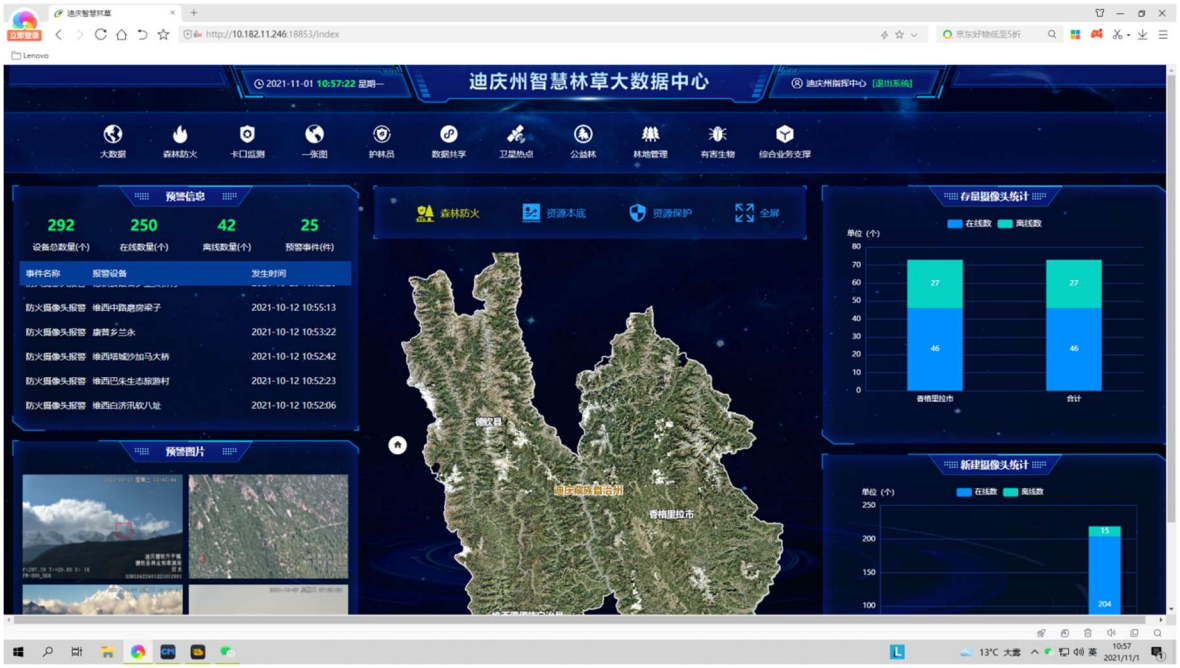


Photo 2　Diqing Smart Forestry and Grassland Big Data Center

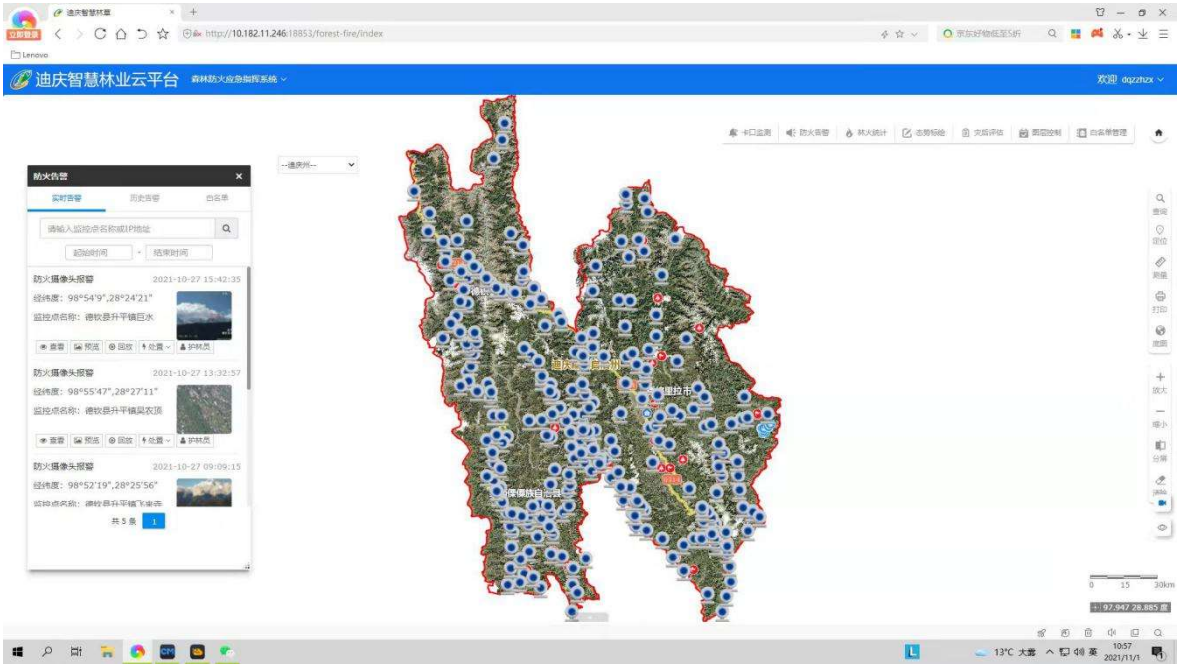


Photo 3. Distribution of video cameras in the monitoring system

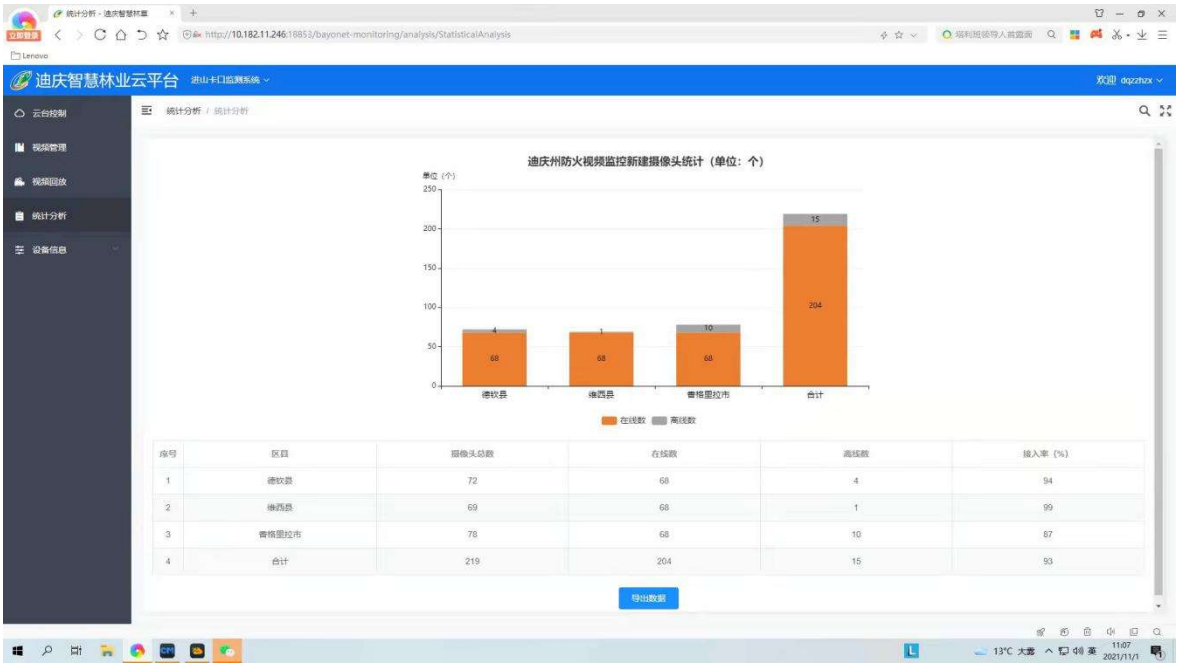


Photo 4. Statistics of the monitoring video cameras

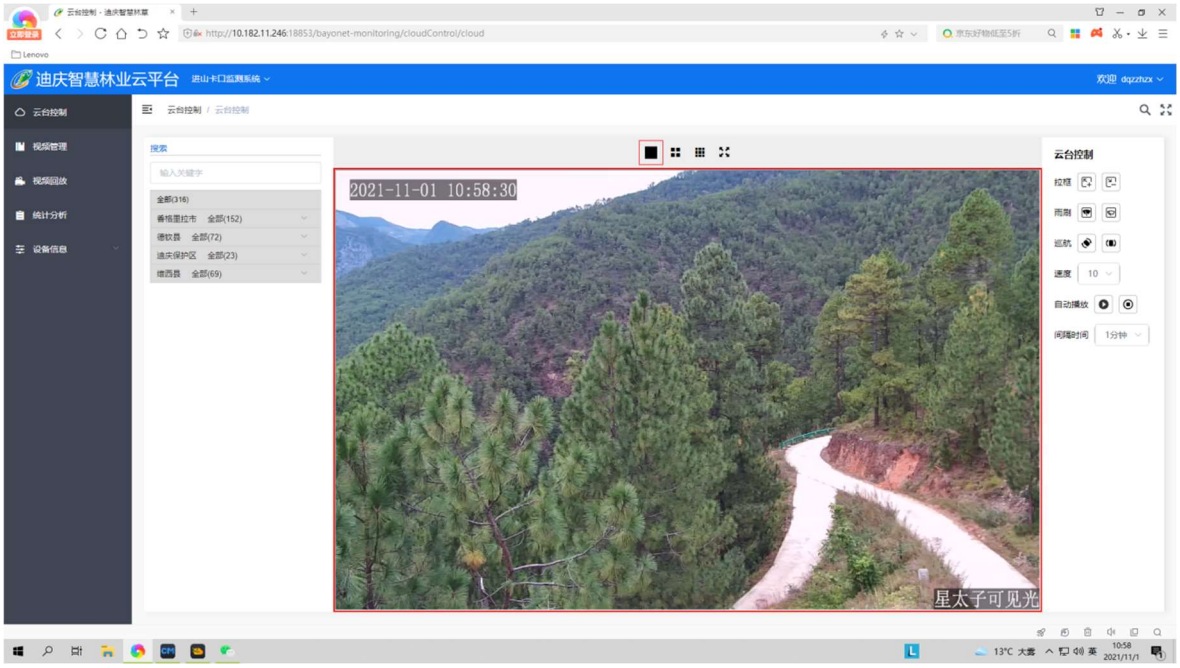


Photo 5. Images captured in the monitoring system

In June 2022, in order to comprehensively improve the level of informatization of nature reserve management in Yunnan Province, YFGA established the iMIS-YPNA in Yunnan (see Photo 6-12), and all the protected areas in Yunnan are integrated into and put under the unified management in the system. After system debugging, test run and continuous improvement, the system has been extended to use throughout the provincial, prefecture and county levels and in the management institutions of

protected areas in Yunnan.

Six core/main modules are integrated into the iMIS-YPNA, namely, a map of all protected areas, monitoring and management, supervision services, public services, direct data reporting, and big data decision-making analysis. The system not only includes the scope of the protected area, functional zones, conditions of forest lands, distribution of monitoring transects and sites, etc., but also links the real-time cameras and infrared cameras in each protected area by networking, and the management personnel can directly observe the situations through the system; the management departments at all levels can also report and update the data and information of vegetation types, plants, animals, wetlands, and the meteorological and hydrological conditions in the protected areas in a timely manner in the system. In addition, the system also monitors anthropogenic activities in the protected areas. Finally, the system can also generate analytic results, such as conservation effectiveness, threats, and dynamics of the conservation targets in each protected area.

Photo 6. Integrated Management Information System of Yunnan Protected Natural Areas (iMIS – YPNA) – Main Page

Photo 7. Main Module in the Integrated Management Information System of Yunnan Protected Natural Areas (iMIS-YPNA) – “One Map of All Protected Areas”

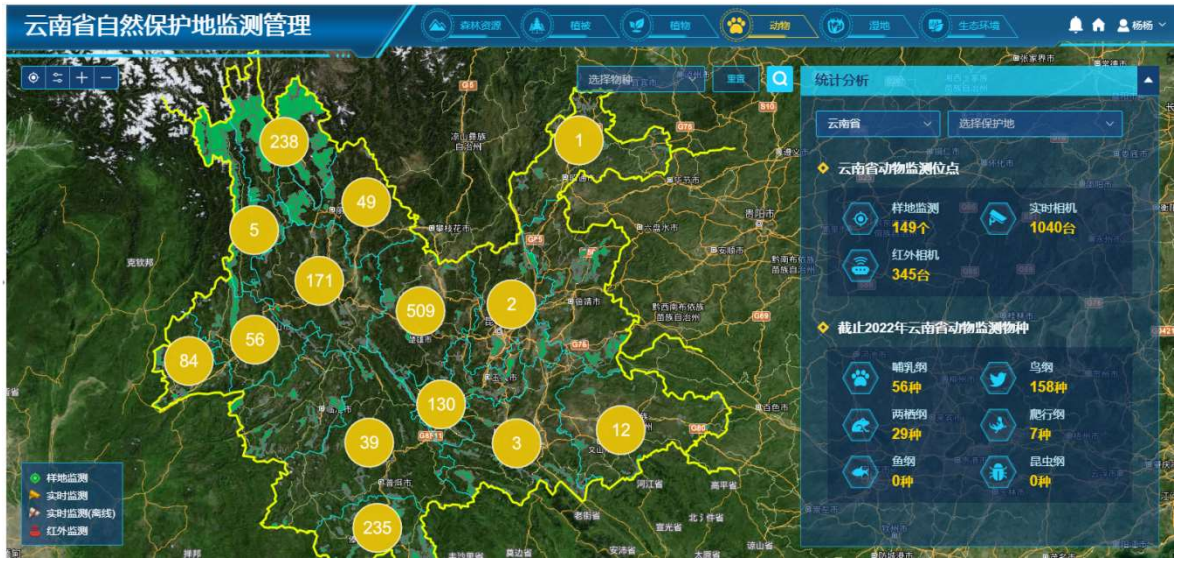


Photo 8. Protected Natural Areas (iMIS-YPNA) – “Monitoring Management”

Photo 9. Main Module in the Integrated Management Information System of Yunnan Protected Natural Areas (iMIS-YPNA) – “Supervision Services”

Photo 10. Main Module in the Integrated Management Information System of Yunnan Protected Natural Areas (iMIS – YPNA) – “Public Services”

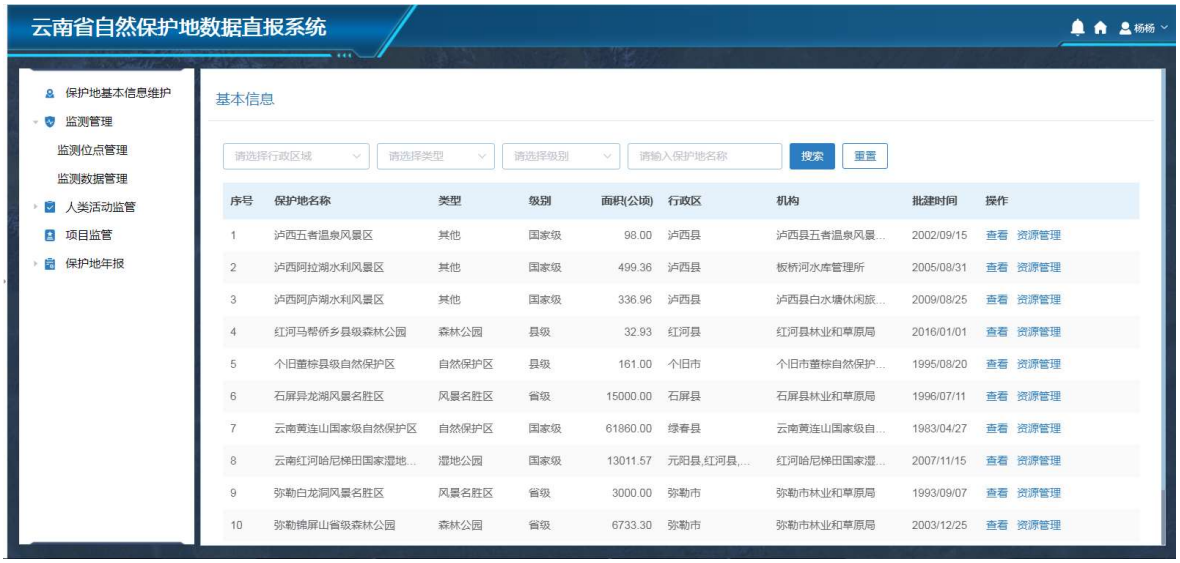


Photo 11. Main Module in the Integrated Management Information System of Yunnan Protected Natural Areas (iMIS-YPNA) – "Direct Data Reporting Module"

Photo 12. Main Module in the Integrated Management Information System of Yunnan Protected Natural Areas (iMIS-YPNA) – "Big Data Decision-making Analysis"

The Smart Forestry and Grassland Big Data Center and the Integrated Management Information System of Yunnan's Protected Natural Areas are both administered by YFGA unanimously, and the Forestry and Grassland Administrations at the prefecture and county levels have also mobilized professionals to process system management and data reporting. Although the foci of the two systems may differ in some ways, they complement each other in the functions. In the iMIS-YPNA, all protected areas in Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountain areas have been included in the system management. By analyzing the biodiversity monitoring data and animal

mobility in the protected areas in the two subareas of the property, the state of conservation of the biological corridors between the Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountains subareas can be obtained. In combination with the monitoring of anthropogenic activities and protection of forest lands between Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountains by the Smart Forestry and Grassland Big Data Center, a thorough understanding of the landscape connectivity and wildlife conservation management in the areas between Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountains can be made available.

2.7.2 Concurrent Supervision by both the Government Authorities and Enterprises

During the Green Shield Operation, the Central Ecological Environmental Protection Supervision Operation, and the Forest Supervision Operation the government of China launched, the mining and mine-prospecting activities in these target regions are closely monitored.

The mining enterprises in this region have also located monitoring spots at the mines and the adjacent areas where the groundwater, geological hazards, and biodiversity are monitored, and the basic situations in the vicinity of the mines can also be acquired in real time (see Photo 13).

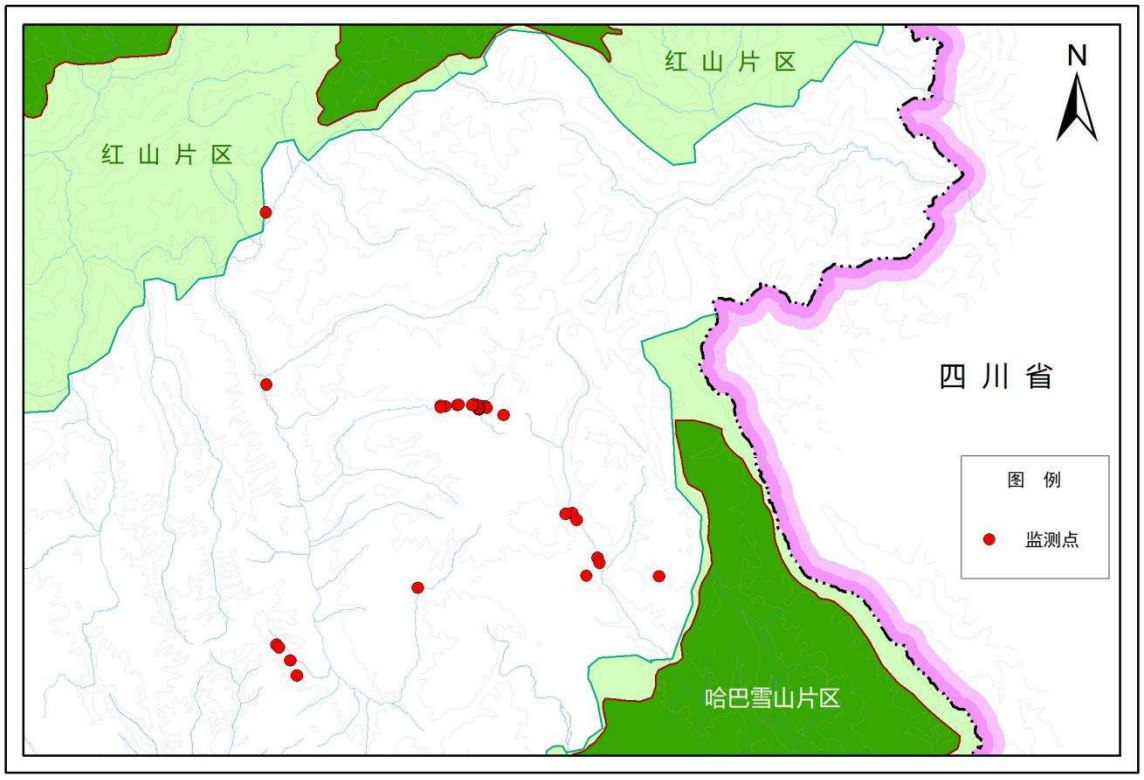
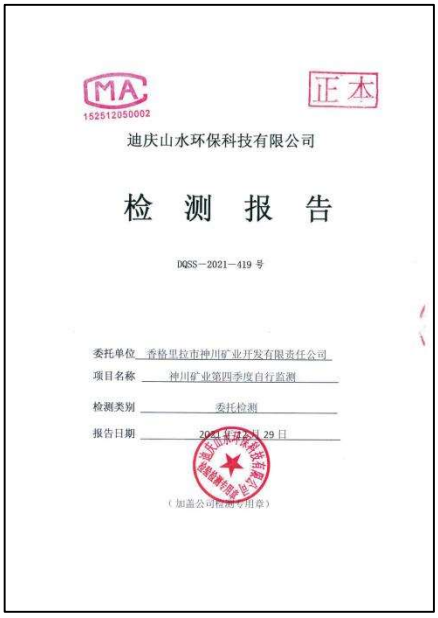


Photo 13. Distribution of Monitoring Spots between the Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountains Subareas

Every quarter, the enterprises will entrust an environmental protection company as a third-party to test surface water, groundwater, gaseous wastes, wastewater, domestic sewage, soil, drinking water and noise, and generate a test report (see Photo 14).


迪庆山水环保科技有限公司

检 测 报 告

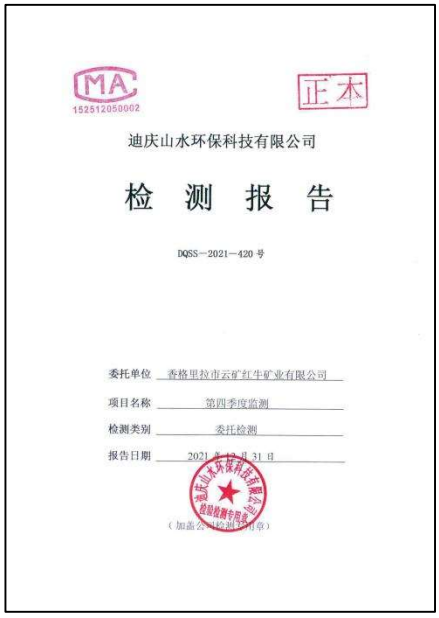
DQSS—2021—419 号

委托单位 香格里拉市神川矿业开发有限责任公司

项目名称 神川矿业第四季度自行监测

检测类别 委托检测

报告日期 2021 年 12 月 29 日


迪庆山水环保科技有限公司

检 测 报 告

DQSS—2021—420 号

委托单位 香格里拉市云矿红牛矿业有限公司

项目名称 第四季度监测

检测类别 委托检测

报告日期 2021 年 12 月 31 日

Photo 14. Environment Test Reports of a mining enterprise

2.7.3 Thematic Monitoring of Fauna and Flora

The relevant authorities, research institutes, and universities and colleges of the State Party have carried out a series of faunal and floral surveys in the areas between the Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountains subareas, including:

From 2010 to 2011, the Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) conducted surveys of higher plants, fungi, mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, involving many research institutes and universities in Yunnan, including Kunming Institute of Zoology (KIZ-CAS) and Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB-CAS) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Southwest Forestry University, Yunnan University, Yunnan Normal University, and others.

From 2011 to 2022, the Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, MEE contracted Southwest Forestry University and Yunnan Wildlife Conservation Association to set up four transects for bird monitoring in the area between the Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountains, and bird monitoring is carried out twice in spring annually.

From 2013 to 2021, YFGA conducted the Second Terrestrial Wildlife Resources Survey in Yunnan, and to set the locations of quadrants and transects, we have fully considered the impact of habitat types, home range, ecological habits, habitat visibility,

and so on.

From 2018 to 2021, the Chinese Academy of Environmental Sciences, MEE mobilized some universities and research institutes in Yunnan to carry out biodiversity surveys.

From 2016 to 2021, in accordance with the arrangements in *The Notice of the General Office of the People's Government of Yunnan Province on the Effective Implementation of Province-wide Planning, Design and Inventory of Forest Resources*, Shangri-La City Forestry and Grassland Administration launched its planning, design and inventory of forest resources in 2016. The field surveys lasted three months and the final survey data revealed that the forest cover in Geza Township of Shangri-La City reached 81.5%. Since then, Shangri-La City has carried out annual data renewal of forest lands in line with the requirements of YFGA every year. The latest data for 2021 shows that the region's forest cover has reached 82.6%, which is 1.1% increase over the previous five years.

The outcome of these diverse monitoring projects in the region demonstrated that the vegetation is well preserved, the forest cover is increasing, and the number of species, quantity and home range of wild animals have not been disturbed by the production and livelihood activities in the region, and that man and nature live and develop in harmony.

2.8 <u>Notes with concern</u> the possible direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the proposed power transmission line project through the Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve component of the property, and also recalling the recommendation of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission to avoid the construction of transmission infrastructure within the property and its buffer zones, also requests the State Party to explore an alternative option that will not impact the OUV of the property;

The Dulong River 35kV power transmission line network project in Gongshan County is a crucial livelihood project of the Chinese government as solutions to the survival and poverty alleviation of the Dulong ethnic group. The project was completed in May 2022 and put into trial operation. It has played a positive demonstration and leading role in further enhancing the achievements of poverty alleviation and promoting the rural revitalization strategy in Nujiang Prefecture with all strengths.

Based on the thorough research on the exclusiveness, science nature and feasibility of the power supply plan by China Energy Engineering Group Yunnan Electric Power Design Institute Co., Ltd., the implemented scheme is proven to be the best option. The People's Government of Nujiang Prefecture has conscientiously abided

by the domestic review and ratification procedures, organized project construction after all domestic review and ratification procedures were completed, and in the meantime, filed the project with the World Heritage Commission on January 14, 2021 in fulfillment of *The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* and guided by *Managing Natural World Heritage*. Bearing in mind the local realities, the following four points are elaborated on the project development.

2.8.1 Necessity and Importance of Project Construction

Dulong River Township in Gongshan County of Nujiang Prefecture, Yunnan Province of China is located in the border area between China and Myanmar bounded by the ridge of the Dandanglika Mountains. The people of the Dulong ethnic group, one of China's indigenous ethnic groups with the least population live here, and they are the participants and protectors of our heritage cause. In the early days, constrained by geographical environment and other factors, the Dulong people lived a life of isolation and slash-and-burn agriculture, and their economic and social development seriously lagged far behind, making the area extremely impoverished throughout the country. In the recent years, the Chinese government has implemented a comprehensive poverty reduction and assistance to impoverished areas campaign, and the local government developed concrete implementation plans to enable the Dulong people in Dulong River Township to “lead in the fight against poverty and build a moderately prosperous society in all-round way”. The Dulong River 35kV power transmission line network project belongs to China's poverty alleviation and assistance to poverty reduction project, and the project implementation will greatly improve the infrastructures for the local people's livelihood and improve the production and living standards of the Dulong people. This is not only conducive to eliminating human poverty and the reliance of community residents on firewood, but also conducive to attaining the development goal of permanently protecting the OUV of the Three Parallel Rivers.

In the decision at the 41th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2017, the World Heritage Committee also acclaimed the understanding of the Chinese government toward the poverty-environment nexus. While taking the people's aspiration for a better life as the goal of struggle, the Chinese government has unswervingly taken the path of green, low-carbon and high-quality development and has made progressive efforts to properly deal with the relationship between securing people's livelihood and ecological protection, which is highly consistent with the advocacy of the United Nations to respect and protect human rights and achieving sustainable development.

2.8.2 Ways of Project Construction, and the Exclusiveness and Science Nature of Site Selection

(1) Concerning the ways of project construction

The Chinese government actively fulfills the commitments for the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and in order to address the problem of power supply in Dulongjiang Township, the construction enterprise has organized special technical teams at the provincial, prefecture and county levels to conduct repeated site surveys and research, and concludes that the valley terrain of high mountains and steep slopes and transport inaccessibility have made it impossible to build wind farm for power generation; super high precipitation and absence of flatlands lead to very low efficiency in photovoltaic power generation; difficulties in transport security, high transport cost, and requirements for environmental protection means coal-based power generation may be possible for only emergency needs. Through in-depth research, defending, comparison and selection of multiple power supply alternatives, the experts in related industries generally believed that Dulong River 35kV power transmission line network project is the only exclusive solution to power supply that is green, safe, stable and generates low carbon emission.

(2) Concerning the site selection plan of the project

The specific geographical space has determined that whichever route options for the Dulong River 35kV power transmission line network project is selected, it will cross the Three Parallel Rivers and its buffer zone. Therefore, the special technical team, given the geological and geomorphological conditions, elevation and climatic factors, impact on the ecological landscape, biodiversity conservation, and the safe and stable operation, has comprehensively and scientifically defended three options for site selection, and the final site selection is the exclusive, science-based, and feasible option and is the best option that will suffice the power needs of the communities in the long tun and mitigate the impact on the OUV of the property and its buffer zone.

2.8.3 Legality and Legislative Compliance of Project Development

Based on the selected power supply scheme, the ratifications for the administrative permits of acquiring forestry land use, environmental impact assessment (EA), and biodiversity impact assessment for traversing Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve in the Three Parallel Rivers and its buffer zone were obtained. The project construction was permitted only after the relevant ratification procedures were completed in strict conformity with the relevant laws and regulations of the Chinese government. In the meantime, in fulfillment of the commitments for the Convention, work on filing the impact assessment of the key infrastructure project on the property's OUV and its buffer zone was diligently performed. The project meets the

administrative requirements of the Chinese government for infrastructure projects and has its legality and legislative compliance. It also aligns with the elaborations in *The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

2.8.4 Supervision Measures for Project Construction

In order to protect the ecological environment to the greatest extent in the Three Parallel Rivers and its buffer zone where the route of the Dulong River 35kV power transmission line network project crosses, the Gongshan Management and Protection Branch of Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve (hereinafter referred to as Gonshan Branch) requires that the enterprise for project construction shall implement strictly the mitigation measures in accordance with *The Environment Impact Assessment of the Dulong River 35kV Power Transmission line Network Project on the Three Parallel Rivers World Natural Heritage Site*. Supervisors must be dispatched to carry out supervision responsibilities before, during and after the project construction.

(1) Before project construction

Gongshan Branch issued *The Notice on Performing Supervision Services for the Dulong River* 35kV *Power Transmission line Network Project Route*, requesting that the supervisors to perform their duties conscientiously throughout the whole project process. *The Measures of the Gongshan Management and Protection Branch of Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve for the Supervisors Management of Dulong River 35kV Power Transmission line Network Project* and *The Work Plan of Supervision Services for the Dulong River 35kV Power Transmission line Network Project* were promulgated. The leading groups, the comprehensive supervision groups, and specific members of the supervision groups were identified, requiring that "the supervisors to work in groups and perform duties meticulously in the supervision of forestry land use, forest and trees, and the rare and precious tree species; and the construction clients shall carry out their work in line with the requirements in the EIA Report and the Biodiversity Impact Assessment Report to ensure that impact on the environment and living organisms is mitigated during engineering construction."

(2) During Project Construction

The supervisors ate and lived in the venue of the construction enterprises, visited the construction site, and publicized the laws, regulations, and management policies of nature reserves to the construction workers and persons in charge of project implementation. According to the planning and design text, the tower bases were located with GPS; records were taken and the "Monitoring Diary" was written on site; Daily summary was made in the weekly work dairy, and work summary for a specific phase of work was provided after phase. They also compiled photo albums of the rare and precious species in the region for publicity and helped the engineering workers identify rare and precious plants. They also supervised the construction enterprises to transport and dispose properly the solid wastes, such as domestic wastes and

construction waste on the construction site periodically. In order to prevent the ecological resources in the nature reserves from being damages due to engineering construction, Gongshan Branch also provided guidance to the construction enterprises to eliminate the risks of forest fires and vegetation restoration; the comprehensive supervision group for Gaoligongshan Nature Reserve at the prefecture and counties levels performed periodic supervision and inspection on the construction sites (see Photo 15- 20).

(3) Operational maintenance and supervision

After the project progressed to the trial operation phase, the construction enterprises actively collaborated with the management agencies of Gaoligongshan Nature Reserve to patrol periodically the safe operation of the power transmission lines and to prevent and eliminate risks of forest fires from lightning strike and other disasters; simultaneously, any other anthropogenic activities other than the required operational maintenance activities were rigorously regulated and controlled to minimize the disturbances to Gaoligongshan Nature Reserve.

By taking integrative measures and with the concerted efforts of all involved parties, the management authorities and the construction clients have jointly implemented every measure to its full strengths to mitigate the impact on the property and have ensured that the OUV of the Three Parallel Rivers is effectively protected.

Photo 15. A training session for supervision and regulation

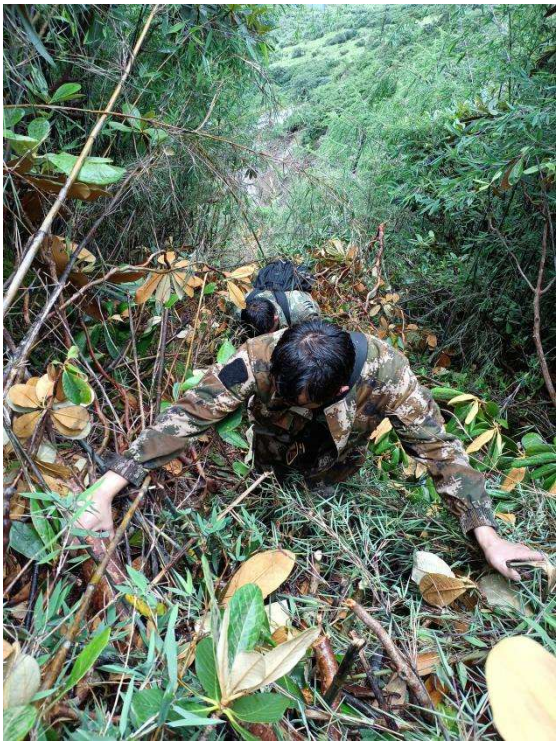


Photo 16. Supervisors on their way into the high mountain

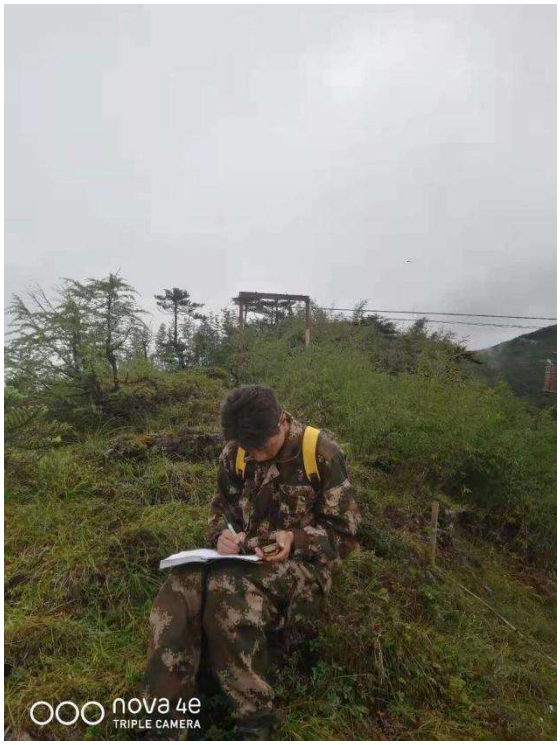


Photo 17. Taking records on site

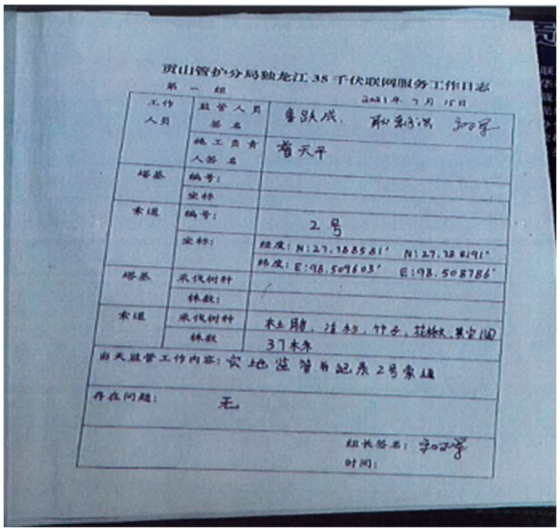


Photo 18. Daily supervision logs

Photo 19. Tree inventory tally sheet

独龙江公路35千伏监管工作每周小结

第二小组于7月26日至7月31日期间监管内容为:1、跟随施工单位到塔基5、6、7、8号施工范围内需砍伐的树木进行标记。2、完成塔基5、6号施工范围之内需要砍伐林木的监测登记，在GPS保存记录路线和塔基中心点位！并对施工单位进行保护区保护条例的宣传以及强调要处理好施工过程中产生的各种垃圾。塔基5、6号施工范围内主要涉及冷杉、铁杉、杜鹃、西南桦等树种。经现场实地核查，需砍伐树数量略低于设计数量。

Title: A Weekly Summary of the Supervision Work on
the Dulong River 35kV Power Transmission Line Network Project

Photo 20 A Weekly Diary of Supervision

2.9 <u>Further requests</u> the State Party to ensure the development of a holistic plan on power generation and electricity transmission that ensures the protection of the property's OUV;

No request for power generation in the property and its buffer zone has been raised to date. Any electricity transmission project will be identified based on the practical needs of the community residents in the property and its buffer zone and will be executed in strict conformity with the relevant regulations of the Chinese government.

In accordance with the requirements of *The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, we shall, as ever, fulfill the responsibilities and commitments as a State Party to ensure that the OUV and integrity of the Three Parallel Rivers world natural heritage site are effectively protected.

3. Any other existing conservation issues that may pose an impact on the property's OUV.

3.1 No Any Other Infrastructure Developments that May Pose Negative Impact on the Property's OUV Have Been Found

3.2 The Following Events May Create Positive Impact on the Property's OUV

3.2.1 The Second 10-year Assessment of Yunnan's Gaoligongshan UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve was accomplished smoothly

From 5 to 10 December 2020, Chinese National Committee for Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), UNESCO executed its second ten-year assessment of Gaoligongshan UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve of Yunnan Province smoothly. A joint expert group of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NAFGA), and the Chinese Academy of Sciences made a field visit and conducted an on-site assessment. Academian Xu Zhihong, president of Chinese National Committee for Man and the Biosphere Programme, UNESCO appreciated positively the achievements made by the management institutions of Gaoligongshan UNESCO MAB Reserve in the protection, support, and development in the past decade. Wang Ding, research fellow and secretary general of MAB China pointed out that, despite the geographical remoteness of the Gaoligongshan MAB Reserve, with the generous support of the government at all levels and the concerted efforts of all cadres and staff of the management agencies, new progresses and achievements have been made in all fields of work comparing with the previous 10-year assessment: the management and patrol teams have expanded; the populations of the main conservation targets have been sustained or increased; conspicuous achievements were made in science with research institutes and universities at home and abroad; nature and environmental education is rich with distinct features; the interaction of the reserve agencies with the adjacent communities is harmonious, and the income levels of the residents in and around the reserve have increased significantly.

3.2.2 The first phase of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) opened in Kunming of Yunnan, China

On 11 October 2021, the first phase of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) opened in Kunming, Yunnan, China.

On the afternoon of the 12th, Chinese's President Xi Jinping presented at the

CBD COP15 Leaders' Summit held in Kunming by video link and delivered a keynote speech. Noting China has made remarkable progress in building an ecological civilization, Xi Jinping pointed out that China will continue to advance ecological progress, stay committed to implementing the new development philosophy emphasizing innovative, coordinated, green and open development for all, and build a beautiful China. In order to strengthen biodiversity conservation, Chinese is moving faster to establish a protected natural areas system with national parks as the mainstay, and the areas with the greatest importance to the natural ecosystem, and with the most unique natural landscapes, the most valuable natural heritage, and the greatest biodiversity reserve will be included in the national parks system over time. To achieve its carbon peak and neutrality targets, China will release the implementation plans for peaking carbon dioxide emissions in key areas and sectors as well as a series of supporting measures. China will also put in place a "1+N" policy framework for carbon peak and carbon neutrality, and will continue to readjust its industrial structure and energy mix, vigorously develop renewable energy. Xi Jinping announced China's initiative to establish the Kunming Biodiversity Fund and take the lead by investing CNY1.5 billion to support biodiversity protection in developing countries. China calls for and welcomes all parties to contribute their capital investment in the fund.

At the first phase of CBD COP15, *The Kunming Declaration* was adopted which commits to ensure the development, adoption, and implementation of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework to reverse the current trend of biodiversity loss and to ensure that biodiversity is on a path to recovery by 2030 at the latest, thereby fully living up to the 2050 Vision of harmonious coexistence between man and nature. Elizabeth Murema, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, said that the Kunming Declaration is a very positive declaration, emphasizing the full range of participation of the state parties, stakeholders, indigenous peoples, and local communities. *The Kunming Declaration* proposes a new mechanism for effective and monitoring, which is important to the architecture and has been neglected in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

In her closing remarks at the first phase of CBD COP15 on October 15, 2021, Elizabeth Murema, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, hailed the conference as "very successful" and "meeting all expectations" in a video interview with Xinhua News Agency on the same day. Elizabeth Murema said: "China has become a global leader in biodiversity and will continue to play a leading role. China is sharing its efforts and achievements in biodiversity conservation with the rest of the world, and its experience is worth learning for the rest of the world and emulating or promoting it based on its own circumstances."

3.2.3 Official foundling of the World Heritage Conservation Alliance (Yunnan)

To promote the holistic conservation and communication of Yunnan's world heritage sites, on December 22, 2019, at the first session of the 4th Plenary Meeting of the members of Yunnan Natural and Cultural Heritage Promotion Association (hereinafter referred to as YNC) opened in Kunming, YNC jointly advocated the founding of the "World Heritage Conservation Alliance (WHCA)" in Kunming of Yunnan Province, together with the Shilin Scenic and Historic Area Administration, the Honghe Hani Rice Terraces World Natural Heritage Administration, the Baima Snow Mountain National Nature Reserve Management Administration, and the Deqin County Culture and Tourism Administration. WHCA is the first non-profit organization in China to ally with all involved parties of the heritage sites, with the goals of promoting the overall protection, communication, and sustainable use of China's heritage sites; promoting in-depth cooperation between China's heritage sites and the affiliated organizations; enhancing the influence and reputation of heritage sites; and promoting the conservation management standards and sustainable development of heritage sites.

On October 29, 2020, YNC organized the Joint Exhibition and Forum Activities and/for the Establishment of the World Heritage Conservation Alliance (Yunnan) conducted at the Chengjiang Fossil Site Natural Museum located at Maotian Mountain, the world's holy site of paleontology. This marked the official establishment of the World Heritage Conservation Alliance (Yunnan). The Alliance will continue to innovate and explore the methods and means for world heritage in terms of conservation, management, exhibition, and sustainable development, and will present the typical Chinese heritage to people around the world, and tell good stories of "World Heritage in Yunnan".

3.2.4 Green Paper on the Protecting of Yunnan Golden Snob-nosed Monkey was officially published

On April 28, 2021, the *Green Paper on the Protection of Yunnan Snub-nosed Golden Monkeys* (*Rhinopithecus bieti*) (The Green Paper) was officially published. By then, *The Report on the Full Territory Dynamic Monitoring of Yunnan Golden Snub-nosed Monkey* that lasted two years was completed. Taking the flagship species of Yunnan snob-nosed golden monkey as an example, the Green Paper exhibited to the world the arduous efforts and achievement in biodiversity conservation in Yunnan in the past forty years, and the unique vantages and values of Yunnan. For the first time in history, the project established a comprehensive baseline database for the research and conservation history of Yunnan snub-nosed monkeys, the populations and sizes, number of populations, distribution area, living environment, genetic bank, and community livelihood; integrated the multiple perspectives of conservation professionals, community residents, village cadres, scientists and the civil

organizations; made a comprehensive account of the conservation history, conservation achievements, and state of conservation; and proposed the conservation strategies and practical conservation measures to respond to the new challenges in conservation. It is also the outcome of the full-territory synchronized dynamic monitoring of the populations of the species since its discovery in China, bridging the gap in basic science information for the full-territory dynamic monitoring of Yunnan golden monkeys.

3.2.5 Outstanding effectiveness of Yunnan Snob-nosed Golden Monkey Full-territory Conservation Network

As the first wildlife and habitat conservation network in Yunnan, Yunnan Snob-nosed Golden Monkey Full-territory Conservation Network (The Network) was jointly launched on July 15, 2019 by 13 authorities and institutions, including Yunnan Forestry and Grassland Administration (YFGA), Yunnan Green Environment Development Foundation, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Management and Protection Administration of Yunnan Baima Snow Mountains National Nature Reserve, Eastern Himalayas Research Institute of Dali University, and so on. According to the announcement at the 3rd Annual Conference of the Network, on August 5, 2022, after three years of operation, the members of the Network have grown to 28 institutions accruing a cumulative investment of CNY40 billion with outstanding conservation achievements. In 2021, the first Field Science Observation and Research Station for Yunnan Snub-nosed Golden Monkey in Yunnan was established in Yunling Provincial Nature Reserve. Throughout the year, 5,326 mu of vegetative cover was restored as habitat for the species, and 540,000 spruce, fir and Chinese white pine (*Pinus Armandii*) trees were planted; *The Green Paper on the Protection of Yunnan Snub-nosed Golden Monkeys - The Report on the Full Territory Dynamic Monitoring of Yunnan Golden Snub-nosed Monkey* were released; and the Full-territory Protection of Yunnan Snob-nosed Golden Monkey Project was selected as one of the "Typical Cases of Ecological Restoration in China at the CBD COP15. Through forty years of unremitting conservation efforts, the populations of Yunnan snob-nosed golden monkey increased from 17 to 24 groups and the number of individuals has increased from less than 2,000 to more than 3,800.

4. Any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property in the future

None.

5. Whether the Report of the State of Conservation should be open to the public

Yes. The State Party agrees that the State of Conservation Report can be accessed openly by the public from the information database system of the World Heritage Committee at http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc.

6. Official signature of the State Party:

Signature by the Department in Charge:

7. Annexes

Annex 1. CCTV report on "Gaoligongshan UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve Successfully Completed the Second Ten-Year Assessment".

Annex 2. People's Daily news report on “The fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15)”.

Annex 3. “President Xi Jinping’s Keynote Speech at the Leaders’ Summit” (The Beijing News).

Annex 4. Thematic interview of Yunnan Daily with Elizabeth Murema, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (Yunnan.com).

Annex 5. Elizabeth Murema, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity: The CBD COP15 China Organized has fulfilled All Expectations (Yunnan.com).

Annex 6. China Development Network report on "CBD COP15 Puts Biodiversity on the Road to Recovery with Kunming Declaration".

Annex 7. Yunnan.com report on “Founding of the World Heritage Alliance (Yunnan) in Chengjiang of Yuxi”.

Annex 8. China Daily report on "The first time in the country! "The Green Book on the Protection of Yunnan Snub-nosed Golden Monkey Officially Released".

Annex 9. China Daily report on "The Third Annual Conference of the Full-territory Conservation of Yunnan Snub-nosed Monkeys Held in Dali".