

World Natural Heritage
State Party: China

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

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

November 2022

Part I Executive Summary

In 2021, at the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, the *State of Conservation of Wulingyuan* was examined and the decision (Decision: 44 COM 7B.183) (Hereinafter the decision) was adopted. Requests were put forward to the state party China to submit an updated report on the state of conservation by 1st December 2022. The State Party and the local governments where Wulingyuan is located in have been attaching great importance to the decision, and strictly implementing the relevant requirements of the decision. The responses are proposed as below.

1. The State Party China has been attaching great importance to the protection and management of Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area. All levels of governments where Wulingyuan is located in have been taking ongoing efforts to manage impacts on the property and got remarkable achievements.

2. The minor quality improvements of the existing infrastructures are ecological optimization and quality improvement of the infrastructures, causing no negative impact on the OUV and integrity of the Wulingyuan property, on the contrary, positive effects on the protection, presentation of the OUV and improvement of visitors' experience were achieved.

3. No new road has been constructed within the Wulingyuan property since March 2015. The State Party will comply *World Heritage Convention* to inform the world heritage committee, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* before any decision that would be difficult to reverse is made.

4. The main contents of the revised *Overall Plan of Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area (2022-2035)* were finished. However, China is still promoting the establishment and optimization of the national natural protected area system, and the revised Overall Plan is now being coordinated with the other protected areas and the territorial spatial plan in Wulingyuan, to ensure that the important ecosystems, scenic resources and world heritage resources of Wulingyuan are effectively incorporated and recognized in the national territorial spatial planning and management. Some time is still needed to finalize and approve the revised draft plan, which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as it is available.

5. The pilot programmes of the UNESCO "World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism" in Wulingyuan has been promoting continuously and the *Sustainable Tourism and Development Strategy of the World Heritage Wulingyuan* been implementing gradually. Achievements have been made in value understanding, awareness promotion, management level, heritage interpretation, community coordination, tourism sustainable development, and other aspects. The environmental sustainability, inclusive economic development and inclusive social development of the property, as well as cooperation with stakeholders have been promoted.

6. The revision of the *Overall Plan of Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area (2022-2035)* will fully implement the objectives of the UNESCO *World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism*, set the protection of the values of the world heritage property and scenic area as the core, establish tourism carrying capacity management framework, control the number of visitors and regulate the organization of peak visitors' flow, enhance the natural ecological visit experience of Wulingyuan heritage resources, to ensure the visitation does not negatively impact the property once the tourism market recovers.

7. We will continue to ensure that any relocation programme is implemented in line with the 2015 *Policy Document on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention* and that effective consultation, fair compensation, access to social benefits and skills training, and the preservation of cultural rights are guaranteed and local communities' positive engagement.

All in all, the State Party China has been paying great attention to the protection and management of world heritage properties. The conservation status of Wulingyuan has been significantly improved, its outstanding universal value has been well protected, its integrity is properly maintained, its protection and management level has been significantly improved, and currently it is in an effective state. In the IUCN *Conservation Outlook 3* issued in December 2020, the conservation outlook of Wulingyuan was upgraded to Good with some concerns from significant concern. The State Party China will continue to promote the aforementioned effective protection and management measures in the future, and properly handle the protections, conservation, presentation and transmission in compliance to the requirements of the *World Heritage Convention*, the *Operational Guidelines for the Convention* and Chinese laws and regulations.