

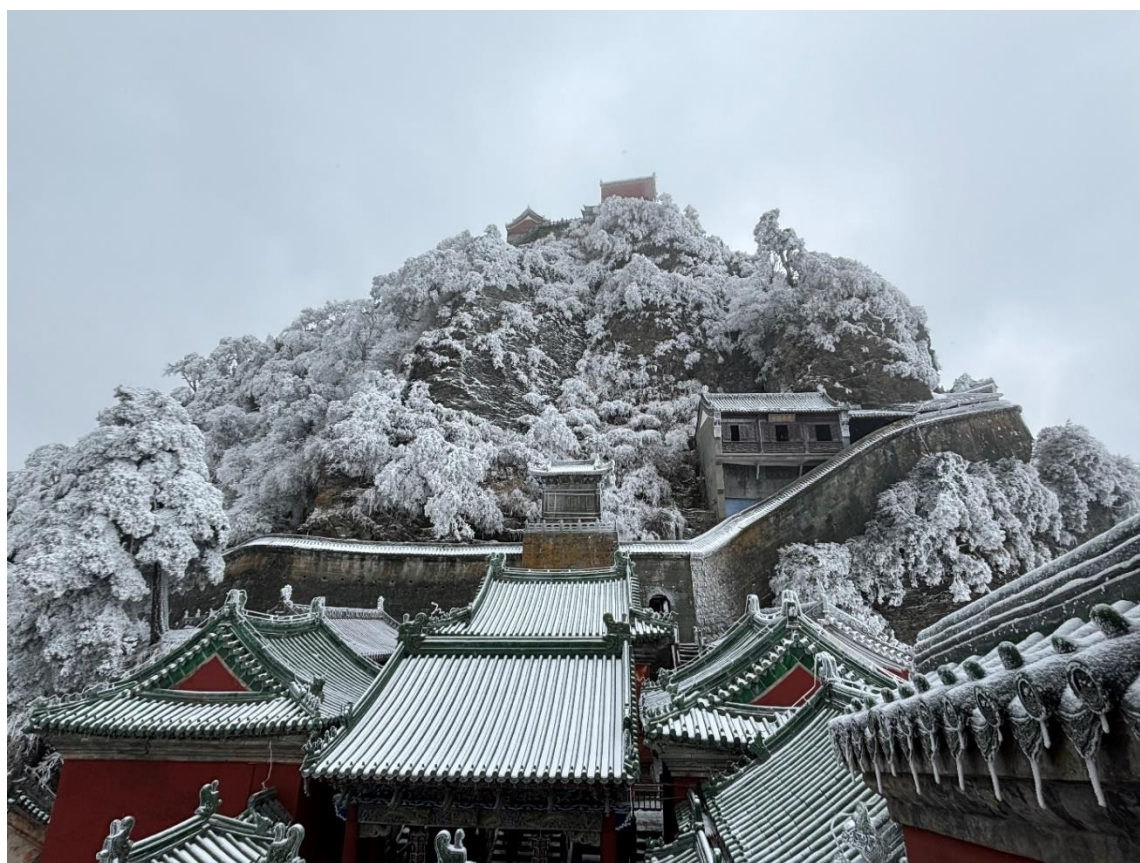


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Report on the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to the World Heritage property “Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains” (People’s Republic of China)

13-17 December 2023



Acknowledgements

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All people consulted during the mission are listed in Annex 3, possible omissions are unintentional and exclusively the authors’ responsibility.

Executive Summary

Background

Situated in the scenic valleys and on the slopes of the Wudang mountains in Hubei Province, the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994 under cultural criteria (i), (ii) and (vi). Established as a Taoist centre from the early Tang dynasty in the 7th century, the property was built as an organized complex during the Ming dynasty (14th–17th centuries) following the major building campaign undertaken by Emperor Zhu Di to align his imperial regime with Taoism. The palaces and temples which form the nucleus of this group of secular and religious buildings exemplify the architectural and artistic achievements of China's Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties over a period of nearly 1,000 years.

This serial property is located within the *Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area*, which is part of the administrative area of *Wudang Mountains Tourism and Economic Special Zone*. It is protected at the highest level by the *Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics*. The Management Committee of the Wudang Mountains Tourism and Economic Special Zone exercises the local governmental responsibility, and is exclusively in charge of protection, management, development, use, planning and construction of the Wudang Mountains scenic area. While the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2012 recognizes “53 ancient buildings and 9 architectural sites”, these figures do not correspond to the actual number of component parts inscribed by the Committee and have been subject to the clarification process since then. What remains to be addressed is the clarification of the boundaries of the component parts and the delineation of the buffer zone, in order to give added protection to the entire property and its landscape setting.

In response to the recommendations made by the joint 2014 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission, the World Heritage Committee has been monitoring closely the state of conservation of the property to follow up on three main issues addressed by the 2014 mission, namely 1) the uplift project of the Yuzhen Palace, 2) boundary clarification and buffer zone identification, and 3) visitor management. In parallel to the state of conservation process, issues around boundary clarification and the buffer zone identification were discussed among the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory project and through a technical review by ICOMOS (March 2021).

To accelerate dialogue between the State Party of China, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Committee, at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), encouraged the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to the property ([Decision 45 COM 7B.153](#)). This mission was undertaken on 13–17 December 2023 with the aim to

- 1) assess the overall state of conservation of the property,
- 2) assess the outcomes of the uplift project of the Yuzhen Palace, and any resulting impacts on the property and its OUV and resulting mitigative measures,
- 3) provide guidance to and engage with the State Party in its efforts to address the issues surrounding the component parts of the property, the delineation of the buffer zone, and
- 4) evaluate and provide advice on the property’s carrying capacity and commensurate, sustainable visitor management strategies, including the Golden Peak.

Conclusions

The component parts that have been opened to the public appear to have been diligently conserved and well maintained. Overall, the property appeared to be in a good state of conservation, and the wider setting well protected.

1) Yuzhen Palace uplift project

Despite compromises in the physical relationships with its surroundings during the uplift project, the project's overall impact on the Ancient Building Complex's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is considered limited. In particular, by embracing the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee and adopting a less artificial alteration of the elevated platform's shape, coupled with filling drainage ditches on both sides, the negative impact on the landscape has been significantly mitigated. The State Party's effort demonstrates dedicated resource allocation and time commitment. However, on-site explanations are required to detail the positive and negative impact of this project.

2) Boundary clarification and buffer zone

The site inspections and discussions held during the mission indicated that the property boundaries need to be clarified by the State Party, supported by detailed maps. Some amalgamation of component parts and rationalisation of boundaries taking the topography into consideration is advised by the mission in the body of the report. When this has been resolved, the Statement of OUV will be updated to reflect the number of component parts making up the serial property.

The Advisory mission and the State Party agreed that the buffer zone should be defined to protect the landscape setting of the overall property. The State Party undertook to develop such a minor boundary modification submission.

3) Tourism carrying capacity

An extensive effort has been put into developing the Wudang Mountains World Heritage Cultural Heritage Monitoring Centre and system. There is still some confusion in the figures provided to the Mission on carrying capacity limits that would trigger cessation of visitor access at component parts and the property as a whole, which should be clarified in discussion with the World Heritage Centre. As this system would be of great interest to other World Heritage properties, the mission recommends that the State Party share information and analysis on how the system is implemented in a real-time case of visitor number reaching the established carrying capacity limits.

Recommendations

In view of the above, the Mission recommends the following:

1. Detailed boundary clarification maps for each of the component parts showing the boundaries of the inscribed areas should be submitted electronically to the World Heritage Centre. The maps should be received by 31 March 2024 in order to be reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and, if satisfactory, presented to the World Heritage Committee at its following session. Maps received after this date will be reviewed and presented to the Committee at a later stage.
2. Following the acceptance of the boundary clarification of the component parts, a minor boundary modification request for the delineation of a buffer zone should be submitted in

accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The proposed buffer zone boundary shall encompass the wider landscape setting of the property (See Section 2.1.3).

3. Any proposed delineation of the buffer zone boundary should be supported by detailed maps and description of the proposed boundary, as required by Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*.
4. Following the approval of the clarification of property boundaries and the approval of a buffer zone by the Committee, the factual errors in the SOUV will be updated to indicate the correct number of component parts forming the serial property.
5. As the purpose of a buffer zone is to protect the OUV of the property, the process of boundary delineation should be accompanied by a clear identification of the attributes that convey the OUV of the property on the basis of analysing the SOUV. For assistance on methodologies for using the narrative text of the SOUV to define attributes, it is useful to consult the Tools section in the [Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context \(2022\)](#) pp. 68-74.
6. *Plan for Conservation and Management of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (2019-2035)* should be updated following the clarification / modification of the boundaries as requested by the World Heritage Committee and include revised planning tools for the management of the buffer zone reflected in Chapter 5 of the Management Plan. Other relevant legislation, including a subsequent *Master Plan for the Wudang Mountains Scenic Area* should also integrate the updated elements accordingly. In addition, the existing Management Plan (2019–2035) should also integrate a plan that guides the further opening up of the property to visitors, especially with regards to restoration works, interpretation facilities, new buildings and infrastructure and also includes the obligation to notify the World Heritage Centre in advance before considering any proposed actions, including major restorations, that may have an impact on the property’s OUV and the requirements of impact assessments in accordance with Paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the *Operational Guidelines* and taking into full account the [Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context \(2022\)](#).
7. The Yuzhen Palace uplift project has been completed, and key mitigation measures have been well implemented. As a follow-up measure, the State Party is requested to develop and implement a clear and effective strategy to enhance the overall significance of the site and ensure sustainable management. Options like a World Heritage Interpretation Centre with programmes involving residents in participation could be considered to interpret how the site contributes to the overall OUV, and how the uplift project impacts the site and the context, including intangible aspects tied to local communities. Additionally, there is a need to develop an interpretation plan to better communicate the contribution of the Yuzhen Palace to the overall OUV of the property and explain how the uplift project, including archaeological process, has impacted the site.
8. For the issue regarding tourism pressure, it is recommended that the State Party consult with the World Heritage Centre to correct any errors in the calculation process and figures presented for carrying capacity. Furthermore, we recommend that the State Party conducts a study based on the actual monitoring data on the number of visitors over a one-year period, particularly during peak seasons, to investigate tourist carrying capacity, visitor routes and behaviours, as well as the overall visitor experience and satisfaction.

This study should be aimed at adjusting and determining the appropriate carrying capacity, moving away from calculations solely based on area, suggested earlier by the State Party. Additionally, a request is made to the State Party for an explanation of how the real-time visitor control system at the monitoring centre is implemented, and how the receptors are installed and how it operates in each component part with information provided on the type of response measures activated once the threshold of visitor numbers is reached.

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Abbreviations

Convention	<i>Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</i> (1972)
ICCROM	International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
NCHA	National Cultural Heritage Administration
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value
SOC	State of Conservation
SOUV	Statement of Outstanding Universal Value
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHC	UNESCO World Heritage Centre

1 Background

Situated in the scenic valleys and on the slopes of the Wudang mountains in Hubei Province, the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994 under cultural criteria (i), (ii) and (vi). Established as a Taoist centre from the early Tang dynasty in the 7th century, the property was built as an organized complex during the Ming dynasty (14th–17th centuries) following the major building campaign undertaken by Emperor Zhu Di, who also constructed the Forbidden City in Beijing, to align his imperial regime with Taoism. The palaces and temples which form the nucleus of this group of secular and religious buildings exemplify the architectural and artistic achievements of China's Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties over a period of nearly 1,000 years. While the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2012 (Decision **36 COM 8E**, see Annex 5) recognizes “53 ancient buildings” and “9 architectural sites”, these figures do not correspond to the actual number of component parts inscribed by the Committee and have been subject to the clarification process since then.

Criterion (i): The ancient buildings in the Wudang Mountains represent the highest standards in Chinese art and architecture over a period of nearly one thousand years.

Criterion (ii): The Wudang buildings exercised an enormous influence on the development of religious and public art and architecture in China.

Criterion (vi): The religious complex in the Wudang Mountains was the centre of Taoism, one of the major eastern religions and one which played a profound role in the development of belief and philosophy in the region.



Taoism performed in front of the Zixiao Palace

Management

The property is located within the *Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area* which is part of the administrative area of *Wudang Mountains Tourism and Economic Special Zone*, and also overlapping with other protection areas/designations including *Ecological Red Line* and the *Hubei Wudang Mountains National Geopark*. The property is protected at the highest level by the *Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics*. The Management Committee of the Wudang Mountains Tourism and Economic Special Zone exercises the local governmental responsibility, and is exclusively in charge of protection, management, development, use, planning and construction of the Wudang Mountains scenic area. The Cultural Heritage Bureau under the Management Committee is responsible for the administration of cultural heritage in the Special Zone. In order to ensure a holistic management of the property including tourism, a *Plan for Conservation and Management of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (2019-2035)* has been developed as an overarching management plan based on different plans/legislation¹.



Wudang Mountains under multiple designations – including World Heritage, National Scenic Area and National Geopark

According to the *Master Plan for the Wudang Mountains Scenic Area (Revised) (2012-2025)*, the *Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area* is divided into six Management Zones: 1) “Cultural and Historical Sites Area” and 2) “Special Natural Area” which form *Core Scenic Area*, and 3) “Ecological Restoration Area”, 4) “General Rural Area”, 5) “General Natural Area” and 6) Recreation Development Area” (Table 1). It is however unclear, if and how the management zoning provided in the Master Plan guides the management of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone. The relationship of any proposed buffer zone boundary modification to these zones would need to be clarified.

¹ Including the *Urban Master Plan of Shiyan (2011-2030)*, the *Master Plan for the Wudang Mountains Tourism and Economic Special Zone (2007-2020)*, the *Master Plan for the Wudang Mountains Scenic Area (Revised) (2012-2025)*, the *12th Five-Year Conservation Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains* and the *Plan for the Protection of the Cultural Relics in Yuxu Palace, the Wudang Mountains, Hubei Province (2009-2025)*.

	Management Zone		Area (km ²)	Share (%)
Core Scenic Spots	Cultural and Historical Sites Area		5.8	19.2
	Special Natural Area		54.2	
	Ecological Recreation Area		80.6 (waters included)	25.8
	General Rural Area		46.8	15.0
	General Natural Area		118.2	37.9
	Recreation Development Area	Urban Area	5.4	2.1
		Recreation Service Area	1.0	
Total Area			312	100

*Table 1. Management Zoning of the Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area
 (Master Plan for the Wudang Mountains Scenic Area (Revised) (2012-2025))*

State of conservation

The state of conservation of the property was first presented to the World Heritage Committee in 1998 in relation to its management. The Committee urged the national and local authorities to incorporate sustainable tourism development strategies within the site management plan to ensure that the integrity of the site's cultural and historical setting is protected ([Decision 22 COM VII.43](#)). The Committee then examined its state of conservation in 2003 and 2004 consecutively following a fire at the Yuzhen Palace, a component part of the property. In 2013, the Committee examined the state of conservation of the property, notably on an uplift project of the Yuzhen Palace which was proposed in response to the expansion of the Danjiangkou Reservoir in the framework of South-North Water Diversion Project, and requested a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess potential impacts of the uplift project as well as progress with the implementation of the management plan. The Reactive Monitoring mission was undertaken in March 2014 and made [a series of recommendations](#), not limited to the uplift project but also with regard to its overall management system, including the needs for buffer zone identification to include the entire Wudang Mountains Scenic Area in line with the landscape approach and for enforcing rules related to carrying capacity to protect against overdevelopment of tourism at the property, which were reiterated by the Committee in July 2014 ([Decision 38 COM 7B.90](#)). The state of conservation of the property was examined by the Committee on a regular basis in 2016 ([Decision 40 COM 7B.30](#)), in 2018 ([Decision 42 COM 7B.1](#)) and in 2021 ([Decision 44 COM 7B.19](#)) to follow up on the three major issues addressed by the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission: 1) the uplift project of the Yuzhen Palace, 2) boundary clarification and buffer zone delineation, and 3) visitor management.

In parallel to the state of conservation process, issues around boundary clarification (including the number of component parts) and the buffer zone identification were discussed among the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory project and through a Technical Review by ICOMOS (March 2021). In March 2023, the State Party reported through its SOC report submitted to the World Heritage Centre that the uplift project of the Yuzhen Palace has been completed.

Justification of the Advisory mission

To accelerate dialogue between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Committee, at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), encouraged the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to the property ([Decision 45 COM 7B.153](#)). This mission was undertaken on 13–17 December 2023 with the aim to

- 1) assess the overall state of conservation of the property,
- 2) assess the outcomes of the uplift project of the Yuzhen Palace, and any resulting impacts on the property and its OUV and resulting mitigative measures,
- 3) provide guidance to and engage with the State Party in its efforts to address the issues surrounding the component parts of the property, the delineation of the buffer zone, and
- 4) Evaluate and provide advice on the property’s carrying capacity and commensurate, sustainable visitor management strategies, including the Golden Peak.

The mission team was composed of Ms Luba Janikova and Ms Akane Nakamura representing the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Dr Michael Pearson representing ICOMOS, and Dr Jihong Kim representing ICCROM (Annex 2). The mission was accompanied by a team of national and local authorities (the National Cultural Heritage Administration, Hubei Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, and Management Committee of Wudang Mountains Tourism and Economic Special Zone) as well as experts from ICOMOS China and China Academy of Cultural Heritage (Annex 3). The mission visited a number of component parts of the property including: Yuzhen Palace, Xuanyue Gate, Yuxu Palace, Taihe Palace (including Gold Hall and Ancient Bronze Hall), Zixiao Palace, Fuzhen Temple, Nanyan Palace, Renwei Temple, Yinxian Rock and Wulong Palace. The mission also visited the Wudang Mountains World Cultural Heritage Monitoring Centre and the Wudang Museum, and had opportunities to meet and exchange with various stakeholders including site managers, excavation team, representatives of the Wudangshan Taoist Association and local residents including youth.

This report highlights the findings of the mission and provides its conclusions and recommendations based on its Terms of Reference (see Annex 1).

2 Mission Findings

2.1 Yuzhen Palace uplift project

2.1.1. Overview

Yuzhen Palace is located at the foothills of Mt. Wudang and was constructed during the Ming Dynasty as a shrine to Zhang Sanfeng, a martial artist and Taoist philosopher. The Yuzhen Palace uplift project was planned in response to the South-to-North Water Diversion Project in 2007, which aims to raise the water level of the Danjiangkou Dam to supply water to northern China. As the water level in the river rose, the site of the Palace was elevated by approximately 15 meters to prevent buildings and surroundings from being submerged. The buildings were relocated to a new elevated site while maintaining their original planar coordinates. The protection project for the Yuzen Palace commenced in September 2011 and was completed in December 2019, spanning 8 years. The protection project comprised four main components: the cultural relics disintegration project, the uplift project, the earth-stone elevation project, and the cultural relics restoration project.

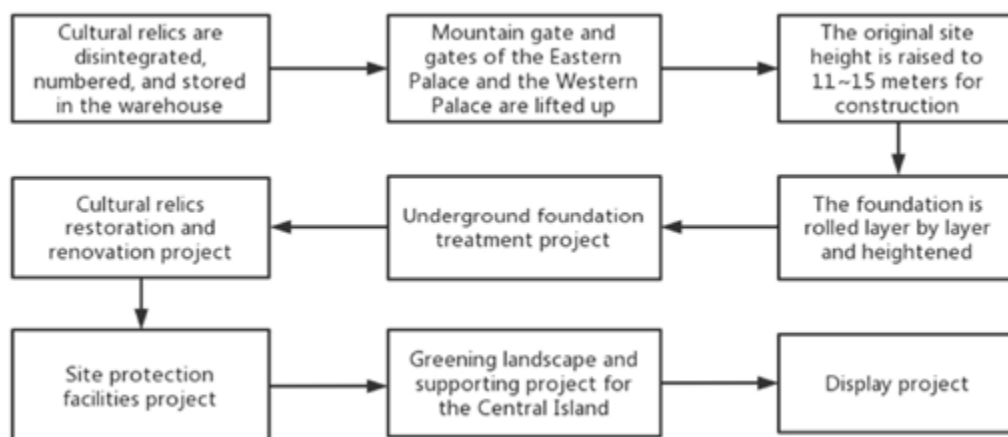


Figure 2. Project Process (as of July 2022 Report)

In 2014, the Reactive Monitoring mission team saw on-site that the uplift project was underway and expressed concerns about the following issues.

- 1) Platform shape
- 2) Reinstallation of archaeological remains (East and West Palaces)
- 3) Platform landscaping
- 4) Site usage, and
- 5) Site interpretation

In 2016, the World Heritage Committee agreed to proceeding with the project, taking into account the opinions of the mission (Decision **40 COM 7B.30**).

2.1.2. Findings and observations

When visiting the site for this Advisory mission, it was observed that the uplift project had been completed as reported previously, and it was confirmed that the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations had been implemented.

- 1) Platform shape: Originally, the shape of the platform was artificially cut on the east and west sides, like a peninsula. However, it is now seamlessly connected to the surroundings. Additionally, features such as the stone foundation and drainage openings beneath the platform are not visible at the eye level of visitors to Yuzhen Palace. Due to the heightened elevation of the site, the visible relations between the surrounding landscape and the site have been compromised. However, the platform shape is so seamlessly integrated with the surroundings that one would hardly notice the presence of large-scale engineering activities.



A panoramic view of the site (from the 2019 SOC report)



A panoramic view of the site after the completion of the project (from the exhibition panel)



Before the Project

A fire in 2003 caused substantial damage, leaving only a portion of the main hall. There were residences and cultivated fields at the entrance, and the local community used the palace area.



After the Project

The main hall was restored, and a new wall was built around the excavation site. The entire front area has been transformed into a square and landscaped to a park.

- 2) Reinstallation of archaeological remains (East and West Palaces): Excavations were conducted in the vicinity during the project, revealing historical remnants of East and West Palaces. After the completion of the excavations, new walls were constructed around the areas of the East and West Palaces and stone foundations were displayed to show the locations of the structures. The on-site information panels provide a brief overview of the excavation results for the East and West Palaces. However, they do not encompass details, such as the difference in ground level between the excavation site and the current terrain, and the preservation methods for exposed remains.



Archaeological remains of the East Palace

- 3) Platform landscaping: The mission in 2014 suggested considering the surrounding vegetation for the landscaping. However, the current landscaping, perhaps due to the recent completion of the construction, gives a slightly unnatural impression. The installation of a wall around the excavation area has also reduced the space available for planting trees.
- 4) Site usage: The main hall is currently used as an exhibition hall to display the interpretation of the uplift project. Additionally, during the site visit, we see that the square at the entrance of the Palace is being used as a venue for Taichi training. Nevertheless, it appears that the Palace lacks programmes specifically designed for the nearby residents and does not contribute to community-building through participation programmes.
- 5) Site interpretation: On-site interpretation regarding heritage preservation processes were diligently provided. The restored main hall features panels showcasing an overview and details of the Yuzhen Palace uplift project, along with photographs, video presentation, detailed explanations, and diagrams illustrating the changes before and after the project. However, the exhibition primarily emphasizes the excellence and technical aspects of

the project without critical examination of how these physical changes have impacted the authenticity of the heritage. Furthermore, the interpretation regarding the Eastern and the Western Palace are relatively brief. There is a need to enhance the on-site interpretation not only as historic architecture but also as archaeological sites.



Video presentation of the uplift Project displayed on the main hall wall.

2.1.3. Conclusions

While this approach to conservation may not serve as an exemplar for the future, it is evident that the State Party has spared no effort, given limited conditions, in dedicating significant resources and time to preserve the heritage. Despite the physical relationships between the original building and its surrounding context being compromised, the restoration project made efforts to maintain the original layout of the building and preserve the scenic views of the mountains visible from the Yuzhen Palace. Particularly, the artificially elevated platform was altered to a more natural shape, considering the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, to mitigate the impact on the landscape.

The status of the fabric of the individual buildings has been improved. The main hall, damaged by a fire in 2003 while being used as a martial arts school, has been restored to its pre-fire form in its new elevated position. The appearance of the other buildings, which were modified during its use as a school, have been restored as well. The effort to provide interpretation through the exhibition on these conservation efforts to visitors aligns with the recommendations of the previous Reactive Monitoring mission. However, there is not sufficient presentation regarding the changes and impacts brought about by the uplift project on the OUV of the property, and there is also a need for additional on-site interpretation regarding the excavation process including how conservation and display of relics were implemented for the Eastern and the Western Palace.

Yuzhen Palace is located at the base of Wudang Mountains and, as one of the palaces constructed during the Ming Dynasty's Yongle period. Its historical significance as a symbol of martial arts and Taoist philosophy related to Zhang Sanfeng and the associated and intangible values have been maintained, while its scenic value as a mountain Taoist palace has been compromised to a certain degree.

Despite efforts in heritage conservation and management, the previously strong ties with the local community and cultivated fields have significantly weakened. The palace seems to be less popular among visitors due to its distance from other components, its location on flat terrain rather than in the Wudang Mountains, and the uplift project that has been taking place for a while. It may be beneficial to develop programmes that allow nearby residents to use the Palace as a meeting place or participate in conservation and utilization programmes. Given the significance of the Palace as the shrine of Zhang Sanfeng, it is crucial to implement heritage interpretation and utilization that captures the emphasized 'spirit of the place,' as underscored in the previous monitoring mission. Furthermore, if this place is no longer used as a Taoist temple, there may be a need for the introduction of a new purpose that can attract visitors and ensure ongoing management. For example, a World Heritage Interpretation Center or Visitor Center could be considered.

Finally, while the uplift project was eventually endorsed by the World Heritage Committee in 2016, it was clearly a ‘major restoration’ that had a strong potential to impact the OUV of the property, and the Committee should have been informed at much earlier stage of its planning. The Mission would like to remind the State Party that in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the World Heritage Centre shall be informed as soon as possible and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, of any proposed action, including major restorations, that could be expected to impact the property’s OUV, whether in the property itself, its buffer zone, or the wider setting. Furthermore, impact assessments should be carried out as a pre-requisite for such projects to identify alternatives, as well as potential impacts on the OUV of the property or its wider setting (Paragraph 118bis).

2.2 Boundary Clarification and Buffer Zone

2.2.1 Background

The Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains World Heritage property was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of a supplementary map provided by the Chinese authorities following a request from ICOMOS during the evaluation process. The 1994 ICOMOS evaluation report states: “The nomination dossier was unclear as to exactly what was being proposed for inclusion on the World Heritage List. This was, however, clarified by a map supplied by the Chinese authorities, showing the individual monuments identified to constitute the proposed World Heritage monument, the buffer zone being the protected area of the park”.

The supplementary map therefore constitutes the baseline data for the inscribed property. However, the map is not detailed enough to clearly show the exact boundaries of the areas of each component part. Moreover, the legend of the map indicates: “Red: The sheer protection area (Don’t built other project)” and “Yellow: Construction control area (Don’t built the building to destroy the style and feature of environment)”. The map also displays a thick black line surrounding all the component parts including a vast zone around them without any

identification in the legend, creating ambiguity concerning the delimitation of the inscribed areas of the component parts and of the buffer zone(s) (see Annex 6).

In 2018, a thorough analysis of the documentation related to the inscription of the property was undertaken by the World Heritage Centre through the Retrospective Inventory project and resulted in the identification of 45 component parts forming the property (a component part is considered a separate polygon which can include one or more monuments/component sites). The State Party was consequently asked to confirm the number of component parts identified by the World Heritage Centre, and was also notified that the buffer zone, according to the Centre, corresponds to the entirety of the Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area, as acknowledged at the time of inscription.

In 2020, the State Party provided a list of 49 component parts and 286 heritage elements forming the property². The World Heritage Centre however noted that some of these components are included within one polygon and therefore recognised 45 component parts (see Annex 8).

A Technical Review undertaken by ICOMOS in March 2021 supported the conclusion of the analysis by the World Heritage Centre on the number and scope of component parts. On the issues of buffer zones, the Technical Review noted a confusion in terminology between the development control zones and the idea of a buffer zone, and concluded that the “Wudang Scenic Mountain Area” should become the buffer zone for the property.

In April 2021, the State Party submitted a clarification map of the property delineating the 45 component parts and 21 separate buffer zones. However, this map is not detailed enough to clearly show the boundaries of the component parts. Therefore, in response to this submission the World Heritage Centre has requested the State Party to submit detailed maps of each component part and an overall map of the property showing its buffer zone.

The baseline data for this property from the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List is unclear and the 1994 supplementary map creates ambiguity regarding the boundaries of the property.

2.2.2 Discussion on the issues raised by the State Party

The property and buffer zone boundary issues raised by the State Party in the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Mission were discussed with the State Party during site inspections and during several round-table discussions.

Number of component parts

Clarification of the number of component parts of the property, outlined at 2.2.1 above, was discussed with the State Party. The Mission concurred that there are 45 component parts of the property (that is, polygon boundaries that surround one or more significant sites). This interpretation was agreed by the State Party at meetings.

Property boundary modifications

The Mission observed, and the State Party indicated, that the boundaries of property components needed clarification. Some confusion has resulted from the very small scale of

² “Evaluation Report on the Current Situation of Protection of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains” (May 2020, Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage)

the 1994 inscription map, which has been interpreted differently by the State Party and the Committee. The Mission and the State Party were not in a position to consider these changes at length, but the submission of detailed maps of property boundaries as understood by the State Party would enable the World Heritage Centre to determine if modification of boundaries as previously understood by the Committee were needed. One component particularly identified was Yuxu Palace. The Mission also considered that other minor boundary modifications might be desirable at some component parts to expand the property area. In some component parts the boundary follows terrain, which places the property within its close environmental context, while in others the boundary is a box that fits closely around the site walls. The former approach would seem to be more appropriate given the close associations between the temples and places and the mountain locations, as observed by the Mission at several component parts. The Mission did not visit all the component parts so cannot offer advice in every case, but would urge the State Party to consider the most appropriate formulation of the property boundary for each component part. In other cases, there might be an argument to combine closely associated property components (i.e. 22. Cave of the God of Thunder and 25. Taishang Temple or 45. Wulong Palace and 46. Huayang Rock). This would have the consequence of altering the number of component parts of the property.

Buffer zone boundary

The differing interpretations held by the State Party and by the Committee relating to the boundaries of buffer zones since the property was inscribed in 1994 were aired. The State Party considers a series of small buffer zones around each component part to apply, while the Committee's decisions indicate it considered a much larger boundary incorporating the southern section of the Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area to apply (though it is observed that the northern boundary of this area is not defined on any earlier maps presented to the Committee). This divergence of views was set aside to further the discussion of the fundamentals involved in ensuring the protection of OUV.

The Mission's view is that the small buffer zones supported by the State Party are far too small to protect OUV from potential threats, while the larger whole Scenic Area reflected in the Committee's early decisions, which includes valley and ridge systems to the east and north that are not visible from the property, extends beyond those areas necessary to protect and safeguard OUV. The Mission observed that the section of the Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area relating to the Taoist observance and the related palaces and temples making up the serial property is mainly limited to the central and south-western sector of the Scenic Area. It is the valley and ridge systems related to this sector of the Scenic Area that should be included when defining a buffer zone as well as areas around the remaining components to the north.



Landscape views of the Wudang Mountains (Summary of Dayue Taihe Mountain by Wang Zhen (1744), taken from the Plan for Conservation and Management of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (2019-2035))

The Mission observed that the appropriate management of the landscape setting within a buffer zone was essential for the protection of OUV of the property. The designation of the buffer zone to achieve this protection would be in keeping with the description of the buffer zone in the *Operational Guidelines* as ‘an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development in order to give an added layer of protection to the property. This should include the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection.’ (Paragraph 104)

In this instance the Mission concluded that the ‘wider setting’, should include the landscape extending to the skyline of prominent ridges and peaks observable from the property, should be incorporated within the buffer zone in order to adequately protect the OUV of the property.



View from Nanyan Palace towards the Golden Peak (centre skyline peak), with Langmei Temple component part left middle ground behind tree. The management of the landscape setting within which the component parts were planned and built, is critical to the protection of the OUV of the property.

The flexibility of the formal zoning approach used by the State Party to protect buffer zones, the ‘Construction Control Area’, in managing a wide range of land uses was discussed. The State Party provided assurances that the Construction Control Area zoning is flexible enough to protect the OUV from urban, agricultural, forestry and other potential land use developments within the wider landscape setting of the property, which extends to the skyline of the adjacent valleys. The Mission stressed that the purpose of the buffer zone was not to stop development, but to ensure that any development was compatible with protecting the OUV of the property - in this case particularly protecting the landscape setting. The Mission would observe that a range of planning controls could be applied to a buffer zone to achieve this outcome. The stricter ‘Construction Control Area’ zoning could be one approach where new construction and development was most likely to be an issue, such as close to established villages, developed

agricultural areas and infrastructure corridors. Other less restrictive and easier to administer zoning approaches might be applied to zones where lesser development risks might be anticipated.

The Mission also raised the issue of the need to protect the road alignments linking the component parts from lineal development that might impact on the physical or intangible attributes of the OUV of adjacent component parts. The Celestial Way (the historical Taoist pilgrimage route) is an example of both physical (where it survives as a track) and intangible (where it has been destroyed) elements of the surrounding landscape, whose historical associations help sustain the OUV of the property and therefore it is important to include them in the buffer zone.

The Mission, following its inspections, believes that the attributes supporting OUV should be further elaborated, and the visual and geographical relationships between the component parts and between the component parts and the landscape setting need to be highlighted and explained. The view was put by the Mission that the intangible historical and spiritual links between the landscape of the Wudang Mountains and the serial property were well documented, and protection of those landscape associations underpinned the protection of the OUV of the property. Moreover, the ensemble of buildings was created overtime to become a single complex, with components linked by sacred pathways, within a single sacred mountain setting. For assistance on methodologies of breaking down the narrative text of the SOUV into attributes, it is useful to consult the Tools section in the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* (2022) pp. 68-74.

The Mission considered that adequate control of the landscape setting that is critical to the protection of the property’s OUV could potentially be ensured by a buffer zone boundary as suggested above, supported by a detailed description of attributes, detailed definitions and maps, and formalised through a buffer zone minor boundary modification submission. The Mission raised potential issue relating to the extent of the buffer zone boundary changes and the due process specified in the *Operational Guidelines*. It confirmed that the proposed buffer zone modification, when submitted and if supported by descriptive material and maps as required in Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*, could be dealt with as a minor boundary modification.

The Mission was strongly of the view that the State Party should be urged to submit a buffer zone boundary modification based on the protection of the wider landscape setting of the property. The technical requirements for maps are included as Annex 9 to this document.

The Mission believes the origins, location and design of the palace and temple complexes was determined by the topography of the mountain landscape, and the orientation of the built elements to the Gold Peak. The placement of the palace and temple complexes and the Celestial Way in the mountain landscape were linked to the devotional consideration of Taoist concepts. The landscape as a whole and the ancient building complexes within it (the property) have strong physical and intangible links to the Taoist faith and practice. The inscribed ancient building complex sits within that landscape context, and it is therefore important that the boundary of the buffer zone include the wider landscape setting so that the tangible and intangible values of the property are protected through the appropriate management of the buffer zone.

The existing Plan for Conservation and Management of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (2019–2035) should be updated following the clarification / modification of

the boundaries as requested by the Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023). Other relevant legislation, including a subsequent Master Plan for the Wudang Mountains Scenic Area following the current 2012-2025 Master Plan, should also integrate the updated elements accordingly.

2.3 Tourism carrying capacity

2.3.1. Overview

The capacity for daily visitors to the entire heritage site, as submitted by the Chinese government, increased from 25,000 in the 2020 SOC report to 46,500 in the 2023 SOC report. Additionally, significant areas like the Taihe Palace (Gold Peak) are estimated to have a very high daily capacity of 8,000 visitors. Therefore, the World Heritage Committee expressed concern about this situation, requested detailed information on the capacity assessment process, and recommended seeking advice by inviting advisory mission on visitor capacity and management strategies (Decision **45 COM 7B.153**).

2.3.2. Findings and observations

During the Advisory mission, Chinese authorities presented information on the visitor capacity during the discussion sessions. The stated capacity of 46,500 visitors per day pertains to the overall capacity for all scenic areas, including the World Heritage property. Within this, the capacity only for the World Heritage area was clarified to be 25,000 visitors per day. Therefore, it was confirmed that the significant increase in the overall daily visitor capacity, as mentioned in the decision text, is due to the estimation covering the entire scenic area.

Furthermore, they explained the methodology for calculating the capacity of popular key heritage areas. The approach involves dividing the major open area of ancient building, public space, and footpaths at each heritage site by the required area per person per hour to calculate the hourly capacity. This is then multiplied by 8 hours (the daily viewing time) to derive the daily capacity. For example, the previously mentioned capacity of 8,000 visitors for the Taihe Palace (Gold Peak) area, which was a concern in the World Heritage Committee's decision, was calculated by determining the hourly capacity as 1,000 persons per hour, multiplied by the 8-hour daily viewing time, resulting in a total of 8,000 persons. It is hard to judge whether the basis of minimum area for the calculation of carrying capacity is sufficient. However, if 1,000 people visited Taihe Palace (Gold Peak) hourly, it would be challenging to accommodate them in the popular Golden Hall area.

Table 2. Calculation of Tourist Carrying Capacity at the Taihe Palace (Gold Peak) Exhibition Area (Report on the Impact of Tourist Carrying Capacity on Cultural Relics in Different Heritage Sites of the Wudang Mountains Scenic Area, 2022)

Open Area	Effective Carrying Area (m ²)	Upper Limit	Instantaneous Bearing Capacity (persons)	Description
Ancient Building (internal)	300	≥1 m ² /person	300	The total construction area open for display is approximately 1500 m ² . The effective area shall be 20% of the total area.
Area of Public Space	1000	≥4 m ² /person	250	Public space refers to the open space for tourists surrounding the building.
Area of Footpaths	450	≥0.8 m ² /person, ≥1m	450	The wide of footpaths is about 1 meter.
Total			1000	

The Mission confirmed that the calculation process aligns with the content presented in Annex 3 of the SOC report submitted by the State Party of China in 2023, titled "Report of the Impact of Visitor Carrying Capacity." The team raised questions about inaccuracies in some numerical representations in the report and corrected instances where the capacity of certain component parts was inaccurately stated in the table above. It seems necessary to check the calculations for each site once again. The State Party acknowledged some confusion in figures and undertook to correct them and provide them to the World Heritage Centre.

On the other hand, the mission team visited the Wudang Mountains World Cultural Heritage Monitoring Center and observed how visitor numbers at major attractions are monitored. At the Monitoring Centre, the real-time status of visitors at key historical sites is displayed alongside their respective capacities, a facilitating an easy assessment of congestion levels at these significant locations.



*Wudang Mountains World Cultural Heritage
Monitoring Center*



Real-time visitor monitoring

Furthermore, a warning system is activated based on the cumulative number of tourists and the number of vehicles. Although the State Party briefly mentioned that entrances could be closed based on warning levels, no specific details were provided regarding the response measures in place.

Warning Levels	No. of visitors	No. of vehicles*
Level 1 (Blue warning)	10,000+	3,500 – 4,500
Level 2 (Yellow warning)	15,000+	4,500 – 6,500
Level 3 (Red warning)	25,000+	6,500+

* The number of vehicles refers to the count of vehicles from the highway exit to the entrance of Mt. Wudang.

However, since the monitoring centre was recently established, more explanation is needed on how these real-time control mechanisms operate in practice. For example, there is a need for future analysis on how the actual number of visitors is counted at specific points, the margin of error in these measurements, and the pros and cons of the automated system operation.

2.3.3. Conclusion

The calculation of visitor capacity, as described above, is based solely on the available area without considering peak times when visitors concentrate or analysing the behaviour patterns of visitors who may gather at specific locations. For popular key attractions, a realistic review is necessary to determine an appropriate number of visitors for a pleasant experience. Recommending the use of simulation methods or monitoring actual situations during peak seasons could provide valuable insights.

Currently, visitors to Wudang mountains utilize shuttle buses operated by the local government. It has been confirmed that the special district has a total of 135 buses, with approximately 120 of them being operational. Moreover, the majority of visitors to Golden Peak use the cable car. Therefore, considering that adjusting the number of passengers and schedules of public transportation, such as buses and cable cars, can easily regulate the number of visitors, there

is a need to develop a more detailed execution plan for tourist management. There is a need to develop management strategies or response guidelines for times when tourists congregate.

2.4 Other conservation issues

2.4.1 The overall state of conservation of the property

General comments

The component parts that have been opened to the public appear to have been diligently conserved and well maintained. An extensive effort has been put into developing the Wudang Mountains World Heritage Cultural Heritage Monitoring Centre and system. The Mission had limited access to component parts that are not yet accessible to the public, but saw two examples that were undergoing conservation works (Wulong Palace and Yinxian Rock).

Process of conservation and presentation of component parts

The Mission was shown Wulong Palace component part, where extensive archaeological work is underway, and a number of substantial buildings have been restored. The mission was also informed that an interpretative facility was to be developed at the site, but whether this was to be within an existing building or in a new building was not indicated. The mission was not shown any detailed management planning document that guided this work as it progressed.

The State Party has advised the Mission that the 19 component parts not yet open to the public will be progressively opened from 2025 through to 2030.

The Mission recommends that a detailed plan that guides the opening up of these remaining components to visitors, especially with regards to restoration works, interpretation facilities, new buildings and infrastructure should be integrated in the existing Conservation and Management Plan (2019–2035), and also include the obligation to notify the World Heritage Centre in advance before considering any proposed actions that may have an impact on OUV and the requirements of impact assessments in accordance with Paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the *Operational Guidelines*. Impact assessments should be undertaken taking into full account the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* (2022).

Monitoring Equipment and processes

The Mission was shown one component part (Yinxian Rock) where a monitoring weather station and surveillance camera poles were located in close proximity to the attributes conveying OUV. The mission was of the view that the State Party should establish guidelines for the design and location of all monitoring and infrastructure facilities, to ensure that they do not inadvertently impact on the visitor’s appreciation and understanding of the component part.

An extensive effort has been put into developing the Wudang Mountains World Heritage Cultural Heritage Monitoring Centre and system, and the consideration of the mechanisms by which an excess of visitors can be prevented from having an adverse impact on either the property or the visitor experience (such as camera monitoring, bus delivery system, centralised monitoring centre, and staff diversionary actions). The mission observed that the monitoring system still appeared to be in the final phases of its developmental. The test of the system will be how it deals with a day on which acceptable carrying capacity at any one site, or the property as a whole, is reached or exceeded. As this system would be of great interest to other World Heritage properties, the WHC should seek feedback on the implementation of the system, and

on how well it responds to days when carrying capacity is reached, and what lessons may be learnt to modify the system.

2.4.2 Consultation with other relevant stakeholders, including the staff of the site management authorities; and representatives of local communities

A two-hour discussion was held with a range of local stakeholders, including some residents of villages adjacent to the property. The Mission was left with the impression that the services made available through the Wudang Mountains (roads, transportation buses, electricity, sanitary services) were seen as advantages by the residents. There was an indication that there has been a change in demographics of villages (a trend towards younger workers, though still with families), though its long-term implications cannot be judged. The development of employment opportunities in forestry and tourism appears to have offset the loss of what appears to have been rather marginal agricultural employment, though the tea plantations appear to be slowly expanding.



Meeting with stakeholders

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1 Conclusions

The conclusions with regards the Terms of Reference are as follows:

- **Assess the overall state of conservation of the property**

The component parts that have been opened to the public appear to have been diligently conserved and well maintained. Overall, the property appeared to be in a good state of conservation, and the wider setting well protected.

- **Assess the outcomes of the uplift project of the Yuzhen Palace, and any resulting impacts on the property and its OUV and resulting mitigative measures**

Despite compromises in the physical relationships with its surroundings during the uplift project, the project's overall impact on the Ancient Building Complex's OUV is considered limited. In particular, by embracing the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee and adopting a less artificial alteration of the elevated platform's shape, coupled with filling drainage ditches on both sides, the negative impact on the landscape has been significantly mitigated. The State Party's effort demonstrates dedicated resource allocation and time commitment. However, on-site explanations are required to detail the positive and negative impact of this project.

- **Provide guidance to and engage with the State Party in its efforts to address the issues surrounding the component parts of the property, the delineation of the buffer zone**

The site inspections and discussions held during the mission indicated that the property boundaries need to be clarified by the State Party, supported by detailed maps. Some amalgamation of component parts and rationalisation of boundaries taking the topography into consideration is advised by the mission in the body of the report. When this has been resolved, the SOUV will be updated to reflect the number of component parts making up the property.

The Advisory mission and the State Party agreed that the buffer zone should be modified to protect the landscape setting of the property. The State Party undertook to develop such a boundary modification submission.

- **Evaluate and provide advice on the property’s carrying capacity and commensurate, sustainable visitor management strategies, including the Taihe Palace**

An extensive effort has been put into developing the Wudang Mountains World Heritage Cultural Heritage Monitoring Centre and system. There is still some confusion in the figures provided to the mission on carrying capacity limits that would trigger cessation of visitor access at particular site and the property as a whole, which should be clarified in discussion with the World Heritage Centre. As this system would be of great interest to other World Heritage properties, the mission recommends that the State Party share information and analysis on how the system is implemented in a real-time case of visitor number reaching the established carrying capacity limits.

3.2 Recommendations

As a result of the Advisory mission the following recommendations are made:

1. Detailed boundary clarification maps for each of the component parts showing the boundaries of the inscribed areas should be submitted electronically to the World Heritage Centre. The maps should be received by 31 March 2024 in order to be reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and, if satisfactory, presented to the World Heritage Committee at its following session. Maps received after this date will be reviewed and presented to the Committee at a later stage.
2. Following the acceptance of the boundary clarification of the component parts, a minor boundary modification request for the delineation of a buffer zone should be submitted in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The proposed buffer zone boundary shall encompass the wider landscape setting of the property (See Section 2.1.3).
3. Any proposed delineation of the buffer zone boundary should be supported by detailed maps and description of the proposed boundary, as required by Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*.
4. Following the approval of the clarification of property boundaries and the approval of a buffer zone by the Committee, the factual errors in the SOUV will be updated to indicate the correct number of component parts forming the serial property.
5. As the purpose of a buffer zone is to protect the OUV of the property, the process of boundary delineation should be accompanied by a clear identification of the attributes that convey the OUV of the property on the basis of analysing the SOUV. For assistance on methodologies for using the narrative text of the SOUV to define attributes, it is useful to consult the Tools section in the [Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context \(2022\)](#) pp. 68-74.
6. *Plan for Conservation and Management of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (2019-2035)* should be updated following the clarification / modification of the boundaries as requested by the World Heritage Committee and include revised planning tools for the management of the buffer zone reflected in Chapter 5 of the Management Plan. Other relevant legislation, including a subsequent *Master Plan for the Wudang Mountains Scenic Area* should also integrate the updated elements accordingly. In addition, the existing Management Plan (2019–2035) should also integrate a plan that guides the further opening up of the property to visitors, especially with regards to restoration works, interpretation facilities, new buildings and infrastructure and also includes the obligation to notify the World Heritage Centre in advance before considering any proposed actions, including major restorations, that may have an impact on the property’s OUV and the requirements of impact assessments in accordance with Paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the *Operational Guidelines* and taking into full account the [Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context \(2022\)](#).
7. The Yuzhen Palace uplift project has been completed, and key mitigation measures have been well implemented. As a follow-up measure, the State Party is requested to develop and implement a clear and effective strategy to enhance the overall significance of the site and ensure sustainable management. Options like a World Heritage Interpretation Centre with programmes involving residents in participation could be considered to interpret how

the site contributes to the overall OUV, and how the uplift project impacts the site and the context, including intangible aspects tied to local communities. Additionally, there is a need to develop an interpretation plan to better communicate the contribution of the Yuzhen Palace to the overall OUV of the property and explain how the uplift project, including archaeological process, has impacted the site.

8. For the issue regarding tourism pressure, it is recommended that the State Party consult with the World Heritage Centre to correct any errors in the calculation process and figures presented for carrying capacity. Furthermore, we recommend that the State Party conducts a study based on the actual monitoring data on the number of visitors over a one-year period, particularly during peak seasons, to investigate tourist carrying capacity, visitor routes and behaviours, as well as the overall visitor experience and satisfaction. This study should be aimed at adjusting and determining the appropriate carrying capacity, moving away from calculations solely based on area, suggested earlier by the State Party. Additionally, a request is made to the State Party for an explanation of how the real-time visitor control system at the monitoring centre is implemented, and how the receptors are installed and how it operates in each component part with information provided on the type of response measures activated once the threshold of visitor numbers is reached.

4 Annexes

Annex 1: Terms of Reference of the Mission

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (People’s Republic of China)

The World Heritage Committee, at its extended 45th session, encouraged the State Party of China to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS / ICCROM Advisory mission to the World Heritage property “Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains” (Decision 45 COM 7B.153).

The objectives of this joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS / ICCROM Advisory mission are to: assess the overall state of conservation of the property, including the uplift project of the Yuzhen Palace, the boundary clarification including the buffer zone, as well as the visitor management of the Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains.

In accordance with Decision 45 COM 7B.153, the Mission shall:

1. Assess the overall state of conservation of the property;
2. Assess the outcomes of the uplift project of the Yuzhen Palace, and any resulting impacts on the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and resulting mitigative measures;
3. Provide guidance to and engage with the State Party in its efforts to address the issues surrounding the component parts of the property and the delineation of the buffer zone;
4. Evaluate and provide advice on the property’s carrying capacity and commensurate, sustainable visitor management strategies, including the Golden Peak.

The Mission should consult with authorities at national, provincial, municipal and district levels.

In addition, the Mission should consult with all other relevant stakeholders, including the staff of the site management authorities; and representatives of local communities.

The State Party is requested to facilitate and accompany the field visit and inspections that occur during the Mission and to facilitate necessary consultation with State Party agencies and stakeholders and to arrange visits to key locations within the property and its environs, including any additional visits requested by the Mission experts during the Mission.

The Mission experts should be provided with access to all relevant documents at least ten days before the Mission. The following documents should therefore be provided to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, and no later than ten days prior to the Mission:

- An overall map of the serial property and its buffer zone with a numerical identification of each component part (as requested by the World Heritage Centre through its correspondence dated 14 March 2023);
- A set of multiple maps (an atlas) at a smaller scale detailing each component part (as requested by the World Heritage Centre through its correspondence dated 14 March 2023);

- A report, inventory or table presenting the most up-to-date visitation statistics for the property;
- Results of studies and information regarding the carrying capacity at the property, including both the initial and revised information;
- A comprehensive set of visual materials, including before and after photographs of the work carried out as part of the uplift project of the Yuzhen Palace.

In addition, the State Party is requested to provide any additional information or documents requested by the Mission experts, within two weeks of the completion of the Mission, including (but not limited to) schedules of all personnel who participate in the mission, a final itinerary, and copies of any presentations made during the Mission.

Based on the results of the above-mentioned assessments and discussions with the State Party representatives and stakeholders, the Mission will develop recommendations to the State Party and the World Heritage Committee with the objective of providing guidance to the State Party on actions to be taken to ensure the effective conservation of the property and its OUV.

The Advisory mission should prepare and submit the final succinct report (in electronic format) to the State Party within ten weeks following the completion of the Mission to comment on potential factual errors.

In accordance with UNESCO, ICCROM and ICOMOS policies, their experts will not engage with the media, nor will they discuss the findings and recommendations of the mission, which should only be presented in the final mission report.

Annex 2: Mission Team

The mission team was composed of:

- **Michael Pearson**, representing ICOMOS International;
- **Jihong Kim**, representing ICCROM;
- **Luba Janikova**, Nomination Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- **Akane Nakamura**, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Annex 3: People met during the mission

National Cultural Heritage Administration

- Guan Qiang (Deputy Administrator)
- Deng Chao (Director-General, Department of Monuments and Sites (Department of World Cultural Heritage))
- Xiao Li (Deputy Director-General, Department of Monuments and Sites (Department of World Cultural Heritage))
- Huang Xiaofan (Chief, World Heritage Division, Department of Monuments and Sites (Department of World Cultural Heritage))

China Academy of Cultural Heritage

- Zhang Zhiqiang (Research Fellow and Director of Institute of Cultural Heritage Conservation Planning & Design)
- Cui Ming (Engineer)
- Liu Yanhe (Geological survey technology expert)
- Guo Liangchen (Engineer)
- Huang Wei (Planner)

ICOMOS China

- Yan Haiming (Director, ICOMOS China Secretariat)
- Xie Li (Deputy Director, ICOMOS China Secretariat)
- Wang Jue (Project Specialist)
- Chen Yihan (Project Assistant)
- Sun Xia (Interpreter)
- Hu Meiyang (Interpreter)
- Zhao Xiaozhen (Interpretation Assistant)

Hubei Province

- Chen Ping (Vice Governor)
- Li Shuyong (Director, Hubei Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism)
- Yu Ping (Director, Hubei Provincial Centre for Cultural Heritage Development)
- Chen Fei (Chief, Division of Cultural Heritage Conservation and Archaeology, Hubei Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism)
- Chen Kefei (Director, Division of Market Management, Hubei Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism)
- Yang Wenxia (Deputy Director, Office of Hubei Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism)
- Fu Dianhong (Deputy Chief, Resource Division Hubei Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism)
- Song Bo (Fourth-Level Researcher, Office of Cultural Relics Protection and Archaeology, Hubei Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism)
- Liu Jie (Director, Office of Technical Evaluation, Hubei Provincial Cultural Relics Development Centre)
- Fang Qin (President, Hubei Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology)
- Jiang Langlang (Grade-I Principal Staff Member, Division of the Cultural Relics Protection and Archaeology, Hubei Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism)

Shiyan City

- Huang Jianxiong (Secretary, CPC Shiyan Municipal Committee)
- Shi Yongxue (Director, Standing Committee of Shiyan Municipal People's Congress)
- Cai Xianzhong (Member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Shiyan Municipal Committee, Secretary-General of the CPC Shiyan Municipal Committee)

- Wang Yonghui (Deputy Secretary, CPC Shiyan Municipal Committee and Mayor of Shiyan City)
- Shi Lilong (Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of Shiyan Municipal People's Congress and Secretary of the CPC Wudang Mountains Tourism and Economic Special Zone Working Committee)
- Zhu Yunhui (Deputy Mayor of Shiyan City)
- Wu Shanhong (Director, Shiyan Municipal Bureau of Culture and Tourism)
- Tong Hua (Deputy Director, Shiyan Municipal Bureau of Culture and Tourism)
- Li Xin (Director, Section of Cultural Relics Protection, Municipal Bureau of Culture and Tourism)
- Geng Zhuangzhuang (Official, Section of Cultural Relics Protection, Municipal Bureau of Culture and Tourism)

Management Committee of the Wudang Mountains Tourism and Economic Special Zone

- He Yaochen (Director)
- Liu Jianping (Deputy Director)
- Wang Jun (Deputy Director)
- Li Chengsheng (Director, Party and Government Office of Wudang Mountains Tourism and Economic Special Zone)
- Ren Pengfei (Chief engineer, Cultural Heritage and Religious Affairs Bureau)
- Yu Aijun (Deputy Director, Cultural Heritage and Religious Affairs Bureau)
- Zhang Li (Deputy Director, Cultural Heritage and Religious Affairs Bureau)
- Long Chenchen (Officer-in-charge, the Project Office of the Cultural Heritage and Religious Affairs Bureau)
- Gong Hongbo (Chief, Cultural Heritage and Religious Affairs Bureau)
- Luo Yanyan (Deputy Director, Office of the Cultural Heritage and Religious Affairs Bureau)
- Li Wei (Chief of the Cultural Heritage Inspection Detachment)

Stakeholders

- Liu Wenguo (President of the Wudangshan Taoist Association and Vice-President of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference)
- Fan Xuefeng (Director of the Wudangshan Archive)
- Shu Yu (Business Operator at the scenic area of the Wudangshan Special Economic Zone)
- Fei Limin (Director of the Cultural Tourism Department in the Wudangshan Special Economic Zone)
- Wu Tao (Director of the Natural Resources Planning Department in the Wudangshan Special Economic Zone)
- Chen Liang (Director of the Yuzhen Palace Management Office in the Wudangshan Special Economic Zone Cultural Relics Management Bureau)
- Xu Zhengguo (Manager of the Nanyan Palace Management Office in the Wudangshan Special Economic Zone Cultural Relics Management Bureau)
- Wang Mingjun (Chief of the Golden Peak Brigade, Wudangshan Special Zone Scenic Area Administration Bureau)
- Wang Ziyang (Student at the Wudangshan Middle School)
- Wu Yajie (Secretary of the Wulong Palace Village Office in the Wudangshan Special Economic Zone Scenic Area Office)
- Wang Guangcai (Resident of the Dawan Village in the Wudangshan Special Economic Zone Scenic Area Office)

Annex 4: Mission Programme

Tuesday 12 December

16:35 Arrival of WHC team to Beijing

Wednesday 13 December

12:30 Arrival of ICOMOS expert to Beijing

12:40 Arrival of ICCROM expert to Beijing

17:00-19:00 Meeting at NCHA followed by dinner hosted by Mr. Guan Qiang,
Deputy Administrator of NCHA

19:30-21:30 Meeting among the mission team

Thursday 14 December

09:15-12:40 Flight from Beijing to Shiyan

13:15-14:00 Lunch

14:30-16:00 Visit to the **Wudang Mountains World Cultural Heritage Monitoring Centre** and presentations on boundary issues

16:00-17:15 Visit to **Yuzhen Palace** and **Xuanyue Gate**

17:20-17:40 Visit to **Yuxu Palace**

17:45-18:30 Visit to **Wudang Museum**

18:30-19:30 Dinner

20:00-21:00 Presentations and discussions on boundary issues and the uplift project of Yuzhen Place

Friday 15 December

08:30-10:00 Stopping at different viewpoints in the Scenic Area

10:00-12:00 Visit to **Ancient Bronze Hall**, **Taihe Palace** and **Gold Hall**

12:30-13:30 Lunch

14:00-15:50 Visit to **Nanyan Palace**

16:00-17:10 Visit to **Zixiao Palace**

17:30-18:00 Visit to **Fuzhen Temple**

18:30-19:30 Dinner

19:30-21:00 Presentations and discussions on tourist carrying capacity and tourist data

21:00-22:00 Meeting among the mission team

Saturday 16 December

08:30-11:30 Visit to **Renwei Temple Site**, **Yinxian Rock** and **Wulong Palace**

12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00-15:00 Meeting among the mission team

15:00-17:00 Seminar on the Conservation of Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (wrap-up session)

18:00-22:00 Dinner and a follow-up meeting

Sunday 17 December

8:30-10:00 Meeting with stakeholders

11:00-11:30 Lunch

12:00-13:55 Flight from Shiyan to Beijing

20:00-21:00 Meeting among the mission team

23:55 Flight from Beijing (WHC team)

Monday 18 December

13:45 Flight from Beijing (ICOMOS expert)

14:15 Flight from Beijing (ICCROM expert)

Annex 5: Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief Synthesis

The palaces and temples of the Ancient Building Complex are located amongst the peaks, ravines and gullies of the picturesque Wudang Mountains, Hubei Province. Established as a Taoist centre from the early Tang Dynasty, some Taoist buildings could be traced back to the 7th century. However the surviving buildings exemplify the architectural and artistic achievements of China’s secular and religious buildings of the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. The Ancient Building Complex reached its apogee during the Ming dynasty, with 9 palaces, 9 monasteries, 36 nunneries and 72 temples, following the major building campaign undertaken by Emperor Zhu Di to align his imperial regime with Taoism. Today, 53 ancient buildings and 9 architectural sites survive, including the Golden Shrine and the Ancient Bronze Shrine, which are prefabricated buildings in bronze made in 1307; the stone-walled Forbidden City of 1419; Purple Heaven Palace built originally in the 12th century, rebuilt in the 15th century and extended in the 19th century; the Nanyang Palace of the 12th and 13th centuries; the Fuzhen Temple of the 15th and 17th centuries and the stone Zhishi-Xuanyue Gateway built to mark the entrance to the Wudang Mountains in 1522.

The buildings in the Wudang Mountains exhibit exceptional architectural art and technology and represent the highest level of Chinese art and architecture achieved over a period of nearly 1,000 years. They are examples of religious and secular buildings closely associated with the growth of Taoism in China and lavishly endowed by successive Emperors. As an exceptionally large and well-preserved Taoist building complex it is important material evidence for studying early Ming politics and the Chinese history of religion.

Criterion (i): The ancient buildings in the Wudang Mountains represent the highest standards in Chinese art and architecture over a period of nearly one thousand years.

Criterion (ii): The Wudang buildings exercised an enormous influence on the development of religious and public art and architecture in China.

Criterion (vi): The religious complex in the Wudang Mountains was the centre of Taoism, one of the major eastern religions and one which played a profound role in the development of belief and philosophy in the region.

Integrity

All the 62 ancient buildings and sites have been included in the property boundaries surrounded by extensive buffer zones with signs and enhanced safety control. Meanwhile, guided by the principle of “giving priority to the protection of cultural relics and attaching primary importance to their rescue”, priority is given to each building in terms of maintenance and repairs to ensure the integrity of the property.

Authenticity

Besides carrying out necessary works on the property such as cleaning, reinforcement, termite prevention and lightning conductors, the principle of respecting the authenticity is strictly adhered in terms of maintenance and repair, so that the original condition of the property in terms of layout, specification, style and material are all preserved. Meanwhile, the setting of the property has been improved by relocating residents out of the property area, which helps to preserve the authenticity as well as to restore the original setting.

According to the planned national water diversion project from the south to the north, the local water level is to rise 15 meters. As a result, some ancient buildings may need to be elevated, while some others may need to be relocated, which may impact the authenticity and integrity of the property.

Management and protection requirements

The property is protected at the highest level by the Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics. The Management Committee of the Wudang Mountains Tourism and Economic Special Zone where the property is located exercises the local governmental responsibility, and is exclusively in charge of protection, management, development, use, planning and construction of the Wudang Mountains scenery area. The Cultural Heritage Bureau under the Management Committee is responsible for the administration of cultural heritage in the Special Zone. The Institute for Cultural Heritage Conservation, a museum and 5 cultural heritage management departments are set under the Bureau to carry out conservation works. Among them, the 5 cultural heritage management departments are established according to the distribution of cultural heritage over the Mountains, and have clearly assigned scope of jurisdiction and staff. With regard to the 28 remote heritage sites, voluntary conservators’ tenders coming from the villages where these sites are located take care of them. At present, there are 84 such conservators that are professionally engaged in cultural heritage conservation.

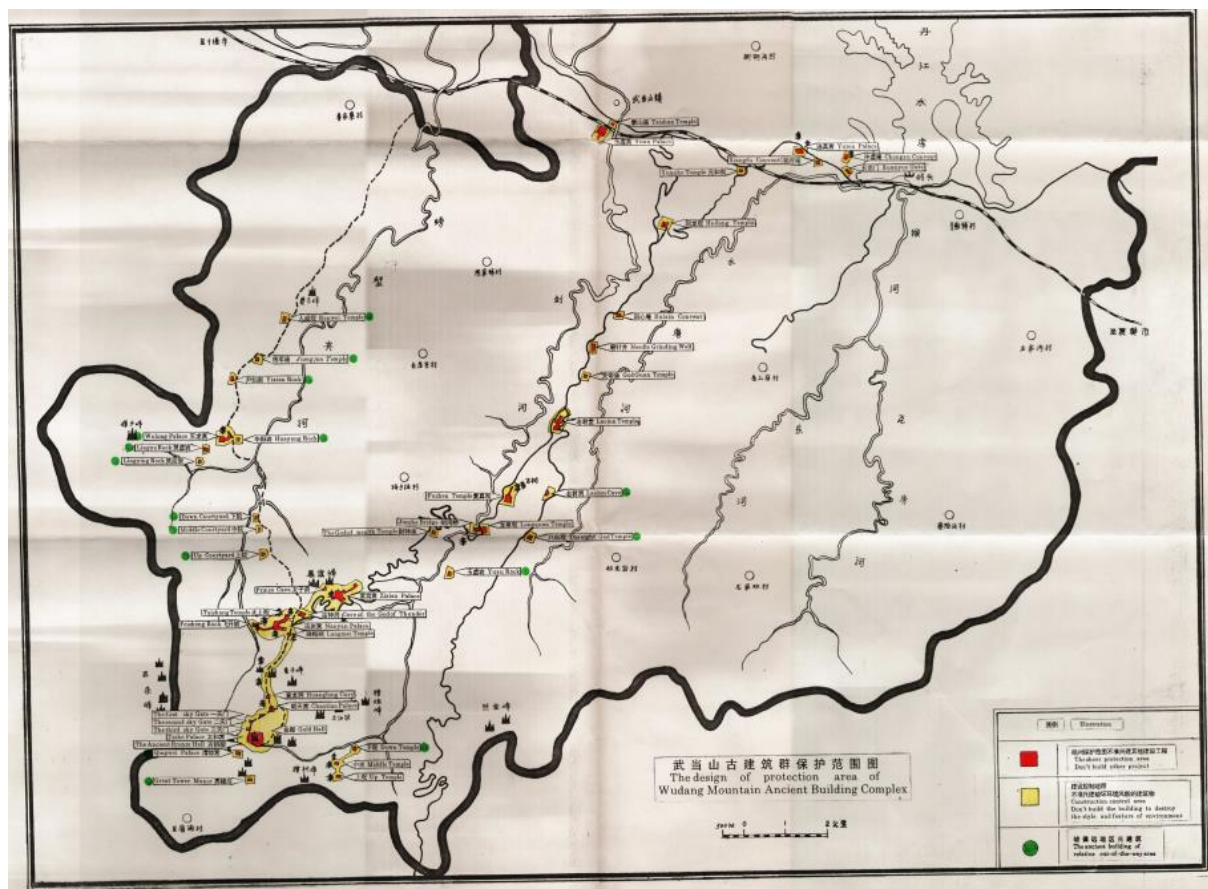
Meanwhile, the “Four Legal Prerequisites” (demarcation of the boundaries, erection of an official plaque declaring a site a protected entity, creation of an archive for records, designation of an organization or person dedicated to management) and ‘five bring into’ (bring into the economic and society development plan, bring into urban and rural construction plan, bring into the fiscal budget, bring into system reform, bring into leadership accountability system) for cultural heritage conservation have been achieved, and the heritage monitoring system and database have been established.

The Outline of the Master Plan of Wudang Mountains Scene Area, the Twelfth Five-year (2011-2015) Conservation Plan for the Ancient Building Complex in Wudang Mountains, Regulations of Wudang Mountains Environment and Regulations on Basic Construction in the Planned Area of Wudang Special Zone have been formulated, and the provincial government has issued laws and regulations including the Regulations of Wudang Mountain Scene Area. The Master Plan for Cultural Heritage Conservation of Wudang Mountain is under preparation.

Moreover, the top-level protection zone inside the Scenic Area has been expanded to coincide with the property boundaries. Farmers living in the property area have been relocated for better protection of the sites, while all constructions impairing the setting of the property have been demolished.

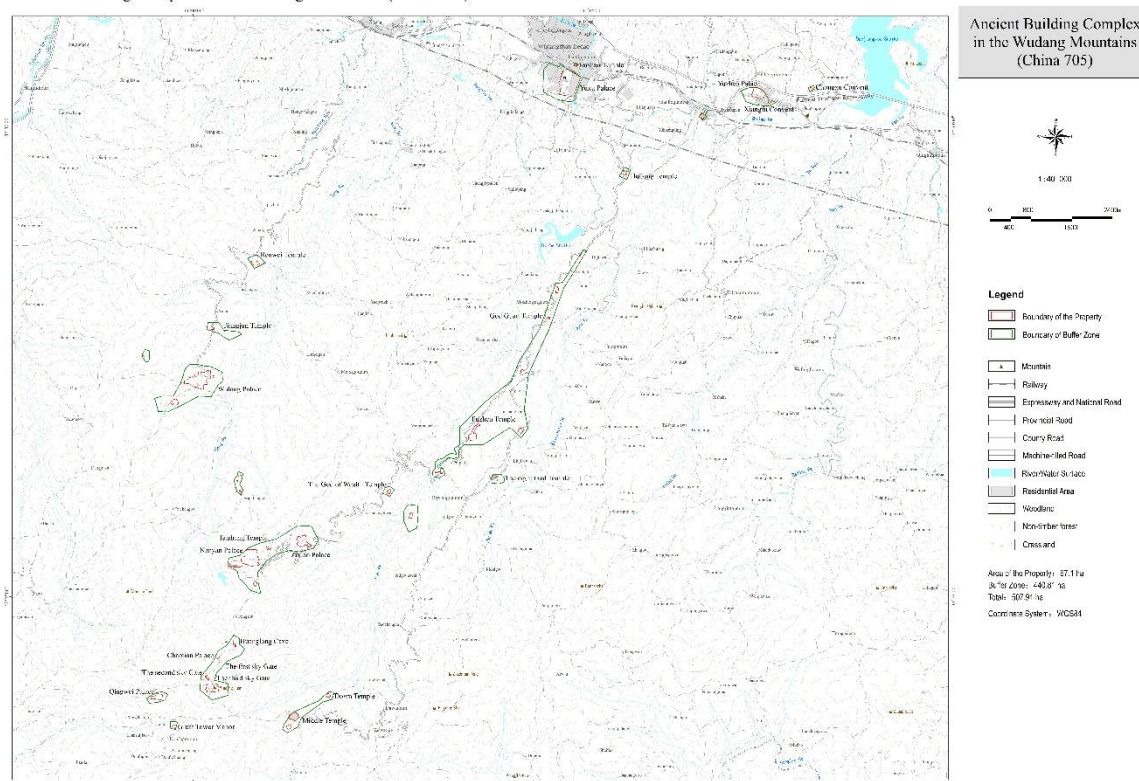
The property is properly managed and preserved through periodic, strict and well planned maintenance and protection.

Annex 6: 1994 Inscription Map



Annex 7: 2021 Boundary Clarification Map

Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China 705)



Annex 8: List of 45 component parts

Serial ID	Name of component part	Number	Heritage elements
705-001	Xuanyue Gate	1	Xuanyue Gate
705-002	Chongxu Convent	2	Hall of the Patriarch
		3	Northern Taoist Room of Western Taoist Yard
		4	Western Side Hall
		5	Western Taoist Room of Western Taoist Yard (reconstructed)
		6	Eastern Side Hall
		7	Lvzu Hall
		8	Northern Taoist Room of Eastern Taoist Yard
705-003	Yuzhen Palace	9	Screen Wall of the Gate to the Temple
		10	Gate to the Temple
		11	Eastern Palace Gate
		12	Western Palace Gate
705-004	Xiangfu Convent	13	Xiangfu Convent
705-005	Yuanhe Temple	14	Western Wing Room
		15	Southern Taoist Room
		16	Northern Taoist Room
		17	Western Side Hall
		18	Dragon & Tiger Hall
		19	Xuandi Hall
		20	Eastern Side Hall
		21	Screen Wall of the Dragon & Tiger Hall
705-006	Taishan Temple	22	Eastern Side Hall
		23	Western Side Hall
		24	Hall of the Patriarch
		25	Sacrificial Altar
		26	Arched Temple Gate
705-007	Yuxu Palace	27	Palace Wall
		28	Eastern Imperial Tablet Pavilion by Emperor Jiajing (east)

		29	Eastern Imperial Tablet Pavilion by Emperor Jiajing (west)
		30	Zhenguan Temple (west) (ruins)
		31	Zhenguan Temple (east) (ruins)
		32	Eastern and Western Defence Rooms (ruins)
		33	Donghua Gate
		34	Xihua Gate
		35	Imperial Tablet by Emperor Yongle (east)
		36	Imperial Tablet by Emperor Yongle (west)
		37	Middle Bridge
		38	Screen Wall of the Dragon & Tiger Hall
		39	Dragon & Tiger Hall
		40	Eastern Sacrificial Burning Stove
		41	Western Sacrificial Burning Stove
		42	Western Palace Gate
		43	Eastern Palace Gate
		44	Xuandi Hall
		45	Western Corridor and Room of the Xuandi Hall (ruins)
		46	Western Side Hall (ruins)
		47	Western Corridor and Room of the Worshipping Hall (ruins)
		48	Worshipping Hall (Shifang Hall) (ruins)
		49	Eastern Corridor and Room of the Worshipping Hall (ruins)
		50	Eastern Side Hall (ruins)
		51	Eastern Corridor and Room of the Xuandi Hall (ruins)
		52	Buildings on the east and west sides in front of the Parental Hall Ruins (Eastern Side Hall)
		53	Xiaoguan Hall
		54	Buildings on the east and west sides in front of the Parental Hall Ruins (Western Wing Room)
		55	Parental Hall
		56	Palace Gate
		57	Screen Wall of the Palace Gate

		58	Observatory
705-008	Huilong Temple	59	Xuandi Hall (ruins)
		60	Dragon & Tiger Hall (ruins)
		61	Wing Room (ruins)
		62	Western Taoist Room (ruins)
		63	Eastern Taoist Room (ruins)
		64	The Second Door
		65	Stone Arch Bridge (incomplete)
		66	The First Door (ruins)
705-009	Huixin Convent	67	Huixin Convent
705-010	Needle Grinding Well	68	Northern Wing Room
		69	Tri-Patriarchal Hall
		70	Laomu Tower
		71	Southern Wing Room (reconstructed)
705-011	God Guan Temple	72	God Guan Hall (incomplete)
		73	Temple Gate
705-012	Laojun Temple	74	Southern Side Hall (occupy)
		75	Dragon Tiger Hall (occupy)
		76	Northern Side Hall (occupy)
		77	Main Hall (incomplete)
		78	Baidou Platform (incomplete)
		79	Third Taoist Yard (incomplete)
705-013	Laojun Cave	80	Inscriptions on the Cliffs of the Laojun Cave (incomplete)
705-014	The Eight God Temple	81	Dragon & Tiger Hall
		82	Xuandi Hall
		83	Eastern Wing Room
		84	Western Wing Room
705-015	Yuxu Rock	85	The First Entry Gate (ruins)
		86	The Second Entry Gate (incomplete)
		87	The Third Entry Gate (incomplete)
		88	Main Hall (incomplete)
		89	Thunder-God Hall (ruins)

		90	Lady Chapel (ruins)
		91	Zhenguan Temple (ruins)
		92	Western Taoist Room (ruins)
		93	Dongdao Yard (ruins)
705-016	Fuzhen Temple	94	Sacrificial Altar
		95	Third Door
		96	Dragon & Tiger Hall
		97	Well
		98	East Tower of the Southern Wing Room
		99	Screen Wall of the Dragon & Tiger Hall
		100	West Tower of the Northern Wing Room
		101	Screen wall inscribed with the character of Fu, Lu and Shou
		102	Sacrificial Burning Stove
		103	Second Gate
		104	Western Room of the Northern Taoist Rooms
		105	Wuyun Building
		106	Eastern Room of the Northern Taoist Rooms
		107	Wardroom
		108	Scripture Library
		109	Scriptural Hall
		110	Prince Hall
		111	Main Hall
		112	Southern Sky Gate
		113	Fuzhen Bridge
		114	Northern Sky Gate
		115	Screen Wall of the Northern Sky Gate
		116	West Tower of the Southern Wing Room
		117	East Tower of the Northern Sky Gate
		118	Three-storey Tower (base site + reconstruction)
		119	Screen Wall Inscribed With the Character of Fu
		120	Wall Resembling the Winding Yellow River

705-017	Longquan Temple / Jianhe Bridge	121	Longquan Temple (base site + reconstruction)
		122	Screen Wall
		123	Jianhe Bridge
705-018	The God of Wealth Temple	124	Main Hall (ruins)
		125	Eastern and Western Side Halls (ruins)
		126	Bridge of the God of Wealth Temple (incomplete)
705-019	Prince Rock	127	Brick and Stone Hall of the Prince Rock
705-020	Zixiao Palace	128	Parental Hall
		129	Moon Pond
		130	Water Pond
		131	Sun Pond
		132	Yuji Pond
		133	Zixiao Palace
		134	Main Hall of the Eastern Palace
		135	Western Wing Room of the Eastern Palace
		136	Reversely-set Room of the Eastern Palace
		137	Eastern Wing Room of the Eastern Palace
		138	Yi-shaped Screen Wall
		139	Sacrificial Burning Stove
		140	Eastern Imperial Tablet Pavilion (reconstructed roof)
		141	Western Imperial Tablet Pavilion (reconstructed roof)
		142	Dragon & Tiger Hall
		143	Screen Wall of the Dragon & Tiger Hall
		144	Golden Water Bridge
		145	Gate to the Immortal Place of Purple Cloud
		146	Western Wing Room of the Western Taoist Yard
		147	Main Room of the Western Taoist Yard
		148	Western Wing Room of the Western Palace
		149	Eastern Wing Room of the Western Taoist Yard
		150	Reversely-set Room of the Western Palace
		151	Eastern Wing Room of the Western Palace
		152	Main Hall of the Western Palace

		153	Worshipping Hall (base site + reconstruction)
		154	Screen Wall of the Worshipping Hall
		155	Reversely-set Room of the Western Taoist Yard
705-021	Cave of the God of Thunder	156	Brick and Stone Hall
705-022	Nanyan Palace	157	Western Tablet Pavilion
		158	Dragon & Tiger Hall
		159	Sacrificial Burning Stove
		160	Eastern Tablet Pavilion
		161	East Gate to the Temple
		162	Sun Pond
		163	Eastern Wing Room (base site + reconstruction)
		164	Eastern Side Hall of the Xuandi Hall (base site + reconstruction)
		165	Xuandi Hall (base site + reconstruction)
		166	Western Side Hall (base site + reconstruction)
		167	Western Side Hall of the Xuandi Hall (base site + reconstruction)
		168	Gate of the Yard
		169	Eight-Diagram Pavilion
		170	Scriptural Hall
		171	Liangyi Hall
		172	Scripture Library
		173	Palace of the Supreme God of Tianyi
		174	Bed for the Prince
		175	Guqi Pavilion
		176	Southern Sky Gate
		177	Sacrificial Altar
705-023	Langmei Temple	178	Langmei Immortal Temple
705-024	Taishang Temple	179	Laojun Temple (base site + reconstruction)
		180	The God of Wealth Hall (base site + reconstruction)
		181	Gate to the Temple (base site + reconstruction)
		182	Screen Wall of the Taishang Temple (base site + reconstruction)
		183	The God of Wealth Hall (base site + reconstruction)

705-025	Feisheng Rock	184	Dresser (ruins)
		185	Stone Hall (incomplete)
705-026	Huanglong Cave	186	Huanglong Pavilion
705-027	Chaotian Palace	187	Xuandi Hall (base site + reconstruction)
		188	Gate to the Temple
705-028	Down Temple	189	Main Hall (ruins)
		190	Eastern Side Hall (ruins)
		191	Western Side Hall (ruins)
		192	Divine Mother's Temple (ruins)
705-029	Middle Temple	193	Tri-Patriarchal Hall
		194	Eastern Side Hall of the Tri-Patriarchal Hall
		195	Drum Tower
		196	Eastern Side Hall
		197	Eastern Wing Room
		198	Hall of the Patriarch
		199	Western Wing Room
		200	Dragon & Tiger Hall
		201	Western Side Hall
		202	Bell Tower
		203	Western Side Hall of the Tri-Patriarchal Hall
		204	Stone Hall
705-030	Up Temple	205	Ruins of the Up Temple (ruins)
705-031	Great Tower Manor	206	Great Tower Manor
705-032	Qingwei Palace	207	Main Hall (ruins)
		208	Dragon & Tiger Hall (ruins)
		209	Well (incomplete)
		210	Western Sacrificial Burning Stove (incomplete)
		211	Ruins of the Miaohua Rock (ruins)
705-033	Taihe Palace	212	The Ancient Bronze Hall
		213	Qianfang
		214	Yinfang
		215	Parental Hall

		216	Temple of the Magistrate and Veranda (base site + reconstruction)
		217	Eastern Sky Gate
		218	Western Sky Gate
		219	Pilgrimage Gate
		220	Sanguan Temple
		221	Sacrificial Burning Stove
		222	Scriptural Hall
		223	Worshipping Hall
		224	Drum Tower
		225	Baiting Pavilion
		226	Bell Tower
		227	Turn-for-Better-Luck Hall
		228	Northern Sky Gate
		229	Gate Tower of the Southern Sky Gate
		230	Southern Sky Gate Arched Door
		231	All Saints' Temple
		232	Walls of the Forbidden City
		233	Gold Hall
705-034	The First Sky Gate	234	The First Sky Gate
705-035	The Second and third Sky Gate	235	The Second Sky Gate
		236	The Third Sky Gate
705-036	Up Courtyard	237	Brick and Stone Hall
		238	Sacrificial Burning Stove (incomplete)
705-037	Middle Courtyard	239	Stone Hall
705-038	Down Courtyard	240	Main Hall (ruins)
705-039	Lingying Rock	241	Brick and Stone Hall
705-040	Lingxu Rock	242	Brick and Stone Hall
		243	Gate (incomplete)
705-041	Wulong Palace	244	Parental Hall (base site + reconstruction)
		245	Xuanwu Hall (base site + reconstruction)
		246	Northern Side Hall of the Xuandi Hall (ruins)

		247	Southern Wing Room of the Xuandi Hall (ruins)
		248	Southern Side Hall (ruins)
		249	Underground pond (incomplete)
		250	Well (incomplete)
		251	Tianchi Lake (incomplete)
		252	Dining Hall (ruins)
		253	Northern Side Hall (ruins)
		254	Taoist Yard Gate
		255	Wenchang Tower
		256	Warehouse (incomplete)
		257	Taoist Dormitory
		258	Screen Wall of the Southern Tablet Pavilion
		259	Sacrificial Burning Stove (incomplete)
		260	Screen Wall of the Wulong Palace (incomplete)
		261	Tomb of Li Suxi
		262	Small Gate to the Temple
		263	Screen Wall of the Northern Tablet Pavilion
		264	Northern Tablet Pavilion (incomplete)
		265	Southern Tablet Pavilion (incomplete)
		266	Northern Sky Gate (ruins)
		267	Screen Wall of the Northern Sky Gate (incomplete)
		268	Dragon & Tiger Hall (reconstruction)
		269	Screen Wall beside the Dragon & Tiger Hall (incomplete)
		270	Qisheng Hall (ruins)
		271	Wall Resembling the Winding Yellow River (incomplete)
705-042	Huayang Rock	272	Brick and Stone Hall
705-043	Yinxian Rock	273	Northwest Side Hall
		274	Northeast Side Hall
		275	Main Hall
		276	Southwest Side Hall
		277	Southeast Side Hall
		278	Sacrificial Burning Stove (incomplete)

705-044	Jiangjun Temple	279	Main Hall (ruins)
705-045	Renwei Temple	280	Front Gate to the Temple (incomplete)
		281	Back Gate to the Temple (incomplete)
		282	Screen Wall (ruins)
		283	Pufu Bridge (incomplete)
		284	Dragon & Tiger Hall (ruins)
		285	Main Hall (ruins)
		286	Western Side Hall (ruins)

Annex 9: Technical requirements for maps

Maps need to meet the following **requirements**:

- a) **Appropriate typology:** cadastral or topographic maps, according to the size of the property to display. Aerial or satellite view-based map can also be used on an exceptional basis, if no cadastral or topographic maps are available.
- b) **Base map:** the base map should be clear and must not be too rich in information. Regular cadastral or topographic features must be visible to clearly identify the context and the colours should not overshadow the main information i.e. the boundary lines of the property or the buffer zone, if relevant.
- c) **Clear delimitation of the property as inscribed:** display the boundary (not the location) of the World Heritage property. Please make sure the boundary refers to the property as inscribed. Any modification (minor or significant) to the boundaries of the property as inscribed should follow the procedure mentioned in paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.
- d) **For serial properties or large properties,** multiple maps (an atlas) may be necessary: an overall map to indicate the location of the component parts with their serial identification number, as well as maps at the largest scale available to allow clear identification of the boundaries of each component part.
- e) **Appropriate scale:** the scale should be adapted to the size of the property and should be at the largest available and practical scale to allow the identification of topographic elements such as neighbouring settlements, buildings and routes in order to allow the clear assessment of the potential impact of any proposed development within, adjacent to, or on the boundary line. Please note that the mere mention (e.g. "scale 1:10000") is not enough, a scale bar is needed.

For properties covering a substantial area, a set of maps following a grid pattern may be necessary (index-map, atlas, ...)

- f) **Boundary lines:** utmost care should be paid to the width of the boundary lines, as thick lines make the boundaries ambiguous. Boundary lines must be thin and legible. Colouring or hatching the zone of the property or of the buffer zone should be avoided. If deemed necessary, the colouring or hatching should be very light in order not to interfere with a clear reading and interpretation of the map.
- g) **Clearly labelled coordinate grid:** a map should present either a coordinate grid or coordinate ticks. The coordinate system (WGS84, UTM, etc.) must be indicated. A coordinate grid can be replaced, on an exceptional basis, by the indication of the coordinates of at least four points on the map.
- h) **Orientation:** the North must be indicated by compass rose, arrows, etc.
- i) **Legend:** the legend for the boundary lines must refer to the "boundary of the World Heritage property" and, if relevant, "buffer zone of the World Heritage property". Any other definition, such as "protected zone" or "Zone A, Zone B, Zone C" is inappropriate and can be confusing.
- j) **Language:** the title, the legend and toponyms of the map must be written in English or French;
- k) **Area in hectares:** the area in hectares of the inscribed property, and of its buffer zone (if relevant) should be indicated preferably in the legend. For serial properties, a table listing all the serial components (separate polygons), their areas in hectares and buffer zone(s) (if relevant), should also be provided.

Complementary maps may be submitted presenting additional information if considered necessary (such as: thematic maps, hydrographic maps, local urban planning maps, touristic maps, ...)

Please note that all the maps must be submitted by official letter, in two printed copies and an electronic version (.pdf format or .jpg).

The submission of GIS files (e.g. ESRI Shapefile, OGC GML, GeoJSON) is also welcome, if available.