

CHINA (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF)

Mount Huangshan

II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1990

Organisation Responsible for the Report

- The Administrative Committee of Mount Huangshan Scenic Beauty & Historic Interest Site, Shandong Province, 242 709 PRC

II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C ii N iii, iv

Statement of Significance

Huangshan is described as a “natural calligraphy museum” with inscriptions on precipices and tablets by poets from many different ages, and is considered an “inexhaustible source of material” for Chinese landscape painting.

- The natural value of the mountain includes spectacular granite peaks, hot springs, and a scenic ‘sea of cloud’.

Status of Site Boundaries

- The borders and buffer zone of the property are considered adequate.
- A conservation zone for the Huangshan Macaque has been established.

II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- The WH value is considered to have been maintained.
- An ever-increasing pressure is expected from domestic and foreign tourists.

II.4 Management

Administrative and Management Arrangements

- The property is managed under six relevant legal instruments which (presented table format) include: (i) the Constitution; (ii) criminal law; (iii) the ‘law of land use’; (iv) environmental protection law; (v) forestry law; and (vi) the (newly revised) ‘Regulations on the Management of Mt. Huangshan Scenic Beauty and Historic Interest Site’.

- Article 2 of the ‘Law on Land Use’ states that the site is subject to “ownership by the whole people”.
- Provincial and municipal governments co-ordinate all relations with neighbouring areas.
- The management plan was enacted in July 1987 and covers the protection of the land form, the scenic environment, native species, cultural heritage and controls new constructions.



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Present State of Conservation

- “Over recent years, a total of 7,500 sq m of different types of temporary constructions have been torn down and recovery measures of the ecological environment have been undertaken.”
- New garbage, sewerage, and energy-saving measures have been implemented.

Staffing and Training Needs

- 2,700 staff (281 managerial, 318 technical, 601 permanent & 1,500 temporary) are employed.
- Staffing level is considered adequate.
- Training needs are identified in such areas as resource protection, safety and art. There is also a stated desire to “invite professors from prestigious universities to give academic lectures or special seminars”.

Financial Situation

- Income generated from tickets is the main source of funding. No figures are supplied.
- Funding is considered sufficient for regular expenses.
- A “special annual fund” has been set up for the protection and management of the property.
- Bilateral assistance for technical research on water resources from Finland is acknowledged.
- * International Assistance from WHF as follows: (i) 1991, US\$13,412 Emergency Assistance; US\$5,000 Technical Co-operation for workshop; (ii) 1993, US\$20,000 Training workshop; (iii) 1998, US\$5,000 Promotional Assistance.

Access to IT

- Some 100 PCs with Internet access.
- No GIS capacity.

“An ever-increasing pressure is expected from domestic and foreign tourists.”

Visitor Management

- Between 1996-2001, the total number of visitors increased from 847,000 to 1.34 million people per annum (with some 50-70,000 foreign tourists).
- Facilities include hotels and guesthouses, museums, transportation, garbage and sewerage infrastructure.
- There is an identified need for a 'network information centre' with additional auxiliary equipment.
- A visitor management plan is being developed based on the tourism plan for neighbouring areas.

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

Threats and Risks

- Pine wood nematode pests,
- Storm damage to trees, landslides, and dams,
- Negligent acts by tourists (i.e. smoking, littering),
- Water shortages which increase fire hazards.

Counteractive Plans

- A 'Pine Wood Nematode Control' programme has invested about US\$ 150,000 for preventive measures, involving 100 people.
- US\$300,000 have been invested annually in a fire control system involving 300 persons.
- Both the "space-time distribution of tourists" and the construction of hotels is now strictly controlled.

II.6 Monitoring

Monitoring Arrangements

- Air monitoring of Mt. Huangshan is carried out on a weekly basis beside the hot springs. Environmental quality of surface water is monitored for 4 sites during high, normal, and low periods.
- 9 state technical standards & regulations are listed.
- In 1993, the site management built an 'Environmental Monitoring Station' with an investment of over 1 million Yuan (US\$ 121,000). There is a desire to move from manual to automatic monitoring.

Monitoring Indicators

- Air quality is monitored for SO₂, NO_x and Total Suspended Particles (TSP). Water quality is tested for PH, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, and other pollutants.
- Sewerage indicators cover: (i) suspended substances; (ii) 5-day biological oxygen demand; (iii) chemical oxygen demand; and (iv) ammonia nitrogen levels.

II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- By "upholding the principle of 'conservation first'", Huangshan considers that it has "become a model of heritage property protection and management in China and in Asia."
- Priorities for 2002-2010 include: (i) tourism control measures; (ii) construction planning; (iii) automatic monitoring using remote sensing technology.
- Support from the WHF may be required for control techniques for pine wood nematode; biological control for plant diseases; treatment of sewerage; and "automatic resource monitoring technology".

* State of Conservation Reports

1996 Ext Bureau WHC-CONF.203/3 The Bureau recalled the fact that in co-operation with UNEP's Bureau for Industry & Environment, and the Chinese Ministry of Environment, UNESCO had convened an international seminar in Mt. Huangshan in 1991. It was recognised that the seminar had alerted the Chinese authorities to the growing negative impacts of unregulated tourism development in the WH property. A training workshop for Chinese protected area managers was later held in Mt. Huangshan in November 1993 with assistance from the WHF. The workshop recommended: (i) the construction of a visitor centre; (ii) improvement in the disposal of waste generated by tourists; and (iii) introduction of ecological safeguards in the construction of visitor facilities. During a site visit in September 1996, DIR/WHC noted that the Chinese authorities had given serious consideration to the 1993 recommendations. The management of waste disposal had visibly improved, and the site's natural & aesthetic values had been maintained in an exemplary way. The site management authorities were also in the process of examining plans for a visitor centre, as well as limits on the construction of visitor facilities within the WH property.

1996 Committee WHC-CONF.201/7b The Committee commended the Chinese authorities for the positive steps undertaken in improving tourism management in Mt. Huangshan, and encouraged them to proceed with additional measures, such as the construction of a visitor centre, to effectively manage the large numbers of tourists visiting the WH property.

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* State of Conservation Reports (continued)

1998 Ext Bureau WHC-CONF.202/4 A September 1998 IUCN/WH Centre site mission found Mt. Huangshan's management of visitors and tourism development to be exemplary. However, the Bureau invited all concerned authorities of the State Party to: (a) establish a "one-way" walking route for visitors moving across and around peaks in order to further minimize congestion; (b) not permit the development of new hotels in the vicinity of popular scenic spots, including the Nine Dragon Peaks; (c) promote research on biodiversity of the site and communicate the findings to the visitors; and (d) take all necessary measures to combat the pine-wilt disease infesting the legendary Huangshan pines.

1998 Committee WHC-CONF.203/8rev The Committee commended the State Party for its effective management of visitors in Mt. Huangshan and invited all concerned authorities to give due consideration to the recommendations of the September 1998 IUCN/WH Centre field mission.