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## **Tusi Sites (People's Republic of China) No 1474**

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### **Official name as proposed by the State Party**

Tusi Sites

### **Location**

Hunan Province, Hubei Province and Guizhou Province

### **Brief description**

Distributed around the mountainous areas of south-west China are the remains of tribal domains whose leaders were appointed as rulers of their regions by the central government from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This 'Tusi' system of administrative government was aimed at unifying national administration while simultaneously allowing ethnic minorities to retain their customs and way of life. The three sites of Laosicheng, Tangya and the Hailongtun Fortress comprise the serial property representing this system of governance. Their combinations of local ethnic and central Chinese features exhibit an interchange of values and testify to imperial Chinese administrative methods, while retaining their association with the living cultural traditions of the ethnic minority groups.

### **Category of property**

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

## **1 Basic data**

### **Included in the Tentative List**

29 January 2013

### **International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination**

None

### **Date received by the World Heritage Centre**

27 January 2014

### **Background**

This is a new nomination.

### **Consultations**

ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management and several independent experts.

### **Technical Evaluation Mission**

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the site from 10 to 20 September 2014.

### **Additional information received by ICOMOS**

A letter was sent to the State Party on 21 August 2014 requesting clarification on how each component contributes to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property as a whole; a timetable for completion of the Conservation Master Plan for the Tangya component; and information on conservation measures at Hailongtun Fortress, protection within the buffer zone and visitor facilities. A second letter was sent to the State Party following the ICOMOS Panel meeting in December 2014 regarding conservation, management and implementation of the monitoring system and requesting further justification of criterion (vi) for the whole series. Additional information on protection, conservation and visitor facilities together with updated information on ownership and staff numbers was provided to the mission expert and received on 11 October 2014. Additional information in response to the mission including lists of intangible heritage items related to each site, archaeological work plans and Villagers' Agreements was provided on 18 October 2014. Additional information in response to ICOMOS' first letter was received on 27 October 2014. A response to ICOMOS' second letter was received on 21 February, 2015. The information has been incorporated below.

### **Date of ICOMOS approval of this report**

12 March 2015

## **2 The property**

### **Description**

Three sites are nominated from more than 100 sites of Tusi remains as representative of the Tusi system of administrative government in the mountainous region of south-west China from the 13<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These are Laosicheng Tusi Domain, Tangya Tusi Domain and Hailongtun Fortress, which together total 781.28ha. Each is surrounded by a buffer zone.

The administrative system adopted by the Yuan, Ming and Qing Empires appointed tribal leaders in the south-western cultural minority regions as hereditary rulers of their people called 'Tusi'. This allowed the local social structures to be retained, reinforcing the local chieftain's authority while tying the leadership to the central administration covering inheritance, tribute, taxation, education and other rights and obligations. The nominated series is comprised of the sites of official Tusi residences and buildings set up within the minorities' settlements and the remains of the settlements themselves, which continued to retain their traditional layout, local temples and sacrificial places, handcraft areas and local building styles. Their mountainous locations were difficult to access except by river travel.

### **Laosicheng**

This was the seat of the Peng family from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, who governed Xizhou Prefecture of mainly Tujia people. Representing the highest rank of the Tusi system,

governing a large territory, the residence and administrative area was appropriately large in scale. The property area is 534.24ha and is surrounded by a buffer zone of 1023.93ha. Located on a terraced hillside sloping down to the east bank of a bend in the Lingxi River, the settlement faces south-west across to the Luosiwan Hills. It comprises the walled official residential area and adjoining walled administration area including the extant Peng Ancestral Hall, with the market area lower down, close to the river bank. The local temple is on higher ground along the river to the north-east and the Zijinshan burial ground of the Peng family containing 29 Ming period tombs is along the river to the south, with the Yacaoping burial ground of the Tujia people further south again. The remaining Wenchang Pavilion and the Huangjing Hall of the Patriarch Temple complex represent the characteristics of the Diaojiao Lou as the local Tujia ethnic architectural style. Paving of streets and lanes features decorative geometric patterns similar to Tujia traditional brocade patterns and pebble paving between the tombs in the Zijinshan burial ground is worked with flower patterns typical of the Tujia people. On the other hand, administrative buildings exhibit the central government administrations' five-bay design layout and the extant memorial archway is in the official style of the central government. The Patriarch Temple complex buildings were wooden post and lintel structures as commonly used in Central China.

#### Tangya

This was the seat of the Qin family from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, who ruled the south-western region of Shizhou Prefecture, where Tujia people were the major ethnic group. Representing a Tusi rank several grades lower than at Laosicheng, Tangya's administrative centre is of corresponding smaller scale. The property area is 86.62ha and is surrounded by a buffer zone of 973.61ha. This site is located on a natural triangular terrace surrounded on three sides by rivers and backed by hills to the north and west. The settlement is surrounded by the remains of walls with nine gates. Remains of the Zhangwang and Yuhuang temples and six tombs as well as garden remains are located outside the walls on higher ground to the north-west. Another six tombs are located in the forest to the west and south. Building remains within the walls follow a street and drainage system on the terraced hillside sloping down to the Tangya River on the east. The excavated areas of the administration area include the Guanyan Hall and Da Yamen (main government office) while the memorial archway is the only standing element. As at Laosicheng, this is an official-style structure and carries Central Chinese decorative themes but the frieze portraying the Tusi's tour of inspection displays local Tujia motifs. The settlement contains remains of barracks buildings, an execution stand, and at the Zhangwang Temple site stone statues of soldiers and horses on a platform commemorate a famous general. These are protected by a pavilion erected in 1983. There are also remains of 17 wells, quarries and artefacts which testify to a stone carving industry and fragments of ceramics and porcelain.

#### Hailongtun Fortress

This was the seat of the Yang family from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and became a dedicated mountain defensive fortification of Bozhou Prefecture of Sichuan rebuilt in 1595-1600. Like Laosicheng, Hailongtun represents the highest rank of the Tusi system and the administrative area is correspondingly large. Located at the strategic junction of Sichuan, Guizhou and Huguang the site was both a military and administrative centre where Gelao and Miao people were the major ethnic groups. It has a property area of 160.42ha and is surrounded by a buffer zone of 1288.21ha. The stone fortress is spectacularly located on a mountain surrounded by ravines with an extensive walled defensive system including elaborate gateways, watchtowers and barbicans still standing. The stone gateways followed the design of those in central China but the window with perforated diamond pattern in the Feilong gate reflects local decorative patterns. The remains of the walled Xinwanggong official residence and temple, the Laowanggong official residence, administrative buildings, wells quarry and kiln remains, barracks and drilling ground all accessed by stone-paved paths and steps are located on the flat top of the hill. Recovered artefacts include decorated ceramic roof tiles, porcelain and ceramics, some marked with imperial motifs, and inscribed stele. Documentary records mention the copper drums captured by the Ming army which were important in the culture of the Gelao people.

#### History and development

The Tusi system derived from earlier systems of ethnic minority government by dynasties going back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE which were increasingly standardized over time. The title 'Tusi' appeared for the first time in the Ming period. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Tusi were replaced by administrative bodies of Central China under the Gaitu Guiliu policy in many areas and the system ceased with the end of the feudal period in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Laosicheng retained the system until the administrative seat was relocated to Kesha Domain in 1724 and the site was abandoned. The Patriarch Temple complex was repaired and maintained by government authorities from 1960 and it and the Zijinshan burial ground were designated as Provincial Protected Heritage Sites by the People's Government of Hunan Province in 1983. The whole Laosicheng Tusi Domain was designated as a National Cultural Heritage Site in 2001.

With the enforcement of the Gaitu Guiliu policy the Tangya Tusi presented the domain to the central government in 1735. At that time, the administration moved to Xianfeng and the site was abandoned. In 1978 the domain was registered as immovable cultural heritage by Xianfeng County; in 1992 it was designated a Provincial Protected Cultural Heritage Site by Hubei Province and in 2006 it was designated as a National Cultural Heritage Site.

Following defeat in a battle against the Ming emperor in 1600, Hailongtun was surrendered in 1601. Officials of the Ming dynasty subsequently built the Haichao Temple. The

extant building remains in the centre of the Xinwanggong official residence date from 1929. In 1982 the fortress was designated a Provincial Protected Cultural Heritage Site by Guizhou Province and in 2001 it was designated as a National Cultural Heritage Site.

### 3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

#### Comparative analysis

The sites that comprise the series have been selected from 101 identified sites of Tusi domains in South-west China on the basis of their protected status, and the nature, pattern, scale and value of the remains as the most representative of the Tusi system. A detailed comparative table of these has been provided in the nomination dossier, as well as a comparative evaluation table of those protected at national or provincial levels.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analyses demonstrate that the selected sites complement each other in terms of the different aspects of the Tusi system. As confirmed by the additional information provided by the State Party, the selected sites share common attributes such as a central administration area on the imperial model surrounded by topographically arranged local habitation, with its cultural and religious features. The selected sites also carry some site-specific elements including that: the size of the administrative areas corresponds to the highest Tusi rank at Laosicheng and Hailongtun and to the lowest but one at Tangya; each site contains different expressions of the relevant local decorative traditions and motifs; burial traditions are attested at Laosicheng and Tangya; mountain fortification and military aspects are demonstrated at Hailongtun and to a lesser extent at Tangya; ethnic communities still reside within the property at Laosicheng and still practise their cultural traditions there.

The property has been compared by the State Party with the World Heritage listed properties of Chief Roi Mata's Domain in Vanuatu (2008, (iii), (v) & (vi)) and Sukur Cultural Landscape in Nigeria (1999, (iii), (v) & (vi)), which are not considered particularly relevant by ICOMOS. It was concluded that these are clearly different in terms of attributes and values. It has also been compared with a number of other administrative centres ruled by minorities of a unified multi-ethnic country including the Inca Empire's Curaca system, which lacks physical remains; the Roman Empire's appointment of local governors at various sites, which do not reflect an inheritance of minority cultural diversity; and, the Russian Empires of the Kievan Rus and Tsarist Russia, the duchies and vassal states of which do not demonstrate an evident central administration but rather exhibit dominant local ethnic features.

ICOMOS notes that Qhapaq Ñan (2014, (ii), (iii), (iv) & (vi)), the transboundary Andean Road System of the Inca empire that includes Bolivia, Argentina, Chile,

Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru illustrates similar accommodations as the Chinese with local and regional tribal and state level societies and incorporated them into their network of roadways, trading settlements, and administrative nodes. The ancient Inca Tambu located along the roadway incorporated an Inca administrative plan with local and regional cultural flavour. ICOMOS also considers that the Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu in Japan (1999, (ii), (iii) & (iv)) has some commonalities with the Tusi sites. However ICOMOS considers that the physical remains of the three Tusi administrative centres with their mountainous landscape among otherwise dispersed highland villages express a distinctively Chinese administrative and socio-political system for interacting with ethnic minorities and preserving cultural diversity in peripheral zones which cannot be constructively compared with other sites having broadly similar values.

The property has also been compared with others inscribed on the World Heritage List that are associated with cultural minorities in South-west China, including the Old Town of Lijiang (1997, (ii), (iv) & (v)); the Cultural landscape of Honghe Hani Rice Terraces (2013, (iii) & (v)); and on the Tentative List including the Dong Villages; Diaolou Buildings and Villages for Tibetan and Qiang Ethnic Groups; Miao Nationality Villages in South-east Guizhou Province; Ancient Tea Plantations of Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er. The State Party concludes that the physical remains of these properties reflect primarily the production and living conditions of the ethnic groups and do not reflect the administrative strategy of the Tusi system.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated sites differ from the others in China in that they contain extensive remains of the central administrative buildings and official residences. In terms of the proposed justification of Outstanding Universal Value, it is the ability to demonstrate the centralised system of governance that is important. Thus ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies the selection of these sites.

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

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#### Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

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

- It is a representative series of sites representing the exchange of human values between national identity as expressed by the central government, and local ethnic cultural minorities;
- The sites represent Chinese administrative strategy from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century;

- The sites are associated with typical living customs and cultural traditions of the ethnic groups of Southwest China.

The serial approach enables a representative selection of attributes of potential Outstanding Universal Value to demonstrate a fusion of regional ethnic traditions with Central Chinese forms and patterns within the rugged mountainous landscape of southwest China.

ICOMOS considers that this justification is appropriate because the physical remains of the three sites combine to demonstrate the Chinese Imperial government's system of management of minorities over several centuries through the formal, symmetrical layout and imperial architectural style of the Tusi's domain and administrative buildings, while at the same time retaining the character of the dispersed village life ways of the Tujia and Miao peoples as exemplified in the adaptation of the ethnic settlements to the topography of the area, and the locations and architectural features of temples. The incorporation of local ethnic decorative patterns and motifs into the paving of streets and roads at Laosicheng, in the Tusi's frieze on the memorial gateway at Tangya and in the fortified Feilong gateway at Hailongtun are specific examples of the influence of the local minorities on decorative treatment. The Tusi system of government is well documented in historical records and genealogies as well as in the poems, legends and customs of the extant Tujia, Gelao and Miao Ethnic Peoples. The traditional cultures and cultural practices of these ethnic minorities are still present in the region of the Tusi sites and form a backdrop of traditional culture. Tujia dances and ceremonies are still performed at Laosicheng.

### **Integrity and authenticity**

#### **Integrity**

According to the State Party, the three sites were selected to bring together a series of attributes to illustrate criteria (ii), (iii) and (vi). The State Party considers that each site is needed in order to include all elements necessary to express the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS notes that at both Laosicheng and Tangya later layers of habitation and agriculture have occurred over the Tusi period remains; a modern concrete stairway leads to the Patriarch Temple at Laosicheng; and at Tangya the modern road runs over historic street pavements. Power transmission/communications towers have a visual impact on all three sites. At both Laosicheng and Tangya the tombs have been raided in the historic past, removing original relics. Structures at Hailongtun are overgrown with vegetation in many places, making it difficult to discern different periods of construction and allowing walls to decay. At all three sites pre-Tusi and post-Tusi remains could be more clearly identified.

ICOMOS considers that the integrity of Laosicheng is high, although the Left Street group (Laosicheng Village) within the property overlays the Tusi period habitation, and it is not clear to what extent this impacts on the below ground remains. At Tangya the limited extant remains and relatively early stages of archaeological excavation (compared with the other two sites), together with the present state of the remains and the coverage of almost all the Tusi period courtyard housing by later layers of fields and dwellings, as well as later additions/alterations like the street paving, compromise the integrity as compared with Laosicheng and Hailongtun. However some elements of Tangya, particularly the intact Memorial Archway and the remains of the excavated remains of the administration area, have good integrity and are key to the justification of criteria (ii) and (iii). Hailongtun has the most extensive extant remains but they are in a poor state of conservation.

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ICOMOS considers that the nominated serial property contains elements of good integrity necessary to demonstrate the proposed values; and that the integrity of Laosicheng and Hailongtun is demonstrated (particularly for Laosicheng), but is less well demonstrated for the Tangya component.

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#### **Authenticity**

ICOMOS considers that overall the authenticity of material remains at the three nominated sites in terms of function, form and layout, materials and style of construction, location and setting is retained, although vulnerable due to the variable state of conservation of some of the elements of the property. ICOMOS considers that authenticity of spirit and traditions is high in Laosicheng due to the presence of Tujia ethnic minority groups in the property area.

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ICOMOS considers that the authenticity of the whole series and that of the individual sites that comprise the series, has been demonstrated.

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In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity are less well demonstrated for the Tangya component, but are demonstrated for the series overall, given that the key elements of Tangya have good integrity. Conditions of authenticity of the whole series and for the individual components have been justified, although vulnerable due to the variable state of conservation of some of the elements.

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#### **Criteria under which inscription is proposed**

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

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

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that Tusi sites clearly exhibit the interchange of human values between local ethnic cultures of Southwest China, and national identity expressed through the structures of the central government.

ICOMOS considers that the sites convey a sense of their use and function in these remote settings far from the core of dynastic administration, reflecting the interchange between the cultures represented by the central government and the tribal villages.

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ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been demonstrated.

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

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the sites bear a unique testimony to the cultural traditions of central China in administering the culturally diverse regions of Southwest China through the Tusi system of governance that allowed retention of local cultural traditions while incorporating them into national administration systems.

ICOMOS considers that the sites are evidence of the Tusi system of governance in the South-western region of China and thus bear exceptional testimony to this form of governance, which derived from earlier systems of ethnic minority administration in China, and to the Chinese civilisation in the Yuan and Ming periods.

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ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been demonstrated.

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Criterion (vi): *be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the sites are directly associated with the typical living customs and cultural traditions that are still alive amongst the ethnic groups in Southwest China, due to the Tusi system.

ICOMOS notes that the Tujia and Miao peoples retain their traditional culture and social and economic integrity within the former Tusi regions, although apparently only the Tujia at Laosicheng still use the site for performances and ceremonies. The continuity of these cultures is attributed in part to the policies of the former Tusi system. ICOMOS also notes the lists of performances, crafts and ceremonies associated with each site in the additional information provided by the State Party in response to the mission. The links can be discerned today at Laosicheng as documented in the report provided to the mission "Laosicheng and Surrounding Villages Investigation and Survey Report" commissioned by the Western Hunan Autonomous

Prefecture Cultural Heritage Administration and Yongshun County Cultural Heritage Administration (2013).

In response to ICOMOS' query regarding the direct association of all nominated component properties with events or living traditions, the State Party has provided additional information on the rituals associated with "chief worship" at Laosicheng and Tangya, but notes that due to the nature and history of Hailongtun as a fortress, rituals were not continued at the site, although they do continue in the surrounding area.

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ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been demonstrated at Laosicheng and Tangya.

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ICOMOS considers that the serial approach is justified and ICOMOS considers that the selection of sites is appropriate.

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In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that criteria (ii) and (iii) have been justified for the series but criterion (vi) has not been demonstrated for the whole series. Conditions of authenticity and integrity have been met for the whole series, but conditions of integrity are less well met at Tangya.

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#### **Description of the attributes**

ICOMOS considers that the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value are the archaeological sites and standing remains of Laosicheng Tusi Domain and Hailongtun Fortress, being domains of highest ranking Tusi that display values of the Tusi system and philosophy of governance; the Memorial Archway and remains of the Administration Area, boundary walls, drainage ditches and tombs at Tangya Tusi Domain, representing the domain of a lower ranked Tusi together with the cultural traditions and practices of the Tujia communities of Laosicheng.

#### **4 Factors affecting the property**

Being located in remote mountain areas and containing only a small number of inhabitants, the nominated component properties are not considered to be under development pressure from large scale urban development. Environmental pressure is considered negligible. Natural disasters such as earthquakes and landslides are considered rare; major risks are from storms, flash floods and forest fire. Most parts of the property are not open to visitors and visitor pressure is currently negligible, although this could become a significant pressure following World Heritage listing if visitor levels and the development of tourism infrastructure were to increase. ICOMOS notes that in all three property components there are sections of masonry walls shrouded with thick vegetation; in some cases trees have taken root in the masonry.

### Laosicheng

There are 6 villages with 502 inhabitants within the property and 333 inhabitants in the buffer zone. The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) controls construction of dwelling houses, village development and visitor facilities. Flood control measures and contingency plans are in place to mitigate flood disaster. Fire prevention and contingency plans are in place. A visitor carrying capacity study has been undertaken. ICOMOS notes that some village houses within the property date from the Qing dynasty (late 19<sup>th</sup> century) and in some cases are located over areas of archaeological potential. Laosicheng Village, built over Tusi period remains in the centre of the property is recognised at the provincial level as a Historic Village. Cultivation over the remains of the market area is being addressed by control of plant species to types with limited root depth and no extension of the current area is permitted. The issues of building/cultivation over areas of archaeological potential are addressed in the CMP. The telecommunications tower opposite the Zijinshan Temple impacts visually on the property. At present artefacts from the site are displayed in a museum 45 minutes drive away in Yongshun but they will be exhibited in the new visitor centre currently being constructed across the river from the main site but still within the property boundary.

### Tangya Tusi Domain

There are 305 inhabitants within the property and 9,853 in the buffer zone. Planning policies are in place to control development of Jianshan Town (north) and the three villages within the buffer zone, as well as agricultural production and activities including environment pollution controls. The property has good drainage and is not considered to be subject to flood. Contingency plans are in place. A visitor carrying capacity study is being undertaken and a presentation strategy is being developed. ICOMOS notes that the terraced plantations within the property are built over areas of archaeological potential and in some cases over building foundations. The site management office and visitor facilities including a small site museum are provided in traditional buildings within the property, some of which have been built over the remains of earlier courtyard houses. The additional information provided by the State Party indicates a new visitor centre and exhibition building are planned within the buffer zone. Modern residential buildings and transmission towers in the buffer zone impact visually on the property.

### Hailongtun Tusi Fortress

The property component is remote, accommodates 143 inhabitants and is not under development pressure. However there are three villages containing an agricultural population of approximately 1394 in the buffer zone. Houses date from the 1950s. Restrictions on location, scale and appearance of new dwelling development and controls on use of agricultural land are in place. Storms and floods are the main hazards. Warning systems have been installed, rock faces consolidated and counter-disaster contingency plans are in place. A visitor carrying capacity study has been undertaken and new visitor facilities and a site management office have been

constructed in the buffer zone. ICOMOS notes that vacated timber houses have been re-used to accommodate tourist facilities, a museum on ethnic culture and archaeological work station as well as accommodation for researchers. High tension power transmission lines have a visual impact on the site.

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ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are erosion impacts of heavy rainfall. Tourism could also be a factor if visitor levels and the development of tourism infrastructure were to increase following World Heritage listing.

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## 5 Protection, conservation and management

### Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

Property component boundaries follow natural topographical lines including hills, rivers and streams and are physically marked on the ground. In response to ICOMOS' request, revised maps have been provided by the State Party showing the names of the individual peaks/ hills marking the ridgeline. Buffer zone boundaries pick up the peaks of surrounding hills/ mountains in order to enclose the contiguous landscapes of each component and follow natural topographical lines such as hills, rivers and streams where appropriate, and are marked on the ground. The south-west boundary of Tangya Tusi Domain's buffer zone coincides with Zhaojiahe Tourism Road. Property and buffer zone boundaries of Tangya Tusi Domain and Hailongtun Fortress coincide with the protection boundaries defined for the sites as State protected Cultural Heritage Sites. Laosicheng's boundaries coincide with protection boundaries defined in the Conservation Plan for Laosicheng Site, Yongshun County, Hunan Province.

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ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are adequate.

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### Ownership

According to new information provided to the mission expert, the nominated property components Tangya Tusi Domain and Hailongtun Fortress are now completely owned by the State. At Laosicheng Tusi Domain, around 12% is owned by the State, the remainder is in Collective ownership.

### Protection

The nominated property components are designated as State Priority Protected Cultural Heritage Sites under the Law on the Protection for Cultural Relics 1982, amended 2007. They are also protected under relevant provincial legislation. Laosicheng and Tangya Tusi sites are within designated National/Provincial Scenic Areas and protected by the Regulations on Scenic Areas 2006. On inclusion in China's Tentative List in 2006 they became subject to additional administrative protective measures relating to China's World Heritage Sites. The buffer zones

are protected in accordance with regulations relating to the Protected Area and Construction Control Zone of State Priority Protected Cultural Heritage Sites.

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ICOMOS considers that the legal protection is adequate. ICOMOS considers that the protective measures for the property are adequate.

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### **Conservation**

Inventories prepared for the purpose of assessing and monitoring the state of conservation of the three properties have been provided in the Conservation and Management Plans attached to the nomination dossier as Annex II. Records of research, surveys and archaeological investigations are listed in the nomination dossier. ICOMOS notes that archive centres have been established at all three sites which contain a digitised catalogue of published archaeological reports and inventories of artefacts discovered during excavations. Original manuscripts of County Annals or family genealogies are kept at the county archives. Digital photo archives are kept at the respective Institutes of archaeology working at the three properties.

According to the State Party the sites are well-maintained and conserved. Conservation Master Plans have been approved by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) for Laosicheng and Hailongtun and one has been submitted to SACH for Tangya. ICOMOS notes that while many elements of the sites are in good or moderate condition, there are also some elements at each site in poor condition including the Dezheng Stele platform at Laosicheng; wall section remains, the Memorial Archway and Tomb M9 at Tangya; and several passes/gates at Hailongtun. Proposed interventions at the sites include some practices such as the use of cement mortar which need to be technically evaluated. Active conservation works at Laosicheng include stabilisation of the Dezheng Stele platform with a temporary buttress; backfilling and covering of archaeological areas; cleaning and grouting of walls and timber and roof repairs to the Patriarch Temple. At Tangya the Memorial Arch is being monitored following insertion of a metal tie to prevent movement, and buttresses have been provided to prevent collapse of the terrace boundary walls of the Administrative Area. At Hailongtun metal scaffolding has been inserted at the Erdao Pass to prevent collapse and repair work is scheduled to start later this year. Archaeological investigation is continuing at each site.

In response to ICOMOS' second letter regarding the need for conservation work plans detailing methods and materials for each component property, the State Party has provided satisfactory additional information.

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ICOMOS considers that the state of conservation is variable and potentially vulnerable, but considers that appropriate measures are now being taken to conserve the value of the property.

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### **Management**

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

Management of the three sites is co-ordinated at the provincial level under the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) by a steering group created by the Joint Agreement Concerning Protection and Management of Tusi Sites. This comprises representatives of Hunan, Hubei and Guizhou Provinces in which the component properties are located. Management offices at each of the sites relate through their relevant county administration and People's Government and Autonomous Prefectures to the People's Government of their relevant provincial administrations. The Steering Group is led by the Cultural Heritage Bureau of Hunan Province to establish common standards for management of the sites including joint research projects, meetings and training courses for staff. Staff numbers given below are the updated figures provided to the mission.

Laosicheng site management office has access to county departments including Cultural Relics, Water Resources, Meteorology, Land and Resources, Tourism, and Forestry personnel for monitoring and other assistance and employs 28 staff responsible for exhibitions, archives, cultural relics protection and maintenance together with 2 invited experts for professional guidance on archaeology and conservation. In addition 160 villagers are employed to participate in site works including road, visitor and river cleaners; security staff, antiquities guards, forest protectors, 75 in the cultural and art group and 35 boatmen.

Tangya site management office has access to county department personnel as required for monitoring and other assistance and employs 11 staff responsible for conservation, exhibitions and presentation, monitoring, and security. In addition 19 local residents are employed as guides, security guards, and cleaners.

The site management office for Hailongtun Fortress has access to county and provincial department staff as required for monitoring and other assistance and has 20 staff in 5 sections: protection and management (4); exhibitions (4); monitoring (3), museum (4) and administration (5). In addition 148 local villagers are employed as interpreters, routine inspectors, and cleaners.

According to the Comprehensive Management Assessments in the Conservation and Management Plans for the three properties, staff training and professional capacity could be improved.

ICOMOS considers that given the large scale of the three sites, regular monitoring and maintenance would appear to be challenging. Monitoring relies heavily on cameras installed across the three sites.

Funds are provided through annual appropriations of national and local governments to the Conservation and Management Fund of the Tusi Sites. This is considered to meet basic requirements for heritage management and protection. ICOMOS notes that the funds are spread across many areas including requisition of land, relocation of residents as part of tourism proposals, surveying, and archaeological excavations and it is not clear how much is available for the implementation of conservation works. ICOMOS considers that the relocation of inhabitants is not necessary to sustain the conservation of the property.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

Master Plans, Land Use Plans and Tourism Plans exist for the cities/counties in which the nominated properties are located and relate to protection and management of the sites with a focus on potential tourism. ICOMOS notes that the Mengdong River National Scenic Area Tourism Plan for Laosicheng aims to project Tujia culture and the Tusi system and proposes relocation of the remaining residents out of the property area, at the same time proposing a new tourism village. At Tangya, the Tourism Master Plan for Xianfeng County proposes a "Tangya Tusi Domain Folk Cultural Tourism Zone" connected to Jianshan town by a bridge and rebuilding the two gardens located within the property area. ICOMOS considers that these tourism plans need to be considered by the overall Steering Group in terms of the conservation and management measures needed to retain Outstanding Universal Value. Additional information provided by the State Party in response to ICOMOS' second letter sets out the process for tourism development at the component properties but did not specifically address how this would retain Outstanding Universal Value.

Conservation and Management Plans have been prepared for each of the sites for the period 2013-2030 using essentially the same model for each in terms of content structure. They include visitor management and presentation and monitoring of factors relating to natural disasters.

Currently only Hailongtun is open to the general public. It has a visitors' route guided by signs and maps. Laosicheng is open to small groups for special purposes. Tangya Tusi Site is not yet open to the public. At all sites it is proposed that visitors will arrive at the visitor centres from where they will be taken to the site by golf carts. They will then follow marked visitor routes with timber viewing platforms provided over fragile remains. Detailed plans showing tourism arrangements at each property component have been included in the additional information provided by the State Party. ICOMOS notes that Hailongtun, having very steep access, could be considered dangerous in wet weather. There is also a risk to the remains of tourists climbing over partially collapsed and structurally unstable passes or boundary walls at Hailongtun and at Tangya for the lower boundary wall remains and tombs in the forested area.

The State Party has provided a statement regarding measures to be taken to deal with this issue.

Involvement of the local communities

The Management Plans for the properties require involvement of local communities and a considerable number are employed by the local site management offices in maintaining the sites

ICOMOS considers that management of the sites has not yet reached the level projected in the CMPs. However it appears to be reasonably effective at present given that Laosicheng and Tangya are yet to be opened to the public.

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ICOMOS considers that the management system for the serial property is adequate; however, the management system and plans should be strengthened to ensure overall control of tourism projects to ensure retention of Outstanding Universal Value.

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## 6 Monitoring

Monitoring systems are set out in the Management Plans in accordance with the joint provincial agreement. These cover indicators, periodicity and responsible agency. ICOMOS notes that a monitoring system using security cameras is in place at all sites which is providing high quality baseline data on both the archaeological and standing remains, although the presence of extensive vegetation cover on some standing structures must inhibit this. According to the Comprehensive Management Assessments in the Conservation and Management Plans, the system is not yet fully implemented. In response to ICOMOS' query, the State Party provided further detailed information on the monitoring system and how it will be implemented.

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ICOMOS considers that the monitoring system will be adequate when it is fully implemented.

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## 7 Conclusions

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this serial property for the World Heritage List. ICOMOS considers that criteria (ii) & (iii) have been justified for the series but criterion (vi) has not been justified for the whole series. Conditions of integrity have been met for Laosicheng Tusi Domain and Hailongtun Fortress and for key elements of Tangya Tusi Domain. Conditions of authenticity have been met for the whole series. ICOMOS considers that the whole series is required in order to fully express the Tusi system.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are erosion impacts of heavy rainfall. The boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are adequate. ICOMOS considers that the legal protection is



adequate and protective measures for the property are adequate. ICOMOS considers that the state of conservation is variable and potentially vulnerable, but that measures now being taken are appropriate. Management appears to be reasonably effective at present given that Laosicheng and Tangya are yet to be opened to the public but has not yet reached the level projected in the Conservation and Management Plans. The property could be very vulnerable to visitor pressure and development associated with tourism infrastructure following World Heritage listing. The monitoring system will be adequate when it is fully implemented.

## 8 Recommendations

### Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that Tusi Sites, People's Republic of China, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iii)**.

### Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

#### Brief synthesis

Distributed around the mountainous areas of south-west China are the remains of tribal domains whose leaders were appointed by the central government as 'Tusi', hereditary rulers of their regions from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This system of administrative government was aimed at unifying national administration while simultaneously allowing ethnic minorities to retain their customs and way of life. The three sites of Laosicheng, Tangya and the Hailongtun Fortress combine as a serial property to represent this system of governance. The archaeological sites and standing remains of Laosicheng Tusi Domain and Hailongtun Fortress represent domains of highest ranking Tusi; the Memorial Archway and remains of the Administration Area, boundary walls, drainage ditches and tombs at Tangya Tusi Domain represent the domain of a lower ranked Tusi. Their combinations of local ethnic and central Chinese features exhibit an interchange of values and testify to imperial Chinese administrative methods, while retaining their association with the living cultural traditions of the ethnic minority groups represented by the cultural traditions and practices of the Tujia communities at Laosicheng.

**Criterion (ii):** Tusi sites of Laosicheng, Tangya and the Hailongtun Fortress clearly exhibit the interchange of human values between local ethnic cultures of Southwest China, and national identity expressed through the structures of the central government.

**Criterion (iii):** The sites of Laosicheng, Tangya and the Hailongtun Fortress are evidence of the Tusi system of governance in the South-western region of China and thus bear exceptional testimony to this form of governance which derived from earlier systems of ethnic minority administration in China, and to the Chinese civilisation in the Yuan and Ming periods.

#### Integrity

The property contains all elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value and is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance. Later layers of occupation overlay parts of the Tusi period remains at Laosicheng and Hailongtun but there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value. Parts of the property at Hailongtun and Tangya are vulnerable to vegetation growth. The property is vulnerable to erosion impacts of heavy rainfall, and could become vulnerable to pressure due to visitor numbers and the development of tourism infrastructure.

#### Authenticity

The authenticity of material remains at the three nominated sites in terms of function, form and layout, materials and style of construction, location and setting is retained. ICOMOS considers that authenticity of spirit and traditions is high in Laosicheng due to the presence of Tujia ethnic minority groups in the property area.

#### Management and protection requirements

The property components are designated as State Priority Protected Cultural Heritage Sites under the Law on the Protection for Cultural Relics 1982, amended 2007. They are also protected under relevant provincial legislation. Laosicheng and Tangya Tusi sites are within designated National/Provincial Scenic Areas and protected by the Regulations on Scenic Areas 2006. The buffer zones are protected in accordance with regulations relating to the Protected Area and Construction Control Zone of State Priority Protected Cultural Heritage Sites.

Management of the three sites is co-ordinated at the provincial level under the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) by a steering group created by the Joint Agreement Concerning Protection and Management of Tusi Sites. This comprises representatives of Hunan, Hubei and Guizhou Provinces in which the component properties are located. Management offices at each of the sites relate through their relevant county administration and People's Government and Autonomous Prefectures to the People's Government of their relevant provincial administrations. The Steering Group is led by the Cultural Heritage Bureau of Hunan Province to establish common standards for management of the sites including joint research projects, meetings and training courses for staff.

Conservation and Management Plans have been prepared for each of the sites for the period 2013-2030 including visitor management and presentation and monitoring of factors relating to natural disasters. The management system and plans will be strengthened to ensure overall control of tourism projects directed at retention of Outstanding Universal Value.

**Additional recommendations**

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

- Strengthening the management system and plans so as to ensure overall control of tourism projects directed at retention of Outstanding Universal Value;
- Fully implementing the monitoring system.



Map showing the location of the nominated properties



The Site of Tangya Tusi Domain



The Domain and Lingxi River



Chaotian Pass



Exterior of Tomb M1



Aerial View of Xinwanggong Remains



Excavated Tomb of Zijinshan Burial Ground

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## **Tusi Sites (People's Republic of China) No 1474**

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### **Official name as proposed by the State Party**

Tusi Sites

### **Location**

Hunan Province, Hubei Province and Guizhou Province

### **Brief description**

Distributed around the mountainous areas of south-west China are the remains of tribal domains whose leaders were appointed as rulers of their regions by the central government from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This 'Tusi' system of administrative government was aimed at unifying national administration while simultaneously allowing ethnic minorities to retain their customs and way of life. The three sites of Laosicheng, Tangya and the Hailongtun Fortress comprise the serial property representing this system of governance. Their combinations of local ethnic and central Chinese features exhibit an interchange of values and testify to imperial Chinese administrative methods, while retaining their association with the living cultural traditions of the ethnic minority groups.

### **Category of property**

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

## **1 Basic data**

### **Included in the Tentative List**

29 January 2013

### **International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination**

None

### **Date received by the World Heritage Centre**

27 January 2014

### **Background**

This is a new nomination.

### **Consultations**

ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management and several independent experts.

### **Technical Evaluation Mission**

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the site from 10 to 20 September 2014.

### **Additional information received by ICOMOS**

A letter was sent to the State Party on 21 August 2014 requesting clarification on how each component contributes to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property as a whole; a timetable for completion of the Conservation Master Plan for the Tangya component; and information on conservation measures at Hailongtun Fortress, protection within the buffer zone and visitor facilities. A second letter was sent to the State Party following the ICOMOS Panel meeting in December 2014 regarding conservation, management and implementation of the monitoring system and requesting further justification of criterion (vi) for the whole series. Additional information on protection, conservation and visitor facilities together with updated information on ownership and staff numbers was provided to the mission expert and received on 11 October 2014. Additional information in response to the mission including lists of intangible heritage items related to each site, archaeological work plans and Villagers' Agreements was provided on 18 October 2014. Additional information in response to ICOMOS' first letter was received on 27 October 2014. A response to ICOMOS' second letter was received on 21 February, 2015. The information has been incorporated below.

### **Date of ICOMOS approval of this report**

12 March 2015

## **2 The property**

### **Description**

Three sites are nominated from more than 100 sites of Tusi remains as representative of the Tusi system of administrative government in the mountainous region of south-west China from the 13<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These are Laosicheng Tusi Domain, Tangya Tusi Domain and Hailongtun Fortress, which together total 781.28ha. Each is surrounded by a buffer zone.

The administrative system adopted by the Yuan, Ming and Qing Empires appointed tribal leaders in the south-western cultural minority regions as hereditary rulers of their people called 'Tusi'. This allowed the local social structures to be retained, reinforcing the local chieftain's authority while tying the leadership to the central administration covering inheritance, tribute, taxation, education and other rights and obligations. The nominated series is comprised of the sites of official Tusi residences and buildings set up within the minorities' settlements and the remains of the settlements themselves, which continued to retain their traditional layout, local temples and sacrificial places, handcraft areas and local building styles. Their mountainous locations were difficult to access except by river travel.

### **Laosicheng**

This was the seat of the Peng family from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, who governed Xizhou Prefecture of mainly Tujia people. Representing the highest rank of the Tusi system,

governing a large territory, the residence and administrative area was appropriately large in scale. The property area is 534.24ha and is surrounded by a buffer zone of 1023.93ha. Located on a terraced hillside sloping down to the east bank of a bend in the Lingxi River, the settlement faces south-west across to the Luosiwan Hills. It comprises the walled official residential area and adjoining walled administration area including the extant Peng Ancestral Hall, with the market area lower down, close to the river bank. The local temple is on higher ground along the river to the north-east and the Zijinshan burial ground of the Peng family containing 29 Ming period tombs is along the river to the south, with the Yacaoping burial ground of the Tujia people further south again. The remaining Wenchang Pavilion and the Huangjing Hall of the Patriarch Temple complex represent the characteristics of the Diaojiao Lou as the local Tujia ethnic architectural style. Paving of streets and lanes features decorative geometric patterns similar to Tujia traditional brocade patterns and pebble paving between the tombs in the Zijinshan burial ground is worked with flower patterns typical of the Tujia people. On the other hand, administrative buildings exhibit the central government administrations' five-bay design layout and the extant memorial archway is in the official style of the central government. The Patriarch Temple complex buildings were wooden post and lintel structures as commonly used in Central China.

#### Tangya

This was the seat of the Qin family from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, who ruled the south-western region of Shizhou Prefecture, where Tujia people were the major ethnic group. Representing a Tusi rank several grades lower than at Laosicheng, Tangya's administrative centre is of corresponding smaller scale. The property area is 86.62ha and is surrounded by a buffer zone of 973.61ha. This site is located on a natural triangular terrace surrounded on three sides by rivers and backed by hills to the north and west. The settlement is surrounded by the remains of walls with nine gates. Remains of the Zhangwang and Yuhuang temples and six tombs as well as garden remains are located outside the walls on higher ground to the north-west. Another six tombs are located in the forest to the west and south. Building remains within the walls follow a street and drainage system on the terraced hillside sloping down to the Tangya River on the east. The excavated areas of the administration area include the Guanyan Hall and Da Yamen (main government office) while the memorial archway is the only standing element. As at Laosicheng, this is an official-style structure and carries Central Chinese decorative themes but the frieze portraying the Tusi's tour of inspection displays local Tujia motifs. The settlement contains remains of barracks buildings, an execution stand, and at the Zhangwang Temple site stone statues of soldiers and horses on a platform commemorate a famous general. These are protected by a pavilion erected in 1983. There are also remains of 17 wells, quarries and artefacts which testify to a stone carving industry and fragments of ceramics and porcelain.

#### Hailongtun Fortress

This was the seat of the Yang family from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and became a dedicated mountain defensive fortification of Bozhou Prefecture of Sichuan rebuilt in 1595-1600. Like Laosicheng, Hailongtun represents the highest rank of the Tusi system and the administrative area is correspondingly large. Located at the strategic junction of Sichuan, Guizhou and Huguang the site was both a military and administrative centre where Gelao and Miao people were the major ethnic groups. It has a property area of 160.42ha and is surrounded by a buffer zone of 1288.21ha. The stone fortress is spectacularly located on a mountain surrounded by ravines with an extensive walled defensive system including elaborate gateways, watchtowers and barbicans still standing. The stone gateways followed the design of those in central China but the window with perforated diamond pattern in the Feilong gate reflects local decorative patterns. The remains of the walled Xinwanggong official residence and temple, the Laowanggong official residence, administrative buildings, wells quarry and kiln remains, barracks and drilling ground all accessed by stone-paved paths and steps are located on the flat top of the hill. Recovered artefacts include decorated ceramic roof tiles, porcelain and ceramics, some marked with imperial motifs, and inscribed stele. Documentary records mention the copper drums captured by the Ming army which were important in the culture of the Gelao people.

#### History and development

The Tusi system derived from earlier systems of ethnic minority government by dynasties going back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE which were increasingly standardized over time. The title 'Tusi' appeared for the first time in the Ming period. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Tusi were replaced by administrative bodies of Central China under the Gaitu Guiliu policy in many areas and the system ceased with the end of the feudal period in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Laosicheng retained the system until the administrative seat was relocated to Kesha Domain in 1724 and the site was abandoned. The Patriarch Temple complex was repaired and maintained by government authorities from 1960 and it and the Zijinshan burial ground were designated as Provincial Protected Heritage Sites by the People's Government of Hunan Province in 1983. The whole Laosicheng Tusi Domain was designated as a National Cultural Heritage Site in 2001.

With the enforcement of the Gaitu Guiliu policy the Tangya Tusi presented the domain to the central government in 1735. At that time, the administration moved to Xianfeng and the site was abandoned. In 1978 the domain was registered as immovable cultural heritage by Xianfeng County; in 1992 it was designated a Provincial Protected Cultural Heritage Site by Hubei Province and in 2006 it was designated as a National Cultural Heritage Site.

Following defeat in a battle against the Ming emperor in 1600, Hailongtun was surrendered in 1601. Officials of the Ming dynasty subsequently built the Haichao Temple. The



extant building remains in the centre of the Xinwanggong official residence date from 1929. In 1982 the fortress was designated a Provincial Protected Cultural Heritage Site by Guizhou Province and in 2001 it was designated as a National Cultural Heritage Site.

### 3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

#### Comparative analysis

The sites that comprise the series have been selected from 101 identified sites of Tusi domains in South-west China on the basis of their protected status, and the nature, pattern, scale and value of the remains as the most representative of the Tusi system. A detailed comparative table of these has been provided in the nomination dossier, as well as a comparative evaluation table of those protected at national or provincial levels.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analyses demonstrate that the selected sites complement each other in terms of the different aspects of the Tusi system. As confirmed by the additional information provided by the State Party, the selected sites share common attributes such as a central administration area on the imperial model surrounded by topographically arranged local habitation, with its cultural and religious features. The selected sites also carry some site-specific elements including that: the size of the administrative areas corresponds to the highest Tusi rank at Laosicheng and Hailongtun and to the lowest but one at Tangya; each site contains different expressions of the relevant local decorative traditions and motifs; burial traditions are attested at Laosicheng and Tangya; mountain fortification and military aspects are demonstrated at Hailongtun and to a lesser extent at Tangya; ethnic communities still reside within the property at Laosicheng and still practise their cultural traditions there.

The property has been compared by the State Party with the World Heritage listed properties of Chief Roi Mata's Domain in Vanuatu (2008, (iii), (v) & (vi)) and Sukur Cultural Landscape in Nigeria (1999, (iii), (v) & (vi)), which are not considered particularly relevant by ICOMOS. It was concluded that these are clearly different in terms of attributes and values. It has also been compared with a number of other administrative centres ruled by minorities of a unified multi-ethnic country including the Inca Empire's Curaca system, which lacks physical remains; the Roman Empire's appointment of local governors at various sites, which do not reflect an inheritance of minority cultural diversity; and, the Russian Empires of the Kievan Rus and Tsarist Russia, the duchies and vassal states of which do not demonstrate an evident central administration but rather exhibit dominant local ethnic features.

ICOMOS notes that Qhapaq Ñan (2014, (ii), (iii), (iv) & (vi)), the transboundary Andean Road System of the Inca empire that includes Bolivia, Argentina, Chile,

Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru illustrates similar accommodations as the Chinese with local and regional tribal and state level societies and incorporated them into their network of roadways, trading settlements, and administrative nodes. The ancient Inca Tambu located along the roadway incorporated an Inca administrative plan with local and regional cultural flavour. ICOMOS also considers that the Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu in Japan (1999, (ii), (iii) & (iv)) has some commonalities with the Tusi sites. However ICOMOS considers that the physical remains of the three Tusi administrative centres with their mountainous landscape among otherwise dispersed highland villages express a distinctively Chinese administrative and socio-political system for interacting with ethnic minorities and preserving cultural diversity in peripheral zones which cannot be constructively compared with other sites having broadly similar values.

The property has also been compared with others inscribed on the World Heritage List that are associated with cultural minorities in South-west China, including the Old Town of Lijiang (1997, (ii), (iv) & (v)); the Cultural landscape of Honghe Hani Rice Terraces (2013, (iii) & (v)); and on the Tentative List including the Dong Villages; Diaolou Buildings and Villages for Tibetan and Qiang Ethnic Groups; Miao Nationality Villages in South-east Guizhou Province; Ancient Tea Plantations of Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er. The State Party concludes that the physical remains of these properties reflect primarily the production and living conditions of the ethnic groups and do not reflect the administrative strategy of the Tusi system.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated sites differ from the others in China in that they contain extensive remains of the central administrative buildings and official residences. In terms of the proposed justification of Outstanding Universal Value, it is the ability to demonstrate the centralised system of governance that is important. Thus ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies the selection of these sites.

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

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#### Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

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

- It is a representative series of sites representing the exchange of human values between national identity as expressed by the central government, and local ethnic cultural minorities;
- The sites represent Chinese administrative strategy from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century;

- The sites are associated with typical living customs and cultural traditions of the ethnic groups of Southwest China.

The serial approach enables a representative selection of attributes of potential Outstanding Universal Value to demonstrate a fusion of regional ethnic traditions with Central Chinese forms and patterns within the rugged mountainous landscape of southwest China.

ICOMOS considers that this justification is appropriate because the physical remains of the three sites combine to demonstrate the Chinese Imperial government's system of management of minorities over several centuries through the formal, symmetrical layout and imperial architectural style of the Tusi's domain and administrative buildings, while at the same time retaining the character of the dispersed village life ways of the Tujia and Miao peoples as exemplified in the adaptation of the ethnic settlements to the topography of the area, and the locations and architectural features of temples. The incorporation of local ethnic decorative patterns and motifs into the paving of streets and roads at Laosicheng, in the Tusi's frieze on the memorial gateway at Tangya and in the fortified Feilong gateway at Hailongtun are specific examples of the influence of the local minorities on decorative treatment. The Tusi system of government is well documented in historical records and genealogies as well as in the poems, legends and customs of the extant Tujia, Gelao and Miao Ethnic Peoples. The traditional cultures and cultural practices of these ethnic minorities are still present in the region of the Tusi sites and form a backdrop of traditional culture. Tujia dances and ceremonies are still performed at Laosicheng.

### **Integrity and authenticity**

#### **Integrity**

According to the State Party, the three sites were selected to bring together a series of attributes to illustrate criteria (ii), (iii) and (vi). The State Party considers that each site is needed in order to include all elements necessary to express the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS notes that at both Laosicheng and Tangya later layers of habitation and agriculture have occurred over the Tusi period remains; a modern concrete stairway leads to the Patriarch Temple at Laosicheng; and at Tangya the modern road runs over historic street pavements. Power transmission/communications towers have a visual impact on all three sites. At both Laosicheng and Tangya the tombs have been raided in the historic past, removing original relics. Structures at Hailongtun are overgrown with vegetation in many places, making it difficult to discern different periods of construction and allowing walls to decay. At all three sites pre-Tusi and post-Tusi remains could be more clearly identified.

ICOMOS considers that the integrity of Laosicheng is high, although the Left Street group (Laosicheng Village) within the property overlays the Tusi period habitation, and it is not clear to what extent this impacts on the below ground remains. At Tangya the limited extant remains and relatively early stages of archaeological excavation (compared with the other two sites), together with the present state of the remains and the coverage of almost all the Tusi period courtyard housing by later layers of fields and dwellings, as well as later additions/alterations like the street paving, compromise the integrity as compared with Laosicheng and Hailongtun. However some elements of Tangya, particularly the intact Memorial Archway and the remains of the excavated remains of the administration area, have good integrity and are key to the justification of criteria (ii) and (iii). Hailongtun has the most extensive extant remains but they are in a poor state of conservation.

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ICOMOS considers that the nominated serial property contains elements of good integrity necessary to demonstrate the proposed values; and that the integrity of Laosicheng and Hailongtun is demonstrated (particularly for Laosicheng), but is less well demonstrated for the Tangya component.

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#### **Authenticity**

ICOMOS considers that overall the authenticity of material remains at the three nominated sites in terms of function, form and layout, materials and style of construction, location and setting is retained, although vulnerable due to the variable state of conservation of some of the elements of the property. ICOMOS considers that authenticity of spirit and traditions is high in Laosicheng due to the presence of Tujia ethnic minority groups in the property area.

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ICOMOS considers that the authenticity of the whole series and that of the individual sites that comprise the series, has been demonstrated.

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In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity are less well demonstrated for the Tangya component, but are demonstrated for the series overall, given that the key elements of Tangya have good integrity. Conditions of authenticity of the whole series and for the individual components have been justified, although vulnerable due to the variable state of conservation of some of the elements.

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#### **Criteria under which inscription is proposed**

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

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

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that Tusi sites clearly exhibit the interchange of human values between local ethnic cultures of Southwest China, and national identity expressed through the structures of the central government.

ICOMOS considers that the sites convey a sense of their use and function in these remote settings far from the core of dynastic administration, reflecting the interchange between the cultures represented by the central government and the tribal villages.

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ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been demonstrated.

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

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the sites bear a unique testimony to the cultural traditions of central China in administering the culturally diverse regions of Southwest China through the Tusi system of governance that allowed retention of local cultural traditions while incorporating them into national administration systems.

ICOMOS considers that the sites are evidence of the Tusi system of governance in the South-western region of China and thus bear exceptional testimony to this form of governance, which derived from earlier systems of ethnic minority administration in China, and to the Chinese civilisation in the Yuan and Ming periods.

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ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been demonstrated.

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Criterion (vi): *be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the sites are directly associated with the typical living customs and cultural traditions that are still alive amongst the ethnic groups in Southwest China, due to the Tusi system.

ICOMOS notes that the Tujia and Miao peoples retain their traditional culture and social and economic integrity within the former Tusi regions, although apparently only the Tujia at Laosicheng still use the site for performances and ceremonies. The continuity of these cultures is attributed in part to the policies of the former Tusi system. ICOMOS also notes the lists of performances, crafts and ceremonies associated with each site in the additional information provided by the State Party in response to the mission. The links can be discerned today at Laosicheng as documented in the report provided to the mission "Laosicheng and Surrounding Villages Investigation and Survey Report" commissioned by the Western Hunan Autonomous

Prefecture Cultural Heritage Administration and Yongshun County Cultural Heritage Administration (2013).

In response to ICOMOS' query regarding the direct association of all nominated component properties with events or living traditions, the State Party has provided additional information on the rituals associated with "chief worship" at Laosicheng and Tangya, but notes that due to the nature and history of Hailongtun as a fortress, rituals were not continued at the site, although they do continue in the surrounding area.

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ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been demonstrated at Laosicheng and Tangya.

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ICOMOS considers that the serial approach is justified and ICOMOS considers that the selection of sites is appropriate.

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In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that criteria (ii) and (iii) have been justified for the series but criterion (vi) has not been demonstrated for the whole series. Conditions of authenticity and integrity have been met for the whole series, but conditions of integrity are less well met at Tangya.

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#### **Description of the attributes**

ICOMOS considers that the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value are the archaeological sites and standing remains of Laosicheng Tusi Domain and Hailongtun Fortress, being domains of highest ranking Tusi that display values of the Tusi system and philosophy of governance; the Memorial Archway and remains of the Administration Area, boundary walls, drainage ditches and tombs at Tangya Tusi Domain, representing the domain of a lower ranked Tusi together with the cultural traditions and practices of the Tujia communities of Laosicheng.

#### **4 Factors affecting the property**

Being located in remote mountain areas and containing only a small number of inhabitants, the nominated component properties are not considered to be under development pressure from large scale urban development. Environmental pressure is considered negligible. Natural disasters such as earthquakes and landslides are considered rare; major risks are from storms, flash floods and forest fire. Most parts of the property are not open to visitors and visitor pressure is currently negligible, although this could become a significant pressure following World Heritage listing if visitor levels and the development of tourism infrastructure were to increase. ICOMOS notes that in all three property components there are sections of masonry walls shrouded with thick vegetation; in some cases trees have taken root in the masonry.

### Laosicheng

There are 6 villages with 502 inhabitants within the property and 333 inhabitants in the buffer zone. The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) controls construction of dwelling houses, village development and visitor facilities. Flood control measures and contingency plans are in place to mitigate flood disaster. Fire prevention and contingency plans are in place. A visitor carrying capacity study has been undertaken. ICOMOS notes that some village houses within the property date from the Qing dynasty (late 19<sup>th</sup> century) and in some cases are located over areas of archaeological potential. Laosicheng Village, built over Tusi period remains in the centre of the property is recognised at the provincial level as a Historic Village. Cultivation over the remains of the market area is being addressed by control of plant species to types with limited root depth and no extension of the current area is permitted. The issues of building/cultivation over areas of archaeological potential are addressed in the CMP. The telecommunications tower opposite the Zijinshan Temple impacts visually on the property. At present artefacts from the site are displayed in a museum 45 minutes drive away in Yongshun but they will be exhibited in the new visitor centre currently being constructed across the river from the main site but still within the property boundary.

### Tangya Tusi Domain

There are 305 inhabitants within the property and 9,853 in the buffer zone. Planning policies are in place to control development of Jianshan Town (north) and the three villages within the buffer zone, as well as agricultural production and activities including environment pollution controls. The property has good drainage and is not considered to be subject to flood. Contingency plans are in place. A visitor carrying capacity study is being undertaken and a presentation strategy is being developed. ICOMOS notes that the terraced plantations within the property are built over areas of archaeological potential and in some cases over building foundations. The site management office and visitor facilities including a small site museum are provided in traditional buildings within the property, some of which have been built over the remains of earlier courtyard houses. The additional information provided by the State Party indicates a new visitor centre and exhibition building are planned within the buffer zone. Modern residential buildings and transmission towers in the buffer zone impact visually on the property.

### Hailongtun Tusi Fortress

The property component is remote, accommodates 143 inhabitants and is not under development pressure. However there are three villages containing an agricultural population of approximately 1394 in the buffer zone. Houses date from the 1950s. Restrictions on location, scale and appearance of new dwelling development and controls on use of agricultural land are in place. Storms and floods are the main hazards. Warning systems have been installed, rock faces consolidated and counter-disaster contingency plans are in place. A visitor carrying capacity study has been undertaken and new visitor facilities and a site management office have been

constructed in the buffer zone. ICOMOS notes that vacated timber houses have been re-used to accommodate tourist facilities, a museum on ethnic culture and archaeological work station as well as accommodation for researchers. High tension power transmission lines have a visual impact on the site.

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ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are erosion impacts of heavy rainfall. Tourism could also be a factor if visitor levels and the development of tourism infrastructure were to increase following World Heritage listing.

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## 5 Protection, conservation and management

### Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

Property component boundaries follow natural topographical lines including hills, rivers and streams and are physically marked on the ground. In response to ICOMOS' request, revised maps have been provided by the State Party showing the names of the individual peaks/ hills marking the ridgeline. Buffer zone boundaries pick up the peaks of surrounding hills/ mountains in order to enclose the contiguous landscapes of each component and follow natural topographical lines such as hills, rivers and streams where appropriate, and are marked on the ground. The south-west boundary of Tangya Tusi Domain's buffer zone coincides with Zhaojiahe Tourism Road. Property and buffer zone boundaries of Tangya Tusi Domain and Hailongtun Fortress coincide with the protection boundaries defined for the sites as State protected Cultural Heritage Sites. Laosicheng's boundaries coincide with protection boundaries defined in the Conservation Plan for Laosicheng Site, Yongshun County, Hunan Province.

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ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are adequate.

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### Ownership

According to new information provided to the mission expert, the nominated property components Tangya Tusi Domain and Hailongtun Fortress are now completely owned by the State. At Laosicheng Tusi Domain, around 12% is owned by the State, the remainder is in Collective ownership.

### Protection

The nominated property components are designated as State Priority Protected Cultural Heritage Sites under the Law on the Protection for Cultural Relics 1982, amended 2007. They are also protected under relevant provincial legislation. Laosicheng and Tangya Tusi sites are within designated National/Provincial Scenic Areas and protected by the Regulations on Scenic Areas 2006. On inclusion in China's Tentative List in 2006 they became subject to additional administrative protective measures relating to China's World Heritage Sites. The buffer zones

are protected in accordance with regulations relating to the Protected Area and Construction Control Zone of State Priority Protected Cultural Heritage Sites.

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ICOMOS considers that the legal protection is adequate. ICOMOS considers that the protective measures for the property are adequate.

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### **Conservation**

Inventories prepared for the purpose of assessing and monitoring the state of conservation of the three properties have been provided in the Conservation and Management Plans attached to the nomination dossier as Annex II. Records of research, surveys and archaeological investigations are listed in the nomination dossier. ICOMOS notes that archive centres have been established at all three sites which contain a digitised catalogue of published archaeological reports and inventories of artefacts discovered during excavations. Original manuscripts of County Annals or family genealogies are kept at the county archives. Digital photo archives are kept at the respective Institutes of archaeology working at the three properties.

According to the State Party the sites are well-maintained and conserved. Conservation Master Plans have been approved by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) for Laosicheng and Hailongtun and one has been submitted to SACH for Tangya. ICOMOS notes that while many elements of the sites are in good or moderate condition, there are also some elements at each site in poor condition including the Dezheng Stele platform at Laosicheng; wall section remains, the Memorial Archway and Tomb M9 at Tangya; and several passes/gates at Hailongtun. Proposed interventions at the sites include some practices such as the use of cement mortar which need to be technically evaluated. Active conservation works at Laosicheng include stabilisation of the Dezheng Stele platform with a temporary buttress; backfilling and covering of archaeological areas; cleaning and grouting of walls and timber and roof repairs to the Patriarch Temple. At Tangya the Memorial Arch is being monitored following insertion of a metal tie to prevent movement, and buttresses have been provided to prevent collapse of the terrace boundary walls of the Administrative Area. At Hailongtun metal scaffolding has been inserted at the Erdao Pass to prevent collapse and repair work is scheduled to start later this year. Archaeological investigation is continuing at each site.

In response to ICOMOS' second letter regarding the need for conservation work plans detailing methods and materials for each component property, the State Party has provided satisfactory additional information.

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ICOMOS considers that the state of conservation is variable and potentially vulnerable, but considers that appropriate measures are now being taken to conserve the value of the property.

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### **Management**

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

Management of the three sites is co-ordinated at the provincial level under the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) by a steering group created by the Joint Agreement Concerning Protection and Management of Tusi Sites. This comprises representatives of Hunan, Hubei and Guizhou Provinces in which the component properties are located. Management offices at each of the sites relate through their relevant county administration and People's Government and Autonomous Prefectures to the People's Government of their relevant provincial administrations. The Steering Group is led by the Cultural Heritage Bureau of Hunan Province to establish common standards for management of the sites including joint research projects, meetings and training courses for staff. Staff numbers given below are the updated figures provided to the mission.

Laosicheng site management office has access to county departments including Cultural Relics, Water Resources, Meteorology, Land and Resources, Tourism, and Forestry personnel for monitoring and other assistance and employs 28 staff responsible for exhibitions, archives, cultural relics protection and maintenance together with 2 invited experts for professional guidance on archaeology and conservation. In addition 160 villagers are employed to participate in site works including road, visitor and river cleaners; security staff, antiquities guards, forest protectors, 75 in the cultural and art group and 35 boatmen.

Tangya site management office has access to county department personnel as required for monitoring and other assistance and employs 11 staff responsible for conservation, exhibitions and presentation, monitoring, and security. In addition 19 local residents are employed as guides, security guards, and cleaners.

The site management office for Hailongtun Fortress has access to county and provincial department staff as required for monitoring and other assistance and has 20 staff in 5 sections: protection and management (4); exhibitions (4); monitoring (3), museum (4) and administration (5). In addition 148 local villagers are employed as interpreters, routine inspectors, and cleaners.

According to the Comprehensive Management Assessments in the Conservation and Management Plans for the three properties, staff training and professional capacity could be improved.

ICOMOS considers that given the large scale of the three sites, regular monitoring and maintenance would appear to be challenging. Monitoring relies heavily on cameras installed across the three sites.

Funds are provided through annual appropriations of national and local governments to the Conservation and Management Fund of the Tusi Sites. This is considered to meet basic requirements for heritage management and protection. ICOMOS notes that the funds are spread across many areas including requisition of land, relocation of residents as part of tourism proposals, surveying, and archaeological excavations and it is not clear how much is available for the implementation of conservation works. ICOMOS considers that the relocation of inhabitants is not necessary to sustain the conservation of the property.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

Master Plans, Land Use Plans and Tourism Plans exist for the cities/counties in which the nominated properties are located and relate to protection and management of the sites with a focus on potential tourism. ICOMOS notes that the Mengdong River National Scenic Area Tourism Plan for Laosicheng aims to project Tujia culture and the Tusi system and proposes relocation of the remaining residents out of the property area, at the same time proposing a new tourism village. At Tangya, the Tourism Master Plan for Xianfeng County proposes a "Tangya Tusi Domain Folk Cultural Tourism Zone" connected to Jianshan town by a bridge and rebuilding the two gardens located within the property area. ICOMOS considers that these tourism plans need to be considered by the overall Steering Group in terms of the conservation and management measures needed to retain Outstanding Universal Value. Additional information provided by the State Party in response to ICOMOS' second letter sets out the process for tourism development at the component properties but did not specifically address how this would retain Outstanding Universal Value.

Conservation and Management Plans have been prepared for each of the sites for the period 2013-2030 using essentially the same model for each in terms of content structure. They include visitor management and presentation and monitoring of factors relating to natural disasters.

Currently only Hailongtun is open to the general public. It has a visitors' route guided by signs and maps. Laosicheng is open to small groups for special purposes. Tangya Tusi Site is not yet open to the public. At all sites it is proposed that visitors will arrive at the visitor centres from where they will be taken to the site by golf carts. They will then follow marked visitor routes with timber viewing platforms provided over fragile remains. Detailed plans showing tourism arrangements at each property component have been included in the additional information provided by the State Party. ICOMOS notes that Hailongtun, having very steep access, could be considered dangerous in wet weather. There is also a risk to the remains of tourists climbing over partially collapsed and structurally unstable passes or boundary walls at Hailongtun and at Tangya for the lower boundary wall remains and tombs in the forested area.

The State Party has provided a statement regarding measures to be taken to deal with this issue.

Involvement of the local communities

The Management Plans for the properties require involvement of local communities and a considerable number are employed by the local site management offices in maintaining the sites

ICOMOS considers that management of the sites has not yet reached the level projected in the CMPs. However it appears to be reasonably effective at present given that Laosicheng and Tangya are yet to be opened to the public.

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ICOMOS considers that the management system for the serial property is adequate; however, the management system and plans should be strengthened to ensure overall control of tourism projects to ensure retention of Outstanding Universal Value.

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## 6 Monitoring

Monitoring systems are set out in the Management Plans in accordance with the joint provincial agreement. These cover indicators, periodicity and responsible agency. ICOMOS notes that a monitoring system using security cameras is in place at all sites which is providing high quality baseline data on both the archaeological and standing remains, although the presence of extensive vegetation cover on some standing structures must inhibit this. According to the Comprehensive Management Assessments in the Conservation and Management Plans, the system is not yet fully implemented. In response to ICOMOS' query, the State Party provided further detailed information on the monitoring system and how it will be implemented.

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ICOMOS considers that the monitoring system will be adequate when it is fully implemented.

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## 7 Conclusions

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this serial property for the World Heritage List. ICOMOS considers that criteria (ii) & (iii) have been justified for the series but criterion (vi) has not been justified for the whole series. Conditions of integrity have been met for Laosicheng Tusi Domain and Hailongtun Fortress and for key elements of Tangya Tusi Domain. Conditions of authenticity have been met for the whole series. ICOMOS considers that the whole series is required in order to fully express the Tusi system.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are erosion impacts of heavy rainfall. The boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are adequate. ICOMOS considers that the legal protection is

adequate and protective measures for the property are adequate. ICOMOS considers that the state of conservation is variable and potentially vulnerable, but that measures now being taken are appropriate. Management appears to be reasonably effective at present given that Laosicheng and Tangya are yet to be opened to the public but has not yet reached the level projected in the Conservation and Management Plans. The property could be very vulnerable to visitor pressure and development associated with tourism infrastructure following World Heritage listing. The monitoring system will be adequate when it is fully implemented.

## 8 Recommendations

### Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that Tusi Sites, People's Republic of China, be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iii)**.

### Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

#### Brief synthesis

Distributed around the mountainous areas of south-west China are the remains of tribal domains whose leaders were appointed by the central government as 'Tusi', hereditary rulers of their regions from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This system of administrative government was aimed at unifying national administration while simultaneously allowing ethnic minorities to retain their customs and way of life. The three sites of Laosicheng, Tangya and the Hailongtun Fortress combine as a serial property to represent this system of governance. The archaeological sites and standing remains of Laosicheng Tusi Domain and Hailongtun Fortress represent domains of highest ranking Tusi; the Memorial Archway and remains of the Administration Area, boundary walls, drainage ditches and tombs at Tangya Tusi Domain represent the domain of a lower ranked Tusi. Their combinations of local ethnic and central Chinese features exhibit an interchange of values and testify to imperial Chinese administrative methods, while retaining their association with the living cultural traditions of the ethnic minority groups represented by the cultural traditions and practices of the Tujia communities at Laosicheng.

**Criterion (ii):** Tusi sites of Laosicheng, Tangya and the Hailongtun Fortress clearly exhibit the interchange of human values between local ethnic cultures of Southwest China, and national identity expressed through the structures of the central government.

**Criterion (iii):** The sites of Laosicheng, Tangya and the Hailongtun Fortress are evidence of the Tusi system of governance in the South-western region of China and thus bear exceptional testimony to this form of governance which derived from earlier systems of ethnic minority administration in China, and to the Chinese civilisation in the Yuan and Ming periods.

#### Integrity

The property contains all elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value and is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance. Later layers of occupation overlay parts of the Tusi period remains at Laosicheng and Hailongtun but there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value. Parts of the property at Hailongtun and Tangya are vulnerable to vegetation growth. The property is vulnerable to erosion impacts of heavy rainfall, and could become vulnerable to pressure due to visitor numbers and the development of tourism infrastructure.

#### Authenticity

The authenticity of material remains at the three nominated sites in terms of function, form and layout, materials and style of construction, location and setting is retained. ICOMOS considers that authenticity of spirit and traditions is high in Laosicheng due to the presence of Tujia ethnic minority groups in the property area.

#### Management and protection requirements

The property components are designated as State Priority Protected Cultural Heritage Sites under the Law on the Protection for Cultural Relics 1982, amended 2007. They are also protected under relevant provincial legislation. Laosicheng and Tangya Tusi sites are within designated National/Provincial Scenic Areas and protected by the Regulations on Scenic Areas 2006. The buffer zones are protected in accordance with regulations relating to the Protected Area and Construction Control Zone of State Priority Protected Cultural Heritage Sites.

Management of the three sites is co-ordinated at the provincial level under the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) by a steering group created by the Joint Agreement Concerning Protection and Management of Tusi Sites. This comprises representatives of Hunan, Hubei and Guizhou Provinces in which the component properties are located. Management offices at each of the sites relate through their relevant county administration and People's Government and Autonomous Prefectures to the People's Government of their relevant provincial administrations. The Steering Group is led by the Cultural Heritage Bureau of Hunan Province to establish common standards for management of the sites including joint research projects, meetings and training courses for staff.

Conservation and Management Plans have been prepared for each of the sites for the period 2013-2030 including visitor management and presentation and monitoring of factors relating to natural disasters. The management system and plans will be strengthened to ensure overall control of tourism projects directed at retention of Outstanding Universal Value.

**Additional recommendations**

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

- Strengthening the management system and plans so as to ensure overall control of tourism projects directed at retention of Outstanding Universal Value;
- Fully implementing the monitoring system.





Map showing the location of the nominated properties



The Site of Tangya Tusi Domain



The Domain and Lingxi River



Chaotian Pass



Exterior of Tomb M1



Aerial View of Xinwanggong Remains



Excavated Tomb of Zijinshan Burial Ground

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## Sites du tusi (République populaire de Chine) No 1474

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**Nom officiel du bien tel que proposé par l'État partie**  
Sites du tusi

**Lieu**  
Province du Hunan  
Province du Hubei et province du Guizhou  
Chine

**Brève description**  
Répartis dans les régions montagneuses du sud-ouest de la Chine s'étendent les vestiges de domaines tribaux dont les chefs étaient nommés gouverneurs de leurs régions respectives par le gouvernement central du XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle au début du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle. Le système du « tusi » avait pour but d'unifier l'administration nationale tout en permettant aux minorités ethniques de préserver leurs coutumes et leur mode de vie. Les trois sites de Laosicheng, de Tangya et de la forteresse de Hailongtun composent les éléments de la série illustrant ce système de gouvernance. Leur mélange de caractéristiques propres aux ethnies locales et à la Chine centrale témoigne d'un échange d'influences et des méthodes d'administration de la Chine impériale associées aux traditions culturelles vivantes des minorités ethniques.

**Catégorie de bien**  
En termes de catégories de biens culturels, telles qu'elles sont définies à l'article premier de la Convention du patrimoine mondial de 1972, il s'agit d'une proposition d'inscription en série de trois *sites*.

### 1 Identification

**Inclus dans la liste indicative**  
29 janvier 2013

**Assistance internationale au titre du Fonds du patrimoine mondial pour la préparation de la proposition d'inscription**  
Aucune

**Date de réception par le Centre du patrimoine mondial**  
27 janvier 2014

**Antécédents**  
Il s'agit d'une nouvelle proposition d'inscription.

**Consultations**  
L'ICOMOS a consulté son Comité scientifique international sur la gestion du patrimoine archéologique, ainsi que plusieurs experts indépendants.

**Mission d'évaluation technique**  
Une mission d'évaluation technique s'est rendue sur le bien du 10 au 20 septembre 2014.

**Information complémentaire reçue par l'ICOMOS**  
Une lettre a été envoyée à l'État partie le 21 août 2014 pour demander des éclaircissements quant à la contribution de chaque élément à la valeur universelle exceptionnelle du bien proposé pour inscription dans son ensemble, un calendrier d'exécution du plan directeur de conservation pour l'élément Tangya, et des informations sur les mesures de conservation de la forteresse de Hailongtun, la protection à l'intérieur de la zone tampon et les installations destinées aux visiteurs. Une deuxième lettre a été envoyée à l'État partie à la suite de la réunion de la Commission du patrimoine mondial de l'ICOMOS en décembre 2014 concernant la conservation, la gestion et la mise en œuvre du système de suivi, et demandant un surcroît de justification du critère (vi) pour l'ensemble de la série. Des informations complémentaires sur la protection, la conservation et les installations destinées aux visiteurs, ainsi que des informations actualisées sur la propriété et le nombre d'employés ont été communiquées à la mission d'expertise et reçues le 11 octobre 2014. Des informations complémentaires en réponse à la mission, notamment des listes des éléments du patrimoine immatériel relatifs à chaque site, les plans des travaux archéologiques et les accords des villageois ont été communiquées le 18 octobre 2014. Des informations complémentaires en réponse à la première lettre de l'ICOMOS ont été reçues le 27 octobre 2014. Une réponse à la deuxième lettre de l'ICOMOS a été reçue le 21 février 2015. Les informations ont été intégrées ci-après.

**Date d'approbation de l'évaluation par l'ICOMOS**  
12 mars 2015

### 2 Le bien

**Description**  
Parmi la centaine de sites tusi, trois sont proposés pour inscription pour représenter le système de gouvernement administratif du tusi dans la région montagneuse de la Chine du Sud-Ouest, du XIII<sup>e</sup> au XX<sup>e</sup> siècle. Il s'agit du domaine du tusi de Laosicheng, du domaine du tusi de Tangya et de la forteresse de Hailongtun, qui totalisent 781,28 ha. Chacun est entouré d'une zone tampon.

Dans le système administratif adopté par les empires Yuan, Ming et Qing, les chefs de clans régionaux des minorités culturelles du Sud-Ouest étaient nommés seigneurs héréditaires de leur peuple et appelés « tusi ». On permettait ainsi de conserver les structures sociales locales, renforçant l'autorité du chef local tout en rattachant la gouvernance à l'administration centrale, qui couvrait l'héritage, les tributs, les impôts, l'éducation et les autres droits et obligations. La série proposée pour inscription se compose des sites des résidences officielles

et des bâtiments des tusi installés dans les établissements des minorités, ainsi que des vestiges des établissements eux-mêmes, qui ont conservé leur disposition traditionnelle, les temples locaux et les sites sacrificiels, les zones artisanales et les styles architecturaux locaux. Leur implantation en montagne les rendait difficiles d'accès, sauf par transport fluvial.

#### Laosicheng

Ce fut à partir du XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle le siège de la famille Peng, qui gouvernait la préfecture de Xizhou, abritant principalement des Tujia. Représentant le plus haut rang du système du tusi, gouvernant un vaste territoire, la résidence et la zone administrative étaient comme il convient imposantes. Le bien couvre 534,24 ha et est entouré par une zone tampon de 1 023,93 ha. Situé sur une colline en terrasses descendant jusqu'à la rive orientale d'un méandre de la rivière Lingxi, l'établissement est orienté sud-ouest, de l'autre côté de la montagne de Luosiwan. Il comprend la zone résidentielle officielle fortifiée et la zone administrative fortifiée adjacente, notamment la demeure de l'Ancêtre Peng, avec le marché en contrebas, près des berges de la rivière. Le temple local se situe plus en hauteur le long de la rivière au nord-est, et le site funéraire de la famille Peng de Zijinshan, abritant 29 tombeaux de la période Ming, se trouve lui aussi au bord de la rivière au sud, avec le site funéraire des Tujia de Yacaoping plus au sud encore. Le pavillon Wenchang et la salle Huangjing du temple du Patriarche représentent les caractéristiques des Diajiao Lou, ainsi que le style architectural ethnique tujia local. Les pavés des rues et des allées présentent des motifs géométriques décoratifs similaires aux motifs des brocards traditionnels tujia, et les pavés entre les tombeaux du site funéraire Zijinshan sont travaillés, avec des motifs floraux typiques du peuple tujia. Par ailleurs, les bâtiments administratifs présentent les cinq baies typiques des administrations du gouvernement central, et le mémorial s'inscrit dans le style officiel du gouvernement central. Les bâtiments du temple du Patriarche étaient des structures à piliers de bois et linteaux tels qu'on les trouvait couramment en Chine centrale.

#### Tangya

Ce fut à partir du XIV<sup>e</sup> siècle le siège de la famille Qin, qui gouvernait la région du sud-ouest de la préfecture de Shizhou, où les Tujia étaient le groupe ethnique principal. Représentant un rang tusi plusieurs échelons en deçà de celui de Laosicheng, le centre administratif de Tangya est en conséquence plus petit. Le bien couvre 86,62 ha et est entouré par une zone tampon de 973,61 ha. Ce site se dresse sur une terrasse naturelle triangulaire, bordée sur trois côtés de rivières et adossée à des collines au nord et à l'ouest. Cet établissement est entouré des vestiges des remparts et de neuf portes. Les vestiges des temples de Zhangwang et de Yuhuang et de six tombeaux ainsi que des jardins sont situés à l'extérieur des remparts, sur des hauteurs au nord-ouest. Six autres tombeaux se situent dans la forêt à l'ouest et au sud. Les vestiges des édifices dans l'enceinte des remparts suivent un système de rues

et d'égouts sur la colline en terrasses descendant vers la rivière de Tangya à l'est. Les parties mises au jour de la zone administrative incluent la salle de Guanyan et le Da Yamen (principal office gouvernemental) où le mémorial est le seul élément debout. Comme à Laosicheng, il s'agit d'une structure de style officiel qui arbore les thèmes décoratifs de la Chine centrale, mais la frise ornant la tour d'inspection du tusi affiche des motifs locaux tujia. L'établissement comprend des vestiges de baraquements, un échafaud, et sur le site du temple Zhangwang des statues de pierre de soldats et de chevaux sur une plateforme commémorent un général célèbre. Ces statues sont protégées par un pavillon édifié en 1983. On trouve aussi les vestiges de 17 puits, de carrières et d'objets qui témoignent d'une industrie de gravure sur pierre, ainsi que des fragments de céramique et de porcelaine.

#### Forteresse de Hailongtun

Ce fut à partir du XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle le siège de la famille Yang. Ces fortifications de montagne de la préfecture de Bozhou, dans la province du Sichuan, furent reconstruites en 1595-1600. Tout comme Laosicheng, Hailongtun représente le plus haut rang du système du tusi et la zone administrative est d'une superficie correspondante. Situé au carrefour stratégique des provinces du Sichuan, du Guizhou et du Huguang, le site était à la fois un centre militaire et administratif, où les Gelao et les Miao constituaient les groupes ethniques majoritaires. Entouré d'une zone tampon de 1 288,21 hectares, le bien couvre au total 160,42 hectares. La forteresse de pierre, spectaculaire, se dresse sur une montagne entourée de ravins ; elle est dotée d'importantes fortifications défensives, avec des portes élaborées, des tours de guet et des barbicanes encore debout. Les portes de pierre étaient conformes au modèle de la Chine centrale, mais la fenêtre à losanges de la porte de Feilong reflète les motifs décoratifs locaux. Les vestiges de la résidence officielle fortifiée de Xinwanggong, de la résidence officielle de Laowanggong, des bâtiments administratifs, des vestiges de puits de carrière et de fours, de baraquements et de la zone de forage, tous accessibles par des allées pavées et des marches de pierre, se trouvent sur l'esplanade au sommet de la colline. Les objets découverts comprennent des tuiles en céramique décorées, de la porcelaine et des céramiques, certaines marquées de motifs impériaux, et une stèle gravée. Les archives documentaires mentionnent des tambours en cuivre saisis par l'armée Ming, qui tenaient une grande place dans la culture du peuple gelao.

#### Histoire et développement

Le système du tusi découlait des systèmes précédents de gouvernance dynastique des minorités ethniques, remontant au III<sup>e</sup> siècle av. J.-C. et de plus en plus codifiés au fil du temps. Le titre de « tusi » a fait son apparition pendant la période Ming. Au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle, les tusi ont été remplacés en de nombreux endroits par des instances administratives de la Chine centrale, dans le cadre de la politique Gaitu Guiliu, et le système a disparu à la fin de l'époque féodale, au début du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle.

Laosicheng a conservé le système jusqu'au transfert du siège administratif au domaine de Kesha en 1724 et à l'abandon du site. Le temple du Patriarche a été réparé et entretenu par les autorités gouvernementales à partir de 1960 ; comme le site funéraire de Zijinshan, il a été classé site du patrimoine protégé provincial par le gouvernement populaire de la province du Hunan en 1983. Tout le domaine du tusi de Laosicheng a été classé site du patrimoine culturel national en 2001.

Avec l'application de la politique Gaitu Guiliu, le tusi de Tangya a présenté le domaine au gouvernement central en 1735. À l'époque, l'administration déménagea à Xianfeng et le site fut abandonné. En 1978, le domaine a été enregistré comme patrimoine culturel immobilier par le comté de Xianfeng ; en 1992, il a été classé site du patrimoine culturel provincial protégé par la province du Hubei, et en 2006 site du patrimoine culturel national.

Suite à une défaite dans une bataille contre l'empereur Ming en 1600, Hailongtun se rendit en 1601. Les officiels de la dynastie Ming construisirent par la suite le temple de Haichao. L'édifice qui se dresse encore au centre de la résidence officielle de Xinwanggong remonte à 1929. En 1982, la forteresse fut classée site du patrimoine culturel protégé provincial par la province du Guizhou et en 2001 site du patrimoine culturel national.

### 3 Justification de l'inscription, intégrité et authenticité

#### Analyse comparative

Les sites qui composent la série ont été choisis parmi 101 sites identifiés des domaines des tusi en Chine du Sud-Ouest, au regard de leur statut protégé, et en fonction de la nature, de la disposition, de l'envergure et de la valeur des vestiges, comme les plus représentatifs du système du tusi. Un tableau comparatif détaillé en a été fourni dans le dossier de proposition d'inscription, ainsi qu'un tableau d'analyse comparative de ceux protégés aux niveaux national ou provincial.

L'ICOMOS considère que les analyses comparatives démontrent que les sites sélectionnés se complètent en termes de représentation des différents aspects du système du tusi. Comme le confirment les informations complémentaires fournies par l'État partie, les sites sélectionnés partagent des attributs communs tels qu'une zone administrative centrale sur le modèle impérial, entourée par des habitations locales épousant la topographie, avec leurs caractéristiques culturelles et religieuses. Les sites choisis comportent aussi certains éléments spécifiques : les dimensions des zones administratives correspondent au plus haut rang du tusi à Laosicheng et à Hailongtun et à l'avant-dernier échelon à Tangya ; chaque site abrite différentes expressions des traditions et motifs décoratifs locaux applicables ; les traditions funéraires sont illustrées à Laosicheng et à Tangya ; les fortifications de montagne et les aspects militaires à Hailongtun et dans une

moindre mesure à Tangya ; des communautés ethniques résident toujours sur le bien à Laosicheng et y perpétuent leurs traditions culturelles.

L'État partie a comparé le bien aux biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial du Domaine du chef Roi Mata à Vanuatu (2008, (iii), (vi) & (vi)) et du Paysage culturel de Sukur au Nigéria (1999, (iii), (v) et (vi)), que l'ICOMOS ne juge pas particulièrement pertinents. Il a été conclu que ceux-ci différaient nettement, tant en termes d'attributs que de valeurs. Ils ont également été comparés à plusieurs autres centres administratifs gouvernés par les minorités d'un pays pluriethnique unifié, parmi lesquels le système du curaca de l'Empire inca, qui manque de vestiges physiques ; la nomination dans l'Empire romain de gouverneurs locaux en divers endroits, lequel ne reflète pas d'héritage de la diversité culturelle de minorités, et les Empires russes de la Rus' de Kiev et de la Russie tsariste, dont les duchés et les États vassaux ne témoignent pas d'une administration centrale manifeste, mais affichent plutôt des caractéristiques ethniques locales dominantes.

L'ICOMOS note que le Qhapaq Ñan (2014, (ii), (iii), (iv) et (vi)), le tronçon routier andin transfrontalier de l'Empire inca reliant la Bolivie, l'Argentine, le Chili, la Colombie, l'Équateur et le Pérou, illustre une organisation similaire à celle de la Chine, avec des sociétés superposant un niveau tribal local à un niveau étatique régional et les intégrant à leur réseau de routes, à leurs établissements marchands et à leurs pôles administratifs. L'ancien tambo inca situé le long de la route intégrait un plan administratif inca au goût culturel local et régional. L'ICOMOS considère aussi que les Sites Gusuku et biens associés du royaume des Ryukyu au Japon (1999, (ii), (iii) et (iv)) ont quelques points communs avec les sites du tusi. Cependant, l'ICOMOS estime que les vestiges physiques des trois centres administratifs des tusi, avec leur paysage montagneux dans des villages montagnards dispersés, expriment un système administratif et sociopolitique distinctement chinois, interagissant avec les minorités ethniques et préservant la diversité culturelle dans des zones périphériques, qui ne saurait faire l'objet d'une comparaison constructive avec d'autres sites aux valeurs globalement similaires.

Le bien a aussi été comparé à d'autres sites inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial qui sont associés à des minorités culturelles dans la Chine du Sud-Ouest, notamment la Vieille ville de Lijiang (1997, (ii), (iv) et (v)) ; le Paysage culturel des rizières en terrasses des Hani de Honghe (2013, (iii) & (v)) ; et, sur la liste indicative, notamment les villages dong ; les bâtiments diaolou et villages des groupes ethniques tibétains et qiang ; les villages miao du sud-est du Guizhou ; les anciennes plantations de thé du mont Jingmai de Pu'er. L'État partie conclut que les vestiges physiques de ces biens reflètent principalement les conditions de production et de vie des groupes ethniques et ne reflètent pas la stratégie administrative du système du tusi.

L'ICOMOS considère que les sites proposés pour inscription diffèrent des autres en Chine en ce qu'ils abritent d'importants vestiges des bâtiments administratifs centraux et des résidences officielles. Au regard de la justification proposée pour la valeur universelle exceptionnelle, c'est leur représentativité de ce système centralisé de gouvernance qui importe. L'ICOMOS considère donc que l'analyse comparative justifie la sélection de ces sites.

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L'ICOMOS considère que l'analyse comparative justifie d'envisager l'inscription de ce bien en série sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.

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#### **Justification de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle**

Le bien proposé pour inscription est considéré par l'État partie comme ayant une valeur universelle exceptionnelle en tant que bien culturel pour les raisons suivantes :

- Il s'agit d'une série représentative de sites représentant l'échange d'influences entre l'identité nationale telle qu'exprimée par le gouvernement central et les minorités culturelles et ethniques locales.
- Les sites représentent la stratégie administrative chinoise du XIIIe au XXe siècle.
- Les sites sont associés à des coutumes et à des traditions culturelles typiques des groupes ethniques de la Chine du Sud-Ouest.

L'approche en série permet une sélection représentative des attributs d'une potentielle valeur universelle exceptionnelle au regard de la fusion des traditions ethniques régionales avec les formes et les motifs de la Chine centrale dans le paysage des montagnes escarpées de la Chine du Sud-Ouest.

L'ICOMOS considère que cette justification est appropriée car les vestiges physiques des trois sites se combinent pour illustrer le système de gouvernance des minorités en Chine impériale sur plusieurs siècles, par la disposition formelle symétrique et le style architectural impérial du domaine et des bâtiments administratifs du tusi, conservant parallèlement le caractère dispersé des villages des peuples tujia et miao, reflétant l'adaptation des peuplements ethniques à la topographie de la région, et les sites et traits architecturaux des temples. L'intégration de motifs décoratifs ethniques locaux dans le pavage des rues et des routes de Laosicheng, dans la frise du tusi sur le mémorial à Tangya et sur la porte fortifiée de Feilong à Hailongtun est un exemple spécifique de l'influence des minorités locales sur le traitement décoratif. Le système de gouvernement du tusi est bien documenté dans les archives historiques et les généalogies ainsi que dans les poèmes, les légendes et les coutumes des ethnies tujia, gelao et miao. Les cultures traditionnelles et les pratiques culturelles de ces minorités ethniques demeurent présentes dans les régions des sites des tusi, qui s'inscrivent sur un arrière-plan de culture traditionnelle.

Les danses et les cérémonies tujia perdurent à Laosicheng.

#### **Intégrité et authenticité**

##### **Intégrité**

Selon l'État partie, les trois sites ont été choisis pour rassembler une série d'attributs pour illustrer les critères (ii), (iii) et (vi). L'État partie considère que chaque site est nécessaire pour inclure tous les éléments nécessaires pour exprimer la valeur universelle exceptionnelle proposée.

L'ICOMOS note qu'à Laosicheng comme à Tangya, des strates d'habitation et d'agriculture ultérieures se sont superposées aux vestiges de la période tusi, un escalier moderne en béton conduit au temple du Patriarche à Laosicheng et à Tangya la route moderne a été construite par-dessus les pavements des rues historiques. Des tours électrique/de communication ont un impact visuel sur les trois sites. À Laosicheng et à Tangya, les tombeaux ont été pillés au fil de l'histoire, avec des reliques originales disparues. À Hailongtun, les structures sont envahies par la végétation en de nombreux endroits, rendant difficile de discerner les différentes époques de construction, et des murs tombent en ruines. Sur les trois sites, les vestiges pré-tusi et post-tusi pourraient être plus clairement identifiés.

L'ICOMOS considère que l'intégrité de Laosicheng est grande, bien que le groupe de la rue gauche (village de Laosicheng) à l'intérieur du bien se superpose aux habitations de la période du tusi, et l'impact que cela a sur les vestiges enterrés n'est pas mesuré. À Tangya, les vestiges limités et le stade relativement précoce des fouilles archéologiques (par rapport aux deux autres sites), ainsi que l'état actuel des vestiges et la couverture de la quasi-totalité des habitations de la période du tusi par des strates postérieures de champs et d'habitations, ainsi que des ajouts/modifications ultérieures comme le pavement des rues, compromettent l'intégrité par rapport à Laosicheng et à Hailongtun. Toutefois, certains éléments de Tangya, particulièrement le mémorial intact et les vestiges mis au jour de la zone administrative, présentent une bonne intégrité et sont la clé de la justification des critères (ii) et (iii). Hailongtun conserve les vestiges les plus vastes, mais ils sont dans un état de conservation médiocre.

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L'ICOMOS considère que le bien en série proposé pour inscription comprend des éléments possédant l'intégrité nécessaire pour manifester les valeurs proposées, et que l'intégrité dans le cas de Laosicheng et Hailongtun est démontrée (particulièrement pour Laosicheng) mais qu'elle l'est moins bien pour l'élément Tangya.

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##### **Authenticité**

L'ICOMOS considère que, globalement, l'authenticité des vestiges matériels sur les trois sites proposés pour inscription, en termes de fonction, de forme et de



disposition, de matériaux et de style de construction, d'emplacement et de cadre, est préservée, bien que vulnérable du fait de l'état de conservation variable de certains des éléments du bien. L'ICOMOS considère que l'authenticité de l'esprit et des traditions est grande à Laosicheng, grâce à la présence des groupes de la minorité ethnique tujia dans la zone du bien.

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L'ICOMOS considère que l'authenticité de la série dans son ensemble a été justifiée ; et que l'authenticité des sites individuels qui la composent a été démontrée.

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En conclusion, l'ICOMOS considère que les conditions d'intégrité sont moins bien démontrées pour l'élément Tangya, mais sont démontrées pour la série dans son ensemble, les éléments clés de Tangya présentant une bonne intégrité. Les conditions d'authenticité de la série dans son ensemble et des éléments individuels ont été justifiées, bien qu'elles soient vulnérables du fait de l'état variable de conservation de certains des éléments.

#### **Critères selon lesquels l'inscription est proposée**

Le bien est proposé pour inscription sur la base des critères culturels (ii), (iii) et (vi).

*Critère (ii) : témoigner d'un échange d'influences considérable pendant une période donnée ou dans une aire culturelle déterminée, sur le développement de l'architecture ou de la technologie, des arts monumentaux, de la planification des villes ou de la création de paysages ;*

Ce critère est justifié par l'État partie au motif que les sites du tusi témoignent clairement de l'échange d'influences entre les cultures ethniques locales de la Chine du Sud-Ouest et l'identité nationale, exprimée par les structures du gouvernement central.

L'ICOMOS considère que les sites traduisent leur utilisation et leur fonction dans ces contrées isolées, loin du cœur de l'administration dynastique, reflétant l'échange entre les cultures représentées par le gouvernement central et les villages tribaux.

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L'ICOMOS considère que ce critère a été justifié.

*Critère (iii) : apporter un témoignage unique ou du moins exceptionnel sur une tradition culturelle ou une civilisation vivante ou disparue ;*

Ce critère est justifié par l'État partie au motif que les sites apportent un témoignage unique sur les traditions culturelles de la Chine centrale dans l'administration des régions culturellement diverses de la Chine du Sud-Ouest, sous la houlette du tusi, système de gouvernement qui a permis de conserver les traditions culturelles locales en les intégrant aux systèmes d'administration nationale.

L'ICOMOS considère que les sites sont la manifestation du système du tusi dans le sud-ouest de la Chine et

apportent donc un témoignage exceptionnel sur cette forme de gouvernance, issue des modes antérieurs d'administration des minorités ethniques en Chine et de la civilisation chinoise des périodes Yuan et Ming.

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L'ICOMOS considère que ce critère a été justifié.

*Critère (vi) : être directement ou matériellement associé à des événements ou des traditions vivantes, des idées, des croyances ou des œuvres artistiques et littéraires ayant une signification universelle exceptionnelle ;*

Ce critère est justifié par l'État partie au motif que les sites sont directement associés aux coutumes et aux traditions culturelles typiques encore vivantes au sein des groupes ethniques de la Chine du Sud-Ouest, grâce au système du tusi.

L'ICOMOS note que les peuples tujia et miao conservent leur culture traditionnelle et leur intégrité sociale et économique dans les anciennes régions du tusi, bien qu'apparemment seuls les Tujia de Laosicheng continuent d'utiliser le site pour des représentations et des cérémonies. La pérennité de ces cultures est en partie attribuée aux politiques de l'ancien système du tusi. L'ICOMOS prend aussi note des listes de représentations, d'artisanats et de cérémonies associées à chaque site dans les informations complémentaires fournies par l'État partie en réponse à la mission. On distingue encore à Laosicheng les liens documentés dans le rapport remis par la mission « Rapport d'enquête et d'étude sur Laosicheng et les villages avoisinants » commandé par l'Administration du patrimoine culturel de la préfecture autonome du Hunan occidental et l'Administration du patrimoine culturel du comté de Yongshun (2013).

En réponse à la question de l'ICOMOS concernant l'association directe de tous les éléments du bien proposé pour inscription à des événements ou à des traditions vivantes, l'État partie a fourni des informations complémentaires sur les rituels associés au « culte du chef » à Laosicheng et à Tangya, mais note que du fait de la nature et de l'histoire de la forteresse de Hailongtun, les rituels ne se sont pas poursuivis sur le site, bien qu'ils perdurent dans les alentours.

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L'ICOMOS considère que ce critère a été démontré à Laosicheng et à Tangya.

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L'ICOMOS considère que l'approche en série est justifiée et l'ICOMOS considère que la sélection des sites est appropriée.

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En conclusion, l'ICOMOS considère que les critères (ii) et (iii) ont été justifiés pour la série mais que le critère (vi) n'a pas été démontré pour la série dans son ensemble. Les conditions d'authenticité et d'intégrité sont remplies pour la série dans son ensemble, mais les conditions d'intégrité sont moins bien remplies à Tangya.

### **Description des attributs de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle**

L'ICOMOS considère que les attributs de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle sont les sites archéologiques et les vestiges du domaine du tusi de Laosicheng et de la forteresse de Hailongtun, des domaines du plus haut rang tusi affichant les valeurs de ce système et sa philosophie de gouvernement ; le mémorial et les vestiges de la zone administrative, les murs d'enceinte, les fossés de drainage et les tombeaux du domaine du tusi de Tangya, représentant le domaine d'un tusi de rang inférieur ainsi que les traditions et les pratiques culturelles des communautés tujia de Laosicheng.

## **4 Facteurs affectant le bien**

Situés dans des contrées montagneuses isolées et peu peuplées, les biens composant la série ne sont pas considérés comme soumis à des pressions dues à un développement urbain à grande échelle. Les pressions environnementales sont jugées négligeables. Les catastrophes naturelles telles que tremblements de terre et glissements de terrain sont réputées rares ; les risques majeurs sont liés aux orages, aux crues brutales et aux incendies de forêt. La plupart des éléments du bien ne sont pas ouverts aux visiteurs et la pression relative à ceux-ci est donc actuellement négligeable ; néanmoins, elle pourrait devenir significative suite à l'inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial si le nombre de visiteurs et les infrastructures touristiques devaient augmenter. L'ICOMOS note que sur les trois éléments de la série, on trouve des sections de maçonnerie masquées par une épaisse végétation ; dans certains cas, des arbres y ont même pris racine.

### **Laosicheng**

Il y a 6 villages avec 502 habitants sur le bien et 333 habitants dans la zone tampon. Le Plan de gestion de la conservation (PGC) contrôle la construction des maisons d'habitation, le développement du village et les installations destinées aux visiteurs. Des mesures de contrôle des crues et des plans d'urgence sont en place pour atténuer les dégâts liés aux inondations. Des plans de prévention des incendies et de mesures d'urgence sont en place. Une étude de la capacité d'accueil des visiteurs a été entreprise. L'ICOMOS note que certaines maisons villageoises sur le bien remontent à la dynastie Qing (fin du XIXe siècle) et dans certains cas se dressent sur des zones à potentiel archéologique. Le village de Laosicheng, construit sur des vestiges de la période du tusi au centre du bien, est reconnu au niveau provincial comme un village historique. La question des cultures sur les vestiges de la place du marché est traitée en limitant les espèces végétales à des types de plantes aux racines peu profondes, et aucune extension de la zone actuelle n'est permise. Les problèmes de construction/culture sur des zones à potentiel archéologique sont traités dans le PGC. La tour de télécommunications face au temple de Zijinshan a un impact visuel sur le bien. Actuellement, les objets provenant du site sont exposés dans un musée à

45 minutes de voiture de Yongshun, mais ils seront présentés dans le nouveau centre d'accueil des visiteurs en cours de construction en face du site principal, de l'autre côté du fleuve, toujours dans les limites du bien.

### **Domaine du tusi de Tangya**

Le bien proposé pour inscription abrite 305 habitants, et la zone tampon 9 853. Des politiques d'urbanisme sont en place pour réguler le développement de la ville de Jianshan (au nord) et des trois villages dans la zone tampon, ainsi que la production et les activités agricoles, outre des contrôles de la pollution environnementale. Le bien possède un bon drainage et n'est pas considéré comme sujet aux inondations. Des plans d'urgence sont en place. Une étude de la capacité d'accueil des visiteurs est en cours et une stratégie de présentation en développement. L'ICOMOS note que les plantations en terrasses sur le bien se trouvent dans des zones à potentiel archéologique et dans certains cas par-dessus des fondations d'édifices. Un bureau de gestion du site et des installations destinées aux visiteurs, dont un petit musée de site, ont été aménagés dans des bâtiments traditionnels sur le bien, dont certains ont été construits sur les vestiges de maisons antérieures. Les informations complémentaires communiquées par l'État partie indiquent qu'un nouveau centre d'accueil des visiteurs et des bâtiments d'exposition sont prévus dans la zone tampon. Les édifices résidentiels modernes et les tours de transmission dans la zone tampon ont un impact visuel sur le bien.

### **Forteresse du tusi de Hailongtun**

L'élément du bien est isolé, accueille 143 habitants et ne subit aucune pression liée au développement. Toutefois, trois villages abritent une population agricole d'environ 1 394 personnes dans la zone tampon. Les maisons datent des années 1950. Des restrictions sur l'emplacement, l'échelle et l'aspect du développement de nouvelles habitations et des contrôles sur l'utilisation des terrains agricoles sont en place. Orages et inondations sont les principaux risques. Des systèmes d'alarme ont été installés, les façades rocheuses consolidées et des plans d'urgence pour faire face aux catastrophes sont en place. Une étude de la capacité d'accueil de visiteurs a été lancée et de nouvelles installations pour les visiteurs, ainsi qu'un bureau de gestion du site, ont été construits dans la zone tampon. L'ICOMOS note que les maisons en bois libérées ont été réutilisées pour accueillir des installations destinées aux touristes, un musée sur la culture ethnique et une station de travail archéologique, ainsi que des logements pour les chercheurs. Des lignes électriques haute tension ont un impact visuel sur le site.

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L'ICOMOS considère que la principale menace pesant sur le bien est l'érosion due aux abondantes précipitations. Le tourisme pourrait aussi être un facteur si le nombre de visiteurs et le développement d'infrastructures touristiques devaient augmenter à la suite d'une inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.

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## 5 Protection, conservation et gestion

### Délimitations du bien proposé pour inscription et de la zone tampon

Les délimitations des éléments du bien épousent les lignes topographiques naturelles, notamment les collines, les fleuves et les cours d'eau, et sont physiquement marquées au sol. En réponse à la demande de l'ICOMOS, l'État partie a communiqué des cartes corrigées montrant le nom des pics / collines marquant la ligne de crête. Les délimitations de la zone tampon suivent les pics des collines / montagnes avoisinantes, encerclant les paysages contigus à chaque élément et suivant les lignes topographiques naturelles telles que les collines, les fleuves et les cours d'eau là où c'est approprié, et sont marquées au sol. La limite sud-ouest de la zone tampon du domaine du tusi de Tangya coïncide avec la route touristique de Zhaojiahe. Les délimitations du bien et de la zone tampon du domaine du tusi de Tangya et de la forteresse de Hailongtun coïncident avec les limites de protection définies pour les sites en tant que sites du patrimoine culturel national protégé. Les délimitations de Laosicheng coïncident avec les limites de protection définies dans le plan de conservation du site de Laosicheng, du comté de Yongshun, province du Hunan.

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L'ICOMOS considère que les délimitations du bien proposé pour inscription et de la zone tampon sont appropriées.

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### Droit de propriété

Selon les nouvelles informations communiquées à la mission d'expertise, les éléments du bien proposé pour inscription du domaine du tusi de Tangya et de la forteresse de Hailongtun sont désormais l'entière propriété de l'État. Le domaine du tusi de Laosicheng appartient pour près de 12 % à l'État, le reste étant sous propriété collective.

### Protection

Les éléments du bien proposé pour inscription sont classés sites du patrimoine culturel national protégé prioritaire, en vertu de la Loi sur la protection des reliques culturelles de 1982, modifiée en 2007. Ils sont aussi protégés par la législation provinciale applicable. Les sites des tusi de Laosicheng et de Tangya se trouvent dans des zones panoramiques nationales / provinciales classées et sont protégés par les Réglementations sur les zones panoramiques de 2006. Lors de leur inclusion sur la liste indicative de la Chine en 2006, ils ont fait l'objet de mesures de protection administrative complémentaires offertes aux sites du patrimoine mondial de la Chine. Les zones tampons sont protégées conformément aux réglementations relatives aux zones protégées et aux zones de contrôle de la construction couvrant les sites du patrimoine culturel national protégé prioritaire.

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L'ICOMOS considère que la protection légale en place est appropriée. L'ICOMOS considère que les mesures de protection du bien sont appropriées.

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### Conservation

Des inventaires préparés pour évaluer et suivre l'état de conservation des trois biens ont été fournis dans les plans de conservation et de gestion rattachés au dossier de proposition d'inscription en Annexe II. L'inventaire des recherches, des études et des fouilles archéologiques est dressé dans le dossier de proposition d'inscription. L'ICOMOS note que des centres d'archives ont été établis sur les trois sites, comprenant un catalogue numérique des rapports archéologiques publiés et des inventaires des objets découverts durant les fouilles. Les manuscrits originaux des annales du comté ou des généalogies familiales sont conservés dans les archives du comté. Des archives photo numériques sont conservées dans les divers instituts d'archéologie travaillant sur les trois sites.

Selon l'État partie, les sites sont bien entretenus et conservés. Des plans directeurs de conservation ont été approuvés par l'Administration nationale du patrimoine culturel (ANPC) pour Laosicheng et Hailongtun et un autre lui a été soumis pour Tangya. L'ICOMOS note que si de nombreux éléments des sites sont dans un état bon ou moyen, il en existe d'autres sur chaque site qui sont en mauvais état, dont la plateforme de la stèle de Dezheng à Laosicheng, des vestiges de la section des remparts, le mémorial et le tombeau M9 à Tangya, ainsi que plusieurs passages/portes à Hailongtun. Les interventions envisagées sur les sites incluent certaines pratiques, par exemple l'utilisation du mortier de ciment, et doivent être soumises à une évaluation technique. Les travaux de conservation mis en place à Laosicheng incluent la stabilisation de la plateforme de la stèle de Dezheng avec un contrefort temporaire, le remblayage et la couverture des zones archéologiques, le nettoyage et le jointoiment des murs ainsi que la réparation des structures en bois et du toit du temple du Patriarche. À Tangya, le mémorial fait l'objet d'un suivi, suite à l'insertion d'une attache métallique pour empêcher le mouvement, et des contreforts ont été mis en place pour prévenir l'effondrement des murs ceignant la terrasse de la zone administrative. À Hailongtun, des échafaudages de métal ont été installés dans le passage d'Erdao pour l'étayer et des travaux de réparation devraient commencer plus tard dans l'année. Des fouilles archéologiques se poursuivent sur chaque site.

En réponse à la seconde lettre de l'ICOMOS concernant la nécessité de plans de conservation détaillant les méthodes et les matériaux employés pour chaque élément du bien, l'État partie a fourni des informations complémentaires satisfaisantes.

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L'ICOMOS considère que l'état de conservation est variable et potentiellement vulnérable, mais aussi que des mesures appropriées sont maintenant prises pour conserver la valeur du bien.

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## Gestion

Structures et processus de gestion, y compris les processus de gestion traditionnels

La gestion des trois sites est coordonnée au niveau provincial sous l'égide de l'Administration nationale du patrimoine culturel (ANPC), par un comité directeur instauré par l'Accord conjoint sur la protection et la gestion des sites du tusi. Celui-ci comprend des représentants des provinces du Hunan, du Hubei et du Guizhou, où se trouvent les biens composant le site. Les bureaux de gestion sur chacun des sites rendent compte via l'administration de leur comté et les préfectures du gouvernement autonome et populaire au gouvernement populaire de leurs administrations provinciales. Le comité directeur dirigé par le Bureau du patrimoine culturel de la province du Hunan établit des standards communs de gestion des sites, notamment des projets conjoints de recherche, des réunions et des stages de formation pour le personnel. Le nombre d'employés indiqué ci-après est le chiffre actualisé communiqué à la mission.

Le bureau de gestion du site de Laosicheng a accès aux départements du comté, notamment au personnel du service des Reliques culturelles, des Ressources hydrauliques, de la Météorologie, des Terres et des Ressources, du Tourisme et de la Foresterie pour le suivi et autres formes d'assistance, et emploie 28 personnes responsables des expositions, des archives, de la protection et de l'entretien des reliques culturelles, ainsi que 2 experts invités pour un conseil professionnel sur l'archéologie et la conservation. De surcroît, 160 villageois sont employés pour participer aux travaux sur le site, notamment pour les routes, l'accueil des visiteurs, nettoyer la rivière, assurer la sécurité, garder les antiquités, protéger la forêt, 75 dans le groupe culturel et artistique et 35 bateliers.

Le bureau de gestion du site de Tangya a accès au personnel du service du comté comme nécessaire pour assurer le suivi et autres formes d'assistance, et emploie 11 personnes responsables de la conservation, des expositions et de la présentation, du suivi et de la sécurité. En outre, 19 résidents locaux sont employés comme guides, gardes de sécurité et agents de nettoyage.

Le bureau de gestion du site pour la forteresse de Hailongtun a accès au personnel du service du comté et provincial comme nécessaire pour assurer le suivi et autres formes d'assistance, et dispose de 20 employés dans 5 sections : la protection et la gestion (4), les expositions (4), le suivi (3), le musée (4) et l'administration (5). En outre, 148 villageois locaux sont employés comme interprètes, inspecteurs de routine et agents de nettoyage.

Selon les évaluations de gestion dans les Plans de conservation et de gestion pour les trois biens, la formation du personnel et la capacité professionnelle pourraient être améliorées.

L'ICOMOS considère qu'au vu de l'échelle des trois sites, un suivi et un entretien réguliers semblent difficiles. Le suivi repose essentiellement sur des caméras installées sur les trois sites.

Les fonds sont fournis par des dotations annuelles des gouvernements nationaux et locaux au Fond de conservation et de gestion des sites du tusi. Ce qui est considéré comme conforme aux exigences de base de gestion et de protection du patrimoine. L'ICOMOS note que les fonds sont répartis entre de nombreux domaines, notamment la réquisition de terrains, le déplacement des résidents dans le cadre des propositions touristiques, le relevé topographique et les fouilles archéologiques, mais la proportion allouée à la mise en œuvre de travaux de conservation n'est pas précisée. L'ICOMOS considère que le déplacement des habitants n'est pas nécessaire pour permettre la conservation du bien.

Cadre de référence : plans et mesures de gestion, y compris la gestion des visiteurs et la présentation

Des plans directeurs, des plans d'occupation des sols et des plans touristiques existent pour les villes/comtés dans lesquels les biens proposés pour inscription sont situés ; ils portent sur la protection et la gestion des sites, avec un accent mis sur le tourisme potentiel. L'ICOMOS note que le plan touristique de la zone panoramique nationale de Mengdong pour Laosicheng vise à protéger la culture tujia et le système du tusi et envisage le déplacement des résidents restants hors de la zone du bien, tout en proposant un nouveau village touristique. À Tangya, le plan directeur touristique pour le comté de Xianfeng propose une « Zone de tourisme culturel populaire du domaine du tusi de Tangya » reliée à la ville de Jianshan par un pont, et la reconstruction de deux jardins situés dans la zone du bien. L'ICOMOS considère que ces plans touristiques doivent être étudiés par l'ensemble du comité directeur concernant les mesures de conservation et de gestion nécessaires pour préserver la valeur universelle exceptionnelle. Les informations complémentaires transmises par l'État partie en réponse à la deuxième lettre de l'ICOMOS exposent le processus de développement touristique prévu pour les éléments du bien mais n'expliquent pas précisément comment il permettrait de préserver la valeur universelle exceptionnelle.

Les plans de conservation et de gestion ont été préparés pour chacun des sites pour la période 2013-2030, essentiellement sur le même modèle pour chacun en termes de structure du contenu. Ils incluent la gestion des visiteurs et la présentation ainsi que le suivi des facteurs relatifs aux catastrophes naturelles.

Actuellement, seul Hailongtun est ouvert au public. Il possède une route pour les visiteurs, jalonnée de panneaux et de cartes. Laosicheng est ouvert à de petits groupes à des fins particulières. Le site du tusi de Tangya n'est pas encore ouvert au public. Sur tous les sites, on envisage que les visiteurs arrivent aux centres d'accueil, d'où ils seront emmenés jusqu'au site en

voitures de golf. Ils suivront ensuite des routes indiquées, avec des plates-formes en bois offrant un point de vue sur les vestiges fragiles. Des plans détaillés montrant les dispositions touristiques pour chaque élément du bien ont été ajoutés dans les informations complémentaires fournies par l'État partie. L'ICOMOS note que Hailongtun, dont l'accès est très abrupt, pourrait être jugé dangereux par temps de pluie. Il existe également un risque pour les vestiges, les touristes franchissant des passages ou escaladant des murs d'enceinte partiellement effondrés et structurellement instables à Hailongtun et à Tangya pour les vestiges du mur d'enceinte inférieur et les tombes dans la zone forestière. L'État partie a communiqué une déclaration concernant les mesures à prendre pour traiter ce problème.

#### Implication des communautés locales

Les plans de gestion des biens nécessitent l'implication des communautés locales et un nombre considérable de leurs membres sont employés par les bureaux de gestion locaux des sites pour l'entretien des sites.

L'ICOMOS considère que la gestion des sites n'a pas encore atteint le niveau prévu dans les plans de conservation et de gestion. Toutefois, elle semble raisonnablement efficace à l'heure actuelle, étant donné que Laosicheng et Tangya ne sont pas encore ouverts au public.

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L'ICOMOS considère que le système de gestion du bien en série est approprié ; toutefois, le système et les plans de gestion devraient être renforcés pour assurer le contrôle global des projets touristiques, dans un souci de préservation de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle.

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## 6 Suivi

Les systèmes de suivi sont exposés dans les plans de gestion conformément à l'accord provincial conjoint. Ceux-ci couvrent les indicateurs, la périodicité et l'agence responsable. L'ICOMOS note qu'un système de suivi utilisant des caméras de sécurité est en place sur tous les sites, fournissant des données de référence de grande qualité sur les vestiges archéologiques et ceux qui subsistent en surface, quoique la présence d'une abondante végétation couvrant certaines structures bâties doive le gêner. Selon les évaluations de la gestion figurant dans les plans de conservation et de gestion, le système n'est pas encore complètement mis en œuvre. En réponse à la demande de l'ICOMOS, l'État partie a fourni des informations détaillées supplémentaires sur le système de suivi et la manière dont il sera mis en œuvre.

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L'ICOMOS considère que le système de suivi sera approprié quand il aura été complètement mis en œuvre.

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## 7 Conclusions

L'ICOMOS considère que l'analyse comparative justifie d'envisager l'inscription de ce bien en série sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. L'ICOMOS considère que les critères (ii) et (iii) ont été justifiés pour la série mais que le critère (vi) n'a pas été justifié pour la série dans son ensemble. Les conditions d'intégrité sont remplies pour le domaine du tusi de Laosicheng et la forteresse de Hailongtun, ainsi que pour les éléments principaux du domaine du tusi de Tangya. Les conditions d'authenticité sont remplies pour la série dans son ensemble. L'ICOMOS considère que la série dans son ensemble est nécessaire pour exprimer pleinement le système du tusi.

L'ICOMOS considère que la principale menace pesant sur le bien est l'érosion due aux abondantes précipitations. Les délimitations du bien proposé pour inscription et de la zone tampon sont appropriées. L'ICOMOS considère que la protection légale est appropriée et que les mesures de protection du bien sont appropriées. L'ICOMOS considère que l'état de conservation est variable et potentiellement vulnérable, mais que les mesures actuellement prises sont appropriées. La gestion semble raisonnablement efficace à l'heure actuelle, étant donné que Laosicheng et Tangya doivent encore être ouverts au public, mais n'a pas encore atteint le niveau prévu dans les plans de conservation et de gestion. Le bien pourrait cependant être très vulnérable face à la pression des visiteurs et au développement qu'accompagneraient des infrastructures touristiques après l'inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Le système de suivi sera approprié quand il aura été complètement mis en œuvre.

## 8 Recommandations

### Recommandations concernant l'inscription

L'ICOMOS recommande que les sites du tusi, République populaire de Chine, soient inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base des **critères (ii) et (iii)**.

### Déclaration de valeur universelle exceptionnelle recommandée

#### Brève synthèse

Répartis dans les régions montagneuses du sud-ouest de la Chine s'étendent les vestiges de domaines tribaux dont les chefs étaient nommés « tusi », administrateurs héréditaires de leurs régions respectives, par le gouvernement central du XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle au début du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle. Ce système de gouvernement administratif avait pour but d'unifier l'administration nationale tout en permettant aux minorités ethniques de conserver leurs coutumes et leur mode de vie. Les trois sites de Laosicheng, de Tangya et de la forteresse de Hailongtun, associés en tant que bien en série, illustrent ce système de gouvernance. Les sites archéologiques et

les vestiges du domaine tusi de Laosicheng et de la forteresse de Hailongtun représentent des domaines de tusi des plus hauts rangs ; le mémorial et les vestiges de la zone administrative, les murs d'enceinte, les fossés de drainage et les tombeaux du domaine du tusi de Tangya représentent le domaine d'un tusi de rang inférieur. Leur mélange de caractéristiques propres aux ethnies locales et à la Chine centrale témoigne d'un échange d'influences et des méthodes d'administration de la Chine impériale associées aux traditions culturelles vivantes des minorités ethniques représentées par les traditions et pratiques culturelles des communautés tujia à Laosicheng.

**Critère (ii) :** Les sites du tusi de Laosicheng, de Tangya et de la forteresse de Hailongtun témoignent clairement de l'échange d'influences entre les cultures ethniques locales de Chine du Sud-Ouest et l'identité nationale, exprimée par les structures du gouvernement central.

**Critère (iii) :** Les sites de Laosicheng, de Tangya et de la forteresse de Hailongtun sont la manifestation du système du tusi dans la région du sud-ouest de la Chine et apportent donc un témoignage exceptionnel sur cette forme de gouvernance, issue des modes antérieurs d'administration des minorités ethniques en Chine et de la civilisation chinoise des époques Yuan et Ming.

#### Intégrité

Le bien abrite tous les éléments nécessaires à l'expression de sa valeur universelle exceptionnelle, et est de dimension suffisante pour assurer la représentation complète des caractéristiques et des processus qui traduisent sa signification. Les strates d'occupation postérieures recouvrent en partie les vestiges de la période du tusi à Laosicheng et à Hailongtun, mais les éléments subsistants sont suffisants pour illustrer la valeur universelle exceptionnelle. Des parties du bien à Hailongtun et à Tangya sont vulnérables en raison de la croissance de la végétation. Le bien est exposé à l'érosion due aux abondantes précipitations, et pourrait devenir sensible aux pressions liées au nombre de visiteurs et au développement d'infrastructures touristiques.

#### Authenticité

L'authenticité des vestiges matériels sur les trois sites proposés pour inscription est préservée, en termes de fonction, de forme et de disposition, de matériaux et de style de construction, d'emplacement et d'environnement. L'ICOMOS considère que l'authenticité de l'esprit et des traditions est grande à Laosicheng, du fait de la présence des groupes de la minorité ethnique tujia dans la zone du bien.

#### Mesures de gestion et de protection

Les éléments du bien sont classés sites du patrimoine culturel national protégé prioritaire en vertu de la Loi sur la protection des reliques culturelles de 1982, modifiée en 2007. Ils sont aussi protégés par la législation provinciale applicable. Les sites des tusi de Laosicheng

et de Tangya se trouvent dans des zones panoramiques nationales / provinciales classées et sont protégés par les Réglementations sur les zones panoramiques de 2006. Les zones tampons sont protégées conformément aux réglementations relatives aux zones protégées et aux zones de contrôle de la construction des sites du patrimoine culturel national protégé prioritaire.

La gestion des trois sites est coordonnée au niveau provincial sous l'égide de l'Administration nationale du patrimoine culturel (ANPC) par un comité directeur instauré par l'Accord conjoint sur la protection et la gestion des sites tusi. Celui-ci comprend des représentants des provinces du Hunan, du Hubei et du Guizhou, dans lesquelles sont situés les biens composant le site. Les bureaux de gestion sur chacun des sites rendent compte via l'administration de leur comté et les préfectures du gouvernement autonome et populaire au gouvernement populaire de leurs administrations provinciales. Le comité directeur dirigé par le Bureau du patrimoine culturel de la province du Hunan établit des standards communs de gestion des sites, notamment des projets conjoints de recherche, des réunions et des stages de formation pour le personnel.

Des plans de conservation et de gestion ont été préparés pour chacun des sites pour la période 2013-2030, incluant la gestion des visiteurs et la présentation, ainsi que le suivi des facteurs relatifs aux catastrophes naturelles. Le système et les plans de gestion seront renforcés afin d'assurer le contrôle global des projets touristiques, dans un souci de préservation de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle.

#### Recommandations complémentaires

L'ICOMOS recommande que l'État partie prenne en considération les points suivants :

- renforcer le système et les plans de gestion afin d'assurer le contrôle global des projets touristiques, dans un souci de préservation de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle ;
- mettre en œuvre complètement le système de suivi.



Plan indiquant la localisation des biens proposés pour inscription



Domaine du tusi de Tangya



Domaine et rivière de Lingxi





Passage Chaotian



Vue extérieure de la Tombe M1



Vue aérienne de l'aire archéologique de Xinwanggong



Site funéraire de la famille Peng de Zijinshan