

CHINA (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF)

Jiuzhaigou Valley



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II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1992

Organisation Responsible for the Report

- The Administrative Bureau of Jiuzhaigou Scenic & Historic Interest Area, Aba Tibet & Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Jiuzhaigou County 623 402 Sichuan Province PRC

II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria N iii

Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows: "Jiuzhaigou was inscribed on the WH List for its natural beauty, and is located in the south part of the Min Shan mountain range of Aba Tibetan & Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan province".
- It covers 720 km² area with 63.5% forest cover, 114 lakes, 17 groups of waterfalls, 11 torrents and 5 "calcareous 'tufa' shoals, in strings and clusters, forming a scenic spot unique in China".

Status of Site Boundaries

- The borders and buffer zone of the property are considered adequate.

II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- The WH value is considered to have been maintained. No changes are foreseen.

II.4 Management

Administrative and Management Arrangements

- The 1986 Management Plan for Jiuzhaigou Scenic Spot Area was reviewed in 2001 and will be implemented in 2002-2003.
- The 1995 Management Plan for the National Nature Reserve was approved in 1996.
- A comprehensive list of 32 relevant laws is presented. 'Regulations concerning the World Heritage Sites in Sichuan Province' are planned.

- The responsibilities of the Administration Bureau (under the Aba Prefecture People's Government) are to: (i) publicize laws & regulations; (ii) protect scenic area resources; (iii) coordinate in overall planning; (iv) control the construction of service facilities; and (v) work out rules for tourist security, environmental sanitation, and public security.
- In 1997, Jiuzhaigou was also designated a World Biosphere Reserve.

Present State of Conservation

- In 2002, 47 kilometres of plank trails (40cm above the ground) were laid around the site.
- Since 1999, all land currently under cultivation in the buffer zone has been reforested. "Residents have received a subsidy to compensate for their loss of income from farming." The remaining inhabitants use electricity and gas instead of firewood and coal.

Staffing and Training Needs

- 379 staff are employed in the administration (one has a masters degree and 30 are university graduates) belonging to Han (252), Tibetan (100), Qiang (13), and Hui (9) ethnic groups.
- Staffing level is considered adequate.
- Training is required for overall site management.

Financial Situation

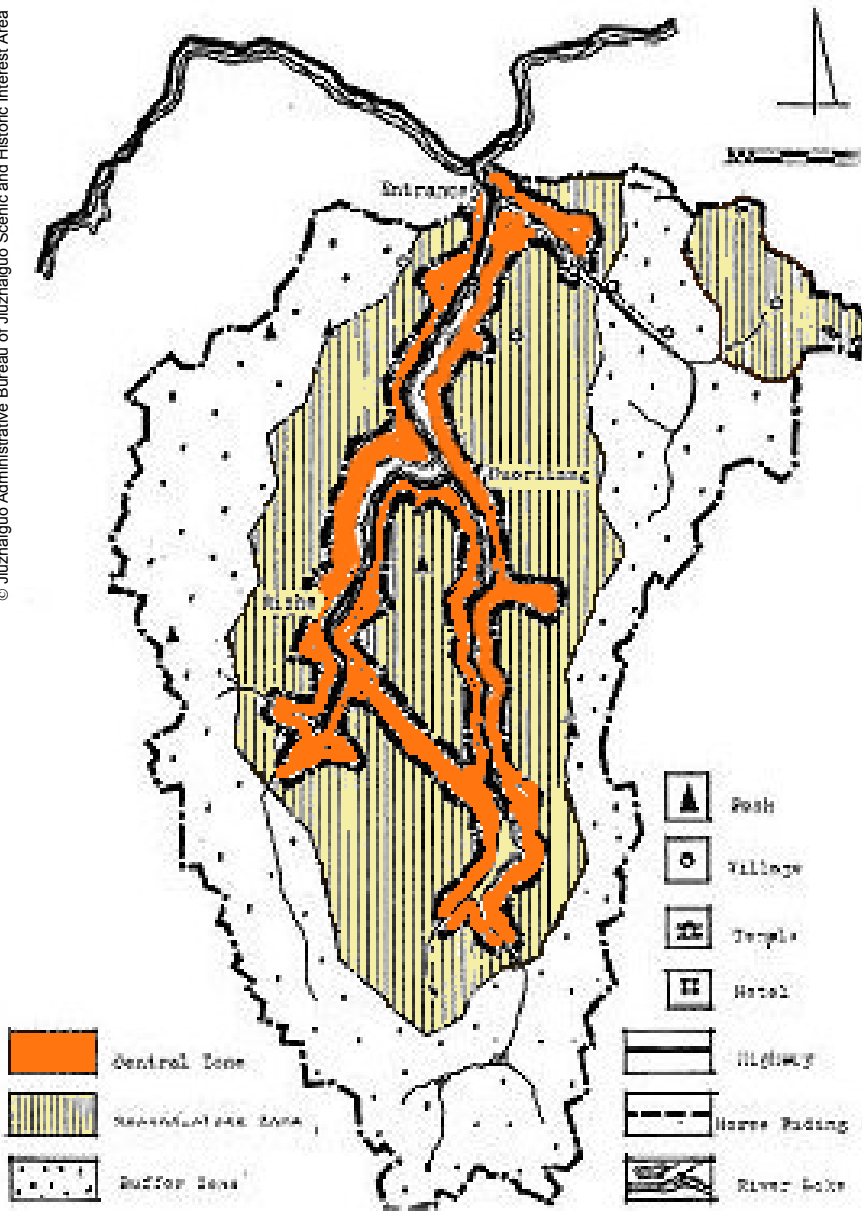
- The Government has invested 400,000 Yuan (US\$ 48,380) into mudslide prevention.
- Admission ticket sales are the main source of funding. In 2001, cumulative spending on scientific research reached some 26.3 million Yuan (US\$ 3.2 million). No further figures are supplied.
- Funding is considered adequate.
- * International Assistance from WHF: none.

Access to IT

- 80 PCs with internet access.
- There is a GIS system with MapGIS and ARCinfo software used for tourist information and the baseline survey due in 2003.

Visitor Management

- In 2001, 1.2 million people visited Jiuzhaigou.
- In March 1999, 227 low pollution 'Green Buses' featuring trained World Heritage guides were initiated.



Map of Jiuzhaigou Valley showing Core (orange), Protective (yellow) and Buffer (white) zones

- The 'Nuorilang Fast Food Restaurant' with a capacity of 3,000-4,000 persons will be completed in late 2002. An improved visitor and administrative centre have also been built in 2001.
- An on-line ticket booking system for the site was put into operation in mid-2002.
- Since 2001, all sewerage from 32 refurbished toilets is "packed and moved to the sewerage farm outside the site every day."
- There is an additional need for on-site tourist information and resting chairs along the trails.

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

Threats and Risks

- Increasing visitor/tourism pressure (67% increase per year since 1997),
- Global warming,
- Forest pests & diseases,
- Natural disasters (fires and mudflows).

Counteractive Plans

- A comprehensive emergency plan covers forest fires, mudflows, tourists' rescue, and the unsafe use of liquid petroleum gas.
- Since 1996, 10 million Yuan (US\$ 1.2 million) have been spent on scientific research into forest diseases, pests, and an 'Automatic Monitoring Station'.
- In 2001, a policy of capping visitor numbers at 12,000 per day was put into operation. All business will also be moved outside the site.

II.6 Monitoring

Monitoring Arrangements

- There is a proposal to establish a joint 'Jiuzhaigou-Huanglong Tourism Development Research Centre' with Sichuan University.
- As a result of the 2002 China WH Workshop, the administration has decided to establish a formal monitoring system.

Monitoring Indicators

- Indicators identified for the system include: (i) ecological indicators on noise, water and air quality; (ii) visitors; (iii) fires; (iv) community development.

II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- Following the recommendations of the WH Committee (1992), the Management Plans for the 'Natural Protection Area' and 'Scenic Area' were reviewed in 2000 and 2001 respectively. The baseline survey is planned to finish in 2003.
- The authorities state their intention to "renew the three Tibetan villages within the site and maintain the local culture".
- Support from the WHF may be required for scientific research and staff training.

* State of Conservation Reports

1998 Ext Bureau WHC-CONF.202/4 The Bureau was informed of the findings of a WH Centre/IUCN mission undertaken in September 1998. The mission found that the site management authorities had been effective in restricting new hotel construction to areas outside of the WH property. The State Council of China has also issued a directive to completely halt illegal logging in the site. The mission also found that the management authorities had entered into an effective partnership with the local Tibetan villagers, whereby visitors were able to stay in the homes of residents, thus improving the material conditions of local people, as well as reducing their dependence on natural resources. Despite these positive features, however, the mission team found the site to be congested with tourists, vehicles able to drive through the core area, and a mushrooming of several new hotels immediately outside the boundaries of the WH property.

1998 Committee WHC-CONF.203/8rev The Committee commended the Chinese authorities for their effective management of the Jiuzhaigou Valley and encouraged them to: (i) establish a "park-and-drive" system; and (ii) limit travel within the site to smaller, environment-friendly vehicles. The Committee recommended that the WH Centre/IUCN mission report be transmitted to the relevant Chinese authorities and drew attention to the need to improve staff training to monitor and mitigate the impacts of tourism, as well as for visitors to be accompanied by trained guides able to interpret the natural value of the WH property.