

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION - IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

LUSHAN NATIONAL PARK (CHINA)

1. DOCUMENTATION

- i) IUCN/WCMC Data Sheet (6 references)
- ii) Additional Literature Consulted: Palmer, M., 1996. *Travels Through Sacred China*. Thorsons; Scott, D., 1989. *Directory of Asian Wetlands*. IUCN. 1181p.; Xiangcan, Jin, 1995. *Lakes in China*. China Ocean Press.
- iii) Consultations: 5 external reviewers, Chinese and Jiangxi Province officials, Namchang University and Science Academy specialists.
- iv) Field Visit: May, 1996. Jim Thorsell, N. de Silva

2. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

The Oriental Deciduous Forest Biogeographical Province has some 130 protected areas of which Lushan National Park is one. There are four other World Heritage sites in this province. Three of these are in China and all have similarities with Lushan. They are Huangshan, Wulingyuan and Taishan. The natural values in terms of biodiversity and landscape variety of these sites all surpass that of Lushan which has moderate values on both measures. The main distinction of Lushan is that it has been an important site for scientific research on quaternary glaciation. This distinction is also shared with the Huangshan World Heritage site which also lies near the southern limit of glaciation during that geological time period. Many other mountain sites in China and in other places throughout Asia that were at the sub-tropical margins of quaternary glacial activity also exist but it is difficult to define just one locale which is considered the most outstanding.

The natural values of the Lushan National Park itself are thus secondary to those found elsewhere and there is no particular feature that would distinguish it on an international scale. The nomination, however, has been submitted as a mixed cultural/natural property and it does include four other separate sites. One of these is the bird sanctuary 30 km to the south of Lushan on Poyang Lake. This area is already a Ramsar site and is an especially important area for wintering waterfowl. The nomination document concentrates on Lushan National Park and does not highlight in sufficient detail the values of the bird sanctuary at Poyang but it is the only feature of the area that may be of international significance.

3. INTEGRITY

Lushan has been revered by various religions over the centuries and has been respected as a holy place. Its formal protection goes back to 1926 and received various orders to further strengthen its protection in the 1980's from the Jiangxi Provincial Government and Jiujiang City. The area has a strong legal basis with further management regulations approved in April of this year. The site has a large staff and the park itself is well-maintained with excellent walking trails. Less is known of the other four sites that make up the nomination although it is known that the Ramsar site on Poyang Lake has some serious problems and conflicts with the 20,000 people who reside in the sanctuary.

A substantial part of the area has been altered due to the presence of some 30,000 people who live inside the boundaries of Lushan itself. There is also large areas of forest plantations in the site. Lushan is a popular resort destination and hosts almost a million visitors per year in a relatively compact area.

4. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Similar to other sites in China evaluated over the past years, IUCN would again underline the need for species conservation status reports rather than just species lists. There are a number of species on the Lushan list where records are out-dated and which may no longer occur in the site.

5. EVALUATION

The nomination is a complex one, centered on the Lushan National Park and four other disjunct sites. Lushan itself does not have any outstanding natural features that distinguish it and its values are modest compared to existing World Heritage sites in the same biogeographical province. The study of its quaternary glaciation is of national significance as are its high scenic and botanical values but from a global viewpoint the case has not been made. By itself, therefore, Lushan National Park does not meet any natural World Heritage criteria.

One of the five component parts of this nomination, however, is important at the international level. This is the "Protective Region of Migratory Birds" on Poyang Lake. Full documentation on this site was not included in the nomination but consideration of the potential of Poyang as a World Heritage site should be encouraged (although the Conditions of Integrity could be an issue here).

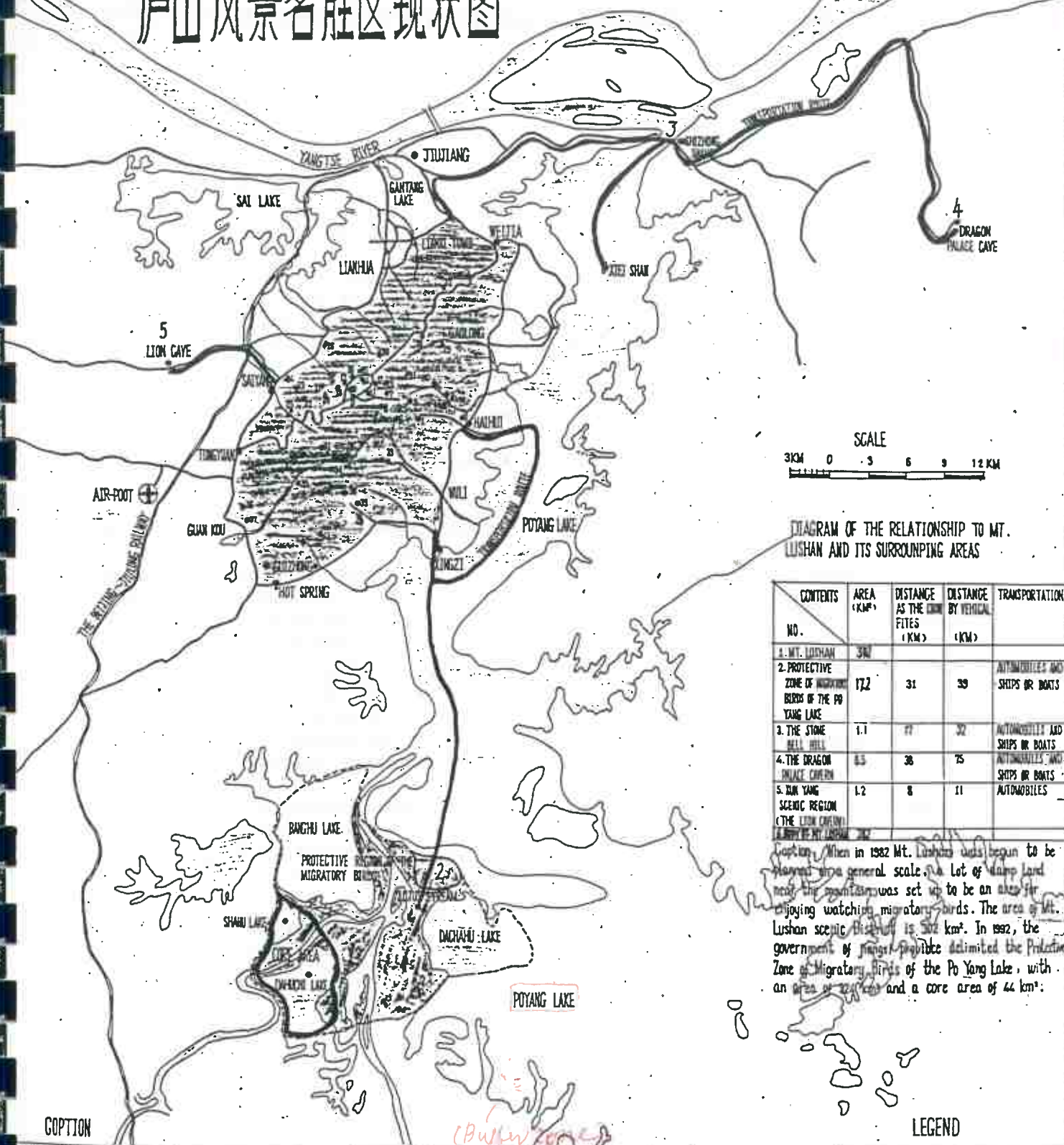
6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The nomination of Lushan National Park and its four outlying units does not meet natural criteria and should not be added to the World Heritage list. The Chinese authorities, however, should be encouraged to consider the case of the portion of the site on Poyang Lake as a potential nomination.

Note: The new map requested from the Chinese authorities to better define the different portions of the nomination is attached.

LUSHANG NATIONAL PARK GEOGRAPHICAL MAP

庐山风景名胜区现状图



COPTION

1. WHITE DEER CAVE ACADEMY	12. LINDSAY PARK	23. STONE GATE	34. BIG HANYANG PEAK
2. MAI HUI TEMPLE	13. VILLA MEILU	24. THE FISHING PLATFORM	35. GULIAN WATERFALL
3. YUQUANG GATE	14. FLORAL PATH	25. TIE-CHUAN PEAK	36. TOMB OF TAO YUANMING
4. THREE-FOLD WATERFALL	15. HEAVENLY BRIDGE	26. EAST GROVE TEMPLE	37. MIAN YANG HILL
5. FIVE-OLD-MAN PEAK	16. BROCADED VALLEY	27. MA WEI WATERFALL	38. DOUBLE SWORD PEAK
6. BATHE VALLEY	17. IMMORTAL'S CAVERN	28. WANGJIAPU SLOPE	39. BEAUTY PEAK
7. BOTANICAL GARDEN OF LUSHAN	18. BIG HEAVENLY POOL	29. ZHOU MA RIDGE	40. GOLDEN WHEEL PEAK
8. HANGPO GORGE	19. DRAGON HEAD PRECIP	30. SMALL HEAVENLY POOL	41. YU LIAN WATERFALL
9. THREE TREASURED TREES	20. THE LION ROCK	31. GRAND MOON HILL	42. KAI XIAN WATERFALL
10. BLACK DRAGON POOL	21. THE COOLING PLATFORM	32. MA ER PEAK	
11. LUSHAN MUSEUM	22. STONE GATE VALLEY	33. GUANYIN BRIDGE	

LEGEND

	LUSHAN NATIONAL PARK
	RIVER/LAKE
	BROOK
	CORE AREA OF THE PROTECTIVE REGION OF THE MIGRATORY BIRDS
	HIGHWAY
	TRANSPORTATION ROUTE

WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION - IUCN SUMMARY

LUSHAN NATIONAL PARK (CHINA)

Summary prepared by IUCN/WCMC (April 1996) based on the original nomination submitted by the Government of the People's Republic of China. This original and all documents presented in support of this nomination will be available for consultation at the meetings of the Bureau and the Committee.

1. LOCATION

Lies in Jiujiang City, the provincial capital, northern of Jiangxi Province, on the southern bank of the Yangtze River by the north-west of the Poyang Lake.

2. JURIDICAL DATA

In 1982 the site was designated as a place of Scenic and Historical Interest by the State Council of the People's Republic of China which in 1984 approved the establishment of the Administrative Bureau of Lushan National Park to strengthen the management and conservation of the site. It is subject to the Provisional Regulations concerning the Places of Scenic and Historical Interest promulgated by the State Council in 1985, the Interim Management Regulations on Scenic Spots and other local laws, regulations and administrative decrees concerning the protection of Mount Lushan.

3. IDENTIFICATION

The main feature of Mount Lushan is the high density of peaks, the principal one being Big Hangyang Peak (1,474m high), as well as waterfalls and springs. It also contains pools, deep valleys, caves and lakes together with a range of glacial features including cirques and moraines. A variety of rocks from different geological periods are exposed and provide an excellent basis for scientific studies.

The climate is subtropical monsoonal, although the mountains provides cool summers and a mean annual temperature of 11.5°C. Approximately three-quarters of the site is forested, ranging from temperate deciduous to subtropical evergreen broadleaf. More than 3,000 species of plants have been recorded.

The fauna comprises 33 species of mammals, 171 birds and over 2,000 species of insects. A number of threatened species such as tiger, clouded leopard, grey wolf, Chinese water deer and Chinese giant salamander are found.

Human activities in the area began 6,000 years ago and Mount Lushan includes temples, mosques and churches of Buddhism, Taoism, Islam and Christianity indicating a long and rich cultural significance.

4. STATE OF PRESERVATION/CONSERVATION

The Lushan Administrative Bureau, under the guidance of the Jiangxi Provincial Bureau of Construction, formulates and implements management plans. According to the Overall Plan approved by the State Council the area is divided into 12 scenic areas and six protection zones.

Mount Lushan is threatened by air pollution from the surrounding industrial zones and the waste and other environmental pressures from the growth of tourism.

5. JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The Government of China has presented the following justification for the designation of Lushan National Park as a World Heritage natural property:

- (i) **An outstanding example of a major stage of earth's history.** Mount Lushan is a place of great significance for the study of both Quaternary glaciers and the development of geological history. It contains a great number of diverse physiographic features.
- (iii) **Contains areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.** Mount Lushan is considered a place of exceptional beauty. It is of great significance in China's history, and is reflected in the work of artists, poets and writers.
- (iv) **Contains important and significant natural habitats for 'in-situ' conservation of biological diversity.** Mount Lushan has permitted the survival of plant species, some of palaeobotanic interest. It supports a species-rich flora and some globally threatened animal species.

WHC/JWT/amb
October 1996

MAP OF LUSHAN NATIONAL PARK WITH ITS BOUNDARIES

庐山风景名胜区界线图



LEGEND

1. WHITE DEER CAVE ACADEMY	12. LINDSAY PARK	23. STONE GATE	34. BIG BANYANG PEAK
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SCALE
0 2 4 KM

—	BOUNDARY OF PARK
—	RIVER/LAKE
—	ROADWAY
—	ROCK

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The original nomination, however, was submitted as a mixed cultural/natural property and did include four other separate sites. One of these was the bird sanctuary 30km to the south of Lushan on Poyang Lake. This area is already a Ramsar site and is an especially important area for wintering waterfowl. This is the only feature of the area that may be of international significance but it is not included in the revised nomination boundary.

3. INTEGRITY

Lushan has been revered by various religions over the centuries and has been respected as a holy place. Its formal protection goes back to 1926 and received various orders to further strengthen its protection in the 1980's from the Jiangxi Provincial Government and Jiujiang City. The area has a strong legal basis with further management regulations approved in April of this year. The site has a large staff and

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5. EVALUATION

The original nomination was a complex one, centered on the Lushan National Park and four other disjunct sites. Since the Bureau, the Chinese authorities revised the boundaries to omit the four subsidiary areas. Lushan itself does not have any outstanding natural features that distinguish it and its values are modest compared to existing World Heritage sites in the same biogeographical province. The study of its quaternary glaciation is of national significance as are its high scenic and botanical values but from a global viewpoint the case has not been made. By itself, therefore, Lushan National Park does not meet any natural World Heritage criteria.

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6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Lushan National Park does not meet natural criteria and should not be added to the World Heritage List for these reasons.

WHC/JWT/amb
October 1996