IUCN Conservation Outlook Assessment 2014 **(archived)**
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Please note: this is an archived Conservation Outlook Assessment for Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas. To access the most up-to-date Conservation Outlook Assessment for this site, please visit https://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org.

Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas

SITE INFORMATION

Country:
China
Inscribed in: 2003
Criteria:
(vii) (viii) (ix) (x)

Site description:
Consisting of eight geographical clusters of protected areas within the boundaries of the Three Parallel Rivers National Park, in the mountainous north-west of Yunnan Province, the 1.7 million hectare site features sections of the upper reaches of three of the great rivers of Asia: the Yangtze (Jinsha), Mekong and Salween run roughly parallel, north to south, through steep gorges which, in places, are 3,000 m deep and are bordered by glaciated peaks more than 6,000 m high. The site is an epicentre of Chinese biodiversity. It is also one of the richest temperate regions of the world in terms of biodiversity. © UNESCO

SUMMARY

2014 Conservation Outlook

Significant concern

Most values of this large and complex serial site appear to be stable; however, reports about poaching and wildlife trade suggesting that wildlife populations may be severely depleted are alarming. In addition, some impacts on the Site's integrity in relation to its recognized scenic beauty have already occurred as a result of ongoing construction of dams. Positive conservation and management advances have been noted, however, these are clouded by significant potential threats emanating from outside the site, and management challenges to deal with these threats in an effective manner. The site has been subject to continuous state of conservation reporting since inscription. One year after inscription the Committee expressed its "gravest concerns on the impacts that the proposed construction of dams could have on the outstanding universal value of this World Heritage site" (Decision 28 COM 15B.9, 2004). The unresolved threat of large scale dam development including at least 13 dams remains of significant concern. Coupled with this is the need for effective management of large human populations in and around the site and the sensitive development of tourism within the site.

Current state and trend of VALUES

High Concern
Trend: Deteriorating

The site overall covers a large area of some 960,000 ha, however, the property's configuration into eight clusters, restricted in most areas to upper elevations, weakens somewhat the ecological function of the system as whole. Lack of information on large scale hydro-electric development, including associated access and infrastructure as well as human resettlement plans, does not allow an objective assessment of the potential impacts on values such as scenic beauty and landscape, environmental water flows, aquatic life etc. There is also insufficient data to objectively assess the extent to which important values may

have been excluded from the site following the removal of pre-existing mining areas. Similarly the extent to which unregulated, locally driven inappropriate tourism development may impact site values is difficult to appreciate due to lack of information. Values related to glacial activity and evidence of major and ongoing geological events do not appear compromised at present, however, the scenic beauty of the landscape is being affected by ongoing construction of dams, and most significant threats to the site have the potential to increase in the near future. Although poaching and wildlife trade is considered to be a high threat to the Site's biodiversity values, currently available information is insufficient to draw definitive conclusions about the state and trend of wildlife populations.

Overall THREATS

Very High Threat

A range of threats exist for the site linked to tourism, resident populations, poaching and wildlife trade, mining activity and preparatory works for hydro-electric development in proximity to the Site. However, the scale of planned hydro-electric development poses the greatest potential threat to the site as predicted direct and indirect impacts are likely to result in significant negative effects on the site's values and integrity.

Overall PROTECTION and MANAGEMENT

Some Concern

An effective regime of legal protection is in place and a number of positive protection and management initiatives have occurred such as adoption of the Master Plan. Ensuring effective coordination mechanisms across different components of the site and the different types of protected areas remains a significant management challenge. In relative terms the most serious threats emanate from outside of the site, particularly large scale hydro-electric development and the proposed construction of dams. The site's protection needs are not adequately integrated into broader local, Provincial and National development planning. Equally the potential benefits of the site are not being optimized as part of broader planning considerations. Tourism planning appears to be largely absent, despite tourism being a priority management objective for the 10 Scenic and Historic Interest Areas that are part of the Site.

FULL ASSESSMENT

Description of values

Values

World Heritage values

► **Exceptional diversity of landscapes dominated by the scenically distinctive three deep parallel river gorges**
Criterion:(vii)

The deep, parallel gorges of the Jinsha, Lancang (Upper Mekong) and Nu Jiang (Salween) rivers are the outstanding scenic element of the site; other outstanding scenic landforms include the glaciated peaks of the Meili Baima and Haba Snow mountains. (SoOUV 35COM, 2011).

► **Exceptional natural phenomenon of low latitude glacial activity**
Criterion:(vii)

The Mingyongqia Glacier is claimed to be the lowest descending glacier in the Northern Hemisphere at such a low latitude (28° N). Alpine karst landforms and weathering of the Danxia (red sandstone) are also present in the area. (SoOUV 35COM, 2011).

► **Significant evidence representing major and ongoing geological events in the evolution of the land surface of Asia**
Criterion:(viii)

The last 50 million years of geological history associated with the collision of the Indian Plate with the Eurasian Plate, the closure of the ancient Tethys Sea, and the uplifting of the Himalaya Range and the Tibetan Plateau is evident. These were major geological events in the evolution of the land surface of Asia, and are on-going. This history is evident by the diverse rock

types present. The range of karst, granite monolith, and Danxia sandstone landforms in the alpine zone are some of the best examples of their type in the world. (SoOUV 35COM, 2011)

► **Convergence of three of the world's major biogeographic realms and an exceptional diversity of ecological processes**
Criterion:(ix)

The site demonstrates a rich diversity of ecological processes which result from a dramatic mix of geological, climatic and topographical effects. The complexity of ecological processes is amplified by orographic belt influences; topographical complexity, a wide range of rock substrates and the fact that this is a "collision point" between tectonic plates. The area was also a Pleistocene refugium and is located at a biogeographical convergence zone (i.e. with temperate and tropical elements). (SoOUV 35COM, 2011)

► **An area of the richest biodiversity in China and may be the most biologically diverse temperate region on earth**
Criterion:(x)

The site is an epicenter of Chinese biodiversity and encompasses most of the natural habitats of the globally significant Hengduan Mountains. The site exhibits outstanding topographic and climatic diversity, coupled with a location at the juncture of the East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Tibetan Plateau, biogeographical realms. It functions as a N-S corridor for the movement of plants and animals and retains a high degree of natural character despite thousands of years of human habitation. The site supports the richest diversity of higher plants in China as well as a remarkable range of fungi and lichens. Over 6000 plant species are listed and distributed within 22 recognised vegetation types (IUCN Evaluation, 2003). The site is considered the last stronghold for an extensive suite of rare and endangered plants and animals. (SoOUV 35COM, 2011). The area is the most outstanding region for animal diversity in China, and likely in the Northern Hemisphere. Two-thirds of the fauna within the nominated site are either endemic, or are of Himalayan-Hengduan Mountain types. (IUCN Evaluation, 2003)

Other important biodiversity values

▶ Other designations

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve exists in part of the Gaoligong Nature Reserve (IUCN Evaluation, 2003)

▶ Watershed values

Site provides critical upper watershed protection for the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (IUCN Evaluation, 2003)

▶ Wetland / waterbird values

Ramsar areas exist in several of the protected areas making up the site (UNESCO Periodic Reporting, 2011)

Assessment information

Threats

Current Threats

High Threat

A range of current threats to the site have been identified, most significantly related to mining activities in close proximity to the site, extensive ongoing and planned hydro-electric developments, tourism, poaching and wildlife trade, and managing relations with and impacts from resident populations within the site and its buffer zone. There is significant concern about the lack of consideration of cumulative impacts from the dams and associated infrastructure (including transmission infrastructure), and the fact that significant (preparatory) construction has been permitted to take place prior to the completion and approval of EIAs. A Strategic Environmental Assessment for development

options in Northwest Yunnan should urgently be conducted, as recommended by the 2013 IUCN reactive monitoring mission.

► Mining/ Quarrying

High Threat
Inside site
Outside site

Boundaries were modified in 2010 to exclude pre-existing mining from the site, which had not been detected during the evaluation of the site when it was nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List. While the State Party has made a commitment not to grant any further permits for mining operations within the site or its buffer zone, it is unclear whether this commitment includes exploration licenses (IUCN, 2013). The State Party furthermore reports on various proposed actions to delineate no-mining zones outside of the site and on initiatives to reduce impacts from mining operations (State Party Report, 2012), again without specifying whether or not these no-mining zones would include exploration licenses. The 2013 IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the site noted that most of the land between the Hong Shan and the Haba Snow Mountains components of the serial site is covered by some twenty prospecting licenses, raising questions about future impacts from possible mining operations on these components and the connectivity between them. Reports of continued illegal mining within the site are an additional concern. The State Party acknowledged that small scale illegal mining may continue locally within the site, and further scrutiny is required to verify reports if such activities (IUCN, 2013).

► Renewable Energy, Dams/ Water Management or Use

Very High Threat
Outside site

Reports of planned dam developments on the three rivers that give the site its name have been a cause for concerns for many years. According to the State Party report of January 2013, a total of 13 large hydro-power dams are proposed along all three rivers, with the highest number (six) on the Lan Cang (or Upper Mekong) River. Construction has already started on five dams, of which four are on the Lan Cang River (i.e. the Lidi, Tuoba, Huangdeng, and Dahuaqiao dams), and one (the Liyuan dam) on the Jinsha River. The EIAs for none of these dams had been completed or approved

prior to the commencement of (in some cases large scale) preparatory construction. Where EIAs are available, these are for individual projects only, and there is no consideration of cumulative impacts, nor is there any documentation available about the planned location and expected impacts of transmission infrastructure. The 13 proposed dams are part of the “West-East Electricity Transfer Project”, which is not restricted to Northwest Yunnan. Some reports suggest that many more dams are planned further away from the World Heritage Site on the same rivers (IUCN, 2013). Although the 2013 IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the site acknowledged that physically, all proposed dam projects will be located outside the World Heritage Site and its buffer zone (which are restricted to higher altitudes), it does note that the visual integrity of the site in relation to its outstanding scenic beauty as recognized under criterion (vii) will be dramatically affected. The mission also highlights that despite being located outside the boundaries of the World Heritage Site and at lower altitudes, the dams are likely to have impacts on the complex linkages between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, as well as on wildlife corridors and landscape connectivity (IUCN, 2013).

► Identity/ Social Cohesion/ Changes in local population and community

High Threat
Outside site

Focus of resettlement plans are on those within the site (above 2,000m asl) (IUCN/UNESCO Mission Report, 2006). Resettlement of significant numbers of people resulting from the construction of dams can impact on catchment systems and associated ecosystems. Resettlement can also potentially divide communities and breakdown traditional cultural practices (International Rivers Network, 2006).

► Other Biological Resource Use

High Threat
Inside site
Outside site

Although the current status and trends of wildlife appear to be poorly understood, reports about poaching and wildlife trade suggest that wildlife populations may have been severely depleted in parts of the World Heritage Site. Management responses to the increasing demand for wildlife products

are reported to be limited (IUCN, 2013). While currently available data is insufficient to draw definitive conclusions and better baseline data and effective monitoring of the status and trend of selected indicator and keystone species are urgently needed (IUCN, 2013), the picture that emerges from the above-mentioned reports about poaching and wildlife trade is cause for considerable alarm.

▶ Tourism/ visitors/ recreation

Low Threat
Inside site

The General Management Plan forecast tourism would increase 5-fold following inscription (IUCN Evaluation, 2003). However Periodic reporting indicates only minor increases over the past 5 years. Nevertheless overcrowding occurs in certain areas (UNESCO Periodic Reporting, 2011). Tourism facility development continues to be planned and approved at provincial or municipal levels without adequate overview planning and regulation (IUCN & UNESCO Mission Report, 2006). Tourism development and the need to mitigate conflicts between local community development and protection of heritage continue to be issues of concern (State Party Report, 2012).

▶ Roads/ Railroads

High Threat
Outside site

Concerns expressed regarding uncontrolled road construction and widening and heavy sedimentation of watercourses (Sidle, 2007). Road construction including upgrading and widening appears to be continuing without adequate planning, controls and coordination.

Potential Threats

Very High Threat

The scale of proposed hydro-electric development remains the most significant potential threat to the site. Even though all of the planned dams lie outside the site, the potential direct and indirect impacts are significant. Concerns relate to potential impacts on World Heritage values relating to altered hydrological

regimes, pollution and sedimentation, impacts on aquatic life, scenic and landscape amenity, impacts arising from associated access and other infrastructure; impacts arising from human resettlement and socio-economic change.

▶ Renewable Energy, Dams/ Water Management or Use

Very High Threat
Outside site

As noted above, in addition to the five dams for which construction has started, at least another seven dams are planned. Please refer to the section on “Extensive ongoing and planned dam development” above for a discussion of the major concerns noted in this regard.

▶ Temperature changes

High Threat
Inside site

Warming temperatures and changing precipitation patterns may impact on the Mingyongqia Glacier reported as the lowest descending glacier in the Northern Hemisphere (SoOUV 35COM, 2011).

Protection and management

Assessing Protection and Management

▶ Sustainable use

Data Deficient

Insufficient information available.

▶ Education and interpretation programs

Some Concern

Five out of seven education/interpretation programme areas rated as poor – one area not rated (Periodic Reporting, 2011)

► Tourism and interpretation

Serious Concern

Tourism development is noted as a priority for management (State Party Report, 2012). However, tourism and recreation planning appear to be mostly absent and disconnected from conservation planning, with apparently few requirements for prior assessment of environmental impacts (IUCN, 2013).

► Monitoring

Serious Concern

Some selective surveys have been undertaken for a limited number of species. Reports about poaching and wildlife trade suggest that wildlife populations have been severely depleted, which is supported by anecdotal evidence. Better baseline data and monitoring of appropriate indicator and keystone species is urgently required (IUCN, 2013).

► Research

Some Concern

Some research undertaken, however, this is inadequate (Periodic Reporting, 2011). Proposals noted to undertake a number of thematic studies to improve management of core values (State Party Report, 2012)

► Relationships with local people

Some Concern

Consultative programmes are in place (Periodic Reporting, 2011) however, these are limited. Persistent concerns exist over forced relocation and local benefits from proposed dam construction and mining. A number of local community disputes have been reported (IUCN SOC, 2012).

► Legal framework and enforcement

Some Concern

Adequate legal framework including: Regulations of the People’s Republic of China on Scenic and Historic Interest Areas (2006), Regulations of Yunnan Province on Management of the Scenic and Historic Interest Areas (1996),

Regulations of Yunnan Province on Protection of the TPR World Heritage Site (2005), The Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Nature Reserves (1994) (Periodic Reporting, 2011).
However, different legal regimes and planning systems exist for the two different types of protected areas (Nature Reserves & Scenic & Historic Interest Areas) and so require ongoing coordination and harmonization. The Yunnan Three Parallel Rivers Management Bureau has been set up as the body responsible for this coordination (IUCN, 2013).
A national Law on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) exists in China, which is applicable to major development projects. Although major projects have repeatedly been halted on the basis of this law, its enforcement, modest quality requirements, and apparently minor consequences of non-compliance have been criticized (IUCN, 2013).

► Integration into regional and national planning systems

Serious Concern

Values and protection needs of the site do not appear to be adequately considered in national and regional planning for hydro-electric development.

► Management system

Some Concern

Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas is a large serial property. An overall master plan was approved in 2012. However, site level management planning remains uncoordinated. Plan preparation and approval processes are slow and often outsourced (IUCN & WHC Mission Report, 2006; IUCN, 2013)

► Management effectiveness

Some Concern

No formalized management effectiveness system is in place yet (IUCN & WHC Mission Report, 2006; IUCN, 2013). The 2013 IUCN reactive monitoring mission recommended that a comprehensive Management Effectiveness Assessment should be conducted for the entire World Heritage Site.

► Implementation of Committee decisions and recommendations

Serious Concern

Repeated requests from the World Heritage Committee to avoid construction of dams prior to the completion of appropriate EIAs have not been responded to. So far, no progress appears to have been made on the Committee's more recent request (Decision 37COM.7B.12) for the State Party to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the West-East Electricity Transfer Project.

► Boundaries

Some Concern

This serial World Heritage Site consists of 15 protected areas grouped in 8 clusters. Although its name implies that the three rivers are the main feature of the World Heritage Site, only one river (the Lan Cang) runs for a short distance within the Site's boundaries. The Site consists of core zones, which are all surrounded and in some cases connected by buffer zones. Despite official documentation on http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083 stating that the total area of the Site is 1.7 million hectares, the State Party does not consider the buffer zone to be part of the Site (IUCN, 2013), implying that its total size is only 960,084 ha.
The Site is located within "Mountains of Southwest China" Biodiversity Hotspot, which is believed to be the richest area for endemic temperate flora in the world. Additional areas of high conservation value and World Heritage potential may exist in proximity to the Site, including outside the administrative boundaries of Yunnan and indeed of China (IUCN, 2013)

► Sustainable finance

Mostly Effective

Government funding is stable and adequate. Additional project and donor funds supplement core resources.

► Staff training and development

Mostly Effective

85 staff have been hired (State Party Report, 2012).

Overall assessment of protection and management

Some Concern

An effective regime of legal protection is in place and a number of positive protection and management initiatives have occurred such as adoption of the Master Plan. Ensuring effective coordination mechanisms across different components of the site and the different types of protected areas remains a significant management challenge. In relative terms the most serious threats emanate from outside of the site, particularly large scale hydro-electric development and the proposed construction of dams. The site's protection needs are not adequately integrated into broader local, Provincial and National development planning. Equally the potential benefits of the site are not being optimized as part of broader planning considerations. Tourism planning appears to be largely absent, despite tourism being a priority management objective for the 10 Scenic and Historic Interest Areas that are part of the Site.

► Assessment of the effectiveness of protection and management in addressing threats outside the site

Serious Concern

Decisions may be taken by other authorities on large scale hydro-electric development without adequate consultation with the site's managing agencies or without adequate consideration of impacts on the site's World Heritage and other values. World Heritage Committee decisions since inscription indicate an ongoing concern regarding external threats to the site.

State and trend of values

Assessing the current state and trend of values

World Heritage values

► Exceptional diversity of landscapes dominated by the scenically distinctive three deep parallel river gorges

High Concern
Trend:Deteriorating

Reports of ongoing small scale mining and poorly planned and coordinated road construction/upgrading are having an impact on these values (IUCN SOC, 2012) (IUCN Evaluation of Minor Boundary Modification, 2010). Similarly the locally driven development of tourism infrastructure is concerning (IUCN & WHC Mission Report, 2006). However, the scenic beauty of the deep river gorges recognized under criterion (vii) could be significantly impacted through changes associated with large scale hydro-electric projects (SOC report, 2013), and has locally already been impacted by ongoing dam construction.

► Exceptional natural phenomenon of low latitude glacial activity

Data Deficient
Trend:Data Deficient

Warming temperatures and changing precipitation patterns may impact on the Mingyongqia Glacier reported as the lowest descending glacier in the Northern Hemisphere (28° N). However, data is deficient on changes over time.

► Significant evidence representing major and ongoing geological events in the evolution of the land surface of Asia

Good
Trend:Stable

No evidence to suggest that the geological and geomorphological values of the site have been diminished. However, future impacts from dam development may cause a deterioration of these values

► Convergence of three of the world’s major biogeographic realms and an exceptional diversity of ecological processes

Low Concern
Trend:Deteriorating

Boundary modifications due to mining areas which were inadvertently included in the original nomination may have excluded some areas of value from the site. In addition, ongoing and potential future mining operations may have impacts on the connectivity between the Hong Shan and Haba Snow Mountain components of the Site. A range of other threats may also be impacting ecological processes, including ongoing small scale mining, poorly

planned and coordinated road construction/upgrading, pollution from human settlements, tourism development etc. (IUCN SOC, 2012; IUCN Evaluation of Minor Boundary Modification, 2010; Sidle, 2007). However, most concerns relate to potential indirect threats from large scale hydro-electric development plans outside of the site but in close proximity (Yongchen, 2006; IUCN & WHC Mission Report, 2006; IUCN, 2013).

► An area of the richest biodiversity in China and may be the most biologically diverse temperate region on earth

High Concern
Trend:Deteriorating

Consideration of impacts from hydro-electric development on the World Heritage Site appears to have been limited by the assumption that their physical location outside the Site's boundaries would not result in any direct impacts. The complex inter-relationships in the landscape, including linkages between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, wildlife corridors and other connectivity issues appear not to have been considered. Similarly, environmental monitoring of prospecting and mining appears to be focused on air and water pollution, and does not appear to include impacts on wildlife. At the same time, the picture that emerges from reports of poaching and wildlife trade is that wildlife populations may be severely depleted in parts of the Site (IUCN, 2013), leading to the conclusion that the state and trend of biodiversity values is of "High Concern" and "Deteriorating". Better baseline data and monitoring of appropriate indicator and keystone species is urgently required to confirm this assessment.

Other important biodiversity values

► Other designations

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve exists in part of the Gaoligong Nature Reserve (IUCN Evaluation, 2003)

► Watershed values

Site provides critical upper watershed protection for the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (IUCN Evaluation, 2003)

► Wetland / waterbird values

Ramsar areas exist in several of the protected areas making up the site (UNESCO Periodic Reporting, 2011)

Summary of the Values

► Assessment of the current state and trend of World Heritage values

High Concern

Trend: Deteriorating

The site overall covers a large area of some 960,000 ha, however, the property's configuration into eight clusters, restricted in most areas to upper elevations, weakens somewhat the ecological function of the system as whole. Lack of information on large scale hydro-electric development, including associated access and infrastructure as well as human resettlement plans, does not allow an objective assessment of the potential impacts on values such as scenic beauty and landscape, environmental water flows, aquatic life etc. There is also insufficient data to objectively assess the extent to which important values may have been excluded from the site following the removal of pre-existing mining areas. Similarly the extent to which unregulated, locally driven inappropriate tourism development may impact site values is difficult to appreciate due to lack of information. Values related to glacial activity and evidence of major and ongoing geological events do not appear compromised at present, however, the scenic beauty of the landscape is being affected by ongoing construction of dams, and most significant threats to the site have the potential to increase in the near future. Although poaching and wildlife trade is considered to be a high threat to the Site's biodiversity values, currently available information is insufficient to draw definitive conclusions about the state and trend of wildlife populations.

Additional information

Key conservation issues

▶ Large scale dam development in the region surrounding the site

Regional

Large scale dam development is planned however an overall plan has not been made available. Complete Environmental Impact Assessments have also not been made available for individual developments. A range of potential direct and indirect impacts may arise from these developments. There is a need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment to avoid ad hoc decision-making, assess overall development impacts and the need for mitigation.

▶ Mining activity within and close to the boundaries of the site

Local

The State Party reports no new legalized mining within the site, however, reports suggest ongoing small scale illegal mining activity continues within and adjacent to the area. Boundary modifications have removed mining from the original inscription, however ongoing attention is needed to mitigate adverse impacts. Possible future mining operations could have significant impacts on connectivity between the Hong Shan and Haba Snow Mountain components of the Site.

▶ Tourism development

Local

Need to balance the development of local communities whilst protecting the natural heritage of the site. Tourism planning and development is occurring at local levels without proper coordination and planning. Important sacred sites exist within and in proximity to the World Heritage Site, there are regular pilgrimages to these sites.

▶ Management Effectiveness Evaluation

National

There is no formalized system to evaluate management effectiveness for the site. There is a need to develop such a system so as to institute an adaptive management approach.

▶ **Boundary demarcation and signage**

Local

Boundaries have been rationalized but remain to be properly demarcated on the ground. Signage needs to be improved.

▶ **Research and monitoring programmes**

Local

Research and monitoring needs to be improved related to the impacts for threats noted above. Climate change impacts on glacial processes and other ecological aspects need attention. This is particularly true for the status and trends of wildlife populations.

Benefits

Understanding Benefits

▶ **Outdoor recreation and tourism**

Sensitive tourism development appropriate to the values of the area should provide significant benefits to local people and the regional economy

▶ **Access to drinking water**

Upper watershed for the Greater Mekong Sub Region. Three of the great rivers of the world depend on the site for the protection of their headwaters

▶ **Traditional agriculture**

Sustainable small scale agriculture should be compatible with buffer zones of the site and provide benefits to local communities

Summary of benefits

The renowned scenic values of this area coupled with recreational opportunities should be realized through sustainable tourism programmes. International transboundary watershed values should be a central consideration in future planning including hydro-electric development proposals.

Projects

Compilation of active conservation projects

№	Organization/ individuals	Project duration	Brief description of Active Projects
1	Government of the People's Republic of China		An Ecological Conservation Fund is operating at the National Level with funds dispensed through Ecological Commissioners at the local level. This Fund is used primarily to alleviate the effects of subsistence cultivation on steep slopes. (IUCN, Mission Report 2006)
2	The Nature Conservancy		TNC Yunnan Programme
3	WWF		WWF China's Upper Mekong Programme
4	Conservation International		Conservation International have programmes in China and in the Greater Mekong Region.
5	National Science Foundation (USA)		
6	GEF		
7	Centre for Mountain Ecosystem Studies / Kunming Institute of Botany / Chinese Academy of Sciences		
8	Yunnan Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation Council (YNCHCC)		

Compilation of potential site needs

№	Site need title	Brief description of potential site needs	Support needed for following years
1	Ministry of Environmental Protection, PR China	Implementation of harmonized protected area legislation. New IUCN Protected Area Law Guidelines are available to assist.	
2	China National Parks Association (CNPA)	Implementation of a formalized management effectiveness evaluation system that reinforces adaptive management approaches	
3		Model SEA	
4		Tourism planning	
5		Gap analysis beyond administrative boundaries of Yunnan	

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