

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

Fujisan

sacred place and source of artistic inspiration

January 2016

JAPAN

"A Mild Breeze on a Fine Day" of "Thirty-Six Views of Mt Fuji" (1831 - 1836) by Katsushika Hokusai. (collection of Yamanashi Prefectural Museum, Yamanashi)



**FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF
STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS
BY THE STATES PARTIES**

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration (Japan) (ID: 1418)

1. Executive Summary of the report

The Fujisan World Cultural Heritage Council has developed “The World Cultural Heritage Fujisan Vision and Strategies” (hereafter referred to as “The Vision and Strategies”) in response to the recommendations and requests given in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee (37 COM 8B.29) at the “Fujisan World Cultural Heritage Council”, which included Yamanashi Prefecture, Shizuoka Prefecture, the relevant municipal governments, and other stakeholders, in coordination with the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Forestry Agency.

The vision (in response to paragraph 4 a of Decision 37 COM 8B. 29) gives the overall vision for operationalizing a management system in order to manage the property both as an entity and as a cultural landscape, including the participation of local communities in the preservation and utilization of the World Heritage property.

The strategies thereafter describe the existing state of affairs and identify pertinent issues within each point made in Decision 37 COM 8B.29, i.e. delineation of the pilgrim routes on the lower slopes of the mountain (paragraph 4 b), a visitor management strategy (paragraph 4 c), an overall conservation approach for the upper access routes etc. (paragraph 4 d), an interpretation strategy (paragraph 4 e), strengthening of the monitoring indicators (paragraph 4 f), a risk management strategy (paragraph 5), and development control (paragraph 3). The Vision and Strategies also present corresponding policies for preservation and management, concrete measures, and implementation schedules.

Furthermore, in January 2016, an overall revision was made to the “Comprehensive Preservation and Management Plan for the World Cultural Heritage, Fujisan” (hereafter referred to as the “Comprehensive Preservation and Management Plan”) (2012) to reflect “The Vision and Strategies”.

Summaries of “The Vision and Strategies” are given in “2. Response to the Decision and of the World Heritage Committee” and the full texts are attached as Appendix 1 and the revised Comprehensive and Preservation Management Plan (including the action plan and implementation schedules) is attached as Appendix 2.

The State Party has identified no other current conservation issues which may have an impact on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value. Nor are any potential major restorations, alterations or new construction intended within the property or the buffer zone that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including its authenticity and integrity,

Public access to this state of conservation report is acceptable.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

At its 37th session, the World Heritage Committee adopted Decision 37 COM 8B.29, in which six recommendations were made to the State Party, regarding operationalizing a management system in order to manage the property as an entity and as a cultural landscape.

Decision 37 COM 8B.29

4. **Recommends** that the State Party operationalize the management system in order to manage the property as an entity and as a cultural landscape with respect to the following:
- a) Put in place an overall vision for the property related to its conflicting needs to offer access and recreation and to maintain spiritual and aesthetic qualities,
 - b) Delineate the pilgrim routes on the lower slopes of the mountain in relation to the shrines and lodging sites and to their links to the upper ascent routes, and consider how these might be perceived and understood,
 - c) Develop a visitor management strategy based on researched carrying capacities for the upper access routes,
 - d) Develop an overall conservation approach for the upper access routes and their associated huts and tractor routes,
 - e) Develop an interpretation strategy that informs how each of the individual sites can be appreciated and understood as part of the overall property and of the overall pilgrimage routes around both the upper and lower slopes of the mountain, in order to guide the development of visitor centres and interpretation at individual sites,
 - f) Strengthen the monitoring indicators to reflect spiritual and aesthetic aspects of the landscape

In addition to these recommendations, the development of a risk management strategy was requested in the last paragraph (paragraph 5) of the decision. A need was identified in the management and protection requirements section in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (paragraph 3) to more tightly control the scale, the location, and the siting of buildings, including hotels, on the lower flanks of the mountain.

Responses to the recommendations and requests articulated in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee have been compiled into “The Vision and Strategies” (December 2014) by the “Fujisan World Cultural Heritage Council”, consisting of Yamanashi Prefecture, Shizuoka Prefecture, the relevant municipal governments, and other stakeholders, in coordination with the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Forestry Agency (Appendix 1).

The summaries of these responses are given below:

a) Put in place an overall vision for the property related to its conflicting needs to offer access and recreation and to maintain spiritual and aesthetic qualities

1) Purpose

- To manage the World Heritage, Fujisan, which consists of 25 component parts, as an entity and as a cultural landscape; and
- To operationalize a management system in terms of preservation and utilization with the active participation and contribution of the entire local community.

2) Summary

i. Management as an entity

The 25 component parts are treated as an entity and the relationships among these component parts are clarified from the perspectives of both their spiritual and aesthetic qualities. Integrated management is implemented, maintaining the scenic views of Fujisan from the two representative viewpoints (Nakanokura Pass on the northwestern shore of Lake Motosuko and the Mihonomatsubara pine tree grove).

ii. Management as a cultural landscape

Efforts are being made to fuse social needs between lives, livelihoods, tourism, and recreation on the one hand and maintaining spiritual and aesthetic qualities that constitute the Outstanding Universal Value on the other hand. A harmonious solution will be found to address the

conflicting issues between them, from the perspective of treating the component parts and the buffer zone as a cultural landscape.

iii. Roles of local community

- To clearly understand the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and recognize the significance of the World Cultural Heritage;
- To participate in discussions, practices, and inspections on an ongoing basis;
- To clearly recognize mutual roles and effectively participate in, and contribute to, the preservation and utilization of Fujisan effectively; and
- To provide information to visitors and climbers in general and encourage positive attitudes toward preservation and utilization.

b) Delineate the pilgrim routes on the lower slopes of the mountain in relation to the shrines and lodging sites and to their links to the upper ascent routes, and consider how these might be perceived and understood

- A system for research is to be established and/or enhanced, centering on the “Fujisan World Heritage Centers”. This system will identify the locations and courses of those pilgrimage routes that are no longer used and will show the historical relationships among the different component parts. The results of previous research will be collected and studied. Instruction and advice will be provided to municipal governments.
- The results of the research will be reflected in the Interpretation Strategy in a stepwise, carefully planned approach to help visitors easily perceive and understand the relationships among the different component parts in terms of both their spiritual and aesthetic qualities. Educational lectures will be given in coordination with schools and exhibitions and seminars will be organized at museums, art museums, and other venues.

c) Develop a visitor management strategy based on researched carrying capacities for the upper access routes

- The goals and targets have been set out and indicators are being determined, as shown below, based on World Heritage Manual No. 1, “Managing Tourism at World Heritage Sites: a Practical Manual for World Heritage Site Managers” (UNESCO World Heritage Centre, 2002) and case studies of national parks in other countries. The results will be monitored.
- It is important that those who make ascents using various climbing styles can perceive both the spiritual and aesthetic qualities of the Outstanding Universal Value of Fujisan. Recognizing this fact, and in consideration of the carrying capacities for the upper access routes, visitor management is to be implemented by setting out the “desired style of Fujisan ascents” as a goal of visitor management.
 - Transmission of the cultural traditions of ascents originating from worship-ascents in the 17th century as a cultural tradition;
 - Maintenance of scenic landscapes along the ascending routes and around the mountaintop; and
 - Safety and comfort of visitors who ascend.
- A 3-year research programme, planned for 2015-2017, is currently underway, mainly on the carrying capacities for the upper access routes, to realize the “desired style of Fujisan ascents”. By July 2018, several indicators and the desired levels by indicators will be determined, including the daily number of climbers, from the perspectives of (i) transmission of the cultural traditions of ascents, (ii) maintenance of scenic landscapes, and (iii) safety and comfort of Fujisan ascents.

- Measures including addressing the concentrated distribution of the numbers of climbers at the mountaintop on the specific dates and times and providing information for climbers' safety are to be taken. In close coordination with the Interpretation Strategy, visitors and climbers will be encouraged to perceive and understand the relationships among the different component parts of the property and to visit the component parts at the foot of the mountain and/or make a circular tour of surrounding tourist attractions.
- Measures and indicators will be evaluated and reviewed periodically to advance and improve the visitor management.

d) Develop an overall conservation approach for the upper access routes and their associated huts and tractor routes

- Ascending routes and mountain huts originate from worship-ascents that were made as part of religious practice, whereas the tractor routes are indispensable for the operation of mountain huts etc. Preservation and management are to be promoted in a comprehensive manner, with a focus on the harmonious and complementary relationships among the three elements.
- With regard to ascending routes, measures set out in the Visitor Management Strategy will be implemented, mitigating visitors' impact on ascending routes. Patrols will be conducted in accordance with the "Manual for Patrolling Ascending Routes of Fujisan" to monitor the existing state of the ascending routes. Maintenance and repair will be done, using materials and methods harmonious with the scenic landscape.
- With regard to the mountain huts, improvements will be made to achieve harmony with the scenic landscape, based on an analysis of the existing state. With regard to tractor routes, consultations and discussions will be held with stakeholders to make improvements as needed.

e) Develop an interpretation strategy that informs how each of the individual sites can be appreciated and understood as part of the overall property and of the overall pilgrimage routes around both the upper and lower slopes of the mountain, in order to guide the development of visitor centres and interpretation at individual sites

- A system for research will be established with the aim of advancing more comprehensive examination, including the further identification of pilgrimage routes. The results of these studies will be systematically gathered and their presentation and use will be promoted.
- Information will be provided about the Outstanding Universal Value through the establishment of the "Fujisan World Heritage Centers", the development of human resources such as World Heritage guides, and educational programmes in coordination with schools, and the provision of model routes. Information necessary for the conservation and safe ascents of Fujisan will also be provided.

f) Strengthen the monitoring indicators to reflect spiritual and aesthetic aspects of the landscape

- Monitoring indicators have been strengthened to identify the negative impact on the property, to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies implemented for solving, or improving on, various issues, and then to review strategies.
- To monitor the scenic landscapes, 34 new fixed observation points have been added to the original two representative viewpoints at the Nakanokura Pass on the northwestern shore of Lake Motosuko, and at the Mihonomatsubara pine tree grove.

g) Develop a risk management strategy

- Measures will be promoted based on disaster prevention plans such as regional disaster prevention plans and other procedures prepared by Yamanashi Prefecture, Shizuoka Prefecture, and the relevant municipal governments to protect the lives and property of visitors and residents from natural disasters etc. In particular as a measure to respond to a sudden eruption, discussions will be undertaken regarding the methods for transmitting information to climbers, including routes evacuation plans, etc. The results will be reflected in the “Wide-Area Evacuation Plan for the Mt. Fuji Volcano”.
- As a measure for disasters at the component parts at the foot of the mountain, actions will be taken for disaster prevention and recovery from disasters at buildings, as well as safety measures for visitors, based on the “Disaster Prevention Action Plan of the Agency for Cultural Affairs”.

h) Development control

- In the area within the buffer zone subject to relatively mild restrictions on the size (scale) and location of buildings etc., administrative procedures such as prior consultation concerning development and consultation with the advisory committee will be enhanced. The effectiveness of development control will be strengthened through early detection of development pressure and subsequent coordination. Landscape plans and ordinances will be developed and updated by municipal governments, which will harness the momentum of the entire community toward conservation. In particular, Yamanashi Prefecture has adopted a new ordinance governing development at the component parts and at the buffer zone on the Yamanashi Prefecture side, including the area along the shorelines of the Fuji Five Lakes (Fujigoko), where a need for tighter development control was highlighted in ICOMOS’ evaluation document in 2013 (WHC-13/37. COM/INF. 8B1, ICOMOS Evaluations of Nominations of Cultural and Mixed Properties to the World Heritage List/Fujisan (Japan) No. 1418). This ordinance aims to control development and thereby contribute to the conservation of the landscape, requiring that the project undertakers who are planning development exceeding a certain scale survey, predict, and evaluate the impact of their development on the landscape.
- Specific issues that need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis, such as visual harmonization, will be initially addressed through quick action to bring immediate effects, followed by measures for fundamental solutions, which will be implemented in a carefully planned approach (e.g., improvement at Oshino Hakkai springs and Shiraito no Taki waterfalls, installation of facilities at the fifth station of the Yoshida Ascending Route, and conservation of the Mihonomatsubara pine tree grove).

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value

There are no other current conservation issues identified.

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

There are no potential major restorations or other projects to be reported.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

Uploading this report for public access on the web site is accepted without reservation.

6. Signature of the Authority

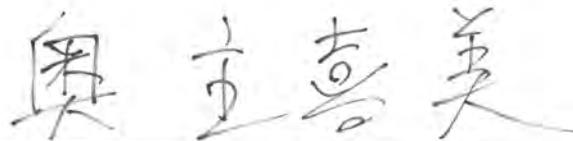


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