

Reflection of Historic Village Conservation and Sustainable Development, Guizhou, China

World Heritage Institute of Training and
Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region
under the auspices of UNESCO
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- The International Academic Symposium of Conservation and Sustainable Development of Village Cultural Landscape was held in Oct. 2008
- *Proposal on the Conservation and Development of Village Cultural Landscapes* (short for *Guiyang Proposal*) was reached

Guiyang Proposal 2008

Cultural Landscape of Village

1. Based on our understanding, we propose that village cultural landscapes be comprehensively conserved. **Special attention must be paid to the conservation of such surviving components of villages as land, forest and water areas, to the conservation of the living environment and to the conservation of the cultural memory of villages.** We must protect the development base and impetus of local communities and achieve comprehensive conservation of nature and culture, of tangible and intangible assets and of past and today.
2. As village cultural landscapes were shaped by enduring historic processes and must keep evolving, we suggest that **the changing nature of village cultural landscapes be understood and respected.** Cultural context of villages must be continued and cultural diversity of modern society must be maintained.

Guiyang Proposal 2008

Cultural Landscape of Village

3. Given the complexity of the conservation and development practices of village cultural landscapes, we suggest that the government provide support in the form of policy guidance, legal protection, technical assistance, financial help and resource coordination. **Villagers are not only an important part of village cultural landscapes but are vital forces of conservation.** Therefore, we should respect the development need of local communities while realizing the limits of tourism development and maintain diverse paths of development for village cultural landscapes.

1. Collectivism Value of Community

Rural community is an important part of the value of village cultural landscapes.



Dong Community



Dong Family



Dong Village



Dong Village



Dong Buildings

2. Individual Values of Villagers

Villagers are the main body of village culture.





Harvest in Dong Village



Weaving of Dong people



Cloth dyeing of Dong people

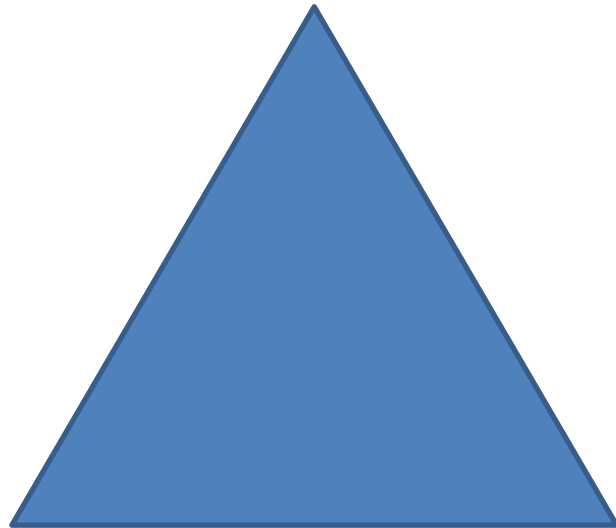


Knitting mat of Dong people

3. Resource Value of Region

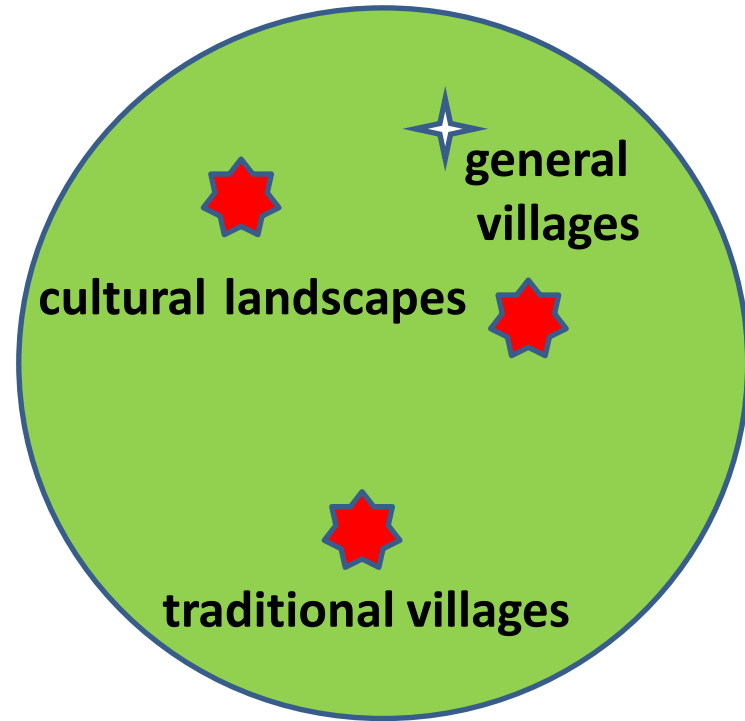
Resources of village cultural landscapes not only contain villages and community, but also include surrounding natural resources and town resources.

Cultural Landscape



Tourists

Villagers



Regional tourist area

Complementary development area

Network cooperation area

Cultural landscapes conservation area



Relationship between village and environment



Relationship between village and environment

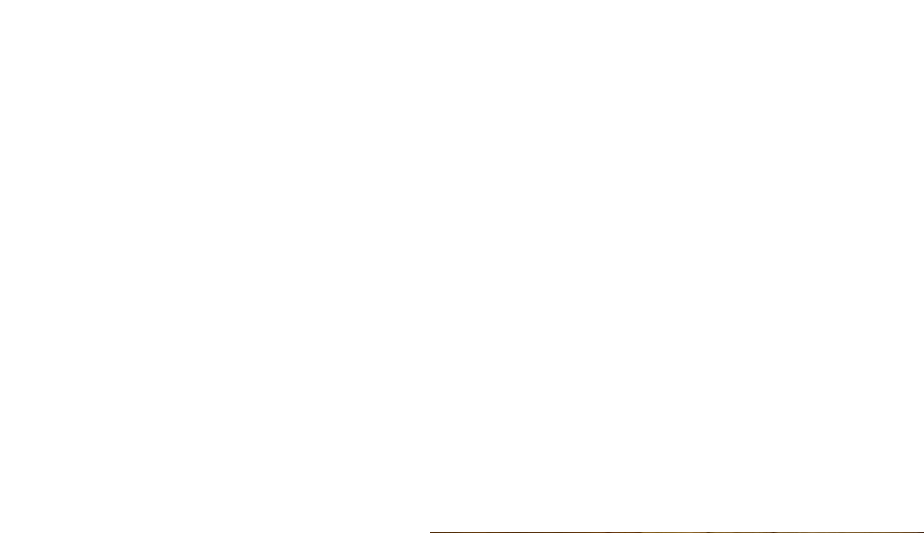
4. Living Values of Village

A livable village lies in the habitability of residential dwellings.





Newly built vernacular buildings



Newly built vernacular buildings

Recognition of Challenges

Living Heritage

- In the process of continuous development and evolution, growth and changing are the vitality of villages, and they are still alive and vibrant.
- Villages are places where production and living activities occur, bearing villagers, rich culture created by villagers, and daily life activities.

Challenge---- Changing

1. Renovation of traditional residential dwellings

2. Construction of new residential dwellings



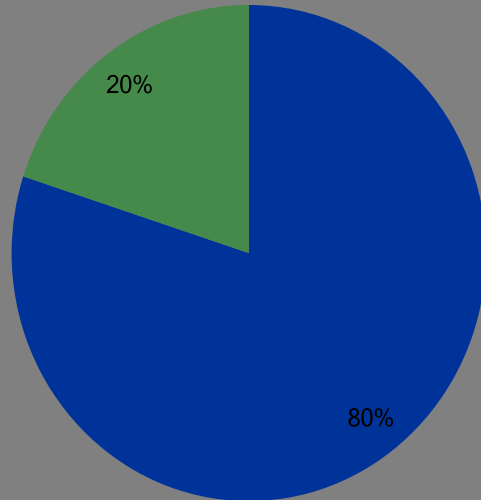
Dwellings in Tang'an Village is renovated randomly



Modern brick house in Xiaohuang Village

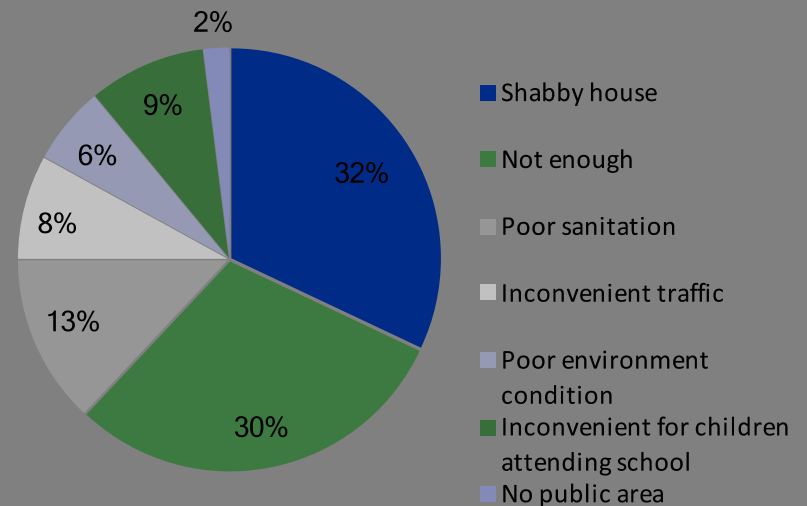
Reasons for Changing or Expanding Houses

■ Increased family population ■ Agritainment and shops



Reasons for changing or expanding houses of Tang'an dwellings

What are the most unsatisfied part?







•From the government to villages

•Passive acceptance by villagers

•Villagers have to wait for the government and request on their own,







3. Villages expansion and new layout of residential dwellings



Meet villagers' need for housing construction

Dimen village, Guizhou Province: houses are built in villagers' own land

4. Risk of Rural Heritage Tourism

•Scale, Commercialization, spots

- Will the community be divided?
- Will the village agricultural production mechanism be damaged?
- Will the pastoral landscape disappear?
- Will the traditional culture be alienated by commerce?

Construction of scenic spot



Business between local villagers and tourists

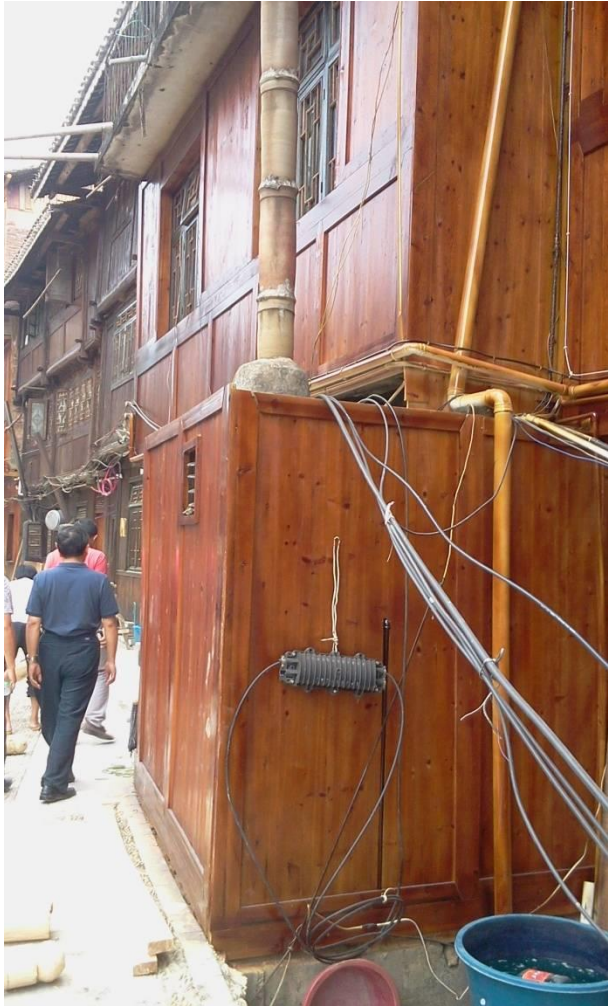


Commercialized tourism activities





Destructive Construction



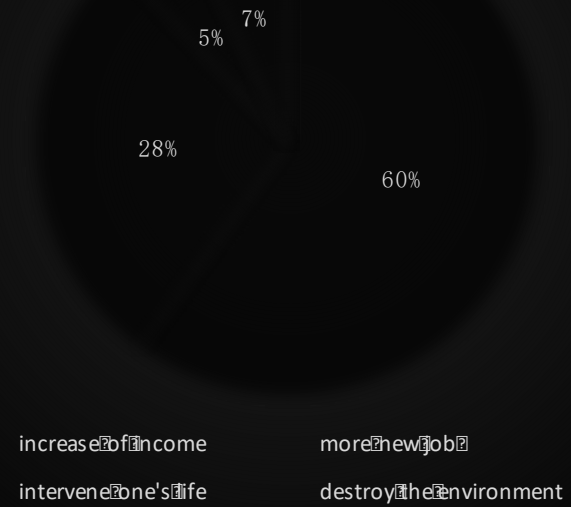
Zhaoxin, Guizhou Province



Folk custom performance



Changes Brought by Tourism



4

Suggestions

1. Community Participation

Stone project of Dan Zhai launched
villagers' congress





2. Rural Elite with Villagers

- Participating in museum management, employment
- Joining the discussion of the development of community
- Co-sharing museum resources





- Traditional papermaking
- Textile
- Winemaking
- Tea planting



Limited amount of local goods come into the market



3. Guidance and Practice

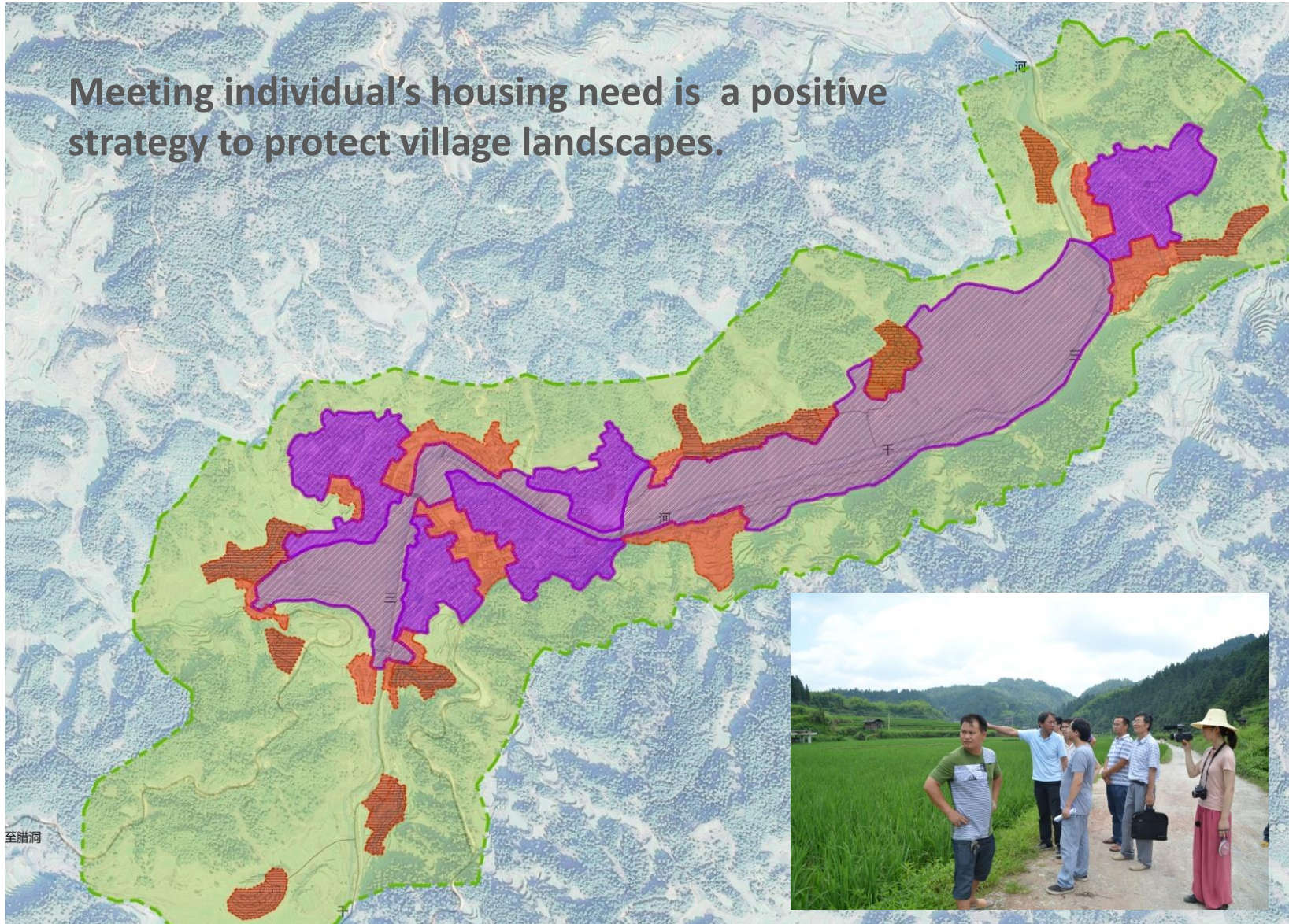


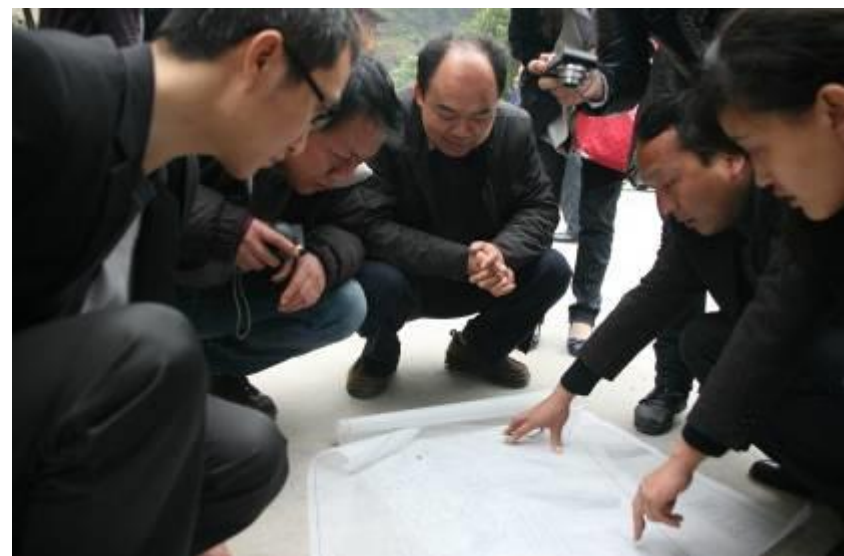
Repair and rehabilitation of
houses with hosts

Dimen, Guizhou Province: new house selection with local villagers

Plan of “New housing sites”

Meeting individual's housing need is a positive strategy to protect village landscapes.



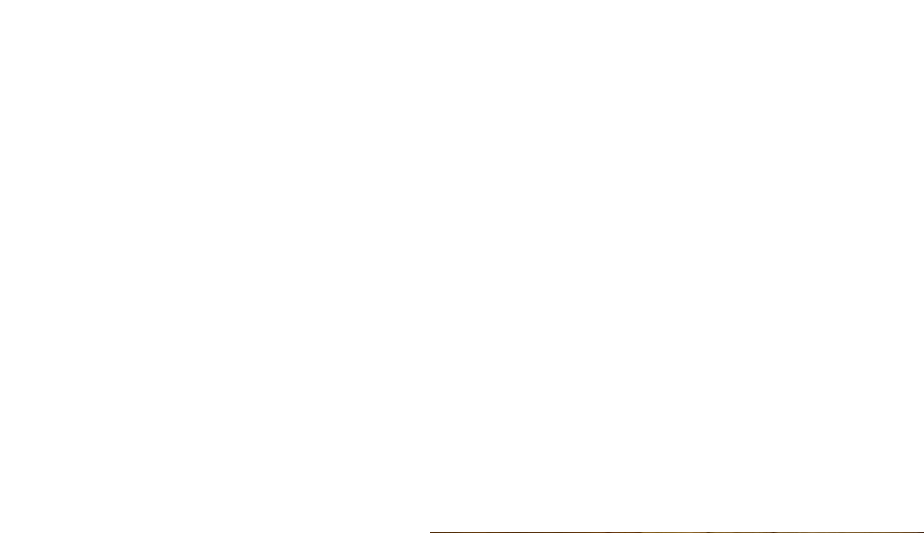




Tang'an, Guizhou Province: rural ecology museum







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Objective

Achieving the goal of a sustainable development of rural areas by encouraging rural participatory in rural heritage preservation.



Daily life of Dong people in Dimen



Thanks