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
Tongji University
Jian Zhou
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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
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.
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.
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
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.
1. Renovation of traditional residential dwellings

2. Construction of new residential dwellings

Reasons for changing or expanding houses of Tang’an dwellings

What are the most unsatisfied part?

- Shabby house: 32%
- Not enough: 30%
- Poor sanitation: 13%
- Inconvenient traffic: 8%
- Poor environment condition: 6%
- Inconvenient for children attending school: 9%
- No public area: 2%
• 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?
Destructive Construction

Zhaoxin, Guizhou Province
Folk custom performance
Changes Brought by Tourism

- Increase of income: 60%
- More new jobs: 28%
- Intervene one's life: 5%
- Destroy the environment: 7%
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
Newly built vernacular buildings
Newly built vernacular buildings
Newly built vernacular buildings
Newly built vernacular buildings
Objective

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