



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

Urgent Safeguarding List Report

ICH-11 – Form

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF AN ELEMENT INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN NEED OF URGENT SAFEGUARDING

**DEADLINE 15 DECEMBER 2021
FOR EXAMINATION IN 2022**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT ARE AVAILABLE AT:

[HTTPS://ICH.UNESCO.ORG/EN/FORMS](https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms)

A.	COVER SHEET
A.1.	State Party
	Name of State Party: People's Republic of China
A.2.	Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession
	<i>This information is available online.</i>
	December 2, 2004
A.3.	Element inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List that is the subject of this report
	<i>For multinational elements, please indicate the other States concerned.</i>
	Name of element: Traditional design and practices for building Chinese wooden arch bridges
	Inscribed in: 2009
	Other States concerned (only for multinational elements):

<p>A.4. Reporting period covered by this report <i>Please indicate the period covered by this report.</i></p>
<p>Start date: October 2017 End date: June 2021</p>
<p>A.5. Other elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, if any <i>Please list all other elements from your country inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, together with the year of inscription; for multinational elements, please indicate the other States concerned.</i></p>
<p>Qiang New Year festival (2009) Traditional Li textile techniques: spinning, dyeing, weaving and embroidering (2009) Meshrep (2010) Watertight-bulkhead technology of Chinese junks (2010) Wooden movable-type printing of China (2010) Hezhen Yimakan storytelling (2011)</p>
<p>A.6. Executive summary of the report <i>Please provide an executive summary of the report that will allow general readers to understand the current status of the element, any positive or negative impacts of inscription, the implementation of safeguarding measures during the reporting period and their possible update for the following years.</i> <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Between 400 and 600 words</i></div></p>

The element consists a system of skills for building wooden arch bridges based on the bearers' understanding of different environments and necessary structural mechanics, which combines the use of wood, traditional architectural tools, craftsmanship and the core technologies of "beam-weaving" and mortise & tenon joints. The practice of the element is directed by a master carpenter in close cooperation with many other craftsmen. Mainly practiced in northeastern Fujian Province and southwestern Zhejiang Province, the element is derived from the need for bridge building to improve local transportation. Therefore relevant knowledge, skills and customs are developed and regarded as an integral part of the local culture and intangible cultural heritage, and reflects the concept of harmony between man and nature. Functioning as both transport facilities and public cultural space, as well as an important cultural symbol, the wooden arch bridges have promoted emotional cohesion of local people and maintained their cultural identity.

The viability of the element has been further improved after three reporting cycles since its inscription, thanks to the joint efforts of multiple actors, especially the contribution from the communities. In the past decade in particular, remarkable achievements have been made in ecological conservation and rural development. The natural environment, infrastructure, basic public services, living conditions and economic development in local villages have been improved significantly, providing a solid guarantee for the transmission and development of this element. During this reporting period, the objectives proposed in the last report have been achieved: the population of the bearers and the frequency of practice have increased; the bearers have strengthened willingness and enhanced capacity of transmission; the element has been further respected and enhanced; people's awareness of safeguarding the element has been raised further, and there has been a good momentum of coordination between the safeguarding of the element and conservation of its natural and cultural environment.

To consolidate these achievements and better promote the sustainability of the element, the safeguarding plan has been updated for the next four years (2022-2025), setting out the following goals:

- to enhance the inter-generational transmission capacity and increase the frequency of practice;

- to conserve natural resources, revitalize local villages, and promote safeguarding of the element and conservation of its natural and cultural environment in a holistic approach;

- to encourage more stakeholders to participate in the safeguarding activities through a joint practice mechanism and promote community-centered cooperation among diverse actors;

- to further enhance the visibility of the element and public awareness of the importance of intangible cultural heritage including the element through

multi-level exhibitions, presentations and exchange activities.

A.7. Contact person for correspondence

Provide the name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning the report.

Title (Ms/Mr): Mr.

Family name: Su

Given name: Xudong

Institution/position: Federation of Literary & Art Circles, Pingnan County, Fujian Province/ Director

Address: No. 2, Xianfu Road, Pingnan County, Ningde City, Fujian Province

Telephone number: 0086-13055593111

Email address: 1203032846@qq.com

Other relevant information:

B. STATUS OF ELEMENT INSCRIBED ON THE URGENT SAFEGUARDING LIST

Refer to the nomination file or to previous reports, if any, as the basis for reporting on the current status of the element, and report only on relevant changes since the date of inscription on the List or since the previous report. Nomination files, specific timetables and earlier reports, if any, are available at <https://ich.unesco.org> or from the Secretariat, upon request.

The State Party shall pay special attention to the role of gender and shall endeavour to ensure the widest possible participation of the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals concerned as well as relevant non-governmental organizations during the process of preparing this report, and is asked to describe how it has done so in point D below.

B.1. Social and cultural functions

Please explain the social and cultural functions and meanings of the element today, within and for its community, the characteristics of the bearers and practitioners, and any specific roles or categories of persons with special responsibilities towards the element, among others. Attention should be given to any relevant changes related to inscription criterion U.1 ('the element constitutes intangible cultural heritage as defined in Article 2 of the Convention').

Between 200 and 500 words

The element is a system of skills and knowledge created by local communities to adapt to the local topography and meet the local needs of production and life. It has become an organic part of the local village cultural ecosystem after hundreds' years of transmission and development.

Wooden arch bridges still remain the functions as a means of local transportation and cultural space. The element is practiced to not only meet the basic living needs, but also accomplish the transmission of traditional culture. The covered arch bridge is not only the place for gatherings where community members drink tea, enjoy the cool air and socialize with each other, but also the core venue for ritual ceremonies and praying activities, like walking the bridge and bridge festival, which are held on such occasions as the Dragon Boat Festival and Qixi Festival every year. Although the traffic-bearing function of the covered bridge diminishes, its function as a public cultural space for promoting social cohesion and cultural identity remains unchanged. The communities still maintain the board, a voluntary organization for managing the construction and use of wooden arch bridges. The board makes collective decisions on the building and renovation of bridges, fund raising, purchasing of raw materials, project planning, employment of craftsmen, and formulation of related folk regulations. Engagement in the construction and use of wooden arch bridges is an important way to unite community members, and form and maintain their local cultural identity.

The master carpenters are of vital importance for the transmission and practice of the element due to their profound knowledge of bridge design, mastery of core techniques and their leading role on the construction site. The techniques are transmitted within families mainly or through apprenticeship. There are many old and well-known families, such as the Huang's and Wei's in Pingnan County, and the Zhang's in Zhouning County. Carpenters who master bridge construction skills but cannot yet lead the construction independently are the major force for the transmission of the element. In addition, other woodworkers, stonemasons, bricklayers, wood carvers and material handlers are also directly involved in the construction practice. Community members participate in fund-raising, construction, maintenance and safeguarding of bridges and sacrificial activities during the festivals. Ritual ceremonies held on the bridges during the Dragon Boat Festival and Qixi Festival, i.e. walking the bridge and bridge festival, are mainly participated by women, who pray for peace and good health for their families through ritual and praying activities.

B.2. Assessment of its viability and current risks

Please describe the current level of viability of the element, particularly the frequency and extent of its practice, the strength of traditional modes of transmission, the demographics of practitioners and audiences and its sustainability. Please also identify and describe the threats, if any, to the element's continued transmission and enactment and describe the severity and immediacy of such threats, giving particular attention to any strengthening or weakening of the element's viability subsequent to inscription.

Between 200 and 500 words

The element is mainly practiced in 11 counties and cities along the border of Zhejiang and Fujian provinces, especially in Pingnan, Shouning and Zhouning counties in Fujian Province, and Qingyuan and Taishun counties in Zhejiang Province. Through the efforts in the past three reporting cycles, the communities, groups and individuals concerned are more active in safeguarding the element and the viability of the element has been further enhanced.

During this reporting period, the representative bearers recognized at all levels have been actively training their apprentices through the training centers, resulting in the growing number of bearers and practitioners. The number of master carpenters has grown from 23 to 30; number of carpenters has grown from 33 to 52, and other craftsmen involved in bridge construction from 96 to 172. With more frequent practice, 32 wooden arch bridges have been built and 7 have been repaired. The sustainable supply of raw wood materials for the construction of wooden arch bridges has been strengthened due to the continuous conservation of the local ecological environment. The forest coverage ratio in Pingnan, Shouning, Zhouning and Taishun counties has reached over 70%; the ratio in Qingyuan County has reached as high as 86.5%. The timber stock volume and yield ratio of Chinese fir and pine trees for the construction of bridges, including the mature timber used for the key bridge parts have increased significantly, ensuring the basic timber supply for the practice of the element.

At present, the transmission still faces the following risks: Firstly, the sustainability of inter-generational transmission has not been fundamentally addressed. At present(currently), the bearers and practitioners are mainly middle-aged and elderly people aged between 40 and 70. Although the population of the bearers has increased, there isn't a sound succession of talents for them. The older generation of the bearers are advanced in years. As the national-level representative bearer, Mr. Huang Chuncai is already 85 years old, and Mr. Dong Zhiji and Zheng Duojin have passed away. The number of young practitioners is relatively small due to the length of time it takes to learn the required skills, uncertainties of practice opportunities and income instability. Secondly, natural resources need to be further conserved in a view of sustainable timber supply.

--

B.3. Implementation of safeguarding measures

Please report on the safeguarding measures described in the nomination file, and previous report, if any. Describe how they have been implemented and how they have substantially contributed to the safeguarding of the element during the reporting period, taking note of external or internal constraints such as limited resources. Include, in particular, information on the measures taken to ensure the viability of the element by enabling the community to continue to practise and transmit it. Include the following detailed information concerning the implementation of the set of safeguarding measures or safeguarding plan:

B.3a. Objectives and results

Indicate what primary objective(s) were addressed and what concrete results were attained during the reporting period.

Between 200 and 500 words

During this reporting period, the following objectives have been achieved:

The number of bearers has increased, and the number of construction teams led by master carpenters has increased from 10 to 15. With governments' support at all levels such as annual funds to encourage more transmission activities, the bearers have strengthened willingness and enhanced capacity of transmission, and the frequency of transmission and practice has been raised. During this reporting period, 32 wooden arch bridges have been built and 7 been repaired.

The protection of local vegetation and water system and the conservation of traditional buildings, streets and ancient roads have facilitated the wood supply for the practice of the element and ensured harmonious coexistence between the covered bridges and surrounding natural and cultural environment. The awareness of safeguarding the element has been enhanced. The community-based organizing mechanism has been retained in the relevant villages and the ritual ceremonies have been continuously held on the first lunar month, the first and 15th day of each lunar month and during the Dragon Boat and Qixi festivals. The unique landscape and exquisite craftsmanship of wooden arch bridges have attracted more visitors with deep appreciation of the heritage, which resulted in the enhanced sense of identity and pride of the community members.

Through exhibitions, experiential programs, lectures of related knowledge and exchange activities held at museums and in the primary and secondary schools, the awareness of the element and its safeguarding progress have been raised among local people and their sense of cultural identity and continuity been strengthened. The visibility of the element, as well as the intangible cultural heritage in general, has been enhanced through exhibitions, presentations by the communities, groups and individuals concerned at such occasions as the Cultural and Natural Heritage Day, Beijing International Horticultural Expo and various promotional activities on multimedia channels.

--

B.3b. Safeguarding activities

List the key activities that were carried out during this reporting period in order to achieve these expected results. Please describe the activities in detail and note their effectiveness or any problems encountered in implementing them.

Between 500 and 1000 words

During this reporting period, the communities, groups and individuals concerned have carried out the following safeguarding activities in collaboration with governments at all levels and other diverse actors:

1. The population of bearers was consolidated and enlarged, and their inter-generational transmission capacity was enhanced. 19 bearers were recognized at different levels. 4 transmission and practice centers were established. Governments of all levels provided annual financial support to the representative bearers for training apprentices, building transmission and practice centers. Various practical activities such as construction and maintenance of wooden arch bridges were carried out. Primary and secondary schools continued to offer school-based courses, compile local teaching materials and hold lectures about the element and related knowledge. Bridge models were used for teaching in class. As a result, the younger generation were getting more aware of and interested in the element. For instance, the course of “Love and Learn Covered Bridges” was set up in Qingyuan County. The teaching material “I Love Covered Bridges” was compiled and the theme practical activity in summer vacation “Junior Volunteer for Safeguarding the Bridges” was carried out in Shouning County.

2. According to the safeguarding plan and the needs of the local community, 32 wooden arch bridges were built and 7 repaired by the construction teams led by master carpenters during this reporting period. The increased frequency of practice promoted inter-generational transmission of the element as it enabled the bearers and practitioners to accumulate experiences, pass on techniques, improve their own skills and generate stable economic income out of the practice.

3. The vegetation, water system, traditional buildings and infrastructure were protected through the implementation of ecological and environmental conservation and traditional village protection programs in 8 villages in Pingnan County, 5 in Shouning County, 1 in Zhouning County, 2 in Taishun County and 2 in Qingyuan County. Judicial collaborative safeguarding of traditional design and practices for building wooden arch bridges was carried out in Pingnan County. The communities concerned organized ritual ceremonies on the wooden arch bridges on the first lunar month, the first and 15th day of each lunar month and during the Dragon Boat and Qixi festivals. With the active involvement of the bearers, 18 wooden arch bridges, which are already identified as sites to be protected for their historical and cultural value, including Xiangong Bridge in Shouning Country, Beijian Bridge in Taishun County and Lanxi Bridge in Qingyuan County were mapped and their maintenance design and preservation plans were drafted.

4. Relevant laws and regulations were formulated. Constant research and digitized documentation were developed. For instance, *the Implementation Rules for the Safeguarding and Management of Wooden Arch Bridges in Shouning County*, and the *Interim Measures for the Use and Management of*

Special Funds for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Qingyuan County were formulated successively. Lishui College, Zhejiang College of Construction, Architectural Design and Research Center, School of Design of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Architectural History Institute of Architectural Society of China and China Covered Bridge Research Institute established research bases of the element, held the 7th International Symposium of Chinese Covered Bridges, published the collected papers of the symposium, and conducted many academic exchanges. Qingyuan County created a multimedia database of covered bridges (<http://qingyuan.zjwhgx.cn:9030/>). Taishun County fully recorded the reconstruction process of Wenxing Bridge, Xuezhai Bridge and Wenzhong Bridge that were broken by floods in 2016. In addition, the whole process of the construction or maintenance of 7 wooden arch Bridges was recorded.

5.Exchanges, exhibitions and promotional activities were carried out to gather consensus among communities on the safeguarding of the element. Representatives of communities attended the Seminar on the Safeguarding and Transmission of Traditional Design and Practices for Building Wooden Arch Bridges in Taishun County to discuss the talent training and bridge construction practices. Exhibitions were conducted all year round to display pictures, physical models, traditional tools and technical processes of the element at the museums and art galleries such as the Wooden Arch Bridges Hall in Pingnan County Museum, Exhibition Hall of the Covered Bridge Covenants in Zhouning County Museum, Memory Museum of Covered Bridges Maintenance in Taishun County, and Exhibition Hall of Covered Bridges Culture in Qingyuan. Online and offline presentation and promotional activities were organized on the Cultural and Natural Heritage Day and during Beijing International Horticultural Expo. More than 30 wooden arch bridge models were made and presented to universities and museums for display and teaching activities. In addition, the communities and groups concerned also produced more than a dozen of feature films, such as “Public ICH Courses -- Traditional Design & Practices for Building Wooden Arch Bridges” and “China Image Chronicles -- Wooden Arch Bridges in Pingnan”, and published news and articles in various media to enhance the visibility of the element.

B.3c. Participation of communities, groups or individuals in the safeguarding activities

Describe how communities, groups or, if appropriate, individuals as well as relevant non-governmental organizations have effectively participated, including in terms of gender roles, in the safeguarding measures. Describe the role of the implementing organization or body (name, background, etc.) and the human resources that were available for implementing safeguarding activities.

Between 200 and 500 words

Communities, groups and individuals concerned and non-governmental organizations played a principal role in the implementation of the safeguarding measures.

Master carpenters, such as Zheng Duoxiong, Huang Chuncai, Hu Miao and Zeng Jiakuai, consciously assumed the responsibilities of practice, transmission and development of related skills, trained apprentices, established construction teams and set up transmission and practice centers of the element. Under their guidance, other craftsmen and practitioners actively participated in the construction and maintenance of the bridges. Community members were strong supporters of transmission and practice of the element. Though they did not directly engage in the transmission of the skills, they were usually the initiators of a new bridge project, helped in raising funds, made in-kind donations and provided services voluntarily for the project. The board organized by community members were responsible for site selection, material preparation and labor recruitment. Women's involvement in the practice gradually expanded from logistics to fund-raising, financial management and wood carving for the construction of bridges. In addition, women were still the major force for ritual and praying activities held on the bridges.

Local associations related to the safeguarding of the element, such as Pingnan County Association for the Safeguarding of Covered Bridges, Shouning County Association for the Transmission and Safeguarding of Covered Bridges Culture, Taishun County Association for the Safeguarding of Covered Bridges Culture and Qingyuan County Research Society for Covered Bridges Culture, provided services for the establishment of transmission and practice centers and coordination between the bearers and the government, communities, enterprises and research institutes.

B.3d. Timetable

Indicate, in a timetable, when each activity was implemented.

Between 200 and 500 words

Regular safeguarding activities:

—Identifying representative bearers at all levels and granting annual funds for them to support apprenticeship, establishment of transmission and practice centers as well as other activities;

—Taking apprentices and transmitting related knowledge and skills in construction teams or at transmission and practice centers, producing wooden arch bridge models, and having on-the-spot teaching on the construction and maintenance sites;

—Offering school-based curriculum, compiling local teaching materials and holding lectures in primary and secondary schools and organizing research and study tours;

—Conducting joint research on the safeguarding of the element with colleges, universities and research institutes;

—Mapping and drawing up preservation plan for the wooden arch bridges which are recognized as sites to be protected for their historical and cultural value, and conducting investigation, fire fighting and maintenance on the daily basis;

—Recording the construction and maintenance of wooden arch bridges with digital means ;

—Protecting local vegetation, water system, traditional buildings and infrastructure through ecological environmental protection and traditional village conservation programs;

—Carrying out ritual and praying activities during traditional festivals; and

—Holding exhibitions at museums and art galleries all year round, and holding wide communication campaigns through multi-medium platforms.

Other safeguarding activities:

—32 new wooden arch bridges were built, including 8 in 2018, 7 in 2019, 15 in 2020 and 2 in 2021. 7 bridges were repaired, including 2 in 2018, 1 in 2019, 3 in 2020 and 1 in 2021.

—A multimedia database of covered bridges was created in Qingyuan Country in 2018;

—The Memory Museum of Covered Bridges Maintenance was built in Taishun County in 2018;

—The Exhibition Center of Xixi Covered Bridge was established in Shouning County in 2021;

—The Workshop on Traditional Design & Practices for Building Wooden Arch Bridges was held in Shouning County in 2018;

—The 7th International Symposium of Chinese Covered Bridges was held in Qingyuan County in 2019;

—The Seminar on the Safeguarding & Transmission of Traditional Design & Practices for Building Chinese wooden Arch bridges was held in Taishun County in 2020;

—Qingyuan Covered Bridge Ultra Trail was held annually from 2018 through 2020;

—*The Implementation Rules for the Safeguarding & Management of Wooden Arch Bridges in Shouning County* was formulated in 2018; and

—The Interim Measures for the Use & Management of Special Funds for *the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage* in Qingyuan County was issued in 2021.

B.3e. Budget expenditures

Provide the detailed amounts of the funds used for the implementation of each activity (if possible, in US dollars), identifying the funding source for each (governmental sources, in-kind community inputs, etc.).

Between 200 and 500 words

According to incomplete statistics, the amount of funds used for the implementation of the safeguarding measures during the reporting period are indicated as follows:

Government resources:

—297,200 RMB of subsidies for representative bearers to support transmission and practice; 750,000 RMB for the establishment and operation of transmission and practice centers; 1.4068 million RMB for repairing 7 wooden arch bridges; 13.1 million RMB for building 32 wooden arch bridges; 765,000 RMB for teaching of the element in primary and secondary schools and community-based exhibitions; 150,000 RMB for making covered bridge models; 200,000 RMB for establishing Taishun County Memory Museum of Covered Bridges Maintenance; 4 million RMB for the construction of Exhibition Center of Xixi Covered Bridge in Shouning County; 350,000 RMB for digital documentation; 1.22 million RMB for building research bases and carrying out academic exchanges; 680,000 RMB for developing preservation plans for the covered bridges recognized as sites to be protected for their historical and cultural value; 653,000 RMB for daily inspection, fire fighting, maintenance of bridges; 230,000 RMB for film making and production of promotion materials; 1.6 million RMB for organizing and attending exhibitions; 3 million RMB for Qingyuan Covered Bridge Ultra Trail event.

Inputs from the communities, groups or individuals concerned:

—Towns and villages provided venues and the bearers provided tools and materials for the construction and operation of transmission and practice centers;

—Communities and schools provided space and manpower for educational and demonstration activities with the participation of the bearers;

—Community members contributed over 70 million RMB worth of capital, in-kind donations and services to the construction of 32 new bridges;

—About 100,000 RMB was used for image recording;

—The bearers contributed 350,000 RMB worth of funds, manpower and materials to making bridge models;

—About 1.24 million RMB of funds was raised from the society with the participation of community members to hold ritual and praying activities.

B.3f. Overall effectiveness of the safeguarding activities

Provide an overall assessment of the effectiveness of the activities undertaken to achieve the expected results and of the efficiency of the use of funds for implementing the activities. Please indicate how the activities contributed to achieving the results and whether other activities could have contributed better to achieving the same results. Also indicate whether the same results could have been achieved with less funding, whether the human resources available were appropriate and whether communities, groups and individuals could have been better involved.

Between 400 and 600 words

Thanks to the implementation of the safeguarding activities during this reporting period, the viability of the element was improved and the use of funds became more efficient. The expected results were achieved as follows:

1. The communities were fully mobilized to safeguard the element. Bearers with the master carpenters at the core played a major role in the safeguarding activities. They passed on related knowledge and skills, participated in the construction and maintenance of bridges and various promotion and exhibition activities, engaged in field visits and documentation and provided suggestions for policy makers. Community members were more aware of the importance of the ICH safeguarding. 51 villages from 11 counties and cities were involved in the safeguarding activities, among which 39 villages either built new bridges or repaired old ones.

2. After practice of three reporting cycles, multiple new approaches for safeguarding were further explored to safeguard the element in combination with digital means, protection of tangible heritage and conservation of associated natural, cultural and ecological environment.

3. Multi-channel capital input guaranteed the implementation of the safeguarding activities. New wooden arch bridges were built mainly with community donations, supplemented by government subsidies; the maintenance of bridges was mainly financed by the government, supplemented by social donations. The use of funds was supervised in the principle of openness and transparency. The scope and approach of using subsidies for the bearers was specified and regularly evaluated, thus ensuring the efficiency of the use of funds and transmission and practice in an orderly way.

C. UPDATE OF THE SAFEGUARDING MEASURES

C.1. Updated safeguarding plan

Please provide an update of the safeguarding plan included in the nomination file or in the previous report. In particular, provide detailed information as follows:

- a. What primary **objective(s)** will be addressed and what concrete results will be expected?*
- b. What are the key **activities** to be carried out in order to achieve these expected results? Describe the activities in detail and in their best sequence, addressing their feasibility.*
- c. How will the **State(s) Party(ies)** concerned support the implementation of the updated safeguarding plan?*

Between 200 and 500 words

In the next four years, the transmission and development of the element will be further promoted by community-centered diverse actors. Anticipated results and major activities will include:

To enhance the inter-generational transmission capacity and the frequency of practice. Encourage transmission of core skills and knowledge by master carpenters through construction teams or through transmission and practice centers, and explore more ways to increase the engagement of young people in the transmission and practice of the element. Encourage the construction and maintenance of bridges and explore the possibility of building them in a larger geographical range.

To expand the forest coverage and plant more Chinese firs and pines in the practice areas to increase the stock volume of mature timbers and ensure supply of raw materials for the transmission and practice of the element. Nature resources will be protected and the ecological landscape will be improved at the same time. Local villages will be revitalized with improved infrastructure, public services and living conditions.

To encourage more colleges and universities, research institutes, enterprises and other stakeholders to participate in the safeguarding activities. Build a joint mechanism to promote community-centered cooperation among diverse actors. Conduct dialogues on how to make traditional knowledge and skills to meet modern traffic facilities requirements and marketing. Enhance sustainability of the element and ensure that the bearers could benefit during the whole process from the construction to maintenance of wooden arch bridges.

To further increase the visibility of the element and public awareness of the importance of intangible cultural heritage in general through multi-level exhibitions, demonstration and exchange activities via media platforms and during forums and conferences.

The Chinese government will continuously support the overall implementation of the updated safeguarding measures while respecting the wishes of the communities, groups and individuals concerned. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and the relevant local governments will take joint efforts to provide policy guarantee, capital input and intellectual support to ensure the widest possible participation of relevant communities, groups and individuals in the whole safeguarding process to enhance the viability of the element.

C.2. Timetable for future activities

Provide a timetable for the updated safeguarding plan (within a time-frame of approximately four years).

Between 200 and 500 words

The updated safeguarding plan for 2022-2025 will include:

Regular safeguarding activities:

- To identify representative bearers at all levels, hold training workshops for the bearers, encourage the establishment of new transmission and practice centers, and set up qualified construction teams;

- To improve relevant policies, expand funding channels, and provide financial support for transmission activities by bearers, and construction and maintenance of bridges in the communities;

- To conduct fieldwork and record the bearers and their practice activities with digital means;

- To carry out research on related technical specifications and develop products and models and hands-on practice of beam-weaving technique for teaching, demonstration and experiential activities;

- To promote teaching of the element in primary and secondary schools, and conduct community-based exhibitions such as “ICH in Lishui City -- Traditional Design and Practices for Building Wooden Arch Bridges & Travel in Rural Areas”;

- To hold seminars to promote communication among communities;

- To continue the daily inspection, fire fighting and maintenance of wooden arch bridges recognized as sites to be protected for their historical and cultural value;

- To hold ritual and praying ceremonies on covered bridges during major festivals;

- To hold exhibitions all year round at museums and art galleries and present and promote the element through media and cultural events; and

- To hold Taishun Covered Bridge Cultural & Tourism Festival and Qingyuan Covered Bridge Ultra Trail on the regular basis.

Other proposed safeguarding activities will include:

- To build 10 to 20 new wooden arch bridges;

- To repair Xiangong Bridge and Yangmeizhou Bridge in Shouning County and Yangmeizhou Bridge in Zhouning County from 2022 to 2023;

- To shoot the promotional film “Covered Bridges in Taishun” in 2022;

- To build Taishun ICH Museum -- Wooden Arch Bridge Thematic Hall in 2023;

- To build Pingnan County Transmission and Exhibition Center of Traditional Design and Practices for Building Wooden Arch Bridges in 2025.

C.3. Budget for future activities

Provide the estimates of the funds required for implementing the updated safeguarding plan (if possible, in US dollars), identifying any available resources (governmental sources, in-kind community inputs, etc.).

Between 200 and 500 words

The funds required for implementing the updated safeguarding measures for the period 2022-2025 are planned as follows:

Government resources: 460,000 RMB subsidies for the bearers to support their activities at the transmission and practice centers; 1.3 million RMB for repairing Xiangong Bridge and Yangmeizhou Bridge, and 200,000 RMB for repairing Denglong Bridge; about 3 million RMB for building new bridges; 650,000 million RMB for daily inspection, fire fighting and maintenance of wooden arch bridges recognized as sites to be protected for their historical and cultural value; 450,000 RMB for surveys and documentation; 300,000 RMB for research on related technical specifications; 2.8 million RMB to support community-based seminars in rotation on traditional design and practices for building wooden arch bridges; 230,000 RMB for research, development and production of wooden arch bridge models; 960,000 RMB for universal education on the element in primary and secondary schools and holding community-based exhibitions; 55 million RMB for the construction of Taishun ICH Museum -- Wooden Arch Bridge Thematic Hall; 15 million RMB to set up Pingnan County Transmission and Exhibition Center of Traditional Design and Practices for Building Wooden Arch Bridges; 200,000 RMB for promotional film-making—“Covered Bridges in Taishun”; 4.5 million RMB for Taishun Covered Bridge Cultural & Tourism Festival; 2 million RMB for Qingyuan Covered Bridge Ultra Trail, and 670,000 RMB for other promotional activities.

Inputs from the communities, groups or individuals concerned:

—Towns and villages will provide venues and the bearers will provide tools and materials for the construction and operation of transmission and practice centers;

—Related communities and schools will provide space and manpower for educational and presentation activities with the participation of the bearers;

—Community members will make 30 million RMB worth of capital and in-kind donation, as well as services to build new bridges;

—The bearers will contribute 200,000 RMB worth of capital, services and raw materials to the production of bridge models;

—About 1.2 million RMB worth of funds voluntary contribution will be raised from the society with participation of the communities to hold ritual and praying activities.

C.4. Community participation

Please describe how communities, groups and individuals, as well as relevant non-governmental organizations have been involved, including in terms of gender roles, in updating the safeguarding plan, and how they will be involved in its implementation.

Between 200 and 500 words

A working group was set up jointly by Fujian Provincial Department of Culture & Tourism, Zhejiang Provincial Department of Culture & Tourism and local cultural authorities of Ningde City, Pingnan, Shouning and Zhouning counties in Fujian Province, and Qingyuan and Taishun counties in Zhejiang Province, which is responsible to update the safeguarding plan and elaborate this report in collaboration with others diverse actors.

The communities, groups and individuals concerned from 11 counties of the two provinces provided relevant information on their involvement in the safeguarding activities to the working group, analyzed the effectiveness of the safeguarding plan, the current viability status and risks of the element during the three reporting cycles since its inscription, and put forward constructive suggestions and recommendations on the updating of the safeguarding plan. For example, the representative bearer Mr. Huang Chuncai emphasized the importance of training the younger generation for the transmission; Shouning County Association for the Transmission and Safeguarding of Covered Bridges Culture, Pingnan County Association for the Safeguarding of Covered Bridges, Qingyuan County Research Society of Covered Bridges Culture and Taishun County Association for the Safeguarding of Covered Bridge Culture jointly suggested that the safeguarding plan should adopt a long-term perspective and that continuous efforts be made to enhance protection of natural, cultural and ecological environment related to the element as well. After several rounds of consultation among multiple actors, the safeguarding plan for the next cycle was finalized.

To implement the updated safeguarding measures, the communities, groups and individuals concerned will work together under the coordination of Fujian Provincial Department of Culture & Tourism and Ningde Municipal Bureau of Culture & Tourism. They will take community-based actions, carry out safeguarding measures and transmission practice, and promote communication and dialogues. Fujian Provincial Department of Cultural & Tourism and Ningde Municipal Bureau of Culture & Tourism will provide regular feedback on the monitoring and safeguarding achievements and the communities, groups and individuals concerned will participate in the discussions and jointly identify the annual implementation priorities.

C.5. Institutional context

Please report on the institutional context for the local management and safeguarding of the element inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, including:

- a. the competent body(ies) involved in its management and/or safeguarding;*
- b. the organization(s) of the community or group concerned with the element and its safeguarding.*

Not to exceed 150 words

a. The competent body involved in its management and safeguarding:

Fujian Provincial Department of Culture & Tourism

Ningde Municipal Bureau of Culture & Tourism of Fujian Province

b. The organizations of the community or groups concerned with the element and its safeguarding:

Relevant transmission and practice centers, the self-organized boards in the communities, relevant associations, museums, educational institutions and organizations focusing on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage

D. PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNITIES IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

Describe the measures taken to ensure the widest possible participation of the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals concerned as well as relevant non-governmental organizations during the process of preparing this report.

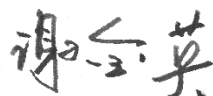
Between 150 and 250 words

From June to November 2021, the working group made a questionnaire for the periodic report, and collected information, opinions and suggestions from relevant communities, groups and individuals through instant messenger (IM) WeChat, QQ and fieldwork and surveys. In addition, the working group also visited and interviewed the local communities in Pingnan County, Shouning County, Zhouning County, Qingyuan County and Taishun County. An information sharing mechanism involving personal interviews, seminars and on-line communication was established to ensure smooth communication among diverse actors. 25 representative bearers as well as many of the community members provided information and materials on the implementation of the safeguarding measures and gave their practical suggestions for the drafting of the periodic report. The working group drafted the report based on the analysis of the collected information, data and suggestions, and solicited opinions from communities, groups and individuals concerned through on-line and face-to-face meetings, and finalized the report in the end.

E. SIGNATURE ON BEHALF OF THE STATE PARTY

The report should be signed by an official empowered to do so on behalf of the State, and should include his or her name, title and the date of submission.

Name: Xie Jinying
Title: Director-General, Bureau of International Exchanges and Cooperation,
Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China
Date: December 15, 2021
Signature:



You should attach the signed version of the report in English or French in PDF format. You may also attach the periodic report in other language versions, for instance in languages of the communities concerned or official languages of the country.