Agreement between
Guangdong Danxiashan National Park in the
People’s Republic of China
and the
Western Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife
Preamble

This Agreement is between Guangdong Danxiashan National Park and the Western Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife.

The Agreement establishes a sister park relationship between Danxiashan National Park, in the People's Republic of China, and Purnululu National Park, in Western Australia, to promote friendly cooperation through the activities listed in this document and others that may be agreed to in the future.

The Agreement is not intended to be a legal document. Rather, it is an administrative document that seeks to ensure mutually beneficial working arrangements for the parties.

The Agreement does not restrict either party from participation in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies or parties.

Background

Danxiashan and Purnululu national parks are both inscribed on the World Heritage List for their outstanding universal natural heritage values. Danxiashan, honoured as the first mountain of Lingnan (the south of the Five Ridges), is celebrated widely by the literary and artistic works of various historical periods in China. The sandstone ranges and gorges of Purnululu National Park have an indigenous history and significance that dates back tens of thousands of years and form one of the best known and striking geological landmarks in Western Australia.

Danxiashan and Purnululu national parks are both major tourist attractions and their beautiful natural landscapes have inspired outstanding artistic works. Danxiashan attracted ancient sages and poets and literary men who left behind many legends, poems, cliff and stone inscriptions. The main scenic area of Zhanglaofeng Peak alone has more than 200 existing cliff and stone inscriptions. The park also has 108 ancient mountain fortresses, Jinshiyan Temple and Biechuan Buddhist Temple which demonstrate strong cultural and Buddhism influences in the area.

The cultural landscape of Purnululu National Park is an exceptional example of hunting-and-gathering culture embodying religious, social, aesthetic and economic dimensions of this tradition. It is one of only two (of 936) World Heritage properties representative of contemporary hunter-gatherer societies together with their religious, social, aesthetic and economic dimensions of this tradition. Purnululu has many hundreds of archaeological sites, including rock art sites, artefact scatters, stone quarry sites, and burial sites.

Both parks have outstanding geological features. The natural bridges and light through caves in Danxiashan are the most developed in China's Danxia landform. Purnululu National Park demonstrates a long record of geological processes and landscape evolution, and the myriad orange and grey sandstone towers of the Bungle Bungle Range are exceptionally beautiful and inspirational.

Both parks have abundant animal and plant resources. Danxiashan has more than 2,096 species of vascular plants, 181 species of birds, 28 species of fish and 18 species of amphibians and reptiles. Purnululu National Park contains more than 600 species of vascular plants, 149 species of birds, 81 species of reptiles, 41 species of mammals, 15 species of fish and 12 frog species. Some of these are not found anywhere else in the world except within the park boundaries.
Both parks are a valuable education resource for students and play a key role in increasing public appreciation of park management and conservation issues.

The managers of both parks have common goals, including:

- to protect natural and heritage values by managing threatening processes and ensuring the success of recovery work
- to inform management actions through research and monitoring, and
- to provide and manage recreation opportunities and visitor facilities.

The sister park relationship provides further opportunities to achieve these goals.

Scope and Term of the Agreement

The Agreement identifies mechanisms for cooperation and liaison between the parties, within the resources available to both organisations, without restricting either organisation in the performance of its functions or exercise of its legal powers.

The Agreement will remain in place initially for five years from the date of signature by the parties. It may be revised or extended by mutual agreement, or cancelled by written notification by either party, at any time. It will be formally reviewed and ratified by each party on an annual basis.

Purpose

The purpose of the sister park relationship is to achieve mutual benefits through assistance and cooperation, including sharing management experiences, an exchange program for staff training and sharing successful experiences and practices of both parties, such as consultation and liaison with local communities and other stakeholders.

The parties agree to:

- establish a framework that allows the parties to collaborate on joint activities, including a schedule of projects developed from the opportunities for cooperation available, and
- create a communication process to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Opportunities for cooperation

Opportunities for cooperation are set out below, but this list is not exhaustive and the Liaison Officers appointed under the Agreement will identify and pursue opportunities for projects that fall within the scope of this Agreement.

1. To share information on park policies, management goals and performance measures.
2. To share information on management methods and expertise in protecting cultural and natural resources.
3. To share technical information such as the application of software programs for research and the management of resources.
4. To share information on planning and facilities for environmental education such as the planning and setting of youth education camps and education courses.

5. To expand the training of personnel through an exchange program or staff attachment (exchange program includes sending Danxiashan or Purnululu staff to each other’s park, station or attach to some units for a longer period, not just short visit, to train or share experiences and knowledge to each other).

6. To exchange scientific research.

7. To share information on the management and planning of recreational facilities and ecological tourism such as official and civil cooperative development plans and economic development plans.

8. To share information on development of tourist markets.

9. To share information on the development of and support for voluntary groups and sister organisations as park advocates.

10. To share successful experiences of community consultation and involvement, and participation of the indigenous inhabitants.

Costs

Each party will bear their own costs of administration and management of activities undertaken in support of this Agreement, but may identify and implement projects which have been agreed to be jointly funded.

When, by mutual consent, personnel of one park visit the other park, the international round-trip expense shall be borne by the visiting park and costs incurred in the receiving park shall be borne by the receiving park, including local transport and accommodation. Each exchange visit shall be decided separately according to both parks’ financial position.

Liaison Officers

As soon as practicable after the signing of this Agreement, each party will advise the other party of the officer appointed to assume primary responsibility for the implementation of the Agreement (Liaison Officers).

The Liaison Officers will be responsible for promoting the Agreement to staff of each organisation and will act as a contact point for staff who seek clarification on the Agreement. They will also be responsible for developing and facilitating the implementation of the schedule of projects, and for reviewing the schedule annually.

Project implementation

The Liaison Officers may delegate responsibility for certain projects to other officers within their organisations.
Disputes

Any disputes that arise will be dealt with in the spirit of this Agreement initially by the Liaison Officers appointed under this Agreement. However, if a dispute is not resolved within 14 days by the Liaison Officers then it shall be referred to Directors of Danxiashan National Park and the Department of Parks and Wildlife’s Director General for resolution.

General

Danxiashan will practice in accordance with the scope permitted by the laws of China and regulations of the region of sister parks and accept the guidance and supervision of the Scenic Area Management Office of the Ministry of Land and Resources (including Department of Land and Resources of Guangdong Province) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People’s Republic of China (including provincial-level competent department).

The Department of Parks and Wildlife will practice in accordance with the scope permitted by the laws of Western Australia.
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This Agreement is signed and endorsed in sextuplicate, both in Chinese and English. Two originals will be held by Guangdong Danxiashan National Park, two originals for filing in the Department of Land and Resources of Guangdong Province in the People's Republic of China, and two originals will be held by the Western Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife.