



**Memorandum of Understanding
on the Establishment of
China-Croatia Joint Research Center for
Ecological Environment Protection**

Between

**Jiuzhaigou National Preserve
Management Bureau, China**

University of Zagreb, Croatia

and

**Chengdu Institute of Biology,
Chinese Academy of Sciences**

**Plitvice Lakes National Park,
Croatia**

24 May 2014

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Background

Jiuzhaigou National Preserve of the People's Republic of China and Plitvice Lakes National Park of the Republic of Croatia are both world natural heritage sites declared by UNESCO, which share scenic view of lakes, waterfalls and travertine settings that make them distinctive from other landscapes of the world and are extraordinarily attractive to tourists and researchers. The two sites, however, are contemporarily facing increasing challenges and threats in ecosystem management and sustainable development due to multiple driving forces including climate and non-climate changes. To further strengthen scientific collaboration in fields of natural heritage conservation between China and Croatia, Jiuzhaigou National Preserve Management Bureau, Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (hereinafter mentioned as the Chengdu Institute of Biology only), University of Zagreb and Plitvice Lakes National Park consistently agree to establish the Chinese-Croatian International Research Center for Ecology and Nature Protection (Hereinafter referred to as "The Joint Research Center") subject to the terms and conditions as stipulated below:

I Major Contents

i Institutional Setup and Management

- **Institution setting:** Jiuzhaigou National Preserve Management Bureau, Chengdu Institute of Biology, University of Zagreb and Plitvice Lakes National Park shall each set up one branch of The Joint Research Center in their own institutions.
- **Institution management:** Both China and Croatia sides shall respectively nominate one director and one deputy director to be responsible for leading, organizing and planning major events of the Joint Research Center. Liaison offices with proper staff shall be set up on both Chinese side and Croatian side to be responsible for communication and coordination of collaborative researches, exchange activities and daily routines.
- **Funding and Fund Utilization:** All four parties shall separately or jointly seek funds through various channels to maintain normal operation of the Joint Research Center and implement collaborative programs. Resource sharing and expense saving shall be encouraged.

ii Fields and Form of Cooperation

- All parties shall focus their collaborative researches on key scientific questions and technologies relevant to the nature conservation and ecosystem management of the essential elements of the world natural heritage sites and at the same time actively expand and deepen bilateral cooperation and exchanges in various fields of natural heritage studies between China and Croatia. All parties shall encourage their researchers to carry out joint researches, in both Jiuzhaigou National Preserve and Plitvice Lakes National Park, on park management theories and technologies, encourage park managers to cooperate and exchange experiences in the fields of park operation, management, capacity building, raising public awareness, and market promotion, etc. All parties shall strengthen practical applications of research outcomes in nature conservation and ecosystem management and constantly promote science-based management of scenic spots.
- All parties shall jointly or separately apply for funds from various sources to implement research projects related to nature conservation, ecosystem management and sustainable development of world natural heritage sites. Parties from China and Croatia shall also explore opportunities to jointly apply for funds, in name of the Joint Research Center, for collaborative researches.
- All parties shall actively broaden channels for academic and staff exchanges and strengthen cooperation and exchanges through the organization of academic symposiums and workshops, mutual visits and research collaborations. Special efforts shall be made to promote exchanges and multilateral learning among young scholars, key management staff, and graduate students.
- All parties shall, through close and candid communication and negotiations, jointly set priority areas and directions for collaborative researches in the fields of conservation and management of natural heritage sites in China and Croatia. All parties shall support sharing of related research documents and findings, management experiences and information resources and establish equal, cooperative, reciprocal and win-win partnership.
- Signatory parties bear no financial and legal liabilities to this MoU.

II Obligations of Parties

- Each and every party to this MoU shall take steps to facilitate the development of the Joint Research Center, strengthen the capacity of Jiuzhaigou and Plitvice Lakes in scientific researches, conservation and park management and promote China-Croatia cooperation and

exchange knowledge in science, education and culture.

- All parties shall provide to each other maximum possible support and convenience in scientific cooperation, staff exchanges and information sharing and treat each other as important and preferred partners. Especially, in joint researches, Jiuzhaigou National Preserve Management Bureau and Plitvice Lakes National Park - shall provide field venues and logistical support for Chengdu Institute of Biology and University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science to carry out scientific experiments. Meanwhile, Chengdu Institute of Biology and University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science shall provide technical services and knowledge support to Jiuzhaigou National Preserve Management Bureau and Plitvice Lakes National Park.
- All concerned parties shall share and co-own research results and intellectual properties obtained through collaborative researches. All parties are obligated to notify each other of research progresses and developing trends.
- No party or parties shall, without the consent of all the involved parties, provide the results of joint researches to non-signatory party or parties or make public information that may affect the interests of other parties of this MoU.
- All parties shall take turns to host seminars, actively promote exchanges and plan and organize research collaborations and take proactive steps to negotiate and solve major issues concerning the development of the Joint Research Centre.
- Each and every party shall work to its best effort to build an equal and sincere partnership, to show concerns over each other's interest, to solve difficulties and disputes through friendly negotiation.

III Other Articles

- Modifications and supplements to this MoU shall be made on the basis of negotiations and consensus and shall form a written document signed by all parties.
- All disputes in connection with execution of this agreement shall be settled friendly through negotiation. In case no settlement can be reached, then the dispute should be solved by legal channels.
- This MoU shall be made in four copies in English language. Each has equal legal validity. Each of the four parties shall keep a copy of the same legality.

IV Term and Termination of the MoU


- This Memorandum of Understanding shall have an initial term of 5 years from the effective date of signing by all the four parties. The initial term shall be extended automatically for additional successive 5 years unless any one of the parties hereto will send to all the other parties a written notice indicating that the first party does not want extension of this agreement.
- Each of the parties shall have no right to terminate this agreement unilaterally during the effective term of this agreement unless a written notice indicating that any of the parties wants termination of this agreement shall be sent to and agreed by all the other parties at least 6 months prior to the proposed expiration time.

Signed by:



Director
Mr. Zhang Xiaoping

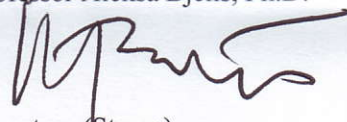
Signature (Stamp)



University of Zagreb

Rector
Professor Aleksa Bjeliš, Ph.D.

Signature (Stamp)



**Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese
Academy of Sciences**

Director General
Professor Zhao Xinquan, Ph.D.

Signature (Stamp)



Plitvice Lakes National Park

Head
Natalija Božičević, dipl.oec.

Signature (Stamp)

