

## Exploration of the Geographical Dispersion and Attributes of Historic Settlements in Yunnan Utilizing Geographic Information Systems

Gewenjun<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of art, Dianchi College, Kunming, Yunnan, China

### Accepted

03 December 2024

### Keywords

Yunnan; Traditional Villages;  
Spatial Distribution;  
Influencing Factors

### Corresponding Author

Ge Wenjun

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<https://doi.org/10.70693/itphss.v2i4.163>

### Abstract

**Research Objective:** To analyze the spatial distribution characteristics of traditional villages in Yunnan Province and explore the reasons, patterns, and features behind this distribution.

**Research Method:** Utilizing ARCGIS as a platform, the study applies Geographic Information System (GIS) analytical methods to collect, analyze, and visualize spatial data, revealing distribution patterns and spatial clustering.

**Research Subject:** 704 Chinese traditional villages in Yunnan selected by four national ministries.

**Findings:** Traditional villages are unevenly distributed, primarily concentrated in Honghe Prefecture, Baoshan City, and Dali City, closely tied to the province's unique geography, river systems, ethnic populations, and rich historical heritage.

## 1. Introduction

In China, villages predating the Republic of China era are usually termed ancient villages, functioning as historical witnesses and embodying significant cultural assets. These communities have kept ancient architectural qualities and exhibited distinctive features in their layout and folk culture (Rautio, 2021). In September 2012, an expert group (*The State Council of P.R.C China Traditional Villages to State Protection List, 2022*) convened and resolved to legally alter the designation "ancient villages" to "traditional villages," intending to more precisely represent the historical worth and cultural relevance of these settlements.

The definition of traditional villages emphasizes its historical continuity, characterized by minor alterations in architectural environments, styles, and places. Frequently situated in scenic natural environments, these villages exist in harmony with their surrounding landscapes. Their locations generally provide distinctive geographical benefits, including nearness to water sources and accessible transportation, which have collectively facilitated their establishment and growth.

The architectural style of these settlements is an essential aspect of their character. Structures are erected with indigenous materials and methods, like timber and stone, highlighting unique

regional characteristics. The design and configuration of these edifices are intricately connected to the local climate, culture, and religion, mirroring the lifestyle and aesthetic inclinations of the inhabitants(Zhang et al., 2023).

Besides architecture, traditional villages also safeguard a rich heritage of folk culture and customary lifestyles. Inhabitants uphold conventional methods of production, including agriculture and artisanal crafts, which sustain the village economy and underpin cultural legacy. Festivals, celebrations, weddings, and funerals(Prieto, n.d.) in the villages are essential components of traditional folk culture, enhancing the spiritual life('Investigating The Relationship Between Culture And Traditional Housing Architecture In Urfa, Turkey', 2021) of the inhabitants and drawing numerous tourists for experiential learning.

The safeguarding and advancement of traditional villages are crucial for the preservation of historical and cultural heritage, as well as for the transmission and enhancement of the exemplary traditional culture of the Chinese nation(Lin et al., 2021). As modernization progresses, numerous traditional villages confront the peril of extinction. Consequently, enhancing the preservation and judicious utilization of traditional villages is crucial for sustaining cultural diversity and fostering sustainable development. Traditional villages can be effectively safeguarded and utilized to maintain their distinctive roles in contemporary society through legislative protection, cultural preservation, and tourism development(Vázquez-Torres et al., 2020), among other strategies. A traditional village is one that has retained a significant historical evolution, meaning that there has been no major change in the architectural environment, architectural style, or village location, and it possesses unique local customs and folk culture(Chen & Li, 2022). Despite its long history, it still serves people today, highlighting its civilizational value and the significance of its heritage.

## **2.Literature Review**

Domestic research on traditional villages started relatively late but has developed rapidly, mainly manifested in the enactment of relevant laws and regulations by related institutions and the research and practice of researchers on historical towns and villages, ancient villages, and traditional villages. Ruan Yisan (Ruan & Yuan, 2011) was the first to study the morphology, alleys, architecture, and protection of ancient towns in the water towns of Jiangnan. Peng Yigang (Peng,1996) pointed out that the formation of the morphology of traditional village settlements has its natural and social factors. Liu Peilin (Liu et al, 2015) summarized the ancient systematic village planning ideas and types of ancient villages, using the theory and method of "imagery" to analyze the culture of ancient villages from the cultural landscape of Chinese ancient villages. Li Bohua (Want et al, 2015) and others, utilizing ARCGIS tools for analysis, the study indicates that the distribution of traditional villages in Hunan Province is characterized by a cohesive pattern. It is evident that regional environmental factors, topography, transportation infrastructure, and socio-economic conditions all play a role in influencing the preservation and distribution of these traditional settlements. Overall, domestic research on various categories of traditional villages is ongoing. Building upon the findings of previous research, this paper employs ARCGIS technology to investigate the spatial distribution of nationally designated traditional villages in Yunnan Province. The study examines the impact of Yunnan's topography, river systems, economic conditions across different cities, and the distribution of traditional villages among various ethnic groups. The goal is to offer insights and a foundation for the conservation and sustainable development of traditional villages within Yunnan Province.

### 3. Study Region

Yunnan is in the southwestern frontier of China, between longitudes 97°31' and 106°11', and latitudes 21°8' and 29°15'. The Tropic of Cancer crosses the southern part of the province, making it a low-latitude inland region. Yunnan has a mountainous plateau topography, with the terrain of Yunnan Province being higher in the northwest and lower in the southeast, descending step by step from north to south. It is characterized by mountainous plateau terrain, with mountain areas accounting for 88.64% of the province's total area. The terrain is divided into two major regions, east and west, by the Yuanjiang Valley and the southern part of the Yunling Mountains. The eastern part consists of the Dian East and Dian Central Plateau, which are part of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, characterized by undulating low mountains and rounded hills; the western part is interspersed with high mountains and gorges, with a rugged terrain, forming a peculiar and majestic alpine glacier landscape. Yunnan spans six major river systems: the Yangtze River, Pearl River, Yuanjiang, Lancang River, Nu River, and Daying River. The climate of Yunnan is basically subtropical and tropical monsoon, while the northwestern part of Yunnan belongs to the plateau mountain climate.

## 4. Data Sources and Research Methods

### 4.1 Data Sources

On December 20, 2012, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Ministry of Culture, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, and the Ministry of Finance of China together initiated the Traditional Villages Protection Project in China (Rautio, 2021). Following initial selection and proposals from many locations, the project underwent thorough evaluation and public announcement by an expert committee, ultimately designating the inaugural group of 62 villages in Yunnan for inclusion in the list of China's Traditional Villages. This signifies both an official acknowledgment of the historical and cultural importance of these communities and a pivotal advancement in the safeguarding of traditional villages in China.

In December 2018, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development released the list of the fourth batch of Traditional Villages in China. Between 2012 and 2018, a total of 704 traditional villages in Yunnan were cataloged, securing the second position nationally. This accomplishment exemplifies Yunnan Province's unwavering commitment and notable success in preserving traditional villages, while also highlighting its abundant historical and cultural assets and distinctive geographical benefits.

Yunnan Province, situated on the southern border of China, possesses a unique geographical position and is inhabited by several ethnic minorities, resulting in traditional villages with distinctive traits and rich cultural customs. The traditional villages of Yunnan display a variety of architectural types and possess distinct folk cultures, festivals, and traditional crafts, rendering them a significant component of the diversified Chinese culture and a valuable asset for the nation.

Yunnan has garnered substantial national support and advocacy for the protection of traditional villages. Through legislative safeguards, cultural preservation, and tourist enhancement, these traditional villages have been successfully safeguarded and utilized, enabling them to maintain their distinctive roles in contemporary society. These villages serve as both a residence and a source of spiritual nourishment for local inhabitants, while also providing tourists with an opportunity to comprehend and engage with traditional Chinese culture.

Notwithstanding the advancements in the preservation and utilization of traditional villages in

Yunnan, problems persist. The safeguarding of tangible cultural assets is comparatively more developed than that of intangible cultural heritage(Perez Gil, 2018). This suggests that forthcoming conservation initiatives must prioritize the preservation and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. A thorough evaluation and scientific direction can facilitate the sustainable development of traditional villages in Yunnan, providing significant insights and references for the preservation and exploitation of traditional villages in other areas nationwide.

## 4.2 Research Methods

This research examines 704 national-level traditional villages in Yunnan Province, utilizing the ARCGIS platform as the principal instrument. It amalgamates geographic coordinate data from Google Maps and Baidu Maps to develop a comprehensive point-based spatial attribute database, which has been visualized for enhanced comprehension.

GIS can collect data from various sources, including remote sensing images, satellite data, historical maps, field surveys, and so on. It integrates data in different formats (such as vector and raster data) to form a comprehensive spatial database. All the collected data is stored in the GIS database, where it can be classified, organized, and updated(Goodchild, 2009; Goodchild et al., n.d.). For example, the location data of a village can be linked to information on population, economy, culture, and more, making it convenient for further analysis and research.The study utilizes ARCGIS spatial analysis methods, such as kernel density analysis, elevation difference analysis, and balance analysis, to investigate the distribution patterns and spatial attributes of these traditional villages(Jia et al., 2023).

Through kernel density analysis(King et al., 2015), researchers can discern concentrated regions of village distribution, thereby elucidating patterns of village clustering and their historical contexts. Elevation difference analysis facilitates comprehension of the relationship between villages and their surrounding topography(*Digital Elevation Model Accuracy Aspects*, n.d.), essential for evaluating village site selection strategies and environmental adaptability. Balance analysis assesses the uniformity of village distribution, crucial for evaluating the thoroughness of conservation initiatives and identifying priority protection zones.

The utilization of these analytical methods enables researchers to thoroughly understand the existing protection status and the challenges confronting traditional villages in Yunnan. The results can indicate which regions have received superior protection for their villages and which areas necessitate increased attention and resource allocation. This analysis facilitates the development of more effective conservation strategies and offers scientific references for tourism advancement and cultural heritage preservation.

The research strongly advocates for the sustainable development of traditional villages in Yunnan and offers significant insights for the preservation and utilization of traditional villages in other regions nationwide. This not only safeguards and transmits China's extensive cultural heritage but also fosters local economic growth and cultural exchange, enhancing the diversification of societal development.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Examination of the Characteristics of Traditional Villages in the Municipalities and Prefectures of Yunnan

709 traditional villages in 16 cities and prefectures in Yunnan Province have been designated as Chinese Traditional Villages, according to data from the first through fifth batches of the Chinese Traditional Village Directory, which were made available on the Ministry of Housing and

Urban-Rural Development's website. We analyzed the data using GIS10.2 to produce a map that shows the locations of traditional villages in Yunnan's cities and prefectures (Figure 1). A color gradient is used on the map, with darker hues signifying a greater concentration of traditional villages. The distribution of these communities is noticeably unequal, as shown in Figure 1. Traditional villages are less common in places like Chuxiong City, Kunming City, and Qujing City, whereas they are concentrated in places like Dali City, Baoshan City, Honghe Prefecture, and Lijiang City. This suggests that traditional villages in Yunnan Province are more closely associated with places where ethnic minorities congregate than they are with transportation. There are 26 ethnic groups in Yunnan Province, including 15 that are exclusive to Yunnan and 25 that are ethnic minorities. The ethnic minorities in Yunnan are the most varied, the most distinctive, and the most transnational in all of China. Of these, the majority of the population is Bai in Dali City, the majority is Yi in Baoshan City, and the majority is Dai in Honghe Prefecture. Of the total number of traditional villages in the province, 53% are found in Dali City, Baoshan City, and Honghe Prefecture.

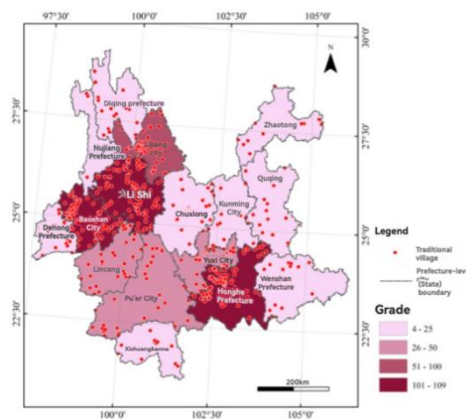


Figure 1: Distribution Map of Traditional Villages in Yunnan Province by Cities and Prefectures

## 5.2 Spatial Distribution Equitability

A total of 705 villages in Yunnan Province have been classified as Chinese traditional villages based on the first through fifth batches of traditional village listings that were posted on the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development's website (Table 1). Baoshan City and Dali Prefecture each have 130 traditional villages selected, accounting for 18% each; Honghe Prefecture has 124 traditional villages selected, accounting for 17%; Lijiang City has 54 traditional villages selected, accounting for 8%; Pu'er City has 39 traditional villages selected, accounting for 6%; Baoshan, Dali, Honghe, Lijiang, and Pu'er together have 477 traditional villages selected, accounting for 67% of the total in the province. The remaining cities, such as Kunming City, Qujing City, Yuxi City, Zhaotong City, Lincang City, Xishuangbanna Prefecture, Chuxiong Prefecture, Dehong Prefecture, Nujiang Prefecture, and Diqing Prefecture, have a total of 232 traditional villages selected, accounting for 33% of the total in the province. Among them, Nujiang Prefecture has the fewest selected, with a total of 8 villages included in the traditional village list.

Table 1: Statistics of Traditional Villages in Various Cities and Prefectures of Yunnan Province

City	Batch	First batch	Second batch	Third batch	Fourth batch	Fifth batch	Total
	Kunming		0	7	13	0	0
Qujing City		2	5	3	5	2	17

Yuxi City	1	7	6	14	9	37
Baoshan City	5	59	30	8	28	130
Zhaotong City	1	7	1	3	2	14
Lijiang City	10	18	20	4	2	54
Puer	8	20	9	2	0	39
Lincang City	8	12	8	6	2	36
Wenshan Zhou	1	8	5	3	3	20
Honghe Zhou	6	10	51	40	17	124
Xishuangbanna Zhou	3	12	0	0	2	17
Chuxiong Zhou	1	6	13	2	1	23
Dali Zhou	15	42	37	17	19	130
Dehong Zhou	1	5	4	6	3	19
Nujiang Zhou	0	1	1	2	4	8
Diqing Zhou	0	13	7	1	0	21
Total	62	232	208	113	94	709

Source: <http://www.chuantongcunluo.com>

To visually represent the spatial distribution equity of traditional villages in Yunnan Province, the Kernel Density Estimation method within ARCGIS10.2 is employed for spatial analysis. This method is utilized to assess the distributional equity of traditional villages throughout the province. The calculation formula for the Kernel Density Estimation(King et al., 2015) method is as follows:

$$f_n(X) = \frac{1}{nh} \sum_{i=1}^n k\left(\frac{x - X_i}{h}\right).$$

The Kernel Density Distribution Map of Traditional Villages in Yunnan Province is generated as follows (Figure 2):

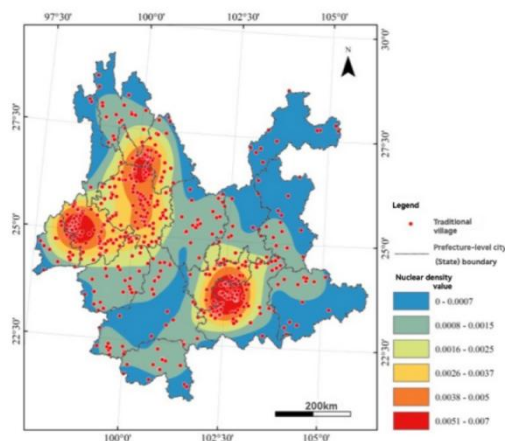


Figure 2: Kernel Density Distribution Map of Traditional Villages in Yunnan Province

Based on the analysis, it can be seen that the spatial distribution of traditional villages in Yunnan Province has formed three kernel density areas: high-density areas in Dali City, Honghe City, and Baoshan City; secondary density areas in Lijiang City, Pu'er City, Yuxi City, and Lincang City; and low-density areas in Kunming City, Qujing City, Zhaotong City, Wenshan City, Xishuangbanna Prefecture, Chuxiong Prefecture, Dehong Prefecture, Nujiang Prefecture, and Diqing Prefecture.

### 5.3 Relationship with the Distribution of Mountains and Rivers

There are six major river systems within Yunnan Province. These are the Yangtze River system: Jinsha River, Longchuan River, Pudu River, Xiaojiang, Niulan River, Yili River, and Hengjiang; the Pearl River system: Nanpan River, Qujiang River, Kedu River, Huangni River, and Tuanniang River; the Lancang River system: Tongdian River, Yangbi River, Shunbi River, Weiyuan River, Xiaohei River, Manlao River, Nanban River, Liusha River, Nanlan River, Nanlei River, Na'e River, and Nanla River; the Nu River system: Laowo River, Ku Ke River, Yongkang River, Damengtong River, and Nanding River; the Red River system: Lishe River, Lvzhi River, Yuanjiang River, Biance River, Amo River, Mengye River, Lixian River, Laomeng River, Panlong River, Nanxi River, Na Meiguo River, Daliangzi River, Nanli River, and Lujiang River. The Irrawaddy River system: Dulong River, Longchuan River, Binlang River, Mangshi River, Nanwan River, Daying River, and Ruili River. By using ARCGIS10.2 to overlay the rivers in Yunnan Province with the geographical locations of traditional villages and performing buffer zone analysis, a distribution map of major rivers and traditional villages in Yunnan Province is obtained.

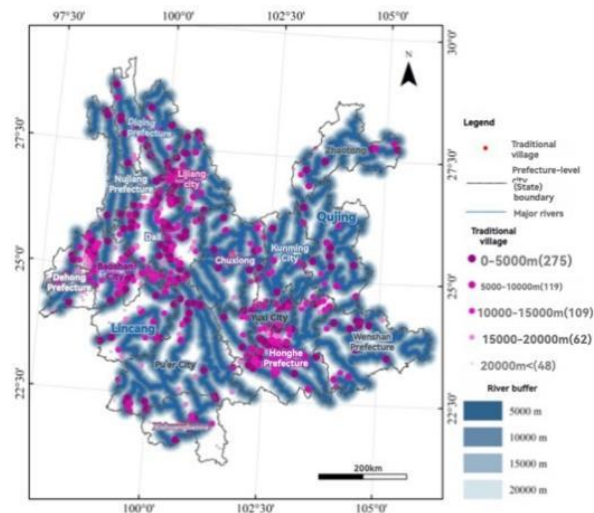


Figure 3: Distribution Map of Major Rivers and Traditional Villages in Yunnan Province

The distribution map of traditional villages in Yunnan Province reveals a distinct association between the communities' locations and their proximity to rivers. Data reveals that there are 275 ancient communities within 5,000 meters of a river; 119 within 10,000 meters; 62 within 15,000 meters; and merely 48 beyond 20,000 meters. Significantly, within the altitude range of 5,000 to 10,000 meters, there exist 394 traditional villages, representing 55.9% of the total traditional villages in Yunnan. This illustrates that in antiquity, proximity to a water source was a vital criterion in the selection of settlement sites.

Water is necessary for life, particularly crucial for agrarian communities. Opting to reside near a water source proved favorable for daily activities, such as consumption, sanitation, and irrigation, as well as for agricultural productivity, encompassing field irrigation and cattle husbandry. Furthermore, Yunnan's elevated topography and intricate geology rendered canals a practical means of movement, circumventing the perils posed by wildlife in dense woods and mitigating travel-related concerns. Moreover, regions adjacent to water sources generally exhibit verdant flora, providing inhabitants with a plethora of natural resources for constructing dwellings and producing essential items.

Consequently, residing near water exemplifies the sagacity of ancient civilizations. This settlement strategy addressed fundamental survival requirements while also prioritizing safety

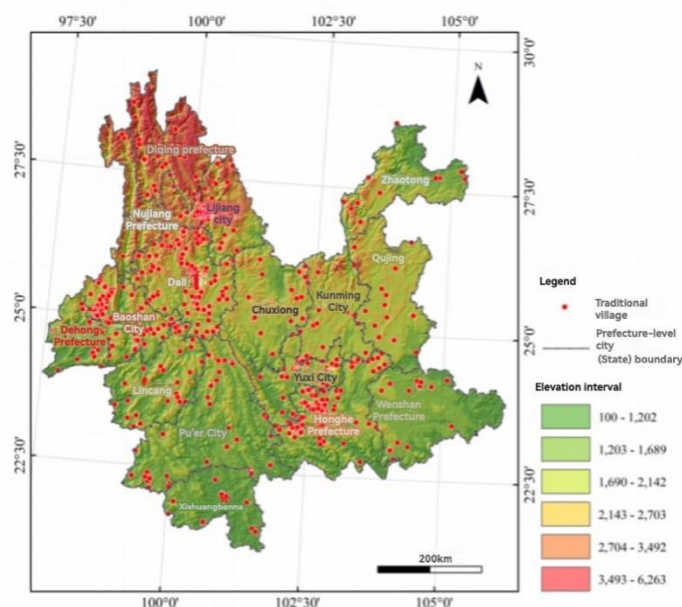


and ease. These communities have developed into traditional settlements with distinct cultural attributes and historical significance. They attest to the historical harmony between humans and nature and offer significant physical evidence for the contemporary study of ancient societies.

In contemporary culture, these ancient villages possess considerable historical and cultural significance, as well as distinct tourist allure. Preserving these villages is essential for the safeguarding and advancement of Yunnan's ethnic culture, the enhancement of cultural tourism, and the sustenance of ethnic unity and social stability. This indicates that, in the endeavor to safeguard traditional communities, greater emphasis should be placed on those adjacent to water sources, necessitating enhanced protective measures for these regions. Enhancing legislative protection, cultural preservation, and tourism development will facilitate the preservation and utilization of traditional villages, enabling them to maintain their distinctive roles in contemporary society. This not only safeguards and transmits Yunnan's diverse ethnic culture but also fosters local economic advancement and cultural interchange, so enhancing the diversification of societal progress.

#### 5.4 Relationship with Major Mountain Ranges

The main mountain ranges within Yunnan Province include the Gaoligong Mountains, the Nu Mountains, and the Yunling Mountains. These ranges are naturally situated within the Hengduan Mountains. The Gaoligong Mountains are part of the southern Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and the western fault block zone of the Hengduan Mountains, where the Indian Plate and the Eurasian Plate collide and subduct along the suture zone, forming a famous deep and large fault valley area. The Nu Mountains, located in western Yunnan Province and eastern Tibet Autonomous Region, run in a north-south direction, with the northern section known as the Tengchong Mountains and the southern section known as the Nu Mountains or Biluo Snow Mountains, are part of the Hengduan Mountains and serve as the watershed between the Nu River and the Lancang River. The Yunling Mountains, located in the northwest of Yunnan Province, the southeast of the Tibet Autonomous Region, and the southwest of Sichuan Province, are part of the Hengduan Mountain system and are an important range within it, also acting as the watershed between the Lancang River and the Jinsha River. By using ARCGIS10.2 to overlay the mountain ranges in Yunnan Province with the geographical locations of traditional villages and performing elevation interval analysis, a distribution map of major mountain ranges and traditional villages in Yunnan Province is obtained.





*Figure 4: Distribution Map of Major Mountain Ranges and Traditional Villages in Yunnan Province*

Examining the distribution map of traditional villages in Yunnan Province, it's evident that these villages are predominantly located in areas with altitudes ranging from 1203 to 2142 meters, with a decrease in the number of villages as the altitude increases. This pattern suggests that ancient settlers had a preference for moderately elevated, relatively flat terrain when choosing village sites. This preference was based on two main considerations: Firstly, moderate altitudes and flat terrain facilitated transportation, which was crucial for economic development. In ancient times, transportation was key for connecting villages with the outside world and promoting the exchange of goods. Flat terrain was beneficial for farming and travel, aiding in agricultural production and the circulation of commodities, thereby stimulating economic growth. Secondly, against the backdrop of political instability, building villages at mid-altitudes was advantageous for evacuation and defense during times of turmoil. Mid-altitude areas often have complex topography, which is beneficial for resisting invasions and allows residents to quickly retreat to safe areas in emergencies. Moreover, flat areas typically have fertile soil, suitable for agricultural production. Ancient societies were primarily agricultural, and choosing to settle in such areas ensured food supply and met the basic living needs of the residents. These regions were also more suitable for human habitation, contributing to the long-term stability and development of the villages. Over time, these villages have developed unique cultural characteristics and historical value. They bear witness to the history of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, providing valuable physical evidence for the study of ancient societies. In modern society, these traditional villages hold significant historical and cultural value and also possess unique tourist appeal. Preserving these villages is important for the inheritance and promotion of Yunnan's ethnic culture, the development of cultural tourism, and the maintenance of ethnic unity and social stability. This also indicates that in the work of protecting traditional villages, more attention should be paid to those with gentle slopes and moderate altitudes, with increased efforts to protect these areas. By strengthening legislative protection, cultural inheritance, and tourism development, traditional villages can be better preserved and utilized, allowing them to continue playing their unique roles in modern society. This not only helps to protect and pass on Yunnan's rich ethnic culture but also promotes local economic development and cultural exchange, contributing to the diversification of societal development.

## **5.5 Relationship with Historical Culture**

Traditional villages in Yunnan have not only been witnesses to the rise and fall of a number of ancient kingdoms (Unforgettable Margins: The Southeast Asian Nature of China's Southwest Borderlands, n.d.), but they also carry a wealth of information regarding historical events and ethnic culture. Yunnan has a history and culture that is both rich and colorful. Beginning with the Nanshao Kingdom and continuing through the Dali Kingdom, the Mourning Kingdom, and finally the Ziqi Kingdom, the transformations that occurred during these ancient kingdoms had a significant influence on the economic and social development of the region.

The Erhai region was particularly sensitive to the rise and fall of the Nanshao ('Charles Backus. The Nan-Chao Kingdom and T'ang and China's Southwestern Frontier. (Cambridge Studies in Chinese History, Literature, and Institutions.) New York', 1983) Kingdom and the Dali Kingdom, both of which had a large impact on the region. The political centers of these two dynasties were based in the city of Dali, which caused the region to experience the rise and fall of both dynasties, which had a great impact on the economic development of the local community. Both the Dali and Erhai regions had a significant increase in population as a consequence of the concentration of political rights and economic development. As a result, the number of traditional villages that

have been preserved in these regions is the highest in Yunnan Province. The housing systems in these settlements are not only relatively well constructed, but they also have a sizeable population population.

Especially in the Nujiang-Lancang River Valley, the formation and development of the Mourning Kingdom had a profound impact on the economy and culture of Yunnan, Guizhou, and Sichuan. This was especially true in the Nujiang-Lancang River Valley. Located in the city of Baoshan, the Nine Dragons Statue, which is a representation of the Mourning Kingdom, can be found. In spite of the fact that the location of the governmental center is unknown, the existence of the Nine Dragons Statue provides evidence that Baoshan was once a city that had greater prosperity. The number of traditional villages that have been preserved in a single metropolis is the highest of any metropolitan area.

It is crucial to note that the foundation and development of Ziqi State, particularly the wealth of Mile and Shizong, had a significant impact on the economic development and population gathering in Honghe Prefecture. The current prototypes of traditional villages were developed as a result of the gathering of population, which was driven by the economic prosperity that was present at the time.

Not only do these ancient villages serve as witnesses to history, but they also serve as representatives of culture. They have been present throughout the history of Yunnan, from ancient times to the present day, and they are a source of rich knowledge regarding the region's ethnic culture and history. The preservation of these villages is an act of safeguarding the history and culture of Yunnan. At the same time, these villages are also significant resources for Yunnan's tourism industry, and they play a significant role in fostering the growth of the local economy and the preservation of the cultural legacy of the region.

It is essential to take into consideration a variety of aspects, including history, culture, the economy, and the involvement of the community, while the process of preserving traditional villages is being carried out. This necessitates not only the direction and planning of the government, but also the engagement of the community and the improvement of educational opportunities. It is possible to realize the living heritage of traditional villages through the application of scientific planning, rational use, and effective protection. This will make traditional villages an important carrier for the revitalisation of rural areas and its cultural heritage. At the same time, it is essential to strike a balance between the development of the local economy and the preservation of traditional villages. This is done in order to foster the growth of the local economy while simultaneously safeguarding traditional villages.

The rural revitalisation program of Yunnan Province has been a significant factor in the promotion of community transformation. From the development of infrastructure to the cultivation of sustainable agriculture and the generation of income to the reduction of poverty, we are able to observe the positive outcomes: the local economies have been revitalized, the facilities have been upgraded, and the citizens have regained a sense of pride. With the implementation of these policies, the government has been able to honor its promise to achieving more balanced development in both urban and rural areas. These policies have brought about changes that are far-reaching and sustainable.

Yunnan has been subjected to a series of local administrations that have existed throughout its history, each of which has had a significant influence on the country. Not only have these regime changes had an impact on the economic and social growth of the local community, but they have also had an impact on the historical heritage and ethnic culture of Yunnan.

Within the province of Yunnan, there has been a recent advancement in the development of tourism that is of a high quality. The amount of money invested in the tourism industry has

increased, which has led to an increase in the overall amount of money spent by tourists in the province as well as the number of tourists who visit the province. The rapid development of Yunnan's tourism industry, which is bringing forth new growth points for the local economy, is demonstrated by this.

The objective of the Guidelines on Strengthening the Protection and Development of Traditional Villages that have been developed by the General Office of the Yunnan Provincial People's Government is to accomplish the comprehensive implementation of the significant instructions that General Secretary Xi Jinping has provided about the transformation and protection of traditional villages. The fact that this is the case demonstrates that the Yunnan Provincial Government places a significant amount of weight on the preservation and development of traditional villages, and that it is dedicated to pursuing a path that facilitates the preservation and development of traditional villages that possess distinctive Yunnan features.

The notice of Yunnan Province's '14th Five-Year' Tourism Development Implementation Plan aims to coordinate the prevention and control of the epidemic as well as the development of the tourism industry. Additionally, the notice aims to fully implement the scientific and precise prevention and control requirements that are required in the tourism industry. It is clear from this that the administration of Yunnan Province is making a concerted effort to encourage the development of tourism of a high standard, which in turn brings about new growth opportunities for the economy of the region.

In conclusion, the preservation and development of traditional villages in Yunnan Province is a complicated and multifaceted topic that calls for the collaborative efforts of the government, communities, academics, and the general public. It is possible to realize the living heritage of traditional villages through the application of scientific design, rational use, and effective protection. This would make traditional villages an important carrier for the revitalisation of rural areas and the transmission of cultural traditions.

## **6. Conclusion**

Not only do the traditional villages in Yunnan Province have distinctive distribution features, but they also have profound significance in terms of their historical, cultural, and economic aspects for the province. For these communities to be preserved and developed, it is necessary to take into account their historical context, cultural characteristics, economic impact, and community involvement in a comprehensive manner.

The preservation and development of traditional villages must, first and foremost, take into account the historical context of these communities. The majority of Yunnan's traditional villages may be found in the cities of Dali, Baoshan, and Honghe Prefecture. These are the areas where historical and geographical circumstances have worked together to shape the establishment and development of these villages. These villages have been witnesses to the merger of many nationalities and civilizations, each of which has its own distinctive cultural identity and local worship, resulting in the formation of a village morphology that is predominantly traditional.

In the second place, the preservation and development of traditional villages are not possible without the incorporation of cultural traits. The province of Yunnan, which holds a key place within China's traditional village system, is home to a large number of traditional villages that are representative of the diversity of different ethnic groups. These villages are not only important carriers for the transmission of ancient ethnic cultures, but they also serve as a significant reflection of the numerous cultural traditions that are found in Yunnan.

A further consideration that cannot be ignored is the effect that it will have on the economy. It is

necessary to find a middle ground between the preservation of traditional communities and the implementation of economic development. On the one hand, economic progress has the potential to give financial support for the preservation of these villages; on the other hand, excessive commercialization may cause their traditional appearance to be disrupted. As a result, the question of how to preserve traditional villages while also fostering economic growth in the surrounding area is one that needs to be addressed.

In addition, the participation of the community and the improvement of educational opportunities are essential components for the ongoing preservation and growth of traditional villages. In order to be successful in conservation efforts, it is essential to guide the local community's knowledge of protection and to increase their understanding of the value and significance of traditional villages. The growth of talent at multiple levels and in a variety of fields might result in the formation of a group of protectors and developers who possess sophisticated ideas and solid skills.

As a last point of discussion, sustainable development plans are the long-term plan for the preservation and development of traditional communities. Consequently, in order to design policies that are beneficial to economic growth while also efficiently safeguarding traditional villages, it is necessary to take into consideration a wide range of criteria, including geographical, historical, cultural, and economic influences. By taking these steps, it will be possible to achieve sustainable development of traditional villages, which will enable these communities to continue to fulfill their distinctive functions within contemporary society.

In a nutshell, the preservation and development of traditional villages in Yunnan is a complicated and multifaceted subject that calls for the collaborative efforts of the government, communities, academics, and the general public. Keeping the living history of traditional villages alive can be accomplished via the use of scientific planning, rational utilization, and effective protection. This makes traditional villages a key vehicle for the revival of rural areas and the transmission of cultural traditions.

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