

**UNESCO CATEGORY 2 CENTRE FOR WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE  
MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING FOR THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION,  
WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA, DEHRADUN, INDIA**

**Report for the 40th Session of the World Heritage Committee  
Istanbul (Turkey), 10 - 20 July 2016**

**Date of the Report:** 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

**Name of the Centre:** UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Region

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**1. Institutional and operational structure of the Centre (Governing Board, Staffing, Operational funding and premises)**

From the outcome of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting (2012) conducted by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties in Asia and the Pacific, a Centre of Excellence on Natural World Heritage for Asia and the Pacific region at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), was proposed as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

The Indian Cabinet of Ministers, chaired by Honorable Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi formally approved the proposal for signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of the UNESCO C2C at Wildlife Institute of India. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Director General, UNESCO and Director General of Forest, Government of India on September 2nd, 2015. The 21 member Governing Body of the Wildlife Institute of India chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is also the Governing Body of UNESCO C2C at WII.

The operational activities of the C2C are handled by a 15 member team of skilled professionals. The C2C team includes Director, Scientists, Technical Officers, Assistant Technical Officers and World Heritage Assistants. Administrative staff includes Administrative officer, Finance Officer and IT Officer.

The C2C gets major financial resources from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India to achieve its mandate. A new building within the WII campus is in the final stage of construction which will house the C2C.

**2. Updates on the management of the Centre – particularly on meetings of the Governing Board and key decisions adopted**

The UNESCO General Conference 37 C/Resolution 47 dated 19 November 2013 granted approval to the proposal of establishing the Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage Site Management and Training for the Asia-Pacific region. The Centre has been envisaged as an integral part of Wildlife Institute of India and is governed by the Institute's Governing Body with Secretary (Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change), Govt. of India as its Chairperson and Director, WII as its Member Secretary.

The Governing Body meeting held on April 8th, 2015 approved the Annual Work Programme 2015-16 of the UNESCO C2C at WII (**Enclosure I – excerpts**). The Centre has started functioning and has accomplished annual work programmes for the years 2014-15 and 2015-16

**3. Programs and activities implemented since April 2015 and planned for the current year**

Detailed Annual Progress Report (2015-16) as submitted to Govt of India is as enclosed (**Enclosure II**). The Annual Work Plan (2016-17) is currently being prepared and shall be shared after formal approval from the Governing Body.

| <b>N.</b> | <b>Title of the activity</b>  | <b>Reference to WHCBS<sup>1</sup></b>  |
|-----------|---|--|
| <b>1</b>  | Awareness amongst school and university students about UNESCO world heritage sites through World Heritage Day celebration and exclusive lecture / presentation sessions.  | <b>1.1 &amp; 7.2</b>   |
| <b>2</b>  | Launch of World Heritage News Bulletin  | <b>1.1 &amp; 8.8</b>   |
| <b>3</b>  | Research & Monitoring: Participation of C2C faculty in Nanda Devi Decadal Expedition (June 10 – July 6, 2015)   | <b>4.7</b>   |
| <b>4</b>  | Organised International Workshop and Training on the Role of Natural World Heritage Sites in Disaster Risk Reduction (24th – 28th August, 2015)   | <b>1.1, 1.4, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 4.5, 4.8, 5.2 &amp; 7.2</b>  |
| <b>5</b>  | Stakeholder Consultation on Proposed FAO-Manas Project: “Conserving Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Manas Biosphere Reserve, Assam for Regional Rural Development and Disaster Risk Reduction” (2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> September, 2016)   | <b>7.1, 7.2, 8.1 &amp; 8.2</b>   |
| <b>6</b>  | Organised International Training Workshop on Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation in World Natural Heritage Sites for SAARC Countries (1st - 4th December, 2015)   | <b>1.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 4.3, 4.8, 5.2 &amp; 7.2</b>   |
| <b>7</b>  | Organised Enhancing Capacity for Effective Management of Coastal and Marine World Heritage Sites of the Asia-Pacific Region’ (26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2016)   | <b>1.1, 1.4, 3.3, 3.4, 4.5, 4.8, 5.2 &amp; 7.2</b>   |
| <b>8</b>  | Organised Ecotourism in Uttarakhand: Responding to Environmental and Social Change (3rd- 5th March, 2016)   | <b>3.7, 4.8, 5.2, 7.2 &amp; 7.3</b>  |
| <b>9</b>  | Participated in Training Programme on Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services (14th-17th March, 2016)  | <b>5.2</b>   |
| <b>10</b> | On-site capacity building stakeholder consultations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder Consultation for inscription of Bhitarkanika Conservation Area as a Natural World Heritage Site (11<sup>th</sup> August, 2015)</li> <li>• Consultative Workshop for preparation of Nomination Dossier for Inscription of Keibul Lamjao Conservation Area as UNESCO World Heritage Site (19th- 22nd December, 2015)</li> <li>• Nomination of Kailash Sacred Landscape as World Heritage Site (27th January, 2016)</li> </ul> | <b>1.1, 8.1 &amp; 8.2</b><br><br><b>1.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.7, 4.7, 8.1 &amp; 8.2</b><br><br><b>1.1</b> |
| <b>11</b> | A review of Rights based Approach and World Heritage Sites  | <b>1.1 &amp; 4.7</b>   |

<sup>1</sup>WHCBS stands for the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2011/whc11-35com-9Be.pdf> )

|           |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| <b>12</b> | Promoting indigenous communities to undertake digital documentation of heritage sites under the aegis of Green Hub  | <b>4.7</b>  |
| <b>13</b> | Internship and Fellowship- Progress of Intern   | <b>1.1 &amp; 4.7</b>  |
| <b>14</b> | Other collaborative capacity building initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First IPBES Capacity Building Forum (19<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2015)</li> <li>• Short term training for frontline staff of GHNP World Heritage Site (8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2016)</li> <li>• Consultations held for inscribing Garo Hills as UNESCO World Heritage Site (23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2015)</li> </ul> | <b>4.8</b><br><br><b>1.1, 3.3, 3.4, 4.3 &amp; 5.2</b><br><br><b>1.1, 2.3, 2.5 &amp; 2.7</b> |
| <b>15</b> | Advisory and Technical support to Indian states for SOC preparation of WHS namely: Great Himalayan National Park, Keoladeo National Park and Manas National Park  | <b>1.1, 3.3 &amp; 4.9</b>   |
| <b>16</b> | Technical collaborations with scientific bodies like FAO, UNSPIDER, Assam State Disaster Management Authority, Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology, Dehradun (UCOST) and GIZ.  | <b>4.8 &amp; 7.1</b>  |
| <b>17</b> | Preparation of Bhitarkanika Conservation Area Nomination Dossier for inscription on UNESCO WHS list   | <b>2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 &amp; 4.7</b>   |
| <b>18</b> | Continued assistance and mentoring to national institutions viz. Govt of Sikkim and Govt of Odisha for improvising nomination dossiers  | <b>2.5</b>  |
| <b>19</b> | Training and capacity building of C2C staff members   | <b>4.8, 5.1 &amp; 5.2</b>   |

**4. Website of the Centre (if available):**

[http://wii.gov.in/unesco\\_category2\\_centre](http://wii.gov.in/unesco_category2_centre)

**5. Designated Focal Point(s) (name, title and contact information)**

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