



## Event Report

# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage-related Category 2 Institutes and Centres

November 22, 2016

**Organised and Hosted by**

**UNESCO Category 2 Centre for  
World Natural Heritage Management and Training (NWHMT) for  
Asia and the Pacific Region,  
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun**

**November 2016**



## FOREWORD

UNESCO Category 2 Centre (C2C) for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region (NWHMT), established at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India, is the youngest of the nine C2Cs under the auspices of UNESCO related to World Heritage globally. The Centre's mission is to strengthen implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Asia and the Pacific Region by building the capacity of professionals and institutions involved with World Natural Heritage Site inscription, protection, conservation and management in the Asia-Pacific, through training, research, dissemination of information and network building.

The representatives of World Heritage Category 2 Centres regularly meet to share their experiences and harmonize their activities. Following the four previous Coordination Meetings organized by the other C2Cs, it was an honour for the UNESCO C2C NWHMT India to host the 5<sup>th</sup> Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage-related Category 2 Institutes and Centres at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2016. The participation of Dr. Mechtild Rossler, Director, World Heritage Centre and Division for World Heritage, UNESCO Paris along with representatives from UNESCO's Advisory Bodies, Chairs and Category 2 Centres resulted in very fruitful discussions on building institutional capacity and strategic collaborations to implement Global Sustainable Development Goals and World Heritage Convention priorities by the C2Cs.

The presence of such internationally experienced professionals also provided us with an opportunity to leverage their expertise by conducting back-to-back Consultative Dialogues on Kailash Sacred Landscape as a World Heritage Site on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2016 and on Cultural Landscapes, Mixed and Transboundary Heritage Sites on 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2016. The dialogues led to greater clarity on the road map for inscription of Kailash Sacred Landscape as a World Heritage Site and stimulating discussions on the need for bridging the gap between natural and cultural attributes of World Heritage properties. The outcomes from the meeting and dialogues offer a framework of action to align our work and priorities in the forthcoming period. It will be our endeavour to take these learnings forward.

The number and variety of participants was extremely encouraging with over 70 participants representing the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, various State Governments, academic institutions, non-government organizations among others, both national and international. I would like to gratefully acknowledge the support provided by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal and Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST), Dehradun towards the successful conduct of these events.

I am pleased to present the main discussions and consensus emerging from this event to you in this report for your review and to take necessary follow-up actions for securing the unique heritage of our planet earth.

**(Dr. V. B. Mathur)**  
**Director, Wildlife Institute of India & UNESCO C2C**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE RELATED CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES</b>	<b>1</b>
I. SETTING THE CONTEXT: THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS	1
II. THE AGENDA: REPORT, REVIEW AND ROADMAP	3
III. THE WAY FORWARD	5
Glimpses	7
 ANNEXURE 1: CONFERENCE SCHEDULE	 8

## 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE RELATED CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES NOVEMBER 22, 2016

The 5th Annual Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage related Category 2 Institutes and Centres took place in Dehradun, India on 22 November, 2016. The UNESCO Category 2 Centre on Natural World Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region (henceforth, UNESCO C2C-NWHMT) at Wildlife Institute of India hosted the meeting in its campus. This meeting built upon the previous four coordination meetings that took place in 2010 in Manama, in 2012 in Milan in 2013, in Oslo and in 2014 in Shanghai. The meeting also aimed to take forward the efforts of the First Coordination Meeting of C2C Institutes and Centres and UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks held in December 2015 at UNESCO, Paris, and especially the dialogues about institutional capacity-building and natural heritage conservation through enhanced and effective international cooperation. The meeting drew participation from 19 representatives from five Category 2 Institutes and Centres, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies, Regional Institutes and Universities and UNESCO Chairs.

### I. SETTING THE CONTEXT: THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS

**Dr. V.B. Mathur**, Director UNESCO C2C-NWHMT and WII, welcomed the delegates and briefed them about the purpose of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Coordination Meeting in terms of cross-learning and building synergies towards international cooperation for natural heritage management and training.

**Mr. Ravindra Singh**, Former Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India was invited as the Guest of Honour. He welcomed all the participants of the workshop and congratulated UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun for collaborating and setting up the UNESCO Category 2 Centre in India. Mr. Singh emphasized the importance of regional collaboration for protection of World Heritage Sites in the Asia-Pacific region. He believed that the Centre has a crucial role in conservation of transnational properties in the region which is endowed with outstanding cultural and natural heritage values.

Elaborating on the potential and possibilities for World Heritage Category 2 Centres & Institutes (C2C&Is), Chief Guest of the programme, **Dr. Mechtild Rössler**, Director World Heritage Centre, Paris highlighted that they have a rich contribution to make in UNESCO's work. Their potential lies in serving as regional Centres of excellence, assisting in extension of UNESCO's programs on heritage, and providing services in policy making, research, documentation and capacity building of Member States.

Besides these contribution, C2C&Is are expected to establish links with UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN network & rotate coordination with different C2Cs and resource hubs. Dr. Rössler insisted that cooperation between Category 2 Centres, Institutes and Advisory Bodies (viz. IUCN and ICCROM) can foster capacity building of different World Heritage stakeholders. UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN network can be considered as potential links for knowledge sharing and capacity building. In this regard, WHITRAP can explore future collaborations with potential future C2C in Morocco which will deal with Urban Areas. Similarly, the **International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention**, Spain can look into collaborating with another forthcoming Centre in Indonesia which will focus on Human evolution and pre-historic heritage. She suggested that the cooperation between UNESCO C2C&Is would be useful in terms of knowledge sharing as well as sharing financial burden on organising capacity building workshops and meetings, especially with young centres.

Dr. Rössler stressed that driving collective efforts of governments, UNESCO C2C&Is, Chairs and other technical institutions to operationalize the 2015-World Heritage Sustainable Development policy should be central to future endeavours of C2C&Is. In this context, the World Heritage Leadership program, a partnership project between IUCN and ICCROM, can also provide support to World Heritage practitioners to advance sustainable development through World Heritage sites.

Setting the context for the session's agenda in terms of reporting and reviewing C2Cs' ongoing work for exploring possibilities of international cooperation, **Dr. V.B. Mathur** gave an overview of the origin and significance of establishing the C2C-NWHMT at WII. He emphasized on the importance of this Centre in managing natural sites in the Asia-Pacific region. The Asia-Pacific region has 36 State Parties entailing 173 cultural, 62 natural, and 12 mixed World Heritage sites. Within its first two years, despite initial teething problems, the C2C-NWHMT has conducted 19 workshops and training programs at national and international levels. In the capacity building and outreach initiatives, over 1,000 participants from 18 countries have participated in the Centre's programs. Acknowledging the immense cultural significance of ecologically rich sites, the centre demonstrated forward thinking as illustrated through its proactive role in the successful inscription of Khangchendzonga National Park as a Mixed World Heritage site in 2016 – the first in India. The other sites in pipeline for nomination include the Bhitarkanika Conservation Area and the Kailash Sacred Landscape & Pilgrim Routes. The Centre is also actively involved in dissemination of information through a quarterly e-news bulletin on UNESCO Natural World Heritage sites and developments. Dr. Mathur stressed the cross-sectoral collaborations for achieving mandates and objectives and called upon C2Cs to engage in active dialogue so as to learn from contexts and challenges confronting each centre, and explore ways to support and collaborate with each other.



## II. THE AGENDA: REPORT, REVIEW AND ROADMAP

The primary aim of the coordination meeting, as articulated strongly in the inaugural session, was to undertake a collective and transparent exercise of reporting and reviewing the work of each C2C so as to facilitate fertile grounds for future activities and cooperation amongst them. For this purpose, discussion was conducted in form of four overlapping technical sessions (a combined report is presented below):

*Technical Session 1: Review of previous agenda and action taken from C2C Coordination Meetings*

*Technical Session 2: C2C Report on Progress and Activities*

*Technical Session 3: Mandate and activities of UNESCO Chairs*

*Technical Session 4: Road map for enhancing collaboration and cooperation amongst C2Cs*

The technical sessions were initiated by **Dr. Sonali Ghosh**, Scientist-F, UNESCO C2C- NWHMT, who gave a brief background of Annual Coordination Meetings and UNESCO Category 2 Centres emphasizing their role pertaining to both nature and culture. She mentioned that the recently established UNESCO C2C-NWHMT is the youngest among UNESCO C2Cs. Dr. Ghosh discussed the role of UNESCO C2C in complementing the priorities of the World Heritage Convention through focused capacity building, training and research programs, and the potential of regional collaborations. She insisted that integrating World Heritage priorities and Sustainable Development Goals should be one of the key targets of UNESCO Category 2 Centres and Institutes (C2C&Is). She shared the summary outcomes of previous Annual Coordination Meetings and stressed on the need for building emphatic discussions on mainstreaming Result Based Management (RBM) approach in reporting the Sustainable Development Goals. She mentioned that the positive experience of the 39th Session at Bonn in 2015 inspired informal meetings of focal points or representatives of C2C to strengthen efforts towards achieving their mandates through networking and coordination.

Considering that Dr. Mathur had already presented the progress made by UNESCO C2C-NWHMT in India, the session on C2C reports began with Spain. **Ms. Elisa de Cabo de la Vega**, Deputy Director General for the Protection of Historical Heritage, represented **International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention**, Spain. She gave an overview of the Centre's mission and progress, and drew attention to its work on conservation of Rock Art Heritage through improvement of tools, methods and planning. In addition, the Centre is specialized in the Rock Arts through lines of action and specialized programs. Centre's objectives of developing specific tools for property conservation, disseminating scientific knowledge and implementing the World Heritage Convention in Rock Art Heritage management are progressing well as demonstrated by the targets met annually. She shared the Centre's progress by presenting a glimpse of its activities like exhibitions, education programs,

International Rock Art in the World Heritage Congress, World Heritage Youth Program, and developing a nomination file for inscription of Magura Cave in Bulgaria. She also shared that the Centre will start its formal operations soon considering that Spain's Ministry of Culture has recently approved its establishment. This development will help in better representation of Rock Art Heritage on UNESCO World Heritage sites List.

The C2C report from Mexico was given by **Ms. Susana Alvarado De la Torre** who represented the **Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas**. She shared the progress made towards incorporating twenty more Member States of Central American and Caribbean regions into the Centre's reach to implement World Heritage Convention goals. The Centre has sent a report to Director General of UNESCO where eight Letters of Adhesion from the twenty Member States has been accorded while those from Guatemala and El Salvador are in the pipeline. Having the necessary number of accessions, the Centre will work on formulating Action Plan for all the signatory Member States. She stressed that this expansion of C2C-Mexico will lead to improved regional coordination, strengthened institutional capacity and enhanced realization of World Heritage Convention. She also briefly mentioned the planned future activities such as: Thematic training for site managers, specialized courses on management of World Heritage sites with integration of Disaster Risk Reduction strategy, Heritage Impact Assessment studies and Training on tentative listing and nominations of sites for States Parties. Collaboration between UNESCO Centres, Advisory Bodies (viz. IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM) and government bodies is also planned for the second cycle of the periodic report of Latin America and the Caribbean regions.

The report on **Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH)**, Bahrain was presented by **Mr. Kamal Bittar**, Cultural Heritage Specialist. He stressed the Centre's focus on the upstream process for nomination of marshy lands in the region. To strengthen the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab States Region, the Centre is working hard to revamp cultural World Heritage sites that are in danger because of conflicts and tensions. The Centre has succeeded in signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Global Heritage Fund, San Francisco to implement conservation and capacity building projects in the region. In addition, the Centre has supported Iraq in making management plan and nomination dossier of marsh lands. This reflects the coordination existing among Member States and the Centre. Mr. Bittar said that ARC-WH is also focusing on involvement of public participation by identification of relevant communities for long term sustainable management of heritage sites. Among the main accomplishments of the Centre, he pointed out the successful training workshops on natural and cultural heritage sites in the Arab region and gulf countries.

**Dr. Zhu Ziyun**, Research Assistant at Shanshui Conservation Centre, Beijing represented The **World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP)**. The



Centre was officially founded in April, 2008 to serve the States Parties of the World Heritage Convention and UNESCO by promoting the conservation and development of World Heritage in the Asia-Pacific region. In the meeting, an update on the Centre's work on World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building through different trainings and workshops was shared with the participants. The Centre is actively involved in organizing trainings and short courses for World Heritage practitioners, scientists and youth. These capacity building, outreach and sensitization initiatives were largely focused on Sustainable Tourism, Historical Architecture and Heritage Impacts Assessment in World Heritage sites. WHITRAP, Shanghai has established cooperation with a number of institutes and professionals, and has integrated resources and disciplines to promote the research and training programs.

### III. THE WAY FORWARD

The meeting emphasized the opportunities for UNESCO C2C&Is to collaborate strategically with regional resource hubs including UNESCO Chairs, other C2Cs, Advisory Bodies and UNESCO WHC to implement Global Sustainable Development Goals and World Heritage Convention priorities with effective use of technologies.

Participants in the meeting agreed upon following recommendations:

- a. C2Cs should use Result Based Management (RBM) approach for effective annual reporting of the Centres and regions respectively;
- b. A list of UNESCO chairs and UNITWIN networks active in a region should be circulated with C2Cs to build institutional capacity through research, exchange programmes, e-portals, sharing case studies, tentative list, nomination process learning and achievements;
- c. Member States Parties, UNESCO C2Cs and Chairs along with regional resource hubs should initiate synergising World Heritage Convention priorities with the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) by using the [2015 World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy](#);
- d. Linking of specialized institutions having similar thematic mandates: Regional institutions including UNESCO C2Cs should explore possible collaborations with existing resource hubs. Potential future collaborations include the pairing of C2C in Morocco and Indonesia on Urban Areas and Human Evolution & Pre-historic heritage;
- e. Following up on the [World Heritage Regional Capacity Building Strategy](#) should be steered by existing C2Cs and Chairs in close collaboration with UNESCO and Advisory Bodies;

- f. ICCROM and IUCN should invite relevant C2C experts for the World Heritage Leadership Project activities;
- g. C2Cs should increase fund raising activities for their operations and regional projects;
- h. Use of modern technologies to increase effective communication is recommended. Building capacity of multi-level stakeholders through internet based communication means is strongly encouraged.

The UNESCO C2C Monsoon bulletin was launched during this meeting and is [available here](#).

The C2C meeting was followed by two consultative dialogues on the subsequent days: the Nomination of Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL) as WHS and the Cultural Landscapes, Mixed and Transboundary Heritage Sites.

During the consultative dialogues, delegates had the opportunity to be introduced with the agro biodiversity of Uttarakhand, the site of the current meeting, through an Organic Food festival curated by Navdanya- a network of seed keepers and organic producers spread across 18 states in India.

The delegates also participated in the Nature Trail at the Wildlife Institute of India led by Dr. Manoj Nair, and joined by Dr. Gautam Talukdar, Dr. Gopi G.V, Dr. Pratap Singh, Mr. R. Suresh Kumar, and Dr. Manju Siliwal who explained the development of this 2km wild trail in the campus, its biodiversity and conservation efforts for the same.

The five day international gathering at UNESCO C2C-NWHMT saw the participation from nearly 100 participants from different institutions including ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM, IFLA, ICIMOD, the Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Delhi office, UCOST, INTACH, State Government Departments as well as Universities and research organisations.

## Glimpses

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Coordination Meeting of UNESCO Institutes and Centres November 22, 2016



Picture 1. Group photograph of 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Coordination Meeting of UNESCO Institutes and Centres related to World Heritage



Picture 2. Dr. V. B. Mathur, Director, WII & UNESCO Category 2 Centre – India, gave inaugural address



Picture 3. Launch of monsoon edition of Natural Heritage Bulletin by UNESCO Category 2 Centre – India



Picture 4. Discussion during Technical Session 1



Picture 5. Kamal Bittar, Cultural Heritage Expert, ARCWH, Bahrain sharing his views



Picture 6. Discussion during Technical Session 2

## ANNEXURE 1: CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

<b>5<sup>th</sup>Annual Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage-related Category 2 Institutes and Centres Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2016</b>	
0930-1100h	<b>INAUGURAL SESSION</b>  <i>Chief Guest:</i> <b>Dr.Mechtild Rössler</b> , Director, Division for Heritage and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris  <i>Guest of Honour:</i> <b>Mr. Ravindra Singh</b> , Former Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India
1100-1130h	Group Photo and High Tea
1130-1230h	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION – I</b> <b>Review of previous agenda and action taken from C2C Coordination Meetings</b>  <i>Chair:</i> <b>Dr.Mechtild Rössler</b> <i>Co-Chair:</i> <b>Ms. Elisa de Cabo de la Vega</b> , Director General of Heritage Protection, Spain UNESCO, IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM Representatives
1230-1400h	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION – II</b> <b>C2C Report on Progress and Activities</b>  <i>Chair:</i> <b>Dr.Mechtild Rössler</b> <i>Co-Chair:</i> <b>Ms. Susana Alvarado De la Torre</b> , Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas, Mexico Presentations by Representatives of C2Cs
1400-1500h	Lunch break
1500-1545h	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION – III</b> <b>Mandate and activities of UNESCO Chairs</b> <i>Chair:</i> <b>Dr. INABA Nobuko</b> , Director / Professor, World Heritage Studies, University of Tsukuba, Japan  <i>Co-Chair:</i> <b>Mr. Kamal Bittar</b> , Cultural Heritage Expert, Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage, Kingdom of Bahrain  Representatives of UNESCO and UNESCO Chairs
1545-1700h	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION – IV</b> <b>Road map for enhancing collaborations and cooperation amongst C2Cs</b>  <i>Chair:</i> <b>Ms. Leticia Leitao</b> , IUCN Representative & World Heritage Capacity Building Officer  <i>Co-Chair:</i> <b>Dr.Zhu Ziyun</b> , WHITRAP, China  UNESCO, IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM and C2C Representatives
2000h	<b>Dinner hosted by Director, WII &amp; UNESCO C2C</b>