Report for the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee
(Kraków, 2-12 July 2017)

1. **General information**

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

   - **Address:** Wildlife Institute of India Campus, Chandrabani, Dehradun – 248001. Uttarakhand, India

   - **Telephone:** +91 135 2640910

   - **Name and contact information of the Director/Head:** Dr. Vinod B. Mathur

   - **Designated Focal Point(s) (name, title and contact information):**

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   - **Website of the Centre (if available):** http://wii.gov.in/unesco_category2_centre

2. **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 Honourable Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi formally approved the proposal for signing the Agreement for establishment of the UNESCO C2C at Wildlife Institute of India in August 2015. The Agreement 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 is supported with financial resources primarily from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India to achieve its mandate and raises funding from other institutional donors for specific activities. A new building within the WII campus is in the final stage of construction that will house the C2C.

3. **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 for establishing the Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage 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, Forest & Climate Change), Govt. of India as its Chairperson and Director, WII as its Member Secretary.

The Annual Progress Reports are submitted to and reviewed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change from the Government of India. A review meeting under the chairmanship of the Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, MoEFCC, Government of India was held at Wildlife Institute of India on 2nd July, 2016 *(Enclosure I)*. The Centre has successfully accomplished annual work programmes for the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17.

4. **Programs and activities implemented since April 2016 and planned for the current year**

The programmes and activities envisaged between April 2016 and March 2017 have been achieved. The Annual Work Plan (2017-18) is currently being prepared and shall be shared after formal approval from the Governing Body.

N.	Title of the activity	Reference to WHCBS[1]
1	Celebrating Indian Word Heritage Site Inscriptions 2016 (4th Aug, 2016)	9.1
2	Nomination of Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL) as a UNESCO Mixed/cultural landscape (serial) World Heritage Site (14th June,2016, 29th Aug,2016 & 14th Oct,2016, 23rd Nov,2016)	1.1 , 2.3, 2.7, 3.3, 7.2
3	Evaluation of Bhitarkanika World Heritage Nomination (Nov 2016)	2.6, 9.1
4	Consultation meeting in Garo Hills, Meghalaya for proposed World Heritage Site (Feb, 2017)	2.3, 2.7
5	Proposal for minor boundary modification and SOC of Manas World Heritage Site, Assam, India (Feb, 2017)	2.6
6	Proposal for nomination /addition of Goa (Western Ghats) on World Heritage Site list (Feb, 2017)	2.6
7	International Short Course on Disaster Damage and Loss Assessment in Natural Heritage and Cultural Sites using Geospatial Techniques (11th Sep- 2nd Oct, 2016)	1.1, 3.3, 3.4, 4.3, 4.5, 5.2, 7.2
8	Consultative Dialogue on Cultural landscapes, Mixed and Transboundary Heritage Sites (24th Nov, 2016)	1.1, 2.3, 2.7, 3.3, 3.4
9	2016 Asian ESP Conference: Ecosystem Services for Nature Based Solutions (May, 2016)	1.4, 7.2
10	The Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in New Delhi (3rd Nov, 2016)	1.4, 7.2
11	Assam State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Stakeholders Consultation Workshop, Guwahati, Assam (16th Nov, 2016)	7.2
12	Teaching module on Natural Heritage at Centre for Heritage Management, Ahmedabad University (Oct,2016)	1.3
13	Visiting Fellow Programme	5.2
14	Internship	1.1, 7.2
15	Celebration of World Heritage Day (18th April, 2016)	1.1, 7.2
16	Celebration of Green Hub Festival (14th May, 2016)	3.7, 7.2
17	**Annual C2C Coordination Meeting (22nd Nov, 2016) (Enclosure II)**	1.4
18	Celebrating Natural Heritage: In Literature, Arts & Culture' (Feb, 2017)	2.7, 3.4, 3.7, 7.2, 7.3
19	Natural Heritage Bulletin	8.2
20	Water-quality monitoring at Keoladeo National Park (Jul, 2016)	4.7, 7.1
21	Evaluating the Outstanding Universal Values of Western Ghats (Sahyadri Sub-cluster) for provisioning & regulating ecosystem services in the region (Aug, 2016 – Jul, 2017)	3.3, 3.6, 4.3, 4.7, 5.2, 7.1, 7.2
22	Symbiosis of nature and culture: A case study of Apatani Cultural Landscape (Sep, 2016)	1.1, 8.1

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