

# **Wildlife Institute of India – Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region, under the auspices of UNESCO**

## **Report for the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee**

**Reporting period: July 2023 to June 2024**

### **1. General Information**

<b>Name of the Centre</b>	Wildlife Institute of India – Category 2 Centre (WII-C2C) for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region, under the auspices of UNESCO
<b>Name and contact information of the Director/Head</b>	Mr. Virendra R Tiwari Director, Wildlife Institute of India Chandrabani, Dehradun – 248001. Uttarakhand, India Email: dwii@wii.gov.in Tel: +91 135 2646101 / 2640910
<b>Designated Focal Point(s)</b> (name, title and contact information)	Dr. R. Suresh Kumar Scientist-F & Nodal Officer, WII-C2C Wildlife Institute of India Chandrabani, Dehradun – 248001. Uttarakhand, India Email: suresh@wii.gov.in Tel: +91 135 2646161  Dr. Nehru Prabakaran Scientist-D & Associate Nodal Officer, WII-C2C Wildlife Institute of India Chandrabani, Dehradun – 248001. Uttarakhand, India Email: nehrup@wii.gov.in Tel: +91 135 2646337
<b>Website</b> (if available)	<a href="http://wii.gov.in/unesco_category2_centre">http://wii.gov.in/unesco_category2_centre</a>

### **2. Institutional and Operational Structure of the Centre**

*(e.g. 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 Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi formally approved the proposal for signing the Agreement for establishment of the C2C at Wildlife Institute of India on 5th August, 2015. The Agreement was signed between the Director General, UNESCO and Director General of Forest, Government of India on 2nd September, 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

C2C at WII.

The operational activities of the C2C are supervised by the Director of WII as head of WII-C2C, through WII faculty designated as Nodal Officer and Associate Nodal Officer along with a 10-member team of skilled technical and administrative professionals including Technical Officers, Assistant Technical Officers, World Heritage Assistants, Administrative Officer, Administrative Assistants, 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 also raises additional funding from other institutional donors for specific activities. The Centre operates from its own exclusive building within the WII campus, which was inaugurated in March, 2018.

### 3. Updates on the Management of the Centre

*(e.g. meetings of the Governing Board and key decisions adopted)*

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 Governing Body also includes the Director of Heritage Division and World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Paris as representative of the UNESCO Director General.

The Annual Progress Reports are submitted to and reviewed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India. The Centre has successfully accomplished annual work programmes for the years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24. The recent Governing Body Meeting of WII was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2022 and the next is scheduled to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. The Annual Reports are available at [http://wii.gov.in/unesco\\_category2\\_centre](http://wii.gov.in/unesco_category2_centre).

### 4. Main Programmes and Activities

*(implemented since July 2023 and planned for the current year)*

Sr. No.	Title of the Activity	Reference to WHCBS <sup>1</sup>
1	Natural Heritage Session at ICCON Conference, Mysuru (09-11 Apr, 2023)	1.1
2	World Heritage Day, WII, Dehradun (18 Apr, 2023)	1.1
3	World Heritage and Climate Change Session at UNESCO Sub-Regional Conference on World Heritage, Bhopal (17-18 Apr, 2023)	1.1, 10.7
4	World Heritage Volunteer Programme, Sikkim (15-24 Apr, 2023)	1.1
5	IUCN Asia Protected Area Partnership, WII, Dehradun (27-29 April, 2023)	1.4
6	Participation in 8th Annual C2C Coordination Meeting, Sejong, Korea (31 May–2 Jun, 2023)	10.4
7	Keibul Lamjao Conservation Area, Manipur World Heritage Nomination Dossier preparation (Jun, 2023)	2.5

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5WHCBS i.e. World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy:  
<https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2011/whc11-35com-9Be.pdf>

8	Participation in Consultation Meeting on Kanger Valley National Park World Heritage Inscription process, Jagdalpur Chhattisgarh (12 Jun, 2023)	2.3
9	Participation in ICCROM Asia-Pacific Regional Information Meeting (26 Jun, 2023)	10.1
10	Participation in Inception Workshop by UNESCO on "Heritage for Peace: Enhancing Transboundary and Regional Cooperation for Natural and Mixed World Heritage Sites in Asia" (06 Jul, 2023)	1.1, 10.7
11	Report of the IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to Keoladeo National Park (Jul, 2023)	4.9
12	Module on International Biodiversity Conventions' for IFS Officers, WII Dehradun (23 Aug, 2023)	1.4, 3.4, 4.3, 7.2
13	Certificate Course in Heritage Management, WII, Dehradun (07 Aug – 15 Sep, 2023)	1.3, 3.4, 4.3, 7.2
14	Participation in ASEAN Cultural Heritage List Meeting, Jakarta (16 Aug, 2023) and Online (06 Dec, 2023)	1.4
15	Participation in ICOMOS General Assembly, Sydney (01-09 Sep, 2023)	1.4, 8.1
16	Review of State of Conservation Reports and Nomination Dossiers for 45th World Heritage Committee Session at Riyadh (10-25 Sep, 2023)	4.9
17	Participation in Heritage Asia-Pacific Chat on 3rd Cycle World Heritage Periodic Reporting for Asia and the Pacific Region, Virtual Meeting (18 Oct, 2023)	3.5, 10.7, 10.11
18	Knowledge-Sharing Meeting between WII-C2C and Geological Survey of India, Virtual Meeting (18 Oct, 2023)	1.1
19	Participation at United Nations Forum on Forests, FRI Dehradun (26-27 Oct, 2023)	1.1
20	World Natural Heritage Site Managers Meeting Round-II: Role, Responsibilities and Partnership, Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur (27 – 28 Oct, 2023)	1.1, 3.4, 4.3, 7.2
21	Natural Heritage through Education, Awareness and Network Building among Teachers, Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur (29 Oct, 2023)	1.3
22	WII-C2C Meeting with ASI, New Delhi (01 Nov, 2023)	1.4
23	Capacity Building Programme on World Heritage Nomination of Bhedaghat-Lametaghat for Staff of MPTB, Forests and Tourist Guides (06–07 Nov, 2023)	2.5, 3.4, 7.2
24	State of Conservation Report of Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, India (Nov, 2023)	4.9
25	Asian Rangers Forum Session, Guwahati, Assam (05–08 December, 2023)	1.1
26	Training Programme for Frontline Staff on Monitoring of Outstanding Universal Value of Natural World Heritage Sites, Sajnekhali, Sundarbans National Park, West Bengal (11–12 Dec, 2023)	1.1, 3.4, 4.3, 7.2
27	Meeting with Geological Survey of India on World Heritage Inscription of Geoheritage Sites and Geoparks (14 Dec, 2023)	1.1, 1.4

28	International Webinar on 'Heritage in the Asia-Pacific: Nature, Culture and the World Heritage Convention' (18 Dec, 2023)	1.1
29	State of Conservation Report of Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, India (Jan, 2024)	4.9
30	Participation in Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity- related Conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, at the Universal Postal Union in Bern, Switzerland (22-26 January 2024).	1.4
31	Role of Civil Society in Tourism & Natural heritage Conservation, WII, Dehradun (29 – 31 Jan, 2024)	1.3, 3.4, 3.7, 7.2
32	Capacity Building for Declaration of UNESCO World Heritage Site, Mangaluru / Karkala, Karnataka (05 – 09 Feb, 2024)	1.3, 3.4, 4.3, 7.2
33	Nature's Chorus: Heritage Narratives from Kaziranga and Beyond, Kaziranga National Park, Assam (12 – 13 Feb, 2024)	1.1
34	MEA-ITEC Certificate Course in Natural Heritage Management, WII, Dehradun (19 Feb – 15 Mar, 2024)	1.3, 3.4, 7.2