



**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
Dehradun, India**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World
Heritage
Centre



Wildlife Institute of India - Category 2 Centre
World Natural Heritage Management and
Training for Asia and the Pacific Region
Under the auspices of UNESCO

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2019-2020



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Wildlife Institute of India



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report 2019-20 of the Wildlife Institute of India - Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region (WII-C2C) under the auspices of UNESCO, Dehradun, India. The past year has seen the Centre extend its mandate of capacity building through training, research, dissemination of information and network building, continuing its initial successes and expanding into new domains.

To this end, the Centre has been organizing orientation and consultation programmes which helped foster a greater understanding of natural heritage management in key changemakers from regions ranging from the rich mangrove ecosystems of the Andamans to the towering landscapes of the Sacred Mountain Landscape and Heritage Routes of the Kailash Sacred Landscape. Whether it be through sharing of knowledge about the overall requirements of the World Heritage Convention to the Government representatives of Himachal and Madhya Pradesh, or specific advice with relation to the Eastern Himalayan landscape, Majuli and Manas management, the Centre has been increasingly active not only in the natural heritage domain but is moving to develop knowledge in the domain of cultural heritage too. The inaugural M.Sc. in Heritage Conservation and Management course, about to complete its first year, is a step in that direction. The learning & connections formed through the multi-disciplinary nature of the course are helping the Centre develop ideas on making the nature-culture linkage stronger.

The Centre also offered its Advisory Services to a host of State Governments and the Central Government of India. The State of Conservation Reports submitted for Natural World Heritage Sites and the Centre's inputs for the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2020 are indicative of its growing skills in this regard.

Understanding the importance of outreach, the Centre has participated and organized in an array of activities, building links across the heritage conservation community. By participating in the 7th Plenary Session of the UN-IPBES in Paris, France; sending in their representative to the annual co-ordination meeting of UNESCO C2Cs in Manama, Bahrain and playing host to a team of travelling heritage students from Griffith University, Australia, the Centre ensures that all levels of the heritage conservation process are productively engaged with.

This report will provide you with a detailed picture of the Centre's activities in the above stated aims and I look forward to receiving suggestions to help us improve further.

Dr. Dhananjai Mohan

BACKGROUND

The Agreement between Government of India and UNESCO for the establishment in Dehradun of a 'Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region' as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO was formally signed on 02 September, 2015 by the Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India as counterpart to the signature by the Director General, UNESCO, Paris. The signing followed the approval of this Agreement by the Government of India's Cabinet of Ministers, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi on 05 August, 2015.

The WII-C2C at Dehradun, India has accomplished Annual Work Programmes for the years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. This Annual Report outlines the activities undertaken by the Centre during the year 2019-20.

MISSION & OBJECTIVES

The Centre's mission is to strengthen implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Asia and the Pacific Region by building the capacity of all those professionals and bodies involved with Natural Heritage site inscription, protection, conservation and management in Asia and the Pacific region, through training, research, dissemination of information and network building. The overall objective is to focus on Natural Heritage conservation issues with the aim to:

- contribute to the strengthening of capacities in the management of Natural World Heritage in the region;
- contribute to achieving a more balanced representation of properties from Asia and the Pacific on the World Heritage List;
- raise awareness among the general public and the youth in particular of the importance of Natural World Heritage and the need to protect it; and
- foster international cooperation on Natural World Heritage initiatives.



01

NOMINATIONS / DOSSIERS

A key objective of the Centre is to contribute towards enhancing representation of properties on the World Heritage List. Towards this end, the Centre offers technical support to State Parties in the process of nomination of World Heritage Sites.

The Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention has elaborate provisions for nomination of properties on the World Heritage List initiating from Tentative List to preparation of nomination file to Advisory Body evaluation and final decision by the intergovernmental World Heritage Committee.

To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria (six cultural and four natural criteria).

01

NOMINATIONS/DOSSIERS

1.A.

World Heritage Nomination Dossier Preparation for Garo Hills Conservation Area, Meghalaya, India

The proposed site of Garo Hills Conservation Area (GHCA), Meghalaya was formally placed on the Tentative List of India's World Heritage Sites in September, 2018. Subsequently, an agreement was signed between the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Meghalaya and the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun in December 2018 for preparation of detailed proposal for inscription of Garo Hills Conservation Area as a World Heritage Site. Towards this end, WII-C2C has undertaken several activities during 2019-20, both in terms of field tour and literature documentation for the proposed site. Field tours were undertaken during February, 2020 to assess the status of the site and

acquire key information for the nomination documentation. Preliminary biodiversity and geological exploration was made to the following sites: Tura peak, Nokrek, Imangræ, Siju, Baghmara and Balpakram, the Reserve Forests and National Parks of the site. Significant meetings were held with relevant stakeholders including from the Forest Department, Geological Survey of India, North Eastern Space Applications Centre based in the region. The documented information of landscape, flora and faunal species, caves and fossil remains will be incorporated in the nomination dossier of GHCA. Detailed information is currently being filled up as per the nomination format viz. Annex 5 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

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1.B. Proposal for nomination of Sacred Mountain Landscape and Heritage Routes within the Kailash Landscape of India on the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites in India

The WII-C2C has been associated with the process of documenting the Kailash Landscape in India to be placed on the Tentative List of Indian World Heritage Sites towards the purpose of a future nomination as proposed UNESCO World Heritage Site. Several consultations and workshops were held with a spectrum of stakeholders during the preceding years and formal presentation was made at the "Meeting of Advisory Committee on World Heritage Matters (ACWHM)" convened by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at New Delhi on 14 March, 2019. Subsequently, a proposal for inclusion of the 'Sacred Mountain Landscape and Heritage Routes', encompassing the Pitthoragarh District of Uttarakhand State, India, on the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites in India was forwarded to the World Heritage Centre in April, 2019. Following discussions at the World Heritage Session held in Baku,



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Azerbaijan in July, 2019, it was decided to temporarily withdraw the proposal from the Tentative List process for carrying out technical modifications with respect to the proposal. Efforts have since continued to strengthen the documentation on the site during the year 2019-20. WII-C2C has engaged with the Rung Kalyan Sanstha (RKS), a civil society organisation comprising of members from the local ethnic community, to reinforce information on key cultural attributes of the proposed Kailash landscape. The Centre has been in communication with the Survey of India for certification of the international boundary of India that is part of the area of the proposed site.

1.C. Project on potential World Heritage Sites in Madhya Pradesh, India

Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board has signed an agreement with WII-C2C for a project titled, 'Identification and prioritization of potential World Heritage Sites in Madhya Pradesh State of India'. For this purpose, the Centre is undertaking various activities for documenting potential sites with

Outstanding Universal Value in Madhya Pradesh that may be included in the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites of India. Inception meeting and consultation workshop have been conducted with key stakeholders in Madhya Pradesh for preliminary identification of potential sites in the State. Further, questionnaire surveys have also been initiated in select sites to acquire information and assess perceptions of the local inhabitants towards the World Heritage process.



02

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

The Centre's mandate to contribute to the strengthening of capacities in the conservation and management of World Natural Heritage is derived from the "World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy" which is based on the World Heritage Committee's focus on capacity building as one of its five strategic objectives (the 5Cs: credibility, conservation, communication, capacity building and community).

The World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy also foresees Category 2 Centres in the regions working on World Heritage issues as appropriate institutions to take the lead in developing a regional capacity building strategy and associated programmes for strengthening capacities at the regional level. In alignment with this strategy, among the core functions of the Centre is to conduct short and long term capacity-building activities, including workshops, courses and international conferences.

02

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

2.A. Orientation Programme on World Heritage for Government of Himachal Pradesh, India, Dehradun (14-15 May, 2019)

WII-C2C conducted an 'Orientation Programme on World Heritage' for capacity-building of officials from the Department of Culture, Government of Himachal Pradesh, at WII Dehradun on 14-15 May, 2019. The objective was for the officials to understand the World Heritage process and take forward the nomination of potential sites from the State. Five members from the

Department of Culture participated in the programme with sessions on the World Heritage Convention, Operational Guidelines, Outstanding Universal Values, Criteria and Categories, Nomination, Evaluation, Interpretation, Reporting and Monitoring. Along with interactive lectures, a simulation exercise was undertaken for filling up a sample nomination format by the participants. The programme provided an essential overview of the World Heritage system to the participants.



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2.B. Strength & Opportunity - Capacity Building Training Programme for the Frontline line Staff of Nanda Devi & Valley of Flowers (VoF) World Heritage Site, Dehradun (11-13, June 2019)

The Nanda Devi National Park [NP] (625 km²) and the Valley of Flowers NP (88 Km²) form the core zones of the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve [BR] (5,806 km²) that is spread across the districts of Chamoli, Pithoragarh and Bageshwar in Uttarakhand State. Both the core zones are listed as 'World Heritage Site'. In this Context WII-C2C organized a three day capacity building training programme for frontline staff of Nanda Devi and Valley of flowers World Heritage Site at WII-C2C in Dehradun. Fourteen frontline staff (forest guards and forest rangers) participated in this training imparted by resource persons from the Wildlife Institute of India. The training included classroom lectures on the overview of Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) for Natural World Heritage Sites, Nanda Devi World Heritage Site- Criteria & Reporting Obligations, Wildlife Management in India- Concept



and Principles, Wildlife Sample Collection and Processing including Wildlife Forensics, Wildlife Population Estimation & Monitoring in Himalayas, Human and Wildlife- Conflict/Interaction, emerging technology like Camera Traps, Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS. On the specific demand of the DFO, Nanda Devi National Park, a half-day session on Wild Animal Capture Techniques: A Tool for Wildlife Management, was organized which included classroom lecture and field demonstration.

2.C. Nature Based Solutions for Climate Resilience - Future of Indian Mangroves: National Consultative Workshop, YMCA, Delhi (05 August, 2019)



The "Nature Based Solutions for Climate Resilience" - Future of Indian Mangroves: National Consultative Workshop was held on 05 August, 2019 at YMCA, Delhi. The overall objective of the workshop was to address the issue and create a platform for collaboration between the multidisciplinary stake-holders for a resilient future of Indian and Asian Mangroves. The event was organized by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), India in collaboration with Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan; WII, Dehradun; CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur and IUCN CEM South Asia.

2.D. Capacity-Building Workshop for Stakeholders of Majuli Cultural Landscape, Assam, Guwahati (19 August, 2019)

The Cultural Affairs Department, Government of Assam invited Wildlife Institute of India to conduct a Capacity-Building Workshop for Stakeholders of Majuli Cultural Landscape, Assam, a Tentative World Heritage Site, in Guwahati, Assam on 19 August, 2019. WII-C2C was represented by Niraj Kakati, Technical Officer and Anuranjan Roy, World Heritage Assistant, to conduct the programme. Nearly 30 members representing major departments of the Government of Assam including Culture, Tourism, Water Resources, Forest and Geology participated. As part of the agenda, presentations were made on nomination and evaluation process, protection and management requirements, and comparative analysis for Majuli with similar heritage sites. The team also conducted a participatory exercise for identifying threats and its analysis with specific reference to Majuli. Key outcomes was related to better understanding of the

World Heritage system processes and procedures by the stakeholders, and additional inputs were received from the stakeholders for incorporation into the nomination dossier.



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2.E Session on Conservation beyond Borders: Heritage as a connecting link in the Eastern Himalayas, Guwahati, Assam, India (05-06 November, 2019)

The Eastern Himalayan region in the Indian sub-continent is a composite of natural and cultural heterogeneity. The settlement patterns, occupations and ways of life of populations in the region are a reflection of human interaction with and adaptation to climate, relief and ecology. The geographical and adaptation continuities of this region have helped create and preserve a uniquely 'nature-culture way of life' common across the range. To showcase this

interface between nature and culture across cultures and borders, WII-C2C conducted a session on "Conservation beyond Borders: Heritage as a connecting link in the Eastern Himalayas", at the 7th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics Forum organised by the Balipara Foundation, an NGO working towards community development and environment protection, in Guwahati, Assam on 05-06 November, 2019. The session was facilitated by Dr. Sonali Ghosh, former faculty, WII-C2C and Mr. Niraj Kakati, Technical Officer, WII-C2C. The keynote address was given by Mr. A.M. Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Assam and panellists at the session included Dr. Shiela Bora, Convenor, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage - Assam Chapter; Ms. Rita Banerjee, Founder, Dusty Foot Production and GreenHub, a video documentation training enterprise for youth; and Dr. Bibhuti Lahkar, IUCN Heritage Hero & Program Director, Aaranyak, a conservation society in Northeast India. Other key participants included representatives from current and potential World Heritage Sites of the region, as well as from neighbouring countries of Nepal and Bhutan. The dialogue served to renew the conversation on heritage as a connecting link between nature and culture, promote the prospects of transboundary conservation and also strengthen the network of heritage practitioners in the Eastern Himalayas.

2.F. Consultation Workshop on Potential World Heritage Sites in Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal (07 December, 2019)

WII-C2C conducted a Consultation Workshop on "Inventorization and Prioritization of Potential World Heritage Sites in Madhya Pradesh State" in Bhopal on 07 December, 2019. This was organized as a part of the project funded by Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, Bhopal. The workshop was attended by 26 participants

including senior officials of MP Tourism Board, MP Forest Department, NGOs and Senior Professionals having sound knowledge and experience of Madhya Pradesh and its cultural and natural heritage. Invited members suggested and presented unique values of their sites. A matrix exercise was carried out to do a preliminary ranking of the identified sites and the results are now being examined to prioritise potential sites that may be considered for Tentative Listing as World Heritage Sites.

2.G. Stakeholder Consultation on Kailash Landscape as a proposed World Heritage Site, Dharchula (17 February, 2020)

WII-C2C in collaboration with Rung Kalyan Sanstha (RKS) organized a stakeholder consultation on Kailash Landscape as a proposed World Heritage Site at Dharchula (Pithoragarh) on 17 February, 2020. The objective was to share information and deliberate on World Heritage with the local authorities and community members as well as present the documentation on the site prepared by RKS. Shri B.S.Bonal, RKS shared the background and context of the consultation. He provided a brief history of the process through which Kailash landscape in India came to be developed into a proposed World Heritage Site and the involvement of RKS as a knowledge partner in this endeavour. Special remarks were made by Shri N. S. Napalchiyal, RKS highlighting the religious, spiritual, cultural and economic significance of the landscape. Dr. Vinay Bhargava, DFO informed about the role of the Forest Department in protecting the biodiversity resources of the region. Shri Niraj Kakati, WII-C2C provided an overview of World Heritage and the nomination process. Subsequently, he provided a presentation on the status of the proposal of the Kailash landscape as a proposed World Heritage



Site including the proposed cultural and natural criteria. A documentary on Kailash was also screened for the audience. The discussions were anchored by Shri M. S. Garbyal, RKS, who first presented the status of the draft report prepared by RKS and then solicited information from the participants. Presentations were further made by Dr. G.S.Rawat, WII, Dr. Sandesha Rayappa, JNU and other eminent persons. Dr. Chitiz Joshi, WII-C2C steered the concluding session and offered the vote of thanks.. The consultation was attended by 84 participants including civil administration and forest department officials, college lecturers, gram panchayat members and other eminent local community members.



2.H. Safeguarding Natural Heritage through Education, Awareness and Network building among Teachers and Students at Manas World Heritage Site, Assam (23-25 February, 2020)



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WII-C2C organized a capacity-building programme for teachers and students towards the purpose of 'Safeguarding Natural Heritage through Education, Awareness and Network building' at Manas World Heritage Site, Assam on 23--25 February, 2019. The purpose of this programme was to build capacity and sensitize teachers of schools located in the proximity of World Heritage Site of Manas National Park. The

expected outcome of such a programme was to convey the message of World Heritage conservation through the teachers to the larger student population who belong to the local communities of the fringe villages



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of the national park. The training provided valuable information on World Heritage, OUVs of the site, major challenges and opportunities in management, and the importance of community participation for sustainable conservation. Dedicated sessions were held on local biodiversity registration, PRA techniques and ecosystem services associated with the site. A hands-on field visit to the Manas World Heritage Site was also organised for the participants. 20 participants from schools near the National Park attended the training programme, which was held in collaboration with Aaranyak, a biodiversity conservation society of Northeast India.

2.1.Internship

WII-C2C supports internship programme for students and young professionals to enhance their awareness on world heritage issues and contribute to their professional capacity building. Internship opportunities are offered to students from recognized institutions for undertaking activities within the mandate of the Centre and/or for completing their academic requirements. Several scholars undertook internship at our Centre during the preceding year:

- Ms Swagata Das, student of B.A Major in Environmental Science from Flame University, Pune worked as an intern from 01 May to 30 June, 2019 on the topic, Wild Tigers of Similipal: A study on spatial distribution, abundance and population genetics) at Similipal Tiger Reserve.
- Ms. Daiophika Thangkhiew, Master's student from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Guwahati, interned from 15 May to 30 June, 2019 on her project to understand the biodiversity of the Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary and the Saipung Reserve Forest, as well as the socio-economic dependence of the people on the forest. The study was undertaken with a view to document the sites for the purpose of nominating it as a Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme.
- Ms. Anjali Negi, Master's student from Graphic Era University, Uttarakhand worked as an intern from 20 May to 19 Nov, 2019 on the project titled "Survey of Wetlands around Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur with emphasis on Water Quality and Monitoring". The objective was to estimate the

harmful pathogens, pesticides etc in the water source flowing to the National Park to understand the possible threats that can occur to the fauna and flora dependent on the water bodies.

- Ms. Parul Singh Umrao, a student of B.Tech in Biotechnology from Graphic Era University, Uttarakhand is working as an Intern for supporting the documentation, including collating relevant information and analysing preliminary field data, in the project on Identification and Prioritisation of potential World Heritage Sites in Madhya Pradesh.
- Ms. Kritika Trigunayat, a PhD scholar from Rajasthan University, has been engaged as a Technical Associate in the project on Identification and Prioritisation of potential World Heritage Sites in Madhya Pradesh. Her role involves review of secondary literature, compile information, undertake field site assessments and support site-level workshop/surveys under the mandate of the project.
- Ms. Nirmla Sharma, a student of MSc. Remote Sensing and GIS at SSJ Campus, Kumaun University, Almora MSc. is working on the project "Assessment of Cultural and Sacred Natural Sites of Kailash Sacred Landscape", India, using Remote Sensing and GIS tools.
- Mr. Agnish Das, a student of MSc. Environment Science, FRI University, Dehradun is working on the project, "Plausible alternative futures of Island mangroves in the Asia-Pacific", with reference to Andaman Island, India.

2.J. Training, Conferences and Workshops attended by C2C Staff

Workshop on 'Leveraging the World Heritage Convention for Transboundary Conservation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya, Kathmandu, Nepal (30-31 May, 2019)

Dr. Manoj V Nair, IFS and Scientist-F, WII-C2C participated in a 2-day workshop titled 'Leveraging the World Heritage Convention for Transboundary Conservation in the Hindu Kush Himalayas' organized by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Wild Heritage and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) from 30-31 May, 2019 at ICIMOD Headquarters in Kathmandu, Nepal. Dr. Nair contributed to the workshop by highlighting the activities of WII-C2C and discussing about the areas that have global significance and potential outstanding value with transboundary World Heritage potential.



Brain Storming Session on Conservation of Geoheritage in India, New Delhi (06 August, 2019)

The Society of Earth Scientists (SES) jointly with Indian National Science Academy, Delhi organised a Brain Storming Session on 'Conservation of Geoheritage: Current Scenario and Future Action Plan' on 6 August 2019 at INSA, Delhi. Various lawmakers, technocrats, government officials and senior geoscientists were invited to discuss the issue and to provide their support. Dr. Chitiz Joshi, Assistant Technical Officer, represented WII-C2C. Issues including threats from urbanization and development that are causing destruction of our unique geoheritage and strategies to ensure successful geoheritage conservation were discussed.

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Stakeholder Dialogue on Exploring Options for Transboundary Cooperation towards Resilience Building in the Eastern Himalayas, Thimphu, Bhutan (29-30 August, 2019)

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and UN Environment, in close collaboration with Governments of Bhutan, India and Nepal and other partners are currently developing a proposal for a project, focused on the promotion of transboundary cooperation for resilience building in the Eastern Himalayas, with specific focus on the improved management of transboundary landscapes, particularly the Khangchendzonga (Kangchenjunga) and Manas landscapes and connectivity between these landscapes. Towards this end, a regional stakeholder dialogue was organised in Thimphu, Bhutan on 29-30 August, 2019, attended by 30 participants from Bhutan, Nepal and Bhutan. WII-C2C was represented by Shri Niraj Kakati, Technical Officer, who presented on 'Manas and Kangchenjunga Landscapes: A World Heritage Perspective for Transboundary Cooperation'. The next steps include further consultations at the site to national levels in the respective countries.



Capacity Building Workshop On Nature-Culture Linkages (CBWNCL) In Heritage Conservation In Asia and the Pacific - Mixed Cultural And Natural Heritage, Tsukuba, Japan (24 September - 04 October, 2019)

CBWNCL 2019 was organized at the University of Tsukuba from the 24 September to October 04, 2019 on the Theme of "Mixed Cultural and Natural Heritage". WII-C2C was represented by Mr. Anuranjan Roy, World Heritage Assistant, who participated by delivering a presentation on the Sacred Mountain Landscape and Heritage Routes of India, a site encompassing the Indian portion of the transnational Kailash Sacred Landscape. The two-week workshop, attended by participants from protected areas around the Asia Pacific and also from Tanzania & Albania, discussed mixed sites as defined by the World Heritage Convention looking at the evolving techniques of strengthening nature-culture linkages for the same. The participants visited Mt. Fuji as a study site to look at its potential as a mixed site. The faculty for the workshop included stalwarts in the field from the University of Tsukuba and the Symposium on the final day was attended by Dr. Mechtild Rossler (Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre), Dr. Webber Ndoro (Director-General, ICCROM), and Tim Badman (Director, IUCN Nature Culture Linkage Initiative).

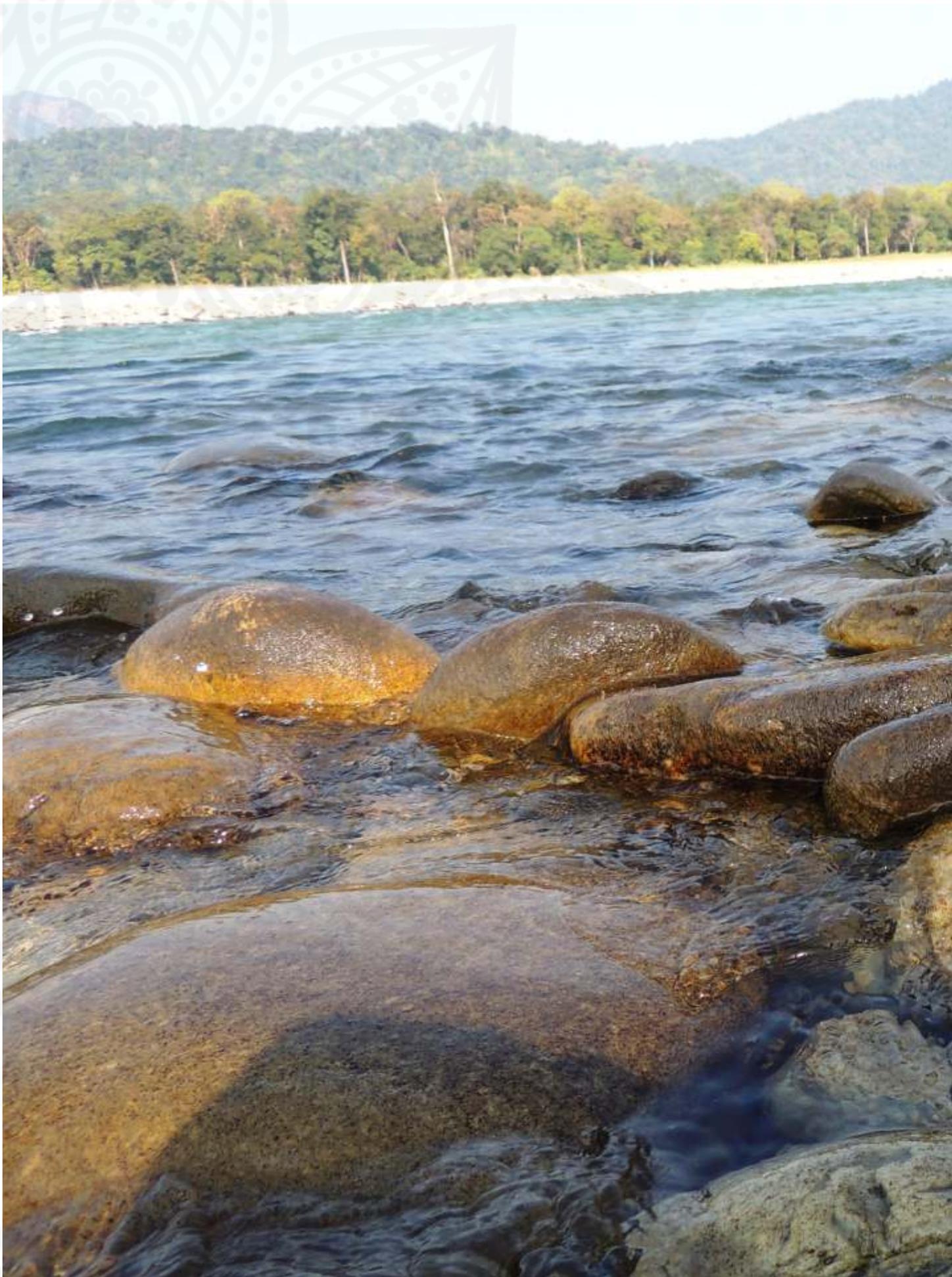


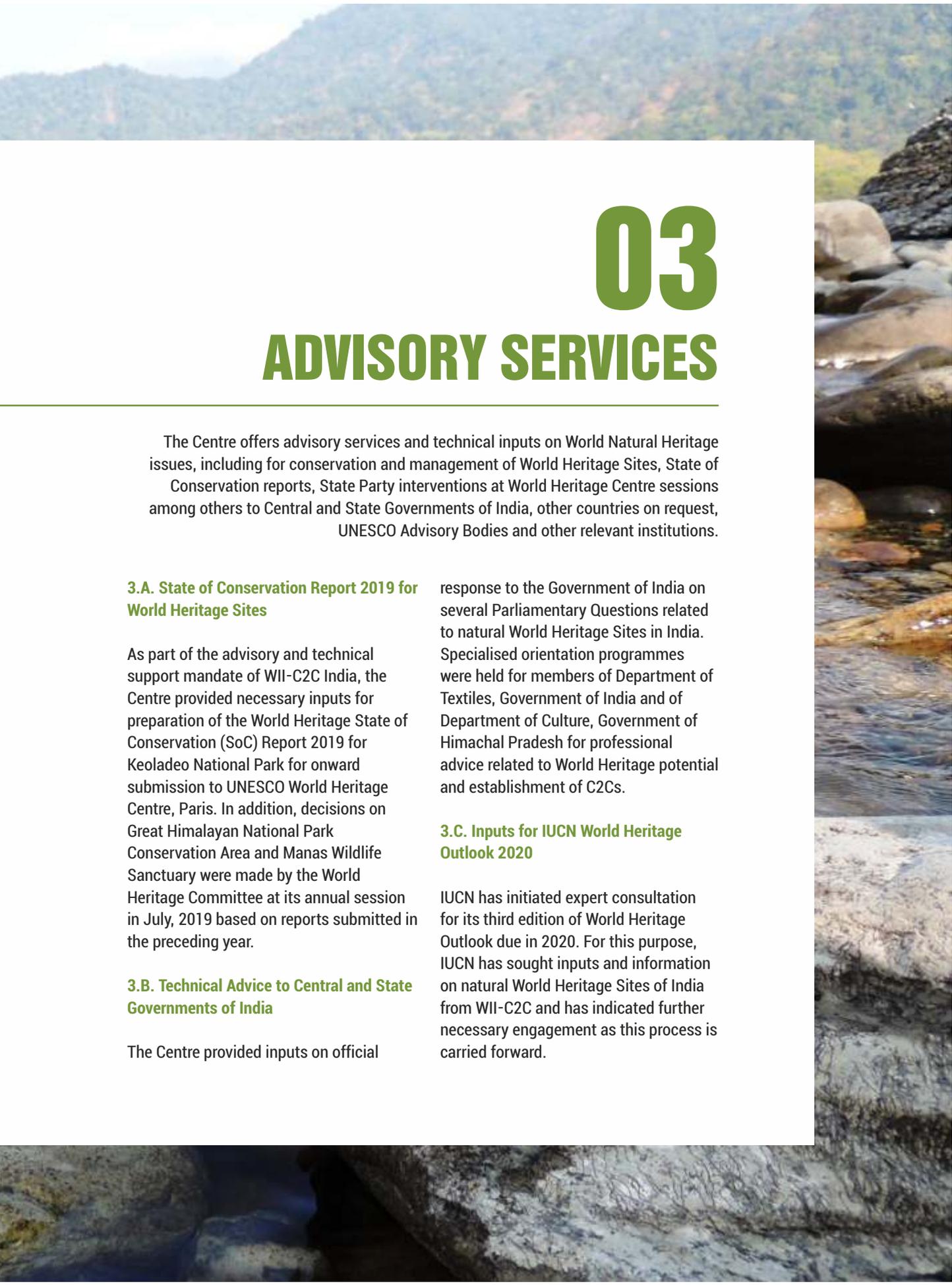


International Conference on Heritage Management Education and Practice, Ahmedabad University (06- 08 December 2019)

Mr. Anuranjan Roy, World Heritage Assistant, represented WII-C2C at the 3rd International Conference on Heritage Management Education and Practice organized by Ahmedabad University's Centre for Heritage Management in Ahmadabad from 06- 08 December 2019. The conference was a venue for practitioners and educators in the field of heritage to come together to share ideas and new developments. Participants and keynote speakers from Russia, USA, South Korea, Iran and Malaysia were present to put forward the challenges and solutions they had experience of in their respective geographies. He discussed the newer initiatives taken by WII-C2C to promote heritage conservation and education, including ensuring the availability of its nature writing anthology "Wild Treasures" (available on Amazon at: bit.ly/wild-treasures) and the introduction of the M.Sc. in Heritage Conservation and Management aimed at fulfilling the need for heritage management professionals. He was part of the panel discussing Access and Inclusion in Heritage along with Dr. Jigna Desai of CEPT, Ahmedabad and Dr. Bhawna Bali of TERI, New Delhi.







03

ADVISORY SERVICES

The Centre offers advisory services and technical inputs on World Natural Heritage issues, including for conservation and management of World Heritage Sites, State of Conservation reports, State Party interventions at World Heritage Centre sessions among others to Central and State Governments of India, other countries on request, UNESCO Advisory Bodies and other relevant institutions.

3.A. State of Conservation Report 2019 for World Heritage Sites

As part of the advisory and technical support mandate of WII-C2C India, the Centre provided necessary inputs for preparation of the World Heritage State of Conservation (SoC) Report 2019 for Keoladeo National Park for onward submission to UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris. In addition, decisions on Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area and Manas Wildlife Sanctuary were made by the World Heritage Committee at its annual session in July, 2019 based on reports submitted in the preceding year.

3.B. Technical Advice to Central and State Governments of India

The Centre provided inputs on official

response to the Government of India on several Parliamentary Questions related to natural World Heritage Sites in India. Specialised orientation programmes were held for members of Department of Textiles, Government of India and of Department of Culture, Government of Himachal Pradesh for professional advice related to World Heritage potential and establishment of C2Cs.

3.C. Inputs for IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2020

IUCN has initiated expert consultation for its third edition of World Heritage Outlook due in 2020. For this purpose, IUCN has sought inputs and information on natural World Heritage Sites of India from WII-C2C and has indicated further necessary engagement as this process is carried forward.





04

OUTREACH

A basic objective of the Centre is to raise awareness among the general public and youth in particular, of the importance of natural World Heritage and the need to protect it. This includes development of outreach and communication tools to explain the key concepts and processes of the World Heritage Convention and ensuring all stakeholders are able to make the most effective use of the Convention to support world heritage conservation. The World Heritage Committee also encourages raising awareness of the need to preserve World Heritage and supports the development of educational materials, activities and programmes towards this end.

04 OUTREACH

4.A. Celebration of World Heritage Day, 18 April, 2019

The WII-C2C celebrated World Heritage Day (WHD) 2019 on April 18th by organizing a series of events. An anthology of nature writing, "Wild Treasures: Reflections on Natural World Heritage Sites in Asia" was released in a launch function held at WII with Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration, Mussoorie as Chief Guest and Dr. Asad Rahmani, Former Director, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai as Guest of Honour. The anthology is a selection of 45 articles on 18 natural World Heritage Sites across Asia. The day's celebrations involved school students from three WHS



of India namely, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (Uttarakhand), the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (Himachal Pradesh) and Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur (Rajasthan) as well as from Model School, National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun. The children participated enthusiastically in a drawing competition and a quiz contest centred on the natural and cultural heritage of India. A cultural function in the evening witnessed performances by students and researchers, featuring traditional dances, songs, and poetry to commemorate the occasion.

4.B. Annual Coordination Meeting of UNESCO C2Cs, Manama, Bahrain (22-23 April, 2019)

WII-C2C participated in the 7th Annual Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage related Category 2 Institutes & Centres (C2Cs) hosted by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) at Manama, Bahrain on 22- 23 April 2019. Representing the Centre, Mr. Niraj Kakati, Technical Officer, made a presentation of its activities and also released the Spring Issue of its quarterly newsletter - Natural Heritage Bulletin. He further contributed to the discussions of the meeting which focused on review of previous coordination meetings, Periodic Reporting for World Heritage Sites, Historic Urban Landscapes, interregional cooperation among C2Cs,



communication and resource mobilisation. A field visit was also organised to Qal'at al-Bahrain World Heritage Site, demonstrating its interpretation museum and conservation efforts.

4.C. Plenary Session of the United Nations Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UN-IPBES) in Paris, France (28 April-04 May, 2019)

Dr. V.B. Mathur, represented India as Head of the Indian Delegation in the 7th Plenary Session of the United Nations Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UN-IPBES) in Paris, France which was held from 28 April-04 May, 2019.



4.D. Meeting with Chief Minister of Uttarakhand on Kailash Landscape, Dehradun (04 July, 2019)

A meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Uttarakhand, Dr. Trivendra Singh Rawat and officials of the State Government of Uttarakhand was held at the State Secretariat, Dehradun on 04 July, 2019 with WII-C2C represented by Dr. V.B. Mathur, Mr. Niraj Kakati

and Dr. Malvika Onial to brief the state government about the Kailash landscape's nomination as a proposed World Heritage Site. The meeting attendees included Shri Amit Negi, Finance Secretary, Shri Dilip Javalkar, Tourism Secretary and Shri Mahendra Singh Kunwar, Secretary, Himalaya Action Research Centre. The Hon'ble Chief Minister was informed that the Kailash landscape in India is located within the Pithoragarh District of Uttarakhand and has been proposed on the Tentative List of Indian World Heritage Sites owing to its significant cultural and natural values. The subsequent detailed nomination of the site on UNESCO's World Heritage List would require extensive documentation and consultations with all relevant stakeholders. The Chief Minister assured the support of the Government of Uttarakhand in this process, in particular, the Departments of Culture, Tourism and Forest. He hoped that this World Heritage designation would be a matter of pride for India and Uttarakhand.

4.E. Students visit from Griffith University, Australia



A group of students and faculty from the Department of Tourism, Griffith University, Australia visited WII, Dehradun during November- December, 2019. The visit was part of a three year 2017-2019 scheme funded through Australian Federal Government's Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, with the aim of increasing Australian students' knowledge of the Indo-Pacific region. The students undertook classroom lectures and field visit to study issues of ecotourism. WII-C2C hosted the visiting group and talks on heritage in Australia as well as facilitated talks by the Centre members on World and India's natural heritage.

4.F. Natural Heritage Bulletin

The Centre publishes a quarterly e-bulletin that is a compilation of news and relevant articles pertaining to

Natural World Heritage sites in the Asia-Pacific region and activities of the WII-C2C. Four issues have been published for the respective quarters during 2019-20 viz. Spring, Summer, Monsoon and Winter.



05

RESEARCH & MONITORING

A function of the Centre is to undertake research on identified priority areas related to natural World Heritage protection and management, including focus on models of community participation. The World Heritage Committee also encourages State Parties to support research, since knowledge and understanding are fundamental to the identification, management and monitoring of World Heritage properties.

05

RESEARCH & MONITORING

5.A. Monitoring Outstanding Universal Values of Manas World Heritage Site with special emphasis on Terai grassland and dependent species

WII-C2C has initiated a long term OUV monitoring programme focusing on the endangered grassland mammals of Manas World Heritage Site (WHS), Assam. Following the rapid assessment of the presence of Hispid Hare in the Manas National Park carried out in the past (2014 and 2019), this year, the focus was on the conservation needs of the species for which a robust methodology has been designed to estimate its population and habitat use in the Terai grassland. Forest officials, especially the patrolling staff, were trained to monitor the hispid hare in the grasslands of Manas. The ongoing capacity building initiative has shown excellent results in the field. At present, data collection on the population and habitat use of the species in the entire landscape is ongoing, which would help to strengthen the monitoring protocol to measure the ecosystem health of the grassland and other grassland obligatory species. In addition, six awareness programmes have been organized, highlighting the importance of hispid hare and grassland habitat in the region. Over 40 teachers and 300 students have taken part in the various awareness programmes. Subsequently, a scholarship programme has been started for the winners of the



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painting competition as a part of awareness activity in the fringe areas of Manas National Park. A network of teachers and students has been formed in the fringe area of Manas to strengthen awareness activity. The continuous enforcement of education and outreach programme has helped to contribute towards community sensitization on natural heritage conservation and management.



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5.B. Plausible alternative futures of Island mangroves in the Asia-Pacific: Scenario-based analysis and quantification of mangrove ecosystem services in coastal hazard mitigation and climate change adaptation in Andaman Island, India

A collaborative research study under a project funded by Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan is being carried out on the mangroves of Andaman Islands in India to combat the possible adverse impacts of climate change. Particularly, ecosystem services of mangroves remain at the centre of discussion considering their exceptional ability to survive in the fragile coastal environment, while providing tremendous services such as storm surge control, sediment retention, arresting carbon, etc. Yet, despite such services, mangroves are still among the fastest declining tropical forests, especially in Asia-

Pacific, owing to the large-scale alteration of their natural habitats. In the preliminary phase, extensive literature review was carried out to understand the Mangrove change patterns over the time. The study area is fairly well studied in the post-tsunami event of 2004. The Land Use Land Cover of Andaman Island is mapped using different time period satellite images. A study team from WII-C2C (Dr. Anukul Nath, Assistant Technical Officer) and IGES Japan (Dr. Shizuka Hashimoto, Dr. Rajarshi Dasgupta and Dr Pankaj Kumar) visited the island from 06 - 08 August, 2019. The purpose of the visit was to get ground level information of the mangrove-bearing sites and to collect both primary and secondary data from the forest & tourism department of the Andaman. An initial dialogue was made with higher officials of the forest department with discussion of the aim and scope of the project.

5.C. Survey for World Heritage perceptions in Madhya Pradesh

As part of the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board project on "Inventorization and Prioritization of Potential World Heritage Sites in Madhya Pradesh State", a team from WII-C2C comprising Dr. Bhumes Singh, Dr. Anukul Nath and Ms. Kritika Trigunayat conducted a questionnaire survey for understanding the World Heritage perceptions of the local communities around select sites in Madhya Pradesh namely, National Chambal Sanctuary, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve and Satpura Tiger Reserve in the first phase during



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February, 2020. These sites were identified during earlier consultation workshop conducted in December, 2020. Focussed group questionnaire surveys were conducted to understand the general awareness, knowledge about the site as a tourism destination and perceptions regarding World Heritage Site designation. The survey results are presently under analysis and this survey will be continued in other identified sites in the forthcoming months.

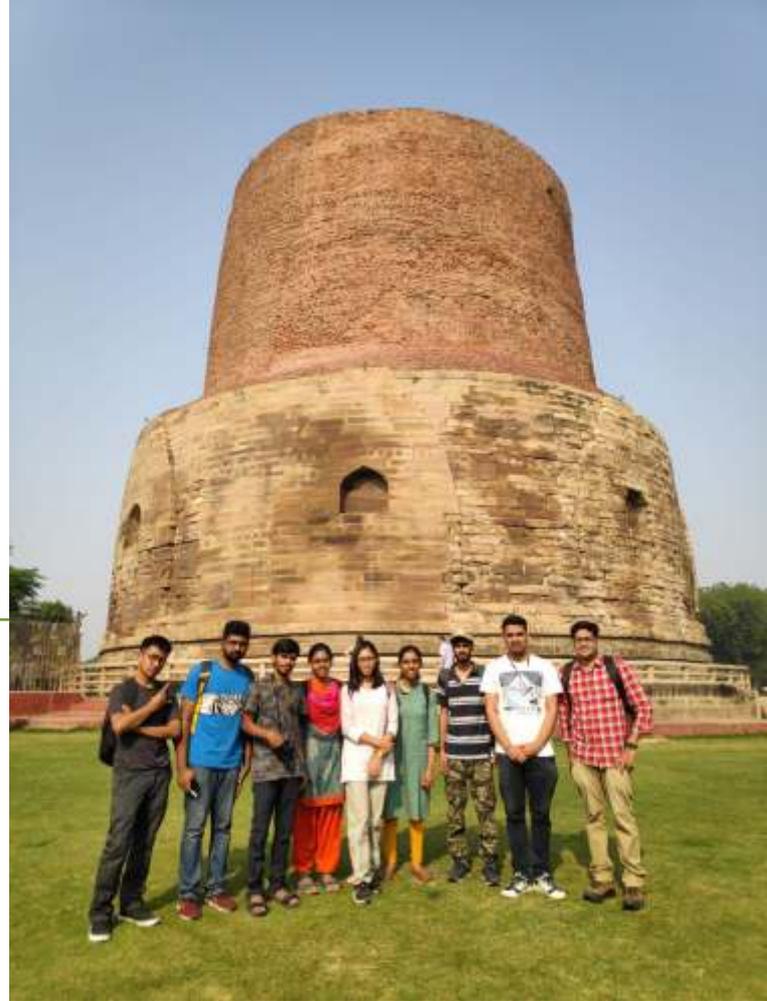
06

MASTER'S DEGREE COURSE IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT

6. Master's Degree Course in Heritage Conservation and Management (2019-21)

Responding to the critical need for advancing heritage education, the WII-C2C has introduced a 2-year residential Master's Course in Heritage Conservation and Management since July, 2019. Affiliated to Saurashtra University, Gujarat, the course is interdisciplinary in nature and advances sustainability studies through the prism of heritage. The first batch of the Course includes 07 students from diverse academic fields, viz., History, English, Urban Planning, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Social Work, Zoology, Agriculture and Environmental Science. The first six months of the course i.e., from July - December, 2019, saw a culmination of classroom study, self-study and three orientation and heritage study tours. In the beginning of July, the students were introduced to the various concepts and definitions of Heritage and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. To learn more and get a first-hand experience of the periodic meetings of the World Heritage Committee, they watched the live telecast of the 43rd session of the Committee from Baku, Azerbaijan, from 02 - 08 July, 2019.

Classroom sessions were facilitated by faculty from the Wildlife Institute of India, along with Dr. Neelkamal Chapagain of Ahmedabad University, Dr. Harini Nagendra of Azim Premji University, Dr. Sanjay Gubbi of Nature Conservation Foundation, Shri Vinaysheel Oberoi, retired IAS officer who had been a Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO. Ms. Nupur Prothi Khanna, conservation architect, Dr. M.R. Singh of National Museum Institute, Dr. Shalini Sharma, former Professor of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, faculty from Jawaharlal Nehru University and University of Missouri also taught module topics to the students. Dr. Erach Bharucha, Principal of the Institute of Environment Education & Research (Pune), Dr. Anuradha Chaturvedi,



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Professor at School of Planning and Architecture (Delhi), Shri V.K. Uniyal and Dr. A.K. Gupta and Dr. A.K. Bhardwaj, three retired Principal Chief Conservators of Forest interacted with the class.

Visits to Mohand area of Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Forest Research Institute, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology were conducted for the students which gave a perspective of wildlife science, forestry and geological heritage. An orientation Tour was conducted in two parts: (i) within Uttarakhand comprising of Mussoorie - Hanifl Centre - Landour - Benog Wildlife Sanctuary - Jaberkhhet Nature Reserve - Everest House - Kalsi-Yamuna Landscape - Colonial and Afghan Heritage of Dehradun; and (ii) around Delhi including Humayun's Tomb - Sunder Nursey - Red Fort - Old Delhi - Qutab Minar - National Museum - UNESCO Delhi Office - Archaeological Survey of India - WWF-India Secretariat - INTACH office. Eminent resource persons interacted with the students and shared their perspectives on natural and cultural heritage conservation and management.

The students also visited Sarnath and Varanasi as part of their course's Techniques Tour from 11 November to 18 November. During the tour, they were guided by Dr. A.K. Bhardwaj, Senior Fellow, WII in their interaction with the residents of Dhaka village in the Varanasi District and logistical support was provided by WII's National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) project

represented by Ms. Sunita Rawat. The students had an opportunity to learn about the history of Varanasi and the cultural importance of the Ganga Ghats in the course of a ferry ride from the northernmost limit of the city to its southernmost. A riverine survey from a boat allowed them to sight many resident and migratory birds (including osprey, great-crested grebe, lesser whistling duck, brown-headed gull) and multiple sightings of the endangered Gangetic river dolphin. The group also visited a handloom factory for Benarasi silk sarees woven in the ancient renowned cultural tradition.. The historical significance of the site of Sarnath and its site museum were explained by Dr. Neetesh Saxena, Assistant Archæologist and the students also visited Gurudham Temple, a State Archæological Monument whose unique architecture and the issues of reclaiming the site from squatters were described in detail by Dr. Subhash Yadav.

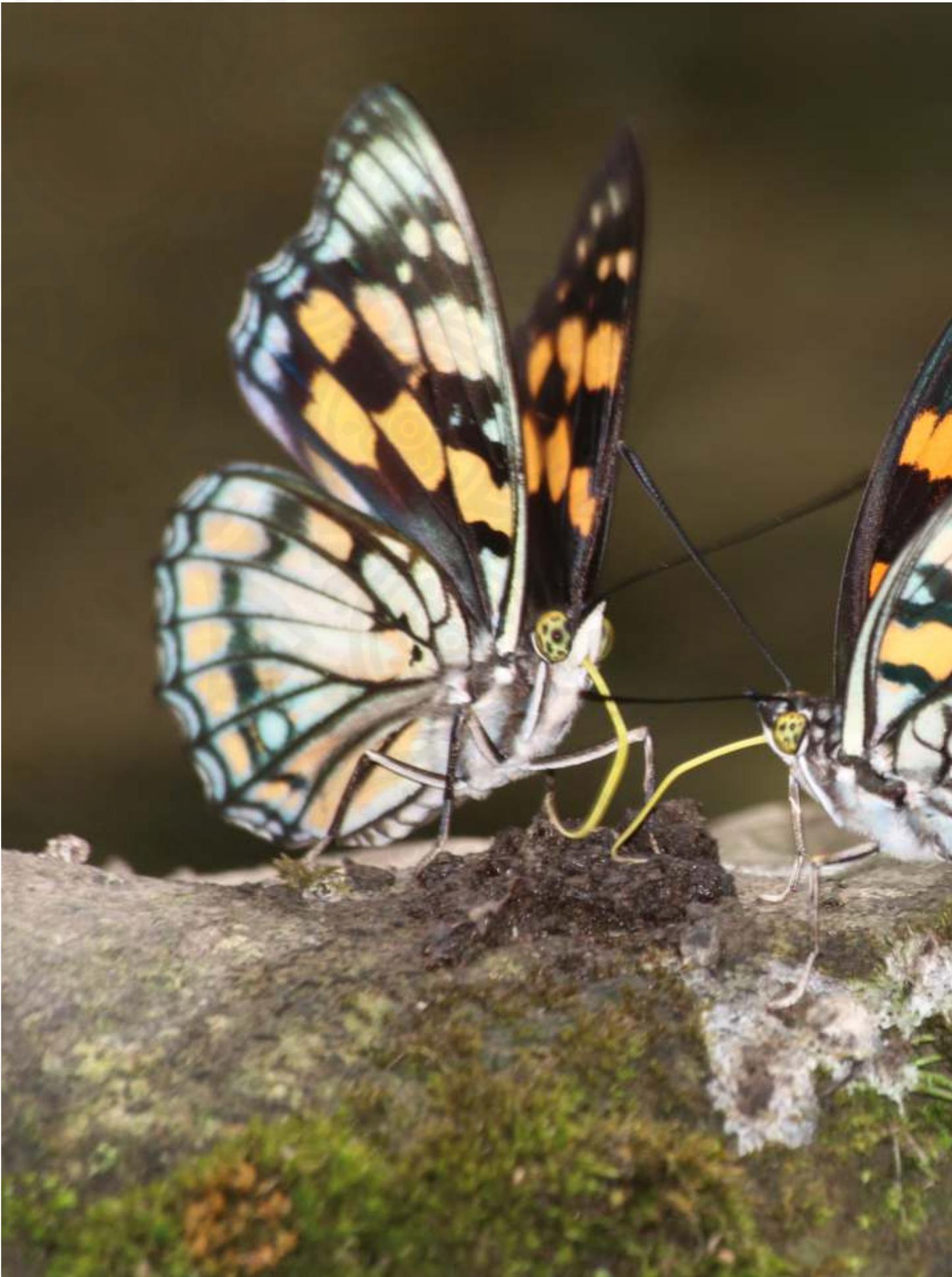
The second semester of MSc HCM starting January, 2020 has been designed keeping the practical requirements of a heritage manager in mind, with the interlinked modules related to Heritage Risk Management, Sustainable Tourism, Heritage Site Management, Culture-Nature Linkages, Heritage Economics and Creative Thinking. A diverse array of faculty - practitioners, academicians and conservationists - interacted with the students, sharing with them their invaluable knowledge and involving them in tasks and assignments designed to help them practice applying this knowledge. The visiting faculty included architects and heritage professionals like Dr. Shikha Jain, Sriparna Saha and



Niyati Jigyasu, multi-disciplinary academicians like Dr. Ambika Aiyadurai and Dr. Savita Sharma, communication and conservation practitioners like Dr. Sandesha Rayapa, Sanjay Sondhi, Rupesh Rai and Jaydev Nansey.

To supplement the wide span of knowledge shared, as part of their Field Visits and Tours module, the students also made short visits in Uttarakhand to Devalsari in the Jaunpur range (a very good example of a community run eco-tourism initiative) and Saklana in the Tehri Garhwal region (a village of local importance with potential as a eco-tourism experience). Besides these short visits, the students were also taken on a 15 day Heritage Sites Tour of eastern Rajasthan where they studied cultural and natural management practices in locations as varied as Jaipur, Keoladeo National Park, Ajmer, Pushkar, Sariska Tiger Reserve, and the little known but fascinating cave paintings of Abhaneri.





07

COLLABORATIONS

WII-C2C is collaborating with a range of sub-national, national and international institutions and organizations:

- Aaranyak, Assam
- Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) at Manama, Bahrain
- Centre for Heritage Management, Ahmedabad University
- Department of Culture, Government of Assam
- Department of Culture, Government of Himachal Pradesh
- Green Hub, Tezpur, Assam
- Griffith University, Australia
- Himachal Pradesh Forest Department
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan
- Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, Bhopal
- Meghalaya Forest Department
- National Institute of Disaster Management
- Rung Kalyan Sanstha, Uttarakhand
- Saurashtra University, Gujarat
- Uttarakhand Forest Department

WII-C2C Team



Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, IFS
Director
(Jan 2020- till date)



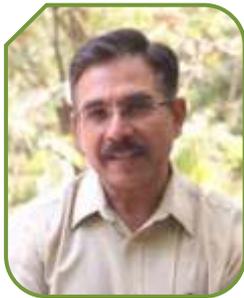
Dr. Pratap Singh
Director
(Dec 2019)



Dr. G S Rawat
Director
(Sep-Nov 2019)



Dr. V.B. Mathur
Director
(2014-2019)



Dr. Y.V. Jhala
Dean



Dr. Manoj Nair, IFS
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Mr. Vinod Kumar DK, IFS
Scientist-D



Dr. Gautam Talukdar
Scientist-E



Dr. Malvika Onial
Scientist-D



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