

## Summary Report on the Asian Ranger Forum Session, Guwahati, Assam (05-08 Dec, 2023)

The First Asian Ranger's Forum was held on 5-8 December, 2023 in Guwahati, India. Hosted by regional and national ranger associations, conservation organizations, International Rangers Federation (IRF), Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) and Assam Forest Department, the Forum brought together the Asian ranger community to discuss challenges, share experiences, and highlight contributions towards protecting biodiversity. The Forum offered an opportunity for rangers, experts, researchers, and conservation organizations to showcase their work on various themes aligned with the objectives of the Forum. As many as 146 participants, including 89 active Rangers and 35 women from 20 countries as well as representatives of local communities converged to participate in the global event. The Forum had four major plenary sessions, multiple concurrent sessions, select training and various outreach activities across four major focus areas, namely inclusive workforce, conditions, conduct and capacity.

A WII-C2C proposal on **'Leveraging International Biodiversity Conventions for Strengthening Conservation'** was accepted by the organisers for a talk presentation. The activity fit the Forum's theme of 'Capacity and Training' and further aligned with the mandate for WII-C2C in capacity-building and awareness of natural heritage stakeholders including regional/international professionals. Presented by Mr. Niraj Kakati, Technical Officer, WII-C2C, the talk underlined the relevance of global biodiversity treaties to the site-level protection of biodiversity in protected areas by Rangers. An overview was provided on six major International Biodiversity-related Conventions under the aegis of the United Nations, viz. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR), Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC), Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, (CMS), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and International Whaling Commission (IWC). Along with the basic principles of the Conventions, specific emphasis was placed on their regional initiatives with reference to Asia and their synergy through the Sustainable Development Goals. The objective was to highlight how the Rangers, as biodiversity guardians, could leverage the provisions of the international conventions to strengthen the conservation and protection status of the natural areas under their supervision. 30 participants, including Rangers and other professionals, representing Protected Areas from Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Nepal and Bhutan attended the talk. The Forum presented a valuable opportunity for Rangers to share knowledge, create partnerships and build capacity. WII-C2C played a favourable role in supporting this endeavour.





“LEVERAGING INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY CONVENTIONS  
FOR STRENGTHENING CONSERVATION”

ASIAN RANGER FORUM  
GUWAHATI, ASSAM  
05-08 DEC, 2023

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