

Report

Capacity Building Workshop On “World Heritage Serial in Sites in Western Ghats”- Talacauvery Serial Site



Submitted to

Karnataka Forest Department

By

**WII- Category 2 Centre for
World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the
Pacific Region at
Wildlife Institute of India**



Summary

UNESCO Category 2 Centre (C2C) for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region organized a capacity building training programme from 10th to 11th October 2022 at Talacauvery World Heritage Serial Site, Karnataka. The purpose of this workshop was to build capacity and sensitize World Heritage Site frontline staff with the Outstanding Universal Values (OUV) monitoring techniques. Workshop was inaugurated by Shri BNN Murthy, CF, Kodagu Circle. He provided valuable inputs in setting up the context of the workshop. The workshop provided valuable information on the Outstanding Universal Value for Natural and World Heritage Sites, Monitoring & Reporting, and SWOT analysis. An interactive discussion was held with forest frontline staff on the current status of OUVs of the heritage site and explored monitoring, planning and management strategies. This report contains background information that was presented to participants, summarizes workshop discussions of OUV and SWOT analysis and catalogs potential recommendation options.

The following recommendations were put forwarded to augment capacity building and long-term conservation of world heritage site-

- Awareness generation on the importance of World Heritage among the forest front-line staff and locals
- Capacity-building and capacity-exchange for frontline staff of FD
- Platform for continuous dialogue between all stakeholders including local communities.
- Adequate emphasis to conduct research on rare floral and faunal species of Talacauvery Serial Site. Long-term monitoring protocol of OUVs is recommended to fulfil the reporting obligations for World Heritage Sites.
- Required enhanced mitigation measures to minimize forest fire
- Enhancement of frontline personnel, better infrastructure at the and health services for field level staff

Actionable Points to Strengthen the Status of Talacauvery World Heritage Serial Site

- Capacity Building Training Programme for the Frontline Staff
 - At Field Level - One Week Training Programme (Two Programme Every Year)
 - At WII-Category Centre, Dehradun
- Meetings for Site Managers and Stakeholders of serial sites of Western Ghats (Karnataka)
- Proposal Long term Monitoring Protocol of OUVs of Talacauvery WHS
- Three Year's Project Mode Proposal for Development of Monitoring Protocol
- Proposal for some important areas under minor boundary modification of Western Ghats WHS
- Development of Educational and Awareness Material such as Brochures, Signages, Checklist etc. containing information about World Heritage Status of Talacauvery and other World Heritage serial site of Western Ghats WHS.

WII-C2C being an specialized institute for Natural World Heritage related matters would be pleased to work/collaborate with Karnataka Forest Department in the activities as mention above in actionable points.

Workshop Background and Objectives

The Western Ghats are among the ecologically richest regions of India, next only to the Himalayan in the diversity of biological species. The climate and rainfall pattern here has led to a variety of unique plant and animal species. There are about 4000 species of flowering plants of which 1500 species are endemic, about 28 genera of mammals, 275 genera of birds and 58 species of reptiles are present in the Western Ghats (IUCN Red Data List). The Western Ghats provide habitat for several orchid species and also house a variety of medicinal plants. The region is also rich in iron, manganese and bauxite ores. The biological diversity of the Western Ghats is not only important in itself or as the resource base of the diverse human communities who live in the region, but also for maintaining the life support system of the peninsular region.

UNESCO World Heritage Site The mountain chain of the Western Ghats represents geomorphic features of immense importance with unique biophysical and ecological processes. Globally it has been recognized as one of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity and is also inscribed as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site. The UNESCO Criteria ix & x for natural sites are suitably linked to the 39 serial landscapes in the site that collectively form the best representatives of non-equatorial tropical evergreen forests anywhere and are home to at least 325 globally threatened flora, fauna, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish species (Serial nomination of dossier of The Western Ghats of India: In Natural heritage for inscription on the World natural heritage list, Submitted by State Party, India, 2009).

UNESCO Category 2 Centre (C2C) for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region has been established at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India in 2014. The Centre's mission is to strengthen implementation of the World Heritage Convention by building the capacity of professionals and institutions involved with world natural heritage site inscription, protection, conservation and management in Asia and the Pacific region, through training, research, dissemination of information and network building.

In this context, Category 2 Centre (C2C) has conducted capacity building training programmes on 'Monitoring of Outstanding Universal Values of Natural World Heritage Sites' in Talacauvery WHS from 11-12 October 2022. The overall objective of the training programme was to build capacity and sensitize World Heritage Site frontline staff and other stakeholders with the best OUV monitoring techniques.

Details on the OUV analysis- Group exercise

OUV (Outstanding Universal Values) is the fundamental central concept to the credibility of the World Heritage system. The permanent protection of the world's heritage that exemplifies OUV is of the highest importance to the international community. Moreover, OUV is the basis for WH reporting. We break the complex Statement of OUV (SOUV) into smaller more understandable components. Recognize key examples of values/attributes and the factors affecting those values and tried to prioritize the highest priority threats. In all the three sites where workshops have held the participants were grouped and the worksheet (Appendix C) on the OUV statement was provided to discuss and comment on the current status of specific criterion and the effectiveness of the management and protection strategies.

Criteria ix: *"... to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal an marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals"*

Current Status of Outstanding Universal Values:

There has been no major geographical, geomorphological or climatic changes since the inscription of the property. The property is being successfully monitored and managed by the forest department. There are some areas nearby/adjacent to the nominated property which have unique features that may help in enhancing the OUVs of Talacauvery serial site.

Criteria x: *"... contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation"*

During the OUV exercise most of the threatened species current status was evaluated. With the high degree of consensus, it was found that the OUVs (in terms of population, habitat and protection) are essentially intact, and their overall condition is stable or improving. Available evidence indicates only minor conflicts with elephant in the fringe areas of Talacauvery. However, current data of many species recorded in the Talacauvery Serial Sites are not updated or present and hence required to develop long-term monitoring protocol.

Integrity

The integrity of the sites is well maintained though, minor loss of few elements necessary to maintain OUV may be occurring due to developmental projects. Nominated property in well protected by the Karnataka Forest Department.

Management and Protection

The Forest Conservation Act (1980) provides the regulatory framework to protect OUV from infrastructure development, and, to maintain the integrity of the heritage site an Eco-sensitive

zone (buffer) has been notified. Measures have taken to strengthen the ecological connectivity measures to ensure consistency and greater functional linkages between component sites in TCPs. Invasive species and other habitat management activity are ongoing under different schemes of the forest department. Forest department facilitated increased engagement with all stakeholders to build awareness and support, foster participatory governance approaches, and ensure equitable sharing of benefits in association with the foundation.

Details on the SWOT analysis- Group exercise

A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis is a strategic planning tool to evaluate internal and external influences upon a common vision or specific goal. Therefore, to analyse and understand the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats, A survey was carried out during workshops.

In each site, all the participants were divided into groups and provided predesigned SWOT analysis worksheet. Participants were asked to fill the information as per their previous experience. All the participants completed a SWOT analysis and identified several key strategic issues regarding world heritage management strategy. All the worksheets were analysed for common response and prepare actions to be prioritised in the strategy for natural world heritage management.

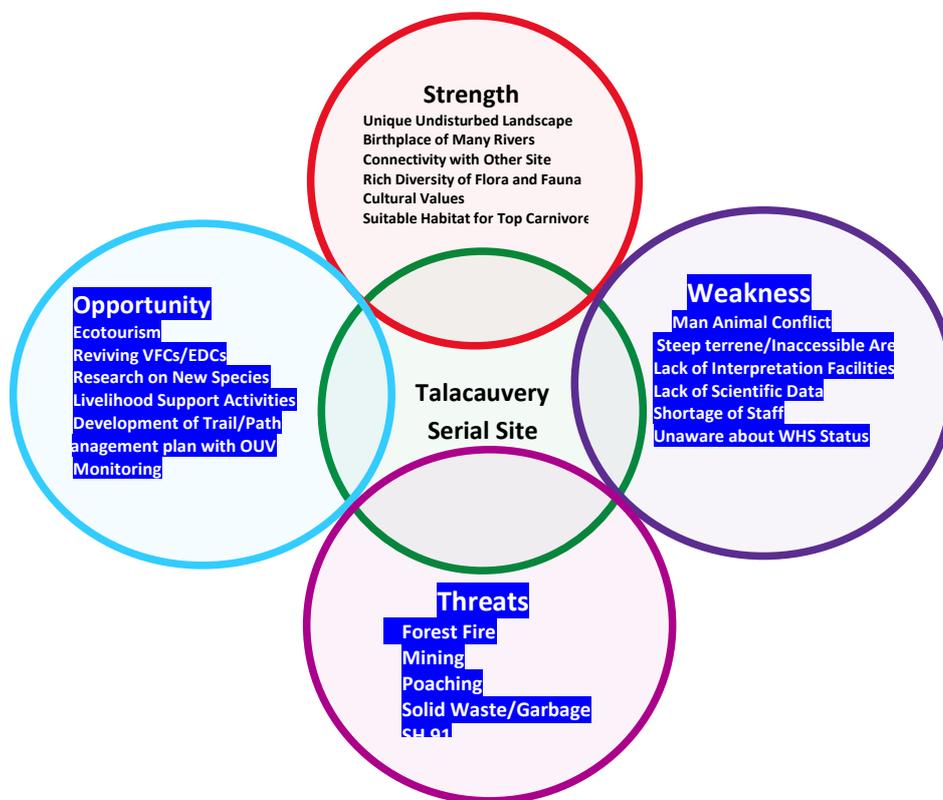


Figure Showing Responses of SWOT Analysis Conducted at Talacauvery Serial Site (Western Ghats WHS) 28 participants were involved in the process

Recommendations

- Awareness generation on the importance of World Heritage among the forest front-line staff and locals is much needed.
- OUV analysis revealed the gap in information and required research for filling up the same.
- Capacity-building and capacity-exchange of frontline staff
- Platform for continuous dialogue between all stakeholders including local communities.
- Emphasis should be given to manage the pilgrimage centers, more specifically waste management practices wherever applicable.
- Emphasis should be given to conduct research on rare species like Nilgiri Martin, Brown Palm Civet, Slender Loris etc., as local status is unknown.
- Conduct surveys outside PAs to discern the current status of the Nilgiri Tahr population for each site elements.
- Emphasize on the monitoring and restoration of the threatened flora which has to be reflected in management plans of PAs and working plans within territorial divisions.
- Augmentation of livelihood support activities around World Heritage Sites with convergence of rural development schemes.
- Effective signages depicting the site as part of WHS need to be installed for awareness.
- Scope of inclusion cultural angle to the WHS can be explored with respect to Chinnar area
- Separate legislation/ inclusion of provisions in existing legislations for protection of WHS needs to be made
- Special need based enhancements for tourism management have to be formulated for each site elements.
- More programmes of similar nature should be carried out for further improvement of knowledge of frontline staffs.

Plate : Glimpse of Workshop Participant's Activities





Capacity Building Workshop
On “World Heritage Serial in Sites in Western Ghats”

10-11 , October 2022, Talacauvery, Sub Cluster Western Ghats, Karnataka

Organised by Wildlife Institute of India- Category 2 Centre, Dehradun

PROGRAMME

Time	Details
Day-1	
1000 h-1015 h	Welcome & Introductions WII-C2C
1015 h-1030 h	Opening Remarks-
1030 h-1100 h	Tea Break & Group Photo
1100 h-1200 h	Introduction to World Heritage Concepts/General Understanding about World Heritage Sites
1200 h-1300 h	Overview of World Heritage Sites in India and Serial Sites in Western Ghats
1300 h-1400 h	Lunch Break
1400-1500 h	Interpretation Programmes/Activities for World Heritage Site
1500 h-1530 h	Tea Break
1530 h-1630 h	Reporting Obligations for Existing World Heritage sites
1630 h- 1730 h	Question & Answers-WII-C2C
Day -2	
1000 h-1300 h	OUV Monitoring Exercise and Community Mapping Exercise
	Tea break during the exercise
1300 h-1400 h	Lunch Break
1400 h-1500 h	Strengths, Weakness, Opportunity Threats (SWOT) Analysis & Group Exercise
1500 h-1600 h	Presentation by Participants – Group Work
1600-1630	Experience Sharing & Certificate Distribution
1630 h	Vote of Thanks & Tea



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Wildlife Institute of India



Capacity Building Workshop
On "World Heritage Serial Sites in Western Ghats"

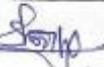
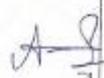
10-11, October 2022, Talacauvery Sub Cluster, Western Ghats, Karnataka

Organised by Wildlife Institute of India- Category 2 Centre, Dehradun

Registration Form

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