



Ministry of Environment, Forest
and Climate Change
Government of India



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



Centre
Under the auspices
of UNESCO



WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA - CATEGORY 2 CENTRE (WII-C2C) FOR WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE

**Management and Training for Asia
and the Pacific Region,
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Origin

WII-C2C was established in 2015 at the forested campus of Wildlife Institute of India in an agreement between the Government of India and UNESCO. The Centre addresses the urgent need for natural heritage conservation in Asia and the Pacific region through meticulously crafted short-term and long-term programmes. It fosters international co-operation on World Natural Heritage initiatives guided by UNESCO's mission for a more balanced and representative World Heritage List.

Mission

The Centre's mission is to strengthen implementation of World Heritage Convention in Asia and the Pacific Region by building the capacity of all those professionals and bodies 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.



ORIGIN & MISSION

CONSERVATION LEGACY

WII-C2C trainings and collaborations blend its strengths with external expertise for impactful outcomes across topics such as site management, policy, interpretation, nature-culture linkages and heritage stories. A slew of customized professional certificate courses have been addressing the needs of graduate students, heritage enthusiasts and management professionals examples of which include:

- A 4-week Certificate Course on Heritage Management for Protected Area Managers
- A 4-week Certificate Course on Natural Heritage Management for International Heritage Enthusiasts & Practitioners
- A 1-week Training Course on the Process of Nomination of World Heritage Sites for Administration Officials
- Short training programmes/workshops on Heritage Management for various stakeholders (students, tourism operators, civil society, frontline staff)

The Centre's role as primary advisor to the Government of India on all Natural/Mixed World Heritage matters and research for multiple World Heritage Nomination Dossiers have helped it develop expertise in the process of nominating and monitoring World Heritage status.

Collaborations and connections with multiple institutions, universities, NGOs, government bodies, protected area managers and expert exchanges of international stature help power the learning from our courses beyond the realm of academic discussions to practical solutions and field-based experience.



LIVING CLASSROOMS

Natural /Mixed World Heritage Sites serve as fundamental sources of wonder and knowledge which inspire care and concern not only for the sites themselves but the environment at large. WII-C2C frequently conducts its training programmes at World Heritage Sites utilizing their stature as globally significant natural heritage properties.

By conveying, on-site, the special values of natural heritage sites to a broad spectrum of stakeholders and rightsholders, WII-C2C fosters appreciation for nature's bounty, and supports the long-term conservation of these unique locations.



BRIDGING NATURE-CULTURE

The Centre has been pro-active in nurturing the Nature-Culture Linkages paradigm by advancing the conversation at both ICOMOS General Assembly and IUCN World Conservation Conference. WII-C2C has extensive experience of working with UNESCO and other international networks, linking with Advisory Bodies, with official roles in reviewing nomination dossiers, State of Conservation (SoC) reporting, Reactive Monitoring, Periodic Reporting and contribution to Regional Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific.

WII-C2C has helped to shape a heritage list initiative for the ASEAN countries, participated in the first Heritage Place Lab under the World Heritage Leadership programme and the Capacity Building Workshops for Nature-Culture Linkages in Tsukuba, Japan pioneering and promoting the use of nature-culture connections for better management.





BOOSTING CONNECTIONS

WII-C2C champions heritage conservation with State Parties, the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies to WHC, academic institutions and other C2Cs. Its programmes cover a broad span and include capacity building for protected area managers, knowledge enhancement of frontline staff at World Heritage Sites, skill development of school teachers and tourism operators with respect to World Heritage and developing future stakeholders in students through natural heritage festivals.

WII-C2C has trained over 2500 heritage stakeholders through more than 100 capacity-building courses, taken up 25 research & monitoring engagements including preparation of nomination dossiers, and collaborated with 70 institutions.

These activities place WII-C2C at the forefront of the regional and international push for consolidation of stakeholders, functioning as a change-maker in a domain as broad and interdisciplinary as heritage. As we continue on this journey to protect our precious heritage - natural splendour and cultural identity - WII-C2C will engage more partners and collaborators from around the world whose missions can be augmented by our expertise collectively engaging disciplines - ranging from science, arts and the humanities - while gaining further perspective and nuance on diverse methods of conservation and communication.



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