

Part- A Physical Report

PROGRESS REPORT
(April 2020 to December 2020)

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



**भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India**

WII-C2C Governing Body Meeting, 20 May 2020

The WII-C2C GB Meeting was held on 20 May 2020 through video conferencing. The GB had duly approved the Annual Progress Report (2019-20) and the Annual Work Plan (2020-21) of the Centre. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre as a member of the Governing Body, represented by Dr. Mechtild Rossler, Director and Dr. Feng Jing, Chief, Asia-Pacific Unit, recommended that the Centre's activities should also be extended to the South Asian sub-region as well as to the rest of Asia and Pacific Region. The Centre's specific role was highlighted in view of the forthcoming Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Asia and Pacific Region and on natural heritage and cultural heritage capacity building in the region.

1. Key Activities as per mandate and Annual Work Plan of the centre.

a. Periodic Reporting for World Heritage Sites of the Asia and Pacific Region:

WII-C2C is integrally involved with the current Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Asia and the Pacific Region during 2020-2021, with Director, WII designated as National Focal Point for Natural/Mixed Sites in India. WII-C2C participated in the introductory sessions on this process conducted by the World Heritage Centre on 3rd and 24th September, 2020. The Centre also held its own internal briefing session on its role and responsibilities regarding the Periodic Reporting process on 27 July and 15 September 2020, while gearing up to conduct related training programmes. Since October, 2021, the Centre has participated in weekly sessions by the World Heritage Centre and presented its activities to the Aisa-Pacific member states. Simultaneously, WII-C2C has also conducted capacity-building sessions for the Site Managers of Natural/Mixed World Heritage Sites in India and is providing technical support to the Indian National Focal Point, for the purpose of fulfilling the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire.

b. **Internship:** In order to support students and young professionals to enhance their awareness on world heritage issues and contribute to their professional capacity building, WII-C2C has engaged five interns in its activities for documentation in the World Heritage Periodic Reporting exercise.

c. **World Heritage Day, 18th April, 2020:** Due to Covid-19 and the containment measures, WII- C2C celebrated World Heritage Day (WHD) on April 18, 2020 by

organizing drawing and essay writing competition through online system. Children of officials and staff of forestry institutions based in Dehradun participated in the online competitions. There were substantial participation, with prize awarded to top three candidates in both essay writing and drawing competition; consolation prizes was also awarded to encourage the participants.

- d. **Nomination Dossier preparation for Garo Hills Conservation Area, Meghalaya:** A proposal for inscription of Garo Hills Conservation Area, Meghalaya as a World Heritage Site is presently in the final stage of nomination dossier preparation. WII-C2C has submitted first draft of nomination dossier for inscription of Garo Hills Conservation Area, Meghalaya as a World Heritage Site to the Government of Meghalaya in October, 2020 for review and feedback from the Meghalaya Forest Department. A consultation workshop is scheduled in January, 2021, for sharing the details of the proposal with the key stakeholders of the proposed site in Meghalaya.
- e. **Mainstreaming Natural Heritage:** Towards the purpose of mainstreaming and capacity building on natural heritage in policy and practice in India and the region, WII-C2C has held consultations with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Both WII-C2C and ASI have agreed in principle to establish collaboration and strengthen their partnership in this sector. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been envisioned between the two parties and is under discussion for finalising the partnership.
- f. **Expedition to Kailash Landscape, India:** From the 8th to the 16th of October 2020, a 7-member multidisciplinary team headed by Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, Director WII conducted an expedition to the Adi Kailash Landscape to identify its key sites of natural and cultural importance for nomination as an UNESCO World Heritage Site. Other members included representatives from Survey of India, Rung Kalyan Sanstha and Wildlife Institute of India. During the expedition, the team completed a *kora* (sacred circuit) of the Adi Kailash peak (5975 m) using the high altitude Sinla Pass (5500 m) to cross over from the Vyans to the Darma

valley. The team travelled through several scenic and culturally relevant settlements including Tawaghat, Chhiyalek, Garbyang, Gunji and Kuti along with a slight detour for Kalapani, the origin of the river Kali and Om Parvat, a mountain slope where snowfall appears to take the shape of the holy word "Om". The team then staged at Jeolingkong, the base camp for Adi Kailash before trekking across Sinla Pass to the village of Daantu in the Darma Valley via stops at Beidang, Smriti Sthal at Kaljyakti, Goto and Go Bridge. The team also experienced the cultural richness of the main inhabitants of the region, the Rung community, whose traditional lifestyle is intricately linked with nature. The expedition team concluded that though the region was dotted with culturally significant natural sites, more rigorous work with regard to mapping to historical sources was needed. The potential for eco-tourism in the region was also found to be significant if appropriate training and models could be used to involve local communities thereby preserving both natural and cultural values of the region.

- g. **State of Conservation Reporting for World Heritage Sites:** WII-C2C provided technical support for preparation of State of Conservation Reports for World Heritage Sites of Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, Himachal Pradesh and Sundarbans National Park, West Bengal for submission to UNESCO World Heritage Centre by December, 2020. This is part of the regular reporting for select World Heritage Sites by State Parties as per decisions of the World Heritage Committee.

2. Other activities.

- a. **Master's Course on Heritage Conservation and Management:** Due to COVID-19, regular classes for M.Sc. in Heritage Conservation and Management (MSc HCM) were suspended from 18th March 2020. However, lectures continued via the online mode during April-June, 2020 and July – December 2020. Semester exams were conducted through an Open-Book format, as per University Grants Commission (UGC) guideline and approved by Saurashtra University, from 5th – 15th August 2020. The exam was supplemented by online viva voce examination (from 20th – 26th August 2020). Online classes during the semesters continued simultaneously. The 3rd Semester in October-December, 2020 comprised of 5

modules including 3 specialization courses. Approx. 70 hours of teaching was done with the help of about 25 faculties from external institutions as well as WII. Following govt. of Uttarakhand guidelines, the students returned to the campus in December, but the online mode of teaching continued. In the last weeks of the third semester, the students prepared their dissertation proposals (part of 4th Sem) which went through two stage review process. In stage one a committee reviewed the proposals and sent their feedback and in the second stage the students presented their proposals to a panel of internal and external experts on 30thDecember, 2020.

- b. Webinar on Disaster & World Heritage with focus on Pandemics, 22 May 2020:**WII-C2C organized a webinar on the theme of “Disaster and World Heritage with focus on Pandemics” on International Day for Biological Diversity,22ndMay 2020.Key experts in natural and cultural heritage, disaster and geospatial technology representing World Heritage Centre (WHC), UNOOSA, ICCROM, DRONAH, MAXAR, MoEFCC and WII presented their views as resource persons/speakers at the event. The main objective was to understand the scale, impact, opportunities, responses and tools for conserving World Heritage and mitigating threats in the time of Pandemics, which can have serious repercussions for the Outstanding Universal Values of heritage sites. This was streamed live on online platforms, which was attended by over 400 participants, worldwide.
- c. Webinar on India-EU Experience Sharing on Adaptation Planning and Implementation,30thJune, 2020:**A webinar wasorganisedbetween the Government of India, the Indian States and officials from the EU and EU Member States on the important issue of adaptation to climate change and experience sharing. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, is the nodal partner ministry, the webinar was heldunder the EU-Strategic Partnership for Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA) project, which contributes to cooperation between the EU and India on climate action.

- d. IUCN Outlook Review:**World Heritage Outlook, an initiative by IUCN, is a global assessment of all natural World Heritage Sites and the action needed to achieve excellence in their conservation. Following the first two Outlook reports in 2014 and 2017, the current assessment is ongoing in 2020. In this context, a meeting was held of the Regional Review Group for Asia comprising WCPA Asia members on 9thSeptember, 2020. WII-C2C provided feedback related to assessments of Indian natural World Heritage Sites. The Outlook Report was released by IUCN in December, 2020 providing the projected status of natural World Heritage Sites in the world.
- e. Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board Project:** WII-C2C conducted a capacity-building workshop in Orchha for ‘Inventorization and Prioritisation of Potential World Heritage Sites in Madhya Pradesh’ for tourist guides in the State during November, 2020. 25 participants attended the workshop. This was followed by field visit to Bhedaghat, Jabalpur for documentation of its values. A sharing-cum-consultation workshop on the project is scheduled in January 2021 with relevant officials of Madhya Pradesh for next steps on the project.
- f. Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area Project:** WII-C2C undertook a field tour and inception meeting with officials of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department in November, 2020 for initiating a project on Long-term Monitoring of Outstanding Universal Values of GHNPCA World Heritage Site. The core activities under the project are scheduled to start in 2021 and necessary planning has been initiated for this purpose. Monitoring protocol will be developed for the site and selected staff will undergo training and awareness for the purpose. A desktop review is being carried out to identify features of Outstanding Universal values within the identified study area and surrounding region. For this purpose project team members are engaged in reviewing of published literature, reports to collate the data related to Outstanding Universal Values of potential sites. A range of additional sources of information including scientific reports produced by, and information on the websites of HP Forest Department, and relevant Institutes have also been reviewed.

- g. Asia-Pacific Network - Andaman Island Project:** A collaborative research study under a project funded by Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan was carried out on the mangroves of Andaman Islands in India to combat the possible adverse impacts of climate change. In the present study, Land Use Land Cover of Andaman is classified into following six classes at 1:50,000 scale. These six classes are Built-up, Cropland, Forest, Mangrove, Mangrove degraded and Waterbody. The satellite image was classified on the basis of visual interpretation key which takes into consideration the elements of visual interpretation like tone, texture, colour, shape, location, association. The project is in its final stage of reporting.
- h. New Proposals:** Several new proposals are in the planning and submission stage
- (i) A proposal was submitted to The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) for the proposed “Community Activity: Earth Observations for Climate Change Impacts on World Heritage Cities”, with case-study of Jaipur City. The proposal has since been included in the inventory of GEO and the next steps are awaited from the host organization.
 - (ii) Another proposal was submitted to the Space Climate Observatory (SCO) for a project on “Trends of Ecosystem Services for Mangrove Ecosystem - Sundarbans World Heritage Site”.


Part- B Expenditure Statement of WII- Category 2 Centre for the Period 1st April, 2020 to 31st December, 2020


WII-CATEGORY 2 CENTRE ON WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT & TRAINING FOR THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION- WILDLIFE
INSTITUTE OF INDIA, DEHRADUN

Receipt & Payment for the period of 01-August-2019 to 31- December-2020

Receipt	Amount	Payment	Amount		Total
			1-8-19 to 31-03-20	1-4-20 to 31-12-20	
Grant Received	21000000	Salary & Allowance of Scientific Staff	2794077	4910664	7704741
		Salary & Allowance of Administration Staff	1305525	1829094	3134619
		Operational Expenses	878778	645561	1524339
		Activity Budget	1549655	3849413	5399068
		Miscellaneous Cost	307421	612497	919918
		Total Expenditure	6835456	11847229	18682685
		Balance Amount			2317315
Total	21000000	Total			21000000

- Utilization Certificate Submitted for the period of 1st August 2019 to 31st December 2020.
- Progress Report Submitted for the period of 1st April 2020 to 31 December 2020.


(Baljeet Kaur) 08.2.2021
Finance Officer-WII
WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA
Chandrabani, Dehradun


(Dr. Monali Sen) 08.02.2021
Registrar-WII

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