

PROPOSAL FOR

**CERTIFICATE COURSE IN
NATURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT**

SUBMITTED BY:

**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**



**भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World
Heritage
Centre



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Background

The growing importance of heritage conservation as an academic subject and a management mandate in national and international agendas indicates a need for professionals to be trained in its approaches. While heritage is broadly classified into the two main groups of natural and cultural heritage, the interlinking between the two domains is evident even in a cursory review. The Certificate Course in Natural Heritage Management (CCNHM) will equip the officer trainees in attendance with a functional understanding of the core principles and theory of heritage and the ability to incorporate the same into their management plans making them robust and future-ready. The course, with a duration of four-weeks, is open to eligible candidates in the Asian, African, Latin American, Caribbean and Indo-Pacific region, which will bring opportunity for regional diversity and cross-learning and will help to share Wildlife Institute of India's (WII's) expertise in the field of wildlife conservation and natural heritage management.

Objectives

The broad objective of the Certificate Course in Natural Heritage Management (CCNHM) is to enhance the capacity of professionals and practitioners in heritage conservation and management. This short course of four weeks has been initiated with the aim to equip trainees with the concepts, theories and practices implemented in the multi-disciplinary field of heritage conservation. The course is also designed, through the prism of heritage, to further the understanding of sustainability studies by analysis of literature and methodologies in the field of heritage conservation. The course aims to train such staff in practical management of heritage and help the trainees understand the 'whys' and 'hows' of Management Plan prescriptions and learn techniques for implementing them.

Target Group

The course is developed to serve the needs of the managers of current and potential heritage sites, officers from various departments viz. forest, wildlife, natural resource management, etc from countries in the Asian, African, Latin American, Caribbean and Indo-Pacific regions. Other heritage professionals from academic institutions and non-government organisations may also be potential participants based on availability of seats.

Selection

Candidates will be appropriate level of officials/professionals as per target group. Educational qualification will be at least graduation level and preferably post-graduation. Minimum work experience will be required. Good communication skills in English are an important consideration for selection. Candidates must be physically fit to be able to undertake the field tours and travel. Eligible candidates are to be nominated and duly approved by their Governments/Departments/Sponsoring Agencies.

Method of Instruction

The course will be conducted by WII in-house faculty and external resource persons with domain expertise in heritage management. The mode of imparting instruction is designed to enable

interactive, participatory sessions and experiential learning. It would employ the following methodologies:

- 1) Presentations and discussions for each classroom session.
- 2) Group work and panel discussions on thematic modules.
- 3) Best Practice and case-study approach for real world examples.
- 4) Seminar and webinar sessions with expert resource persons.
- 5) Field tours (1 day-trip & 5-day heritage tour) for practical understanding of course content.

Course Content and Duration

Through the theoretical and methodological integration of ecological sciences, social sciences and humanities, heritage conservation is poised to provide unique solutions which fulfil the requirements of socio-economic wellbeing and environmental integrity. The four-week CCNHM course will begin with a module on the concepts and conventions of heritage providing a base for the trainees to build their understanding better. The intent would be to understand the principles, philosophies, and history behind the heritage conservation movement with a focus on international conventions and the emerging domain of nature-culture linkages. In addition, two other modules – one on heritage management and the other on heritage interpretation – will be taken up. The former will guide the trainees to acquire and apply methods used for natural heritage management through theory, practical and detailed case studies. The latter will see the trainees apply heritage interpretation tools in planning and management of sites. Three working weeks of these lectures will be ably supported by a mix of activities and day excursions to complement the same. The course will conclude in a five-day field tour to heritage sites of significance for the candidates to apply their learnings from the course.

The course curriculum is divided into 04 components including a field study tour.

Course Component	Title
CCHM 01:	Heritage - Concepts & Conventions
CCHM 02:	Heritage Management
CCHM 03:	Heritage Interpretation
CCHM 04:	Heritage Sites Tour

CCHM 01: HERITAGE - CONCEPTS & CONVENTIONS

(Objective: To understand the principles, philosophies, and history behind the heritage conservation movement with a focus on international conventions and the emerging domain of nature-culture linkages)

Understanding Heritage; Global Context of Heritage Governance; International Conservation Designations; World Heritage Convention; Outstanding Universal Values; Nomination; Reporting & Monitoring; Sustainable Development & World Heritage; Nomination Dossier Preparation; Culture - Nature Linkage

CCHM 02: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

(Objective: To acquire and apply methods used for heritage management through theory, practical and detailed case studies with a focus on natural heritage)

Management framework for World Heritage; Principles & Practices of Wildlife & PA Management; Monitoring Management Effectiveness; Ecosystem Services; Natural Heritage & Climate Change; Human dimensions of Natural Heritage Management; Tourism & Visitor Management; Research & Monitoring at World Heritage Sites; Factors affecting World Heritage Sites; Disaster Risk Management; Geospatial techniques in WHS monitoring & Management

CCHM 03: HERITAGE INTERPRETATION

(Objective: To apply effective techniques of heritage interpretation principles and interpretation as a management tool)

Interpretation Principles; Interpretation Planning; Interpretation as a Management Tool; Heritage as an Economic & Social Asset; Cultural Landscape; Cultural Risk Management; Impact Assessments

CCHM 04: HERITAGE SITES TOUR

A field study tour is envisaged to natural and cultural heritage sites in India located in Delhi (Red Fort, Qutb Minar), Bharatpur (Keoladeo National Park) and Agra (Taj Mahal). A range of practical aspects of heritage site management will be covered along with briefing on the history and significance of the sites. The trainees will be expected to reflect on aspects of their visit based on their direct observations as well as incorporating learnings from the course sessions.

Learning Outcomes

After actively participating in the course the participants will have acquired:

- 1) Better knowledge of concepts, theories and practices implemented in the multi-disciplinary field of heritage conservation.
- 2) Improved skills to identify stakeholders in management of World Heritage Sites in the region
- 3) Ability to promote integrated and sustainable management of World Heritage Sites with participation of tourism, communities, species recovery programs and other national level conservation programs
- 4) Incorporation of interpretation tools in planning and management
- 5) Practical understanding of heritage practice through experiential learning in a multi-national environment

Follow-up/ Feedback

Participants' feedback on the course content, design, learning and resources is important for improvement of the course and its delivery. A feedback format will be provided to the participants at the end of the course and a summary course report will be prepared. A valedictory session will be organized to share the course outcomes, felicitate the achievements of the participants and acknowledge the contributors to the course.

Course Organizer

Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

Established in 1982, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is an internationally acclaimed autonomous institution under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC), Government of India. WII carries out interdisciplinary training and research in thematic areas of study such as wildlife biology and management, wildlife forensics, landscape and spatial modeling, eco-development, impact assessment and climate change. The primary aim of the Institute is to develop a cadre of trained wildlife managers and a pool of scientific personnel including researchers and wildlife biologists. Its endeavour is to provide training and research inputs for better management of wildlife and wildlife habitats in the country and to make the efforts for conservation of natural heritage compatible with the human dimension and other present-day field realities. It is hoped that the personnel and researchers trained by the Institute will fulfill the requirements of the state forest departments, academic and research institutions including universities and various other agencies. Towards these objectives, WII carries out training, teaching, research, and consultancy.

Wildlife Institute of India - Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region, under the auspices of UNESCO (WII-C2C)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection, and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972 to which India is a party. As of 2022, there are 897 cultural, 218 natural and 39 mixed World Heritage Sites in the world of which India has 32, 7 and one sites in the respective categories.

To help achieve its objectives in world heritage conservation, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris and Government of India formally signed the agreement for establishing the Category 2 Centre at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun on 2nd September 2015. Among the 25 designated International Institutes and Centres working in the Culture and Nature sectors as Category 2 under the auspices of UNESCO, this Centre is the world's first dealing with Natural World Heritage.

The WII-C2Cs 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. Functional since 2014, the C2C at WII through its array of activities has already made its vibrant and active presence felt globally in the field of world natural heritage conservation.

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