

# TRAINING IN NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION

04<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**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**



Centre  
Under the auspices  
of UNESCO



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

## Background

The Training Course in Natural Heritage (TCNH) offered at India's premier Wildlife Institute of India (WII) will enable the trainees in attendance to understand how heritage functions as a bridge between conservation, policy and society. The course, with a duration of two weeks, is open to eligible candidates in the Asian, African, Latin American, Caribbean and Indo-Pacific region.

## Objectives

The Training Course in Natural Heritage (TCNH) aims to enhance the capacity of professionals and practitioners in heritage conservation and management to understand how heritage can infuse protection planning. This short training of two weeks has been initiated with the aim to equip participants with the concepts, theories and practices implemented in the multi-disciplinary field of heritage conservation.

## Target Group

The course is developed to serve the needs of the policy-makers associated with 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 organizations 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 of **05** years will be preferred. Maximum age limit is **45** years. 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. Participation in all sections of the course, such as tours, excursions, lectures, practical classes, group discussions is compulsory. The candidates selected are requested to carry their own **laptops** as they are needed in the context of the classroom sessions and activities.

## Methods of Instruction

The course will be conducted by WII in-house faculty and external resource persons with domain expertise in heritage management. Medium of instruction will be English. The mode of imparting instruction is designed to enable interactive, participatory sessions and experiential learning. Candidates are expected to carry their laptop/computer devices. It would employ the following methodologies:

- 1) Classroom lectures and discussions.
- 2) Best Practices and case-studies from real world examples.
- 3) Field tours (Day-trips & heritage sites tour) for practical understanding of course content.

## Course Content and Duration

The two-week TCNH course will begin with an introduction to heritage before delving into the global context of the World Heritage Convention and its links with multilateral environmental agreements such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). Sessions on monitoring wildlife crime and zoonotic diseases; transboundary and landscape management drawing on WII's expertise in these topics. A week 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 six-day field tour to heritage sites of significance for the candidates to apply their learnings from the course. The topics taught can be broadly classified into components below:

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

### TCNH 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; Heritage Governance: Global Context; International Conservation Designations; Outstanding Universal Values; Nomination; Reporting & Monitoring; World Heritage & Biodiversity; Sustainable Development & World Heritage; Nomination Process

### TCNH 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.

World Heritage Convention: Global Significance; Transboundary Landscapes – Case Studies; World Heritage Convention and Multilateral Environmental Agreements – Intersections; Reporting & Monitoring; Ecological Corridors and Flyways – A Shared Approach; Wildlife Forensics and its Applications; Heritage as an Economic & Social Asset; Principles and Practices of PA Management; Tourism & Visitor Management.

### **TCNH 03: Heritage Interpretation**

**Objective:** To apply effective techniques of heritage interpretation

Principles & Theories of Heritage Interpretation; International Trends in Interpretation

### **TCNH 04: Heritage Sites Tour**

A field study tour is envisaged to natural and cultural heritage sites in India located in Delhi, 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**

Upon successful and active participation in the course, participants will gain understanding in :

1. Concepts, theories and practices implemented in the multi-disciplinary field of heritage conservation.
2. Insights on how natural heritage can inform better policy
3. 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.

**Website:** <https://wii.gov.in>

### **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 2024, there are 952 cultural, 231 natural and 40 mixed World Heritage Sites in the world of which India has 35, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015. Among the 25 designated International Institutes and Centers 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.

**Website:** [https://wii.gov.in/unesco\\_category2\\_centre](https://wii.gov.in/unesco_category2_centre)

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