

CERTIFICATE COURSE IN NATURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

27th April – 22nd May 2026

**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 Certificate Course in Natural Heritage Management (CCNHM) offered at India's premier Wildlife Institute of India (WII) will demonstrate to the trainees how natural heritage management helps fulfill multiple objectives. The course, with a duration of four weeks, is open to eligible candidates from Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, as well as Pacific and Small Island countries.

Objectives

The Certificate Course in Natural Heritage Management (CCNHM) is a four-week intensive program tailored for site managers, staff, researchers, heritage practitioners, policy planners and officials responsible for safeguarding natural heritage or mixed heritage sites. Its overarching goal is to build the capacity of professionals and practitioners to manage natural heritage effectively, in line with the principles of the World Heritage Convention.

This program emphasizes the critical role of wildlife and biodiversity conservation within heritage management and the additional benefits of incorporating interdisciplinary heritage perspectives in conservation programmes. Trainees will develop practical skills in:

1. Understanding the multidisciplinary dimensions of heritage management, including habitat management and species studies.
2. Applying integrated approaches to natural heritage conservation that align with sustainable management practices and wildlife conservation goals.
3. Engaging diverse stakeholders across decision making and conservation, tourism, and community sectors and strengthening collaboration with local communities to ensure long-term stewardship of Natural Heritage Sites.
4. Understanding how the World Heritage Convention interacts with other global environmental agreements and policies, enabling managers to align local conservation practices with international standards of heritage protection.

By combining ecological knowledge with participatory management strategies, the CCNHM equips participants to address the challenges of conserving wildlife and habitats while promoting sustainable use and appreciation of natural heritage.

Target Group

The course is developed to serve the needs of the managers of current and potential Natural heritage sites including Protected Area, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Nature Reserves. Officers from various departments viz. Environment, Forest, Wildlife, Nature-based tourism etc. from Asia, Africa, East Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean as well as Pacific and Small Island countries. 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 02 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 laptops/computer devices. It would employ the following methodologies:

- 1) Presentations and discussions for each classroom session.
- 2) Best Practices and case-studies from real world examples
- 3) Group work on thematic modules.
- 4) Workshops in thematic subject areas.
- 5) Field tours (Day-trips & heritage sites 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. 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. Focus will also be on the World Heritage Convention's links with other 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 will also be part of the course. 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
CCNHM 01	Heritage - Concepts & Conventions
CCNHM 02	Heritage Management
CCNHM 03	Heritage Interpretation
CCNHM 04	Heritage Sites Tour

CCNHM 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; World Heritage & Biodiversity; International Conservation Designations; Familiarization with Campus Biodiversity; World Heritage Convention; Outstanding Universal Value; Nomination Process; Nature-Culture Linkages

CCNHM 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.

Reporting & Monitoring; Nomination Dossier Preparation - Group Exercise; Sustainable Development & World Heritage; Management Framework for World Heritage; Principles and Practices of PA Management; WHC: Global Significance; Biogeography & Biodiversity; Ecosystem Services; Wildlife Forensics and its Applications; Human Dimensions of Natural Heritage Management; Tourism & Visitor Management; Wildlife Health & Management; Linear Infrastructure: Impacts & Mitigation; Ecological Corridors and Flyways – A Shared Approach; Heritage as an Economic & Social Asset; Wildlife Monitoring Protocols; World Heritage Convention and Multilateral Environmental Agreements- Intersections; Transboundary Landscapes – Case Studies; Cultural Landscapes and Culture-Nature; Heritage Impact Assessment; Social Impact Assessment.

CCNHM 03: Heritage Interpretation

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

History and Evolution of Heritage Interpretation; Interpretation Principles; Interpretation Planning; International Trends in Interpretation; Mediums of Interpretation; People-Centered Interpretation; Visual Communication in Heritage

CCHM 04: Heritage Sites Tour

A field study tour is envisaged to natural and cultural heritage sites in India located in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh (Great Himalayan National Park). 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) Enhanced management insights drawing on natural heritage
- 2) Improved skills to identify stakeholders in management of World Heritage Sites in the region
- 3) Incorporation of interpretation tools in planning and management
- 4) Interdisciplinary learning shaped by heritage's many connections

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 2025, there are 972 cultural, 235 natural and 41 mixed World Heritage Sites in the world of which India has 36, 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 (C2C) at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun on 2nd September 2015. Among the 08 C2C under the auspices of UNESCO dedicated to strengthening and implementation of World Heritage Convention, 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/>

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