

# TRAINING ON MOUNTAIN HERITAGE AND NATURE- CULTURE LINKAGES

16<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March 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**



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

## Background

Across continents and countries, mountains have served as the basis for ecological, cultural and socio-economic identities making them a common focus for heritage conservation activities. With the identification of biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution as the key international challenges of our times, mountains offer us important spaces for learning and implementation of strategies to combat the same. The Training Course in Mountain Heritage and Nature-Culture Linkages (TCMH) offered at India's premier Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in the foothills of the Himalayas will demonstrate how heritage sites in the mountains are managed with emphasis on nature-culture linkages. The unique course will bring together international viewpoints from both trainers and trainees on the natural, cultural and intangible aspects of mountains. The course, with a duration of two weeks is tailored for candidates with experience in working in Mountain Ecosystems.

## Objectives

The broad objective of the Training Course in Mountain Heritage and Nature-Culture Linkages (TCMH) is to enhance the capacity of heritage professionals, practitioners and academics on integrating heritage perspectives into site management with emphasis on mountain sites, the World Heritage Convention and nature-culture linkages. This course of two weeks has been initiated with the aim to equip trainees with an improved understanding of how different aspects of heritage – natural, intangible and cultural - are embodied in mountain sites and the ability to promote integrated and sustainable management of them with participation of tourism, communities, species conservation programs and other methods. Field visits in the foothills of the Himalayas and nearby heritage sites will serve to reinforce the classroom talks and discussions.

## Target Group

The course is developed to serve the needs of the managers, professionals and academics working on current and potential mountain heritage, officers from various departments viz. forest, wildlife, tourism, cultural landscapes, 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

Educational qualification with minimum graduation level and preferably post-graduation and higher degrees. Minimum work experience of 02 years will be preferred. Maximum age limit is 45 years. **Good communication skills in English are necessary for selection and participation. Candidates must be physically fit to be able to undertake the field tours and travels in the Himalayas, this condition is mandatory.** 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. **Good communication skills in English are necessary for selection and participation.** 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 its integration of ecological sciences, social sciences and humanities, heritage studies and conservation are poised to provide unique solutions which handle the key challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution. The two-week TCMH course will begin with a module on the concepts and conventions of heritage providing a base for the trainees to build their understanding of the broad span of heritage. 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 heritage management with emphasis on mountain sites and nature-culture linkages through theory, practical's 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 Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) monitoring; integration of nature-culture linkages; transboundary and landscape management drawing on WII's expertise in these topics will also be part of the course. One working week of these lectures will be ably supported by a mix of activities and day excursions to complement the same. The presentations in the course will be supported by day-trips, flipped classroom sessions and a five-day field tour to mountain heritage sites of the Himalayan foothills located in the vicinity of the host institution to further understand conservation, communities and communication.

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

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

### **TCMH 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 with Focus on Mountains.

### **TCMH 02: Heritage Management**

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

WHC: Global Significance; Nomination Dossier Preparation - Group Exercise; Management Framework for World Heritage; Ecosystem Services; Biogeography & Biodiversity; Tourism & Visitor Management; Mountains & Natural History; Mountains & World Heritage; Nature-Culture Linkages; Mountain Communities and their Heritage; Climate Change: Impacts, Mitigation & Adaptation; Heritage as an Economic & Social Asset; World Heritage Convention and Multilateral Environmental Agreements- Intersections; Transboundary Landscapes – Case Studies

### **TCMH 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

### **TCMH 04: Heritage Sites Tour**

A field study tour is envisaged to introduce mountain natural and cultural heritage sites in Uttarakhand, a prominent Himalayan state in northern India and the location of the host institute. A range of practical aspects of Mountain 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 heritage at mountain sites
- 2) Improved skills to incorporate nature-culture linkages into site management
- 3) Incorporation of interpretation tools in planning and management
- 4) Interdisciplinary and intra-batch learning shaped by mountain heritage 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.

**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-C2C'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. 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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