The UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region is the first Centre dealing with natural heritage and aims to build capacity for the 50 nations of the Asia-Pacific Region. The Centre has been established at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun after getting approval of the Union Cabinet in September, 2015.

UNESCO C2C works towards protection and conservation of 70 Natural World Heritage sites across the 50 countries in Asia and the Pacific region and identification of potential sites with Outstanding Universal Values to ensure their safeguard as future World Natural Heritage Sites.

**Objectives**

- Strengthen the capacity of the management of natural World Heritage sites in the region
- To achieve a more balanced representation of properties from the Asia-Pacific Region on World Heritage List
- Raise awareness among the masses and youth in particular of the importance of Natural World Heritage and the need to protect it
- Foster International cooperation on Natural World Heritage Initiatives

**Key Areas of Activities**

- Training and Workshops
- Advisory / Technical Support
- Preparation of nominating dossiers
- Outreach, Research, Monitoring and Capacity Building Initiatives

**About WII**

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 modelling, eco-development, impact assessment and climate change.

**Natural Heritage Bulletin**

A quarterly e-bulletin that is a compilation of news and views related pertaining to Natural World Heritage sites in the Asia-Pacific region is published.
EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA

ICELAND
Vith International Centre for Multicultural and Intercultural Understanding, Reykjavik
- Diversity of Cultural Expressions

ITALY
International Training and Research Centre on the Economics of Culture and World Heritage Studies (IIFCRH), Turin
- World Cultural and Natural Heritage

SPAIN
International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention, Madrid
- World Cultural and Natural Heritage

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL
Regional Heritage Management Training Centre ‘Lucio Costa’, Rio de Janeiro
- World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Intangible Cultural Heritage

COLOMBIA
Regional Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America and the Caribbean (CIRLAC), Bogota
- Diversity of Cultural Expressions

MEXICO
Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas, Zacatecas
- World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Intangible Cultural Heritage

PERU
Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage of Latin America (CRESMA), Cusco
- Intangible Cultural Heritage

WHAT ARE CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES?

Category 2 Institutes and Centres are not legally part of the Organization, but are associated with it through formal arrangements approved by the UNESCO General Conference and are committed to engage in supporting UNESCO’s strategic programme objectives. They are funded directly by the Member States where they are located, but their scope goes beyond the boundaries of their country. Some are regional or international in scope while others are global. They are organized around a thematic issue. Many are involved in capacity-building and research, while some are set up as foundations or funds to support activities for the benefit of Member States.

Global coordination meetings for Category 2 Institutes and Centres are convened under certain UNESCO culture conventions, such as the World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage Conventions, and are organized in order to enable the efficient coordination of the activities of the centres and enhance their ability to contribute effectively to the delivery of UNESCO’s strategic programme objectives and anticipated results. These meetings are opportunities for the Centres and Institutes to be informed of decisions and directives from UNESCO’s governing bodies, to receive updates on sectoral strategic and programme developments, to exchange good practices, and to interact between themselves and build networks.

AFRICA

AFRICA

BURKINA FASO
Regional Centre for the Living Arts in Africa (CERELAF), Bobo-Dioulasso
- Diversity of Cultural Expressions

NIGERIA
Institute for African Culture and International Understanding (ICUIA), Awka, Anambra
- Diversity of Cultural Expressions

SOUTH AFRICA
South African World Heritage Fund (SAWH), Johannesburg
- World Cultural and Natural Heritage

ARAB STATES

ALGERIA
Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Africa, Algiers
- Intangible Cultural Heritage

BAHRAIN
Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARWH), Manama
- World Cultural and Natural Heritage

JORDAN
International Museum for Women in the Arts (IMWA), Amman

QATAR
Regional Centre for Contemporary Art, Doha
- Diversity of Cultural Expressions

ASIA & THE PACIFIC

CHINA
International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (ITC), Beijing
- World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Intangible Cultural Heritage

CHINA
International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia and the Pacific Region (IICMART), Beijing
- Intangible Cultural Heritage

CHINA
World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (IITRAPH), Shanghai
- World Cultural and Natural Heritage

CHINA
International Centre for Creativity and Sustainable Development (CISSD), Beijing
- Diversity of Cultural Expressions

INDIA
Centre on ‘World Natural Heritage: Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Region (MNHMA), Delhaid
- World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Intangible Cultural Heritage

IRAQ (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)
Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in the West and Central Area, Erbil
- Intangible Cultural Heritage

JAPAN
International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCIC), Tokyo
- Intangible Cultural Heritage

MONGOLIA
Institute for the Study of Nomadic Civilizations (ISNC), Ulan Bator

OTHER PROGRAMMES

REPUBLIC OF KOREA
International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCIC), Jeonju
- Intangible Cultural Heritage

EASTERN & CENTRAL EUROPE

BULGARIA
National Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe, Sofia
- Intangible Cultural Heritage

CROATIA
International Centre for Underwater Archaeology, Zadar
- Underwater Cultural Heritage

*As approved by the UNESCO General Conference, status as of November 2015

Distribution of the 25 UNESCO Category 2 Institutes and Centres related to the Culture and Nature Sector by field of activity

Category 2 Institutes and Centres fall under the auspices of UNESCO’s network and are one of the strategic partners covered by the Comprehensive Partnership Strategy of UNESCO [2016-2021]. They represent an effective partnership model for UNESCO’s programme delivery, significantly contributing to the Organization’s priority areas. In the field of culture, UNESCO works with more than twenty countries, which, through capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and research, provide a valuable and unique contribution to the implementation of UNESCO’s strategic programme objectives for the benefit of Member States.