The spring quarter is replete with international commemorative days which are also acknowledged by UNESCO for nature and heritage conservation, including World Environment Day, International Biological Diversity Day and International Day for Monuments and Sites. These are occasions that underline mankind’s collective commitment to protecting the environment in all its dimensions. In this spirit, UNESCO C2C at Wildlife Institute of India also celebrated several events highlighted by the World Heritage Day on 18 April, 2017. In addition, the Centre has organised thematic workshops on disaster risk reduction, Outstanding Universal Values and participated in the Green Hub Festival in Assam.
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE NEWS

Almaty Manifesto on Sustainable Tourism

The Central Asia sub-regional meeting supported the idea of Sustainable Tourism for development along the Silk Roads with the adoption of the Almaty Manifesto in May 2017, which is especially relevant in the UN International Year for Sustainable Tourism for Development.


World Heritage Coral Reefs Assessment

UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre released the first global scientific assessment of climate change impacts on World Heritage coral reefs in June 2017. Soaring ocean temperatures in the past three years have subjected 21 of 29 World Heritage reefs to severe and/or repeated heat stress, and caused some of the worst bleaching ever observed at iconic sites like the Great Barrier Reef (Australia), Papahānaumokuākea (USA), the Lagoons of New Caledonia (France) and Aldabra Atoll (Seychelles).


Global Ocean Science Report


Nominations at World Heritage Committee Meeting in Krakow, Poland

The World Heritage Committee will assess the nomination of 34 sites for inscription on UNESCO’s World Heritage List during its 41st session to be held in Krakow, Poland from 2 to 12 July, 2017. The nominations include seven natural sites, one mixed and 27 cultural sites. Asia-Pacific Sites among them include three natural sites (China, India, Mongolia-transboundary) and five cultural sites (Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Japan).
On the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, 2017, with the theme of “Connecting People with Nature”, Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO emphasised the spirit of UNESCO’s action embodied in a unique global network of UNESCO-designated sites, designed to bring people closer to nature, drawing a new map of the world—a map of unity and peace, beyond borders, between women and men and the environment around them.


**World Heritage of Religious Interest**

An International Consultation Workshop on World Heritage of Religious Interest focused on Asia-Pacific Region was organized in Thailand in May 2017. The adopted Nakhon Phanom Statement within the framework of the UNESCO Initiative on Heritage of Religious Interest will contribute to the development of a thematic paper proposing to States Parties general guidance regarding the management of their cultural and natural heritage of religious interest, as requested by the World Heritage Committee.


**World Environment Day Message**

On the occasion of World Environment Day on 5 June, 2017 with the theme of ‘Connecting People with Nature’, Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO emphasised the spirit of UNESCO’s action embodied in a unique global network of UNESCO-designated sites, designed to bring people closer to nature, drawing a new map of the world—a map of unity and peace, beyond borders, between women and men and the environment around them.


**International Biological Diversity Day Message**

On the occasion of International Biological Diversity Day on 22 May, 2017 in the spirit of the Cancun Declaration of the CBD held in Mexico in 2016, Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO underlined that sustainable tourism is a powerful tool to raise awareness on biodiversity and to protect it for present and future generations. Biodiversity, along with cultural diversity, is a key condition to achieve the sustainable development goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.


**International Day for Monuments and Sites**

The 2017 International Day for Monuments and Sites, celebrated every year on 18 April, was dedicated to the theme “Cultural Heritage & Sustainable Tourism”, chosen in relation to the United Nations International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development and in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. On the occasion of the International Day for Monuments and Sites this year, the World Heritage Centre wishes to join ICOMOS in encouraging local communities and individuals to consider the importance of cultural heritage to their lives, identities and communities, and to promote awareness of its diversity and vulnerability and the efforts required to protect and conserve it.

**Ningaloo Coast (Australia)**

_(Inscribed in 2011), Criteria vii, x_

**Conservation Outlook: Good**

The 604,500 hectare marine and terrestrial property of Ningaloo Coast, on the remote western coast of Australia, includes one of the longest near-shore reefs in the world. On land the site features an extensive karst system and network of underground caves and water courses. They support a variety of rare species that contribute to the exceptional biodiversity of the site. The Ningaloo Coast benefits from its remoteness and low population density affording it a high degree of natural protection. The greatest threats are from climate change, increasing visitation and associated pressures, accidental oil spill or extreme weather events.


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**Tajik National Park – Mountains of the Pamirs (Tajikistan)**

_(Inscribed in 2013), Criteria vii, viii_

**Conservation Outlook: Good with some concerns**

Tajikistan National Park covers more than 2.5 million hectares at the centre of the so-called “Pamir Knot”, a meeting point of the highest mountain ranges on the Eurasian continent. It consists of high plateaux, rugged peaks, large glaciers and highest lakes. It offers a unique opportunity for the study of plate tectonics and subduction phenomena. The large size, alpine wilderness character, and low resident population of the property ensure that overall threats from human activities are minor and localized. The long-term outlook for the Pamir glaciers through accelerated global warming is of significant concern.

World Heritage Day 2017 Celebrations

The UNESCO C2C at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, celebrated World Heritage Day (WHD) on April 18, 2017 by organizing a series of events. Participants included school students from three World Heritage Sites of India namely, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (Uttarakhand), The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (Himachal Pradesh) and Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur (Rajasthan) as well as from Model School, National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehradun. The primary objective of the celebration was raising awareness and exposure of school students through field visit, fun activities, quiz and cultural performances. The students visited Forest Research Institute and Buddha Park as well as Nature Trail in the WII campus for exposure trips. A hands-on activity on Origami craft was organised for them. The students also took part in an exciting Quiz competition on attributes of World Heritage Sites in India. An expert talk was delivered by Ms. Nupur Prothi in the context of ‘Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism’ as the theme for WHD 2017. The highlight of the celebrations was an entertaining Cultural Programme which had song, dance, puppet show and Science Express documentary.

Training Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction & Heritage Sites

A training workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Heritage Sites was collaboratively organized by UNESCO C2C, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai at T S Rehman Institute, Nhava, Mumbai from 14th to 19th April 2017. It was attended by 15 participants from Assam, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra. The workshop included lectures and site visits. It distinguished between natural and cultural heritage, both of which require distinct approaches. It brought experts from both these areas who highlighted the current situation, the potential threats and consequences and also help identify the way ahead in terms of appropriate frameworks, existing practices and protocols, policies required to enhance sensitivity of the many actors involved in creating robust DRR strategies for heritage sites.

World Heritage Day 2017 Celebrations
Workshop on Understanding Outstanding Universal Value “OUV” of World Heritage Sites in India

INTACH Heritage Academy in collaboration with UNESCO C2C organized a 5-Day Training Workshop on “Understanding Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage Sites in India” from 17 – 21 April 2017 in New Delhi. The aim of the course was to define, identify and understand the concept of OUV within the Indian context, facts that need to be considered while identifying OUV of a site, the perspective / retrospective of an OUV and how to manage and conserve the site, its authenticity and integrity.

World Heritage Session at Green Hub Festival, Assam

UNESCO C2C at Wildlife Institute of India conducted a session titled “Understanding Outstanding Universal Values and World Heritage” on 14th May, 2017 at Tezpur University, Assam on the occasion of ‘Green Hub Festival’ organised by Green Hub, a video documentation centre in Assam. Nearly 50 participants invited from educational institutions in Assam including Cotton University, Tezpur University, Nowgong College and Tata Institute of Social Sciences attended the programme. The programme included an interactive session to understand the concept of OUV including criteria, authenticity and integrity for designation of a World Heritage property. Focal area of the discussion was existing and potential World Heritage Sites in India’s Northeast. The participants were engaged through screening of documentaries on WHS of Northeast, presentation and hands-on participatory group exercise.
GUEST TALK

* Prof. (Dr.) Jyoti Pandey Sharma

Prof. (Dr.) Jyoti Pandey Sharma, Chairperson, Department of Architecture from DBCR University of Science and Technology, Murthal, delivered a talk at UNESCO C2C, Dehradun on “Nature in the City: Colonial Public Parks as a Paradigm of Urbanity” on 6 April, 2017.

* Ms. Nupur Prothi

On the occasion of World Heritage Day, 18 April, 2017, an expert talk was delivered by Ms. Nupur Prothi, Voting Member (India), ICOMOS IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes & Founder Director, Beyond Built Pvt. Ltd., Landscape Architects and Heritage Consultants, New Delhi in the context of ‘Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism’ as the theme for WHD 2017 at Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun.

COLLABORATIONS

- Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai: TISS, Mumbai in collaboration with UNESCO C2C, Dehradun organised a training workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Heritage Sites from 14 - 19 April, 2017 in Mumbai.
- INTACH Heritage Academy, New Delhi: INTACH Heritage Academy, New Delhi in collaboration with UNESCO C2C, Dehradun organized Training Workshop on “Understanding Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage Sites in India” from 17 – 21 April 2017 in New Delhi.
- Green Hub, Assam: Green Hub, Assam hosted a session on “Understanding Outstanding Universal Values and World Heritage” on 14th May, 2017 at Tezpur University, Assam on the occasion of ‘Green Hub Festival’.
ANNOUNCEMENT

International Training on Application of Very High Resolution Satellite Data in Natural Heritage Management in South Asia (11-14 July, 2017) at Dehradun jointly organised by Digital Globe and Wildlife Institute of India. The overall objective of the course is to build capacity of World Heritage stakeholders by providing critical understanding of high resolution satellite imagery in the field of natural heritage management.