

A review of Rights based Approach and World Heritage Sites

International Council On Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) India and UNESCO Category 2 Centre at Wildlife Institute of India collaborated on a project for “Building Capacity to Support Rights Based Approach in the World Heritage Convention: Learning from Practice – India” during June-July 2015. The project was an outcome of a short term activity for the RBA (Rights Based Approach) –supported by the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway and ICOMOS Norway. The aim of the project was to undertake national consultations; to identify and map experiences with issues pertaining to addressing rights in field of heritage management with specific focus on World Heritage (WH). The main objective was to devise methodologies to build capacity to support rights based approach and analyze good practices in the World Heritage Convention.

Five World Heritage Sites in India, both cultural and natural were selected for research as case studies for the purpose of this project. These are:

- I. Western Ghats, Maharashtra (Natural property, Inscribed)
- II. Champaner- Pavagarh Archaeological Park (Cultural property, Inscribed)
- III. Mahabodhi Temple complex at Bodhgaya (Cultural property, Inscribed)
- IV. Sri Harmandir Sahib , Amritsar (Cultural property)
- V. Khangchendzonga National Park (Mixed site, Tentative list)

UNESCO Category 2 Centre at Wildlife Institute of India contributed case-studies for two sites, namely, Western Ghats and Khangchendzonga National Park. The Centre was represented by Dr. V. B. Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, and members from UNESCO C2C viz. Dr. Malvika Onial, Scientist-E; Mr. Niraj Kakati, Technical Officer; Ms. Persis Farooqy, World Heritage Assistant and Mr. Dhruv Verma, World Heritage Assistant