

Report on World Heritage Day,

18th April, 2015

Contents

1. Introduction and background

2. Highlights of the event

- Speech by Dr. P.K.Mathur, Dean, FWS, Wildlife Institute of India
- Quiz
- Launch of E-Bulletin
- Nature trail

3. List of participants

Photo-gallery

Annexure I (E-Bulletin)

Annexure II (Pamphlet)

Annexure III (Certificate)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

“Our cultural and natural heritages are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration.”
(UNESCO)

World Heritage is defined as the shared wealth of humankind. It is a wonderful reminder of our rich past. It is our duty to protect the heritage and offer it to the coming generations. Heritage sites need to be protected and preserved. They are valuable assets of human civilization.

World Heritage Sites are natural or man-made sites that define the standards in our perception of our civilization and the natural world. The institution of World Heritage aims to educate people about respectful coexistence: it promotes the appreciation of the world's cultural and natural landscape in its diversity, importance, and beauty. By highlighting the *outstanding universal value* of unique parts of the natural and cultural environment, the concept of World Heritage emphasizes the need for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage for future generations and its protection from physical, aesthetic and conceptual threats.

Aims

The genesis of World Heritage Day is traced to 18 April, 1982 on the occasion of a symposium organized by ICOMOS in Tunisia, where it was suggested that the "International Day for Monuments and Sites" be celebrated simultaneously throughout the world. The idea was subsequently approved by the UNESCO General Conference who passed a resolution at its 22nd session in November 1983 recommending that Member States examine the possibility of declaring 18 April each year “International Monuments and Sites Day”. This has been traditionally called the World Heritage Day.

Heritage day is celebrated with an aim to educate the youth about protection, preservation and propagation of world heritage. World Heritage Day is a collective effort of the communities in the world to do the needful for these invaluable assets. The day takes an opportunity to hoist awareness about the assortment of Natural and cultural legacy and the efforts that are required to protect and conserve them and also to think about its susceptibility.

World Heritage Day offers us an extra opportunity to think about what Natural and cultural heritage means in our daily life and also to reflect on what we can do to safeguard and conserve the diverse heritage surrounding us for future generations.

Importance

Few important features of this historic day are –

- Contributes to our understanding of our history by affirming the significance of past artistic, scientific, architectural and cultural achievements and sites
- Promotes social cohesion -Heritage sites are valued by communities and many are used for schools, housing, health centers, museums, concert halls, offices or nature parks, where people meet and interact
- Recognizes places of high conservation value - Natural Heritage sites are among the world's most bio-diverse and are important to our scientific understanding of the natural environment
- Generates tourism revenue – Heritage Sites are the most visited tourist destinations in the World.

World Heritage Day celebration at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

World Heritage Day is celebrated to commemorate the beauty, splendor and biological richness of World Heritage Sites all over the world, inscribed in the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List. It solemnizes the collective commitment of mankind towards conserving these areas for posterity. With this background, Wildlife Institute of India celebrated World Heritage Day in its campus on 18th April, 2015 with great enthusiasm. It was organized by the newly established UNESCO Category 2 Centre (C2C) on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region, the only one of its kind in the World, intended specifically for Natural World Heritage Sites.

Conservation of natural heritage is one of the major burning issues of today's world and youth is the strength of every Nation and they have a particularly important role to play in conservation. As we are aware that Heritage is a legacy that we pass on to the next generation, it was felt that sensitizing and enhancing the awareness of the young generation about the importance of Natural Heritage would be the preferred way of celebrating World Heritage Day.

Therefore, the UNESCO C2C at WII targeted students from three different schools in Dehradun, namely National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, The Asian School and Kasiga School.

Initially, we approached the management of these schools, interacted with their Principals and explained to them about the importance and purpose of celebrating World Heritage Day. We distributed posters and maps on World Heritage at different schools. The school authorities responded very positively to the idea and were keen to take part in programme. It was decided that each school will select six students from Class IX to participate in the Quiz Competition and 50 other students from Class VIII and IX from each school will join the programme. Each of the Principals was designated as Guest of Honour for the World Heritage Day Programme.

The Dean, Faculty of Wildlife Sciences, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun was invited to deliver the inaugural speech and the agreed programme on the occasion of World Heritage Day included a Quiz Contest, Nature Trail Walk and launch of the C2C Natural Heritage Bulletin.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT

Inaugural speech by Dr. P.K. Mathur, Dean, FWS, WII

Mr. Mathur started his speech by giving a brief introduction about India's forest cover and its biodiversity. His talk mainly focused on the need for conservation of our natural assets by giving some interesting facts about Indian biodiversity and threats related to it. He also brief about Wildlife Institute of India, its objectives and missions, functions in capacity building, policy making, research, management and achievements so far.

The main theme of his presentation was devoted to Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites of India and the world. He described about the basic framework of UNESCO, its background, mission, objectives and functions in relation to the World Heritage Mission. He explained few key points (OUVs, authenticity, integrity, criteria for inscription, mixed sites and more), gave introduction of World Heritage Convention, its management and facts about facts about World Heritage Sites were presented to the enthusiastic audience. Important World Heritage Sites in Asia Pacific region were displayed in photographic manner highlighting their criteria for inscription in WHS list. World Heritages Sites of India, natural as well as cultural, like Humayun's Tomb, Rani-ki-vav, Taj Mahal, etc were also showcased.

Lastly he emphasized on the need of natural resource conservation and the role of youth in the field of conservation.



Picture 1. Inaugural speech by Dr. P.K. Mathur, Dean, FWS, WII

Quiz Programme on World Heritage Day, 18 April, 2015, UNESCO C2C, WII

A quiz programme was organized on the occasion of World Heritage Day on 18 April, 2015 by UNESCO C2C at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. Three schools were invited to participate in the quiz namely, Kasiga School, The Asian School and the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH) from Dehradun.

There were six teams for the quiz, each with three members, hence, amounting to a total of 18 students. As regards the team composition, it was not the usual school teams competing 'against' each other. Rather, in the spirit of UNESCO and World Heritage, which also represents cooperation, collaboration, building partnerships and forging new relationships, the three members in each team represented the three different schools. In other words, each mixed team had members from Kasiga School, The Asian School and NIVH. For good measure, the six teams were named after natural World Heritage Sites in India namely, Team Great Himalayan, Team Kaziranga, Team Keoladeo, Team Manas, Team Sunderbans and Team Western Ghats.

The quiz had three rounds related to Protected Areas, Biodiversity and World Heritage Sites in India, respectively. Each round had six questions with a direct correct answer bearing 10 points and a passed response bearing 5 points. Cumulative scores were announced at the end of each round. All unanswered questions by the teams as well as new questions at the end of each round were also forwarded to the audience in order to involve them in the proceedings.

The quiz saw active participation and a close contest between the teams and the final results indicated the following score line for the teams:

Team	Score
Western Ghats	25
Sunderbans	20
Great Himalayan	20
Kaziranga	15
Manas	15
Keoladeo	10



Picture 2. Quiz session

The winning team comprised of Shubham Johar (The Asian School), Tanuja (NIVH) and Palash Tyagi (Kasiga School). Each of the winners received a certificate, CD of bird calls and a book related to Indian wildlife. Participants from all the other teams also received certificates and a CD of bird calls each. The prizes and certificates were given away by teacher representatives from each school.

The Principals of the schools made a mention of the quiz in their address to the audience after the programme. Shri. Kamalbir Singh from NIVH was happy for his students to participate in the programme, which he hoped would also serve to increase their awareness on natural world heritage. He suggested that there could have been more interaction between the students from the different schools which comprised each team. Shri. A. K Das from The Asian School commended the mixed teams' concept as a novel idea which also reflected unity in diversity. He opined that the real winners were the heritage sites themselves on which basis the teams were named. Smt. Nita Bali from Kasiga School emphasized the importance of wildlife education at school level and the role of educators for this purpose.

The quiz helped to entertain the audience as well as raise awareness and capture the attention of the young scholars who are the future of the world.

Launch of UNESCO E-Bulletin

UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India launched a "Natural Heritage

Bulletin” on the occasion of World Heritage Day, 18 April, 2015. This will be an E-Bulletin with a quarterly frequency. The Bulletin is a compilation of information on natural sites in the Asia-Pacific with a view to disseminate news and reach out to the wider natural heritage community. The information is based on free and publicly available sources.



Picture 3. Launch of UNESCO E-bulletin

The bulletin will carry information on regional happenings from UNESCO, news briefs from the natural sites in Asia-Pacific, site profiles from IUCN’s World heritage Outlook and also a section highlighting activities of the UNESCO C2C India.

Nature trail

As part of the World Heritage Day was celebrated on Wildlife Institute of India’s campus on 18th April, 2015.. As part of the programme, a Nature trail walk was organised for the school students from the participating schools to provide them exposure to the natural surroundings of the campus. The objective was to enhance the awareness and motivate the young students towards biodiversity around us and its importance in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

One group of students was guided by Dr. Geetika Mathur and Dr. Malvika Onial. Another group was guided by Dr. Bhumesh Singh, Chitiz Jhosi, Amit Kumar, Urjit Bhatt, Zehidul Hussain, Shravana Gowswami & Anukul Nath. On the Nature trail a brief introductory class was taken on the joy of bird/butterfly watching and their importance for the ecosystem. Amit Kumar, researcher at WII, highlighted the important plant species. Different taxonomic classes of wildlife encountered in the trail are mentioned as below.

Taxonomic Class	Common name	Scientific name
Bird	Rose-ringed parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striata</i>
	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrensis</i>
	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
	Grey Horn-bill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>
	Red wattailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
	Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
	Large billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
Butterfly	Red Jungle Fowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
	Common mormon	<i>Papilio polytes</i>
	Cabbage white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Frog	Pshyche	<i>Leptosia nina</i>
	Cricket frog	<i>Fejarvarya sp.</i>
Reptile	Common Asian Toad	<i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i>
	Brahminy Blind snake	<i>Ramphotyphlops braminus</i>
	Bronze grass skink	<i>Eutropis macularia</i>

It was an exciting experience for the young students to get a feel of nature and have the opportunity of walking through a forest-like environment within the urban landscape.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

On 18th April, 2015 UNESCO Category 2 Centre, Wildlife Institute of India celebrated Quiz which was participated by –

➤ Western Ghats Team –

- Shubham Johar (The Asian School)
- Tanuja (NIVH)
- Palash Tyagi (Kasiga School)

➤ Kaziranga Team –

- Prakhar Rastogi (The Asian School)
- Swati (NIVH)
- Neerav Sharma (Kasiga School)

➤ Sundarbans Team –

- Rohith Raghunath (The Asian School)
- Shalu (NIVH)
- Binav Gautam (Kasiga School)

➤ Keoladeo team –

- Apoorva Mishra (The Asian School)
- Keval Krishan (NIVH)
- Sahishnu Raj Thapa (Kasiga School)

➤ Manas team –

- Khushi Malviya (The Asian School)

- Neeraj Chouhan (NIVH)
- Ojasvi Rawat (Kasiga School)

➤ Great Himalayan team –

- Shreyashi Dahiya (The Asian School)
- Manish Kumar (NIVH)
- Kumaraditya Gupta (Kasiga School)

PHOTO-GALLERY



Picture 4.

Ms. Jyoti Negi,
World Heritage
Assistant,
UNESCO C2C
anchoring the
event



Picture 5.

Dr. Sonali Ghosh,
IFS, Scientist E,
UNESCO C2C,
welcoming Mr. A.
K. Das, Principal of
the Asian School



Picture 6.

Dr. Malvika Onial,
Scientist E,
UNESCO C2C,
welcoming Dr.
Geetika Mathur,
Medical officer,
NIVH



Picture7

View of the
auditorium



Picture 8

Inaugural speech
by

Dr. P.K. Mathur,
Dean, FWS, WII



Picture 9

Participating teams
in the Quiz



Picture 10

Students from NIVH



Picture 11

Guests of Honour being
felicitated by Scientists
of UNESCO C2C



Picture 12

Mr. Manoj Nair, IFS,
Scientist E, felicitating
Dr. Geetika Mathur,
Medical Officer, NIVH



Picture 13

Mr. Kamalbir Singh,
Principal of NIVH,
addressing the audience



Picture 14

Mr. A.K. Das,
Principal of The Asian
School, addressing the
audience



Picture 15

Smt. Neeta Bali, Principal
of Kasiga School,
addressing the audience



Picture 16

Distribution of Quiz prizes



Picture 17

Distribution of Quiz prizes



Picture 18

Distribution of Quiz prizes



Picture 19

Launch of UNESCO E-Bulletin by DR. P.K.Mathur, Dean, FWS, WII and Smt. Neeta Bali, principal of Kasiga School



Picture 20

Vote of thanks by Ms. Persis Farooqy, World Heritage Assistant, UNESCO C2C



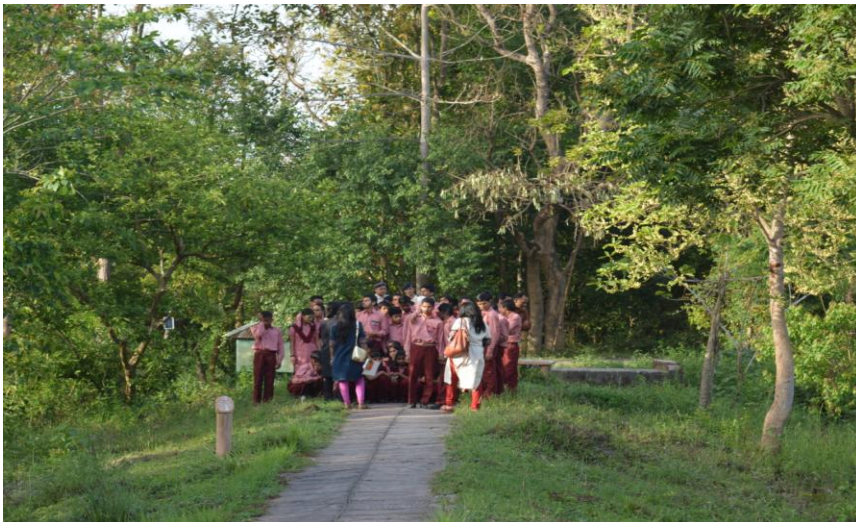
Picture 21

Students ready to go for nature trail



Picture 22

Students of The Asian
School on Nature Trail,
WII Campus



Picture 23

Students of NIVH on
Nature Trail, WII
Campus



Picture 24

Young students learning
about fauna on Natural Trail,
WII Campus