


Natural Heritage Bulletin

Information and Updates from World Natural Heritage Sites in Asia and the Pacific Region

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Volume 5, Issue 2

 भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India



UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage
Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region,
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Cover: The seed of Sal tree, Most common tree of WII campus is attached to a whorl of elongate leaves that very much resemble a child's toy, or helicopter. As the seed falls in summer, it is met by air pressure, which causes an impressive helical spin. Image: Vivek Sarkar.

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From Editor's Desk

"Stepping into the new financial year, the UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region (UNESCO C2C) at Wildlife Institute of India (WII) introduces its quarterly Natural Heritage Bulletin in a new avatar - redesigned and refreshed. Through the pages of this issue, readers will find the key news stories about World Heritage Sites around the planet - challenges, collaborations and celebrations. The upcoming World Heritage Committee Session in Baku, Azerbaijan is an opportunity for the 193 Member States of the Convention to review the state of conservation of selected sites and consider new nominations. As the international convention with the maximum number of signatories, the World Heritage Convention truly represents the globe.

As the news items indicate, through the celebration of International Days for themes as diverse as Biological Diversity, Species Protection, Monuments, Sites and Rural Landscapes, the Convention continues to promote both natural and cultural heritage preservation. UNESCO C2C – WII in its own celebrations of World Heritage Day (WHD) on 18th April 2019, released an anthology of nature writing aimed at making readers aware of the natural wonders in the Asia-Pacific. The WHD function also engaged school students from World Heritage Sites (WHS) in programmes designed to spark interest in their naturally blessed home regions. This issue features the Conservation Outlook of the wonderful WHS, Kinabalu Park of Malaysia with a report and recommendations. Extending its mandate of capacity-building, UNESCO C2C-WII was involved in the training of Frontline Staff from Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers WHS; Great Himalayan National Park and of officials from Department of Culture, Himachal Pradesh. Further, through site visits and interactions with stakeholders on the ground, representatives of UNESCO-C2C furthered the aims of the Centre by participating in a workshop on transboundary conservation in Kathmandu and biodiversity conservation discussions along with a field survey in the Garo Hills Conservation Area, Meghalaya. To know more, read on. Not to forget, the newest and most compelling section of our Bulletin as we dip into our Centre's archive of nature writing sourced from the Nature Writing Competition organized by the Centre itself in February 2017. This issue features the first prize winner Nishanth Srinivas writing from a perspective very unique. Happy reading!"

UNESCO World Heritage News

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World Heritage Committee Session in Baku, Azerbaijan

The World Heritage Committee is scheduled to examine 36 nominations for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List during its 43rd session, which will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 30 June to 10 July under the chair of H.E. Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan. The Committee will furthermore examine the state of conservation of 166 sites already inscribed on the World Heritage List, 54 of which also figure on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

<https://en.unesco.org/news/world-heritage-committee-meet-baku-azerbaijan-examine-inscription-new-sites-world-heritage-list>



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© Asanti Astari, Fiji National Trust, Rohit Jigyasu, GTWHI

Heritage Cities from Asia, Pacific and Africa Exchange Knowledge on Disaster Risks

Heritage authorities from six heritage cities in Asia, Pacific and Africa gathered in George Town, Penang, Malaysia, from 20 to 21 June 2019 to attend a workshop entitled "Experience Sharing Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategy among Heritage Cities in Southeast Asia, Pacific and Africa" held by UNESCO Office Jakarta in collaboration with George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI). The workshop was part of a project funded by the Malaysian Funds-in-Trust (MFIT) aimed at building disaster resilience of heritage cities in Asia-Pacific through capacity-building of local authorities and heritage managers.

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/jakarta/about-this-office/single-view/news/six_heritage_cities_from_asia_pacific_and_africa_gather_in/

New Global Biodiversity Framework post-2020

The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, released by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in early May 2019, clearly demonstrates that the world is failing to reach the objectives it has set through the Aichi Targets in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to slow down the loss of biodiversity. It is in this context that Parties to the CBD are currently negotiating the future global biodiversity framework, which should be adopted at 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of the CBD to be held in Kunming, China in November 2020. 10 International Conventions participated in a consultation workshop of the biodiversity-related Conventions on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, held in Bern, Switzerland. The World Heritage Convention has emphasized culture-nature linkages and has suggested highlighting the role of culture in biodiversity conservation.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1988>



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Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) © Getty Images / Stefan Becker

World Environment Day and Heritage Cities

The theme of World Environment Day on 5 June, 2019 is cleaner air for our cities and for ourselves. Several World Heritage cities have listed air pollution as a threat and reported the negative effects of pollution on the constructions that make their cities unique, threatening their outstanding universal value. Polluted air is not only a health issue, but also has corrosive effects on marble and other valuable building materials.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1982>



Cultural Landscape of Maymand (Iran) © Maymand Cultural Heritage Base / P Karmnejad

International Day for Biological Diversity and World Heritage

The International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May, 2019 focuses on biodiversity as the foundation for our food and health and as a key catalyst to transforming food systems and improving human well-being. The World Heritage Convention recognizes some World Heritage properties specifically for their outstanding biodiversity values, protecting many of the most important ecosystems and areas of high biodiversity on the planet.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1975>



Cape Floral Region Protected Areas (South Africa) © OUR PLACE THE WORLD HERITAGE COLLECTION

International Earth Day to Protect Species

International Earth Day on 22 April, 2019 highlights the importance of protecting species. World Heritage sites are home to the world's most exceptional species on earth. In many places of the world, World Heritage sites are nature's last strongholds of endangered species. We have to work together to safeguard these World Heritage places, many of which are critical ecosystems for threatened species and vital resources for our planet's life support.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1960>



Wild rice production landscape in Pimachiowin Aki, translated as "the Land that Gives Life" (Canada) © Hidehiro Otake

International day for Monuments and Sites and Rural Landscapes

International Day for Monuments and Sites on 18 April, 2019 focuses on rural landscapes, protecting which is key to sustainable development. Rural landscapes are bio-cultural mosaics—using land sustainably for production through agriculture, pastoralism, forestry, fisheries as well as human habitats. These are the most common types of continuing 'cultural landscapes', a category of World Heritage since 1992.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1959>

World Heritage Outlook

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Site: Kinabalu Park, Malaysia

Inscribed in: 2000

Criteria: (ix), (x)

Conservation Outlook: Good with Some Concerns

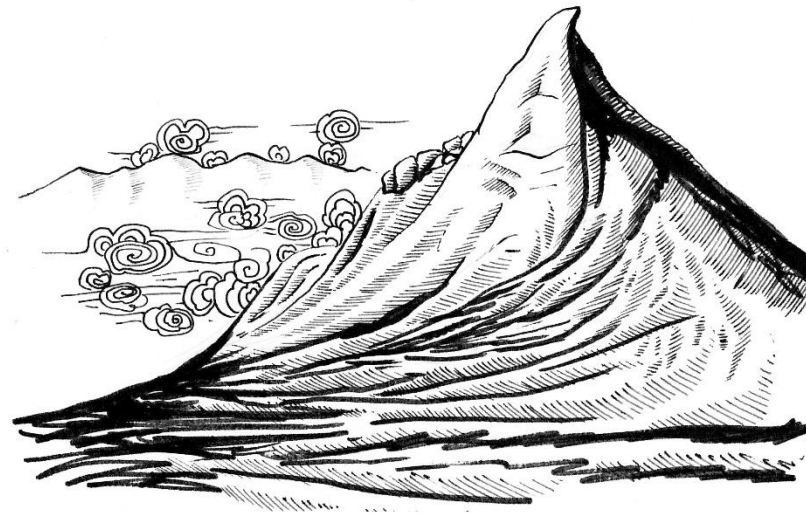


©IUCN

IUCN's World Heritage Outlook provides the first global assessment of the conservation prospects for natural World Heritage.

Kinabalu Park, in the State of Sabah on the northern end of the island of Borneo, is dominated by Mount Kinabalu (4,095 m), the highest mountain between the Himalayas and New Guinea. It has a very wide range of habitats, from rich tropical lowland and hill rainforest to tropical mountain forest, sub-alpine forest and scrub on the higher elevations. It has been designated as a Centre of Plant Diversity for Southeast Asia and is exceptionally rich in species with examples of flora from the Himalayas, China, Australia, Malaysia, as well as pan-tropical flora. © UNESCO

The conservation outlook for the natural heritage values of Kinabalu Park remains robust, and while the outstanding biodiversity values appear to be secure there is a need for formal monitoring to confirm this. Community support for maintaining the integrity of the biodiversity values require further investment in community education activities, and increasing visitation being experienced by the property indicates that management of tourism impacts will need to become more effective to avoid degradation of the park environment. To enhance the quality of visitor experience further improvements of site interpretation must be considered.



Art depicting Mount Kinabalu, also known as Gunung Kinabalu in Malay.

Illustration: Vivek Sarkar

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World Heritage Day at WII (18 April, 2019)

The UNESCO C2C at WII celebrated World Heritage Day (WHD) 2019 on April 18th by organizing a series of events. An anthology of nature writing, "Wild Treasures: Reflections on Natural World Heritage Sites in Asia" was released in a launch function held at WII with Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration, Mussoorie as Chief Guest and Dr. Asad Rahmani, Former Director, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai as Guest of Honour. The anthology is a selection of 45 articles on 18 natural World Heritage Sites across Asia. The day's celebrations involved school students from three WHS 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 Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun. The children participated enthusiastically in a drawing competition and a quiz contest centred on the natural and cultural heritage of India. A cultural function in the evening witnessed performances by students and researchers, featuring traditional dances, songs, and poetry to commemorate the occasion.



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Annual Coordination Meeting of UNESCO C2Cs (22-23 April, 2019)

UNESCO C2C at WII participated in the 7th Annual Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage related Category 2 Institutes & Centres (C2Cs) hosted by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) at Manama, Bahrain on 22nd and 23rd April 2019. It made a presentation of its activities and also released the Spring Issue of its quarterly newsletter - Natural Heritage Bulletin. The Meeting focussed on review of previous coordination meetings, Periodic Reporting for World Heritage Sites, Historic Urban Landscapes, interregional cooperation among C2Cs, communication and resource mobilisation. A field visit was also organised to Qal'at al-Bahrain World Heritage Site.

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Orientation Programme on World Heritage at UNESCO C2C-WII (14-15 May, 2019)

UNESCO C2C at WII conducted an 'Orientation Programme on World Heritage' for capacity-building of officials from the Department of Culture, Government of Himachal Pradesh, at WII Dehradun on 14-15 May, 2019. The objective was for the officials to understand the World Heritage process and take forward the nomination of potential sites from the State. Five members from the Department of Culture participated in the programme with sessions on the World Heritage Convention, Operational Guidelines, Outstanding Universal Values, Criteria and Categories, Nomination, Evaluation, Interpretation, Reporting and Monitoring. Along with interactive lectures, a simulation exercise was undertaken for filling up a sample nomination format by the participants. The programme provided an essential overview of the World Heritage system to the participants.

Participation of Dr. Manoj V Nair, IFS in the 2-day workshop titled 'Leveraging the World Heritage Convention for transboundary Conservation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya in Kathmandu, Nepal (30-31 May, 2019)

A 2-day workshop titled 'Leveraging the World Heritage Convention for Transboundary Conservation in the Hindu Kush Himalayas' was organized by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Wild Heritage and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) from 30-31 May 2019 at ICIMOD Headquarter, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Dr. Manoj V. Nair, IFS, Scientist-G attended and contributed to the workshop by highlighting the activities of UNESCO C2C at WII. The main objectives of the workshop were to discuss about the areas that have global significance and potential outstanding value with World Heritage potential.



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Strength & Opportunity – Capacity Building Training Programme for the Frontline Staff of Nanda Devi & Valley of Flower (VoF) World Heritage Site (11-13, June 2019)

The Nanda Devi National Park [NP] (625 km²) and the Valley of Flowers NP (88 Km²) form the core zones of the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve [BR] (5,806 km²) that is spread across the districts of Chamoli, Pithoragarh and Bageshwar in Uttarakhand State. Both the core zones are listed as 'World Heritage Site'. In this Context UNESCO C2C Organized a three day capacity building training programme for frontline staff of Nanda Devi and Valley of flowers World Heritage Site at UNESCO Category 2 Centre, WII, Dehradun. Fourteen frontline staff (forest guards and forest rangers) participated in this training. The training includes classroom lectures on the overview of Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) for Natural World Heritage Sites, Nanda Devi World Heritage Site- Criteria & Reporting Obligations, Wildlife Management in India- Concept and Principles, Wildlife Sample Collection and Processing including Wildlife Forensics, visit to WII Forensic lab, Wildlife Population Estimation & Monitoring in Himalayas, Human and Wildlife- Conflict or Interaction, emerging technology like Camera Traps, Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS. On the special demand of the DFO, Nanda Devi a half a day session on Wild Animal Capture Techniques: A Tool for Wildlife Management was organized which includes classroom lecture and field demonstration.



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7th Plenary Session of the United Nations Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UN-IPBES) in Paris, France

Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, WII/UNESCO C2C represented India as Head of the Indian Delegation in the 7th Plenary Session of the United Nations Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UN-IPBES) in Paris, France which was held from 28 April-4 May, 2019.

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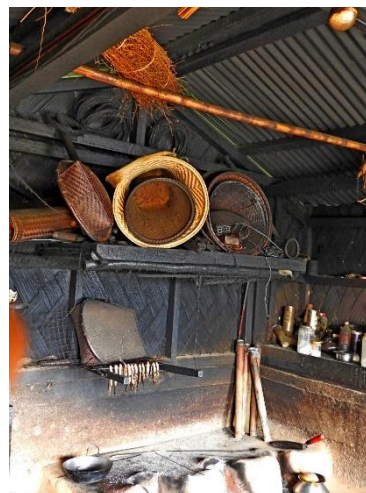


Workshop cum Stakeholder Consultation to formulate long term Plan for Conservation of Biodiversity in and around Nokrek Biosphere Reserve (27-28 May, 2019)

Having recognized the presence of plants and animals of unusual scientific and natural interest, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India in 1988 notified 820 sq kilometer areas in Garo Hills region of the Meghalaya as Nokrek Biosphere Reserve (NBR). The NBR, having Nokrek National Park as its core falls in three districts namely; West Garo Hill district, East Garo Hills District and South Garo Hill District. On 26.05.1999, the NBR was included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) under their Man and Biosphere Reserve Programme. As on today, NBR is one of the eleven Biosphere Reserves in the entire country which are part of the UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Nokrek National Park constituting core of the NBR, is also a part of the Garo Hills Conservation Area, which, with the active cooperation and help of the Wildlife Institute of the India, has been included in the UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites.

To take a stock of activities undertaken so far for conservation of unique biodiversity in the NBR during ten years since its inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and also to formulate a long term plan for conservation of precious biodiversity in and around the NBR, a Workshop cum stakeholder's consultation meeting was organised on 27th and 28th May, 2019 at Tura. Some of the events during this workshop were held within the NBR at Daribokgre.

Mr. Vivek Sarkar, World Heritage Assistant at UNESCO C2C, attended the workshop and presented his findings of NBR's unique biodiversity. In his presentation, he also highlighted the significant cultural influence of NBR and the outstanding values of Garo Hills Conservation Area as a potential World Heritage.



Field Visit for biodiversity survey for documenting Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) in Garo Hills Conservation Area, Meghalaya as a proposed World Heritage Site (1 – 9 May, 2019)

Garo Hills Conservation Area (GHCA), Meghalaya has been included in the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites in India. An MoU was also signed between the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Meghalaya and the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun in December 2018 for preparation of detailed proposals for inscription of Garo Hills Conservation Area as a World Heritage.

In this context, Dr. Manoj V. Nair and Mr. Vivek Sarkar conducted a biodiversity exploration at South Garo Hills (Baghmara and Balpakram). They documented photographs of landscape, flora & faunal species, caves and fossil remains which will be incorporated in the nomination dossier of GHCA. The survey was also focused to document the endemic and elusive lesser known entomofauna of the area.



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Internship

UNESCO C2C supporting the internship programme of various organization and three interns have carried out their project work as under:

Ms Swagata Das, a B.A Major student in Environmental Science from Flame University, Pune did her internship on Wild Tigers of Similipal: A study on spatial distribution, abundance and population genetics) at Similipal Tiger Reserve. Her internship duration was from 1 May to 30 June, 2019.



Ms. Daiophika Thangkhiew from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati worked on the project to understand the biodiversity of the Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary and the Saipung as well as the dependence of the people on them for various aspects like for their livelihood, socio-economic dependence etc. in order to be able to carry out the process of nominating it as a Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme. Her internship duration was from 15 May to 30 June, 2019.



Ms. Anjali Negi from Uttarakhand has been working as a project Intern on the project titled "Survey of Wetlands around Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur with emphasis on Water Quality and Monitoring". The objective is to estimate the harmful pathogens, pesticides etc in the water source coming to the National Park to understand the possible threats that can occur to the various fauna and flora depending on the water bodies. Her internship duration is from 20 May to 19 Nov, 2019.



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Background

The UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training (UNESCO C2C), at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, organised a two-venue festival in February 2017: Celebrating Natural Heritage: In Literature, Arts & Culture. The event took place at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, and the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Himachal Pradesh.

The Natural Heritage Festival, the first of its kind in India, aimed to celebrate India's spectacular natural heritage through creative arts. Several panel discussions and workshops on nature and conservation were organised, including nature writing, Hindi poetry, wildlife photography, film-making, natural and discussions on cultural heritage of the mountains and environmental journalism.

In the spirit of celebrating India's long history of nature writing, and encouraging a continuance of the tradition, a nation-wide nature writing competition was organised by the UNESCO C2C. The competition was open to individuals in the age group 18-40, and participants were asked to focus their writings on the themes of nature, wildlife and conservation.

The competition received a good response with a total of 67 entries being received. These entries were evaluated through two jury panels through a double-blind method, and the authors of the top three entries were declared winners. These authors also won a chance to attend the festival at Wildlife Institute of India and the Great Himalayan National Park. The nine next best entries were awarded honorary certificates.

The 12 winning entries have been published in a souvenir that was released on 8th February 2017 by pre-eminent wildlife biologist and conservationist Dr George Schaller, at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. Natural Heritage Bulletin is happy to announce that it will feature one of these 12 entries in every issue starting from this current issue.

Celebrating Natural Heritage: In Literature, Arts and Culture
A souvenir



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The Human Pachyderm

By Nishanth S.

The shackles between my feet are so thin, that I could snap them with a twist, yet I lack the spirit to break them, for I am broken inside. I do not control my future, nor my thoughts or even my actions. It is such a paradox, that I, a symbol of might and strength, am bound by conniving bipedal soft beings, who crush easily under my feet like melons, and yet I lack the spirit to attempt it, for I am utterly helpless and beyond hope.

A creature from the wilds I was, my home amidst the blue mountains, where great forests of Mathi, taare, Basari, Tadasalu, Byne and dhupa trees grow, where the Arjuna would shoot high into the sky, and between whose buttresses flowed our sacred rivulets which quenched the thirst of the living things. Lush was our land with succulent grasses and varieties of Bamboo, bountiful with fruits of Hebba Halasu, Maavu and Kedage. Wherever water collected to form marshes known as Hadalus, we gathered as they were the places of commune for our brethren and fellow beings with whom we shared our homeland.

We were the custodians of our vast homeland, which we require for our existence as much as it requires us for its existence. We are but a cog in this giant wheel of nature and our being in these wild environs benefits a multitude of fellow beings as we are nature's gardeners creating opportunities for other beings, from the giant Palmyra palm, to the tiny Dung beetle, many living things depend on our presence. The aspects which we consider suitable for our existence are also what multitude of other forest beings also consider suitable for their persistence. Our kind has to travel great distances in order to satiate our large appetite. Remarkable is the knowledge of our great mothers, who guided their families to regions of plenty in desperate times of scarcity, travelling from forest to forest through valleys, gorges, hills and plains. We relied upon their memory and passed on these survival skills to the inexperienced, generation upon generation in continuum, but as your world is getting larger and larger with your growing farms, towns and cities, our world is getting smaller and congested, and this has resulted in us crossing paths and the outcome has been bitter.

Our lands have been decimated, pillaged, burned or ruined. As you push in more and more into our homelands, our paths and our waters, changing, diverting modifying to meet your own ends, where are we to fend for ourselves? Where are we to secure the future of our children? To teach them to continue in a world changing ever so rapidly from one season to the other, this is beyond recognition to us. We do not accept your boundaries or your barriers. Cut off from our native lands by your walls, fences and trenches, we are under constant agony.

The fertile regions of our land where our food grows also seem to suit those grasses and plants which you have tamed to suit your requirements. Our homelands have been ravaged by weeds introduced by your ignorance. Your paths of transportation cut through my homelands, killing my kind and fellow beings. The food that I and my fellow beings depend on has been reduced by the grazing of the other beings domesticated by you. As my homeland shrinks and becomes alienated to my kind, and as my waters dry up on account of your activities, it is only fair that we pillage your foods and your lands, for how are we to persist in this changing environment if we don't adapt? Maize, paddy, banana and millet, the food that you cultivate are much to our liking too, for we do not need to voyage great distances to satisfy our hunger or compete with our brethren for the little food in our homelands which have been decimated by your doing. And so the edge of our homeland is the battle zone and the pickings are rich. We have to cut losses at both ends. But in this battle my kind losses more than yours.

The circumstances which led me to be where I am are a result of this conflict that man and elephant face. Crop raiding by my fellows led us into frequent fights with your people. Fires were burnt, crackers were flung, femurs were shattered and skulls were crushed. Some of my fellows were shot, while some others were electrocuted. However many of us were corralled into keddahs. In the months that followed we were made to undergo such sheer torture and pain, that it eventually breaks our spirit, nature, and our individualities. We eventually end up in camps, until we are sent off to places where man can elicit some service from us for his benefit.

A prod by the Ankush brings me back to reality that I am trapped in. Nowadays I am forced to bless people so their wishes come true in exchange for some collateral in the form of some money which my mahout pockets. Occasionally to my delight, it's an odd banana. But what beliefs are at play for one to seek blessings from a broken and bound creature, tethered to a hook adorned with garlands, only to serve as embellishments and symbols of grandeur.

If the history of the Western nations were written on the back of a horse, then the history of your kind in the orient was written on the back of an Elephant for we have formed part of your ancient civilizations and cultures here. The siblings of my forbearers have built your ancient cities, forts and temples, for they have toiled for the ambitions of your predecessors. Our kind has bled and died in the despicable wars waged by your ancestors against each other, fuelled by greed and blood lust which is the nature of your species. Be it kings, gods or

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tyrants, we have carried them all on occasions of war or marriage, festivities or funerals. Due to my nature, I command adoration and respect for the proof of this is not merely etched in these stone monuments of yours, but also in the minds of your brethren, for an elephant can strike terror in the hearts of your men and yet make them circumambulate around one. Having this venerated status probably helped our kind persist here, while elsewhere, people wantonly persecuted them. Our relationship with man has been at the extreme ends of this spectrum. It is a strange predicament that I am chained up in servitude at a temple, where you extol the virtues of an elephant god in your prayers, scriptures and idols, which are showered with milk and honey while I, the embodiment of your gods, am left to shed tears as I sway back and forth mindlessly. It appears like a cruel joke that I am tied to a stone pillar with motifs of elephants playing in forests of kadambas.

My Kind however has suffered untold miseries in the hands of your kind. From poaching for sport or killing for Ivory, to persecution as large vermin or killed by your moving metal creatures, we have endured it all. Having been at this temple for a while I have studied you closely, and I do understand that much like us, you are social beings too. Our families are close knit like yours. In my world, matriarchs are the leaders. Aunts, sisters and cousins, all chip in taking care of the young. Just as your toddlers are learning to use their feet, so do our young ones learn to use their trunks. And much like you, we too take care of our sick and mourn our dead. We do socialize much like you do with other groups and chastise our young for bad behaviour.

So why is it hard for you to see these similarities and respect our rights to our lands? Why is it that you beings feel entitled or supreme to nature? The Idea that this world and its entities have to cater to your well being is what has brought us into conflict. We too are inheritors of this earth. If you could understand with your superior reasoning skills, about the necessities of other creatures, why is it hard for you to understand that we are part of nature as much as you desire to be?

Despite the cultural symbol status, our numbers continue to decrease. We are increasingly being vilified and our migratory routes are being modified, those of us with tusks are poached and crop raiders are captured. But we shall continue fighting for our land till the end of time, much like you, but as you continue battling nature, in order to straighten it out and satiate some penchant desire for some order and dominance, I am sure that you will emerge victorious, but you definitely will have lost the war.



©Sharmistha Singh

Nishanth Srinivas worked as research assistant at Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), Bangalore in a project on Human-elephant interactions near protected areas in Southern Karnataka region. Presently he working with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).



Collaboration:

Forest Department, Uttarakhand: Strength & Opportunity – Capacity Building Training Programme for the Frontline line Staff of Nanda Devi & Valley of Flower (VoF) World Heritage Site (11-13, June 2019).

Department of Culture, Himachal Pradesh: Orientation Programme on World Heritage at UNESCO C2C-WII (14-15 May, 2019).

Department of forest, Meghalaya: (i) Workshop cum Stakeholder Consultation to formulate long term Plan for Conservation of Biodiversity in and around Nokrek Biosphere Reserve (27-28 May, 2019).

(ii) Field Visit for biodiversity survey for documenting Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) in Garo Hills Conservation Area, Meghalaya as a proposed World Heritage Site (1 – 9 May, 2019).

