

## NATURAL HERITAGE BULLETIN

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

## CONTENTS

FROM THE EDITOR'S  
DESK 2UNESCO REGIONAL  
NEWS 2ASIA-PACIFIC SITE  
UPDATESGREAT BARRIER REEF  
(AUSTRALIA) 3GUNUNG MULU  
NATIONAL PARK  
(MALAYSIA) 4KAZIRANGA  
NATIONAL PARK  
(INDIA) 4PHONG NHA-KE BANG  
NATIONAL PARK  
(VIET NAM) 4UJUNG KULON  
(INDONESIA) 5WESTERN GHATS  
(INDIA) 5

## WORLD HERITAGE OUTLOOK

GUNUNG MULU NA-  
TIONAL PARK 5CENTRAL HIGHLANDS  
OF SRI LANKA (SRI  
LANKA) 6UNESCO C2C INDIA:  
CURRENT ACTIVITIESNANDA DEVI & VALLEY OF FLOWERS NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE  
SITE (NDVF), INDIA

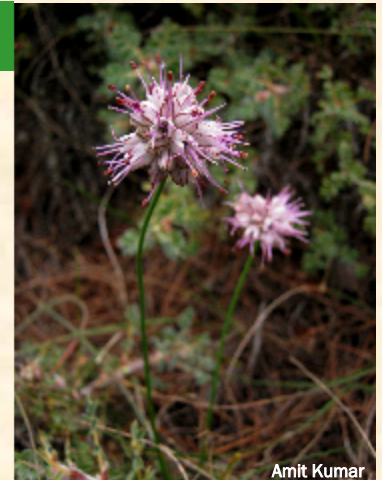
**UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage  
Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region,  
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. India**

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## FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

We are into the third edition of the C2C Bulletin and it has been a learning experience for us too, as we browse through a plethora of information available online, and bring to you a concise collection of world heritage news. During this quarter we learnt about the new leadership role at UNESCO headquarters and the International Court of Justice taking up the case for preservation of cultural heritage in war torn areas of Western Asia. Back home, Dr V.B.Mathur Director, WHI could spread the word for our C2C bulletin at the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage

Committee at Bonn, Germany. We were also able to welcome more than 150 participants to our DRR-WHS training and workshop that was conducted successfully over a period of 5 days in August, 2015. As winter knocks at our doorsteps here in Dehradun India, we continue in our endeavours to keep our readers informed about the activities related to Natural World Heritage across the globe. Please do send us your valuable feedback and suggestions to serve you better.



Amit Kumar

*Allium stracheyi*, NDVF

## UNESCO REGIONAL NEWS

## 24 New Sites Inscribed in Bonn

During this year's session, the World Heritage Committee inscribed 24 new sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List and approved extensions to three existing sites. It also added three World Heritage sites to the List of World Heritage in Danger and took one off the List.

## World Heritage Committee Declaration

During the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the WHC in Bonn, Paris from 28 June to 8 July, 2015, the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, launched the global Unite for Heritage Coalition, designed to strengthen mobilization in the face of deliberate damage to cultural heritage, particularly in the Middle East. The World Heritage Committee also adopted the Bonn Declaration which recommends that heritage protection

There was no new Natural Site inscribed from Asia-Pacific. However, an extension was approved for Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam).

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1318>

be included in the mandate of peace-keeping missions where appropriate. It calls on UNESCO's to enhance its international leadership in coordinating the response to the protection of heritage in the event of armed conflict or natural disaster.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1318>

"The past is our foundation, the present our material, the future our aim and summit."  
— Sri Aurobindo



Amit Kumar

*Pseudois nayaur* (Blue Sheep), NDVF

## New Director of World Heritage Centre

**M**echtild Rossler was appointed Director Division for Heritage and World Heritage Centre in September 2015. Dr. Rossler started working at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in the Division for Ecological Sciences in 1991 and was transferred in 1992 to the newly created UNESCO World Heritage Centre. She held different positions including as Programme Specialist for Natural Heritage (1993-2001), Chief of Europe and

North America (2001-2010), Chief of the Policy and Statutory Meeting Section (2010-2013) and Deputy Director. An expert in both cultural and natural heritage and the history of planning, Dr. Rössler was appointed in 2013 to the post of Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre. She follows Kishore Rao who retired as Director in August 2015.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1349>



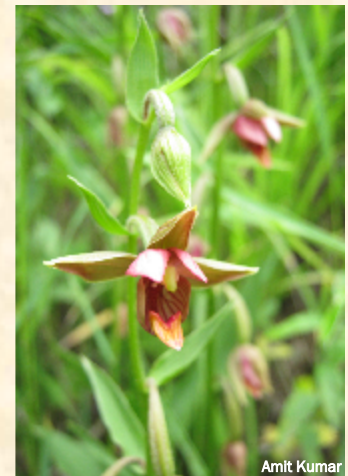
Dr. Mectild Rossler  
Director Division for Heritage and  
World Heritage Centre

## Cultural Landscape Workshop in Bhutan

**U**NESCO World Heritage Centre and UNESCO New Delhi Office, in close collaboration with the Department of Culture of the Royal Government of Bhutan, held the 2015 Bhutan Workshop and Forum on Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance (22 July to 7 August 2015). The workshop invited young professionals from Bhutan, China, Cyprus, France, India, Japan and Serbia to conduct a study of a village in Haa District

of Bhutan between 22 July and 4 August 2015, to identify and analyze various elements that constitute the cultural landscape of the village such as architecture, settlement, natural environment, community and peoples' lifestyle. The key objectives of this UNESCO-supported cultural landscape program in Bhutan are to raise awareness regarding the importance of safeguarding cultural landscapes as well as providing technical assistance among the concerned authorities in Bhutan.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1342>



Amit Kumar

*Epipactis royleana*,  
NDVF

## ASIA-PACIFIC SITE UPDATES

### Great Barrier Reef Not 'in Danger' List (Australia)

**21** nations on UNESCO's World Heritage Committee unanimously endorsed an earlier draft ruling that the Great barrier Reef stay off the in-danger list, although Australia must report back on its recovery plans by December next year. Several nations praised Australia's efforts to aid the ailing reef, which is the world's largest living structure but has lost around half of its coral cover in the past 30 years. Between them, the Australian and Queensland govern-

ments have pledged to ban the dumping of dredged seabed sediment within the reef's world heritage area and to limit the expansion of ports along the coast. The federal government has put \$140m towards a reef trust to improve water quality, with a target of slashing the amount of nitrogen flowing onto coral by 80% over the next decade.

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jul/02/great-barrier-reef-australia-says-unesco-decision-shows-it-is-a-world-leader>



Amit Kumar

*Waldhamia glabra*, NDVF

### Tourism Recognition for Mulu Caves of Gunung Mulu National Park (Malaysia)

Malaysia's tourism industry received the PATA Gold Award 2015 for 'Marketing Media - Travel Poster'. The PATA Gold Award was awarded to Tourism Malaysia's 'Visit Malaysia Year - Sarawak' promotional poster released last year, and was selected based on its layout/design, photography, writing, informational value, promotional value, and benefits to readers and results generated. The poster captured the essence

of Mulu Caves perfectly. Mulu Caves is part of Gunung Mulu National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Sarawak's largest national park. "It's indeed an inspiring sight to see millions of bats making their exodus to feeding grounds, creating this magnificent formation in the sky", said Dato' Azizan, Deputy Director General of Tourism Malaysia.

Source: <http://www.travelbizmonitor.com/Top-Stories/malaysia-wins-double-honours-at-the-pata-gold-award-2015-28435>



Amit Kumar

*Dioscorea deltoidea*, NDVF

### Challenges for Kaziranga (India)

Kaziranga, declared a national park in 1974 and World Heritage Site in 1985, houses two-thirds of the world's one-horned rhinoceros and is home to as many as 15 species of threatened mammals. But it is currently fighting a multi-pronged war — against poachers, encroachment and the aftermath of the floods earlier this year. In the opinion of Mr. M. K. Yadava, Field Director of Kaziranga, the biggest problem it faces is lack of space (for the animal population relative to the park area). Flood and erosion caused by the Brahmaputra that

comprises Kaziranga's northern boundary have also added to the woes. Kaziranga also suffers from a slow but steady degradation of habitat caused by *Mimosa invisa*, a plant species that the British planters had once imported from South-east Asia to suppress other weeds and supplement nitrogen in the surrounding tea estates.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/life-style/in-the-woods-annual-floods-highlight-the-challenges-before-kaziranga/>

"Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive and even spiritual satisfaction."  
E. O. Wilson

### Extension of Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam)

The Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2003, covered 85,754 hectares. With this extension in 2015, the site covers a total surface area of 126,236 hectares (a 46 % increase) and shares a boundary with the Hin Namno Nature Reserve in the Peoples Democratic Republic of Laos. The Park's landscape is formed by limestone plateaux and tropical forests. It features great geological diversity and offers spectacular phenomena, including a

large number of caves and underground rivers. The site harbours a high level of biodiversity and many endemic species. The extension ensures a more coherent ecosystem while providing additional protection to the catchment areas that are of vital importance for the integrity of limestone landscapes.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951>



Upma Manral

Nanda Devi Temple, NDVF

### Rare Javan Rhino Calf in Ujung Kulon (Indonesia)

Three critically endangered Javan rhino calves have been filmed in an Indonesian national park, taking to 60 the total population of the world's rarest rhino and offering hope for the creature's future. One female calf and two males were spotted in recent months in Ujung Kulon Park, on Java island, and were all likely born in the past year in a newly established sanctu-

ary, park chief Mohammad Haryono told AFP on Wednesday. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classifies the Javan rhino -- whose folds of loose skin give it the appearance of wearing armour plating -- as "critically endangered" and says the creature is "making its last stand".

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/calves-raise-hopes-worlds-rarest-rhino-051823830.html>



Javan rhino calf with mother.

### Eco-sensitive notification for Western Ghats (India)

The government has issued a fresh draft notification to demarcate eco-sensitive zones in the Western Ghats without altering the areas included in the proposed zones in an earlier draft notification. The Western Ghats, a 1500-km biodiversity-rich geological formation near the western Indian coast that is also rich in minerals, is being sought to be protected from indis-

criminate industrialisation. Two government appointed committees in recent past have made recommendations on how to prevent irreversible damage to the area. Following their reports, the government had identified 4,156 villages in six states as ecologically sensitive.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/western-ghats-govt-issues-fresh-draft-notification/>



Amit Kumar

*Rheum austral*, NDVF

## WORLD HERITAGE OUTLOOK

### Gunung Mulu National Park (Malaysia) (Inscribed in 2000), Criteria vii, viii, ix, x

**Conservation Outlook: Good**

Important both for its high biodiversity and for its karst features, Gunung Mulu National Park, on the island of Borneo in the State of Sarawak, is the most studied tropical karst area in the world. The park is dominated by Gunung Mulu, a 2,377 m-high sandstone pinnacle. The conservation outlook for Gunung Mulu National Park is overall

very positive. The combination of the remoteness (no public road access), rugged terrain, legislative basis of protection, existence and implementation of an Integrated Development and Management Plan, 5 year plan, very effective professional management and dependence of a valuable tourism industry on the park augers well for on-going effective protection and management.

Source: <http://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/search-sites/-/wdpaid/en/220293>



Amit Kumar

*Cedrus deodara* (Deodar) forest,

**Central Highlands of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka)**  
**(Inscribed in 2010), Criteria ix, x**  
**Conservation Outlook: Good with some concerns**

Sri Lanka's highlands are situated in the south-central part of the island. The Central Highlands of Sri Lanka were inscribed onto the World Heritage List in 2010 in recognition of the site's values within one of the world's richest concentrations of biodiversity. These values of the site remain intact due to relatively low levels of threat coupled with sound protection

and a largely effective management regime. However, the maintenance of the values is dependent on the continued efforts to address issues of concern and put in place the necessary staffing and funding to guarantee implementation of planned actions. Tourism impacts, invasive species and indirect impacts from the buffer zones appear to be the most significant current threats to the site.

S o u r c e : <http://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/search-sites/-/wdpaid/en/555512000>



Amit Kumar

*Dioscorea deltoidea*, NDVF

## UNESCO C2C INDIA: CURRENT ACTIVITIES

**Launch of Bulletin at WHC Session, Bonn, Germany**

The second issue of the Natural Heritage Bulletin, April – June, 2015, was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2015 in a meeting of the focal points of C2Cs at the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee at Bonn, Germany. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director Wildlife Institute of India gave a presentation on the activities of the UNESCO C2C for World Natural Heritage Centre for Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region in India. He was representing the Indian delegation



that comprised of senior officials from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Archaeological Survey of India.

“A people's relationship to their heritage is the same as the relationship of a child to its mother.”  
 —John Henrik Clarke

**World Heritage and Civil Society Conference, Bonn, Germany**

Dr. Malvika Onial, Scientist at the UNESCO C2C India, participated in the conference “The UNESCO World Heritage and the Role of Civil Society” organized by World Heritage Watch in Bonn (Germany) on the 26-27th June 2015. Following a two-day conference,

attended by more than 120 representatives of civil society organizations from all over the world, featuring about 50 presentations of different experiences and activities of civil sector in the field of World Heritage protection, the participants issued a **Statement/Resolution on Civil Society Participation in the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention**. The Statement/Resolution



Amit Kumar

Kail-Deodar mixed forest, NDVF

calls for the recognition of the contribution of civil society organizations to the good governance of the Convention and urges the WH Committee to

explore opportunities for strengthening civil society participation in the implementation of the Convention.

### Green Hub Workshop and Training in Assam

UNESCO C2C at WII, Dehradun is partnering with Green Hub, a community-based video documentation centre for recording wildlife, environment and people's biodiversity in the North-East of India. Green Hub had requested support for their internship programme, trainings and data storage. The partnership is intended for documenting existing and proposed World Heritage Sites. Accordingly, the C2C is supporting the Internship programme of Green Hub which includes video documentation by their fellows in World Natural Heritage Sites of Kaziranga National Park and Manas



National Park, Assam. The video capsules created by Green Hub will be used for outreach and awareness activities for these sites. As part of the support, a team of staff from the C2C undertook a training and orientation programme for the Interns on the Outstanding Universal Values of the World Heritage Sites in Tezpur, Assam on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2015. This was followed the next day by a field tour to Kaziranga World Heritage Site and also a visit to the Wildlife Rescue Centre operated by Wildlife Trust of India. 20 interns from Green Hub participated in this entire programme and they are scheduled to start their field documentation by September 2015 for a period of a year.



Amit Kumar

*Aconitum balfourii*, NDVF

“A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people.”

—Mahatma Gandhi



### MOU for preparation of Nomination Dossier of Bhitarkanika Conservation Area

The Odisha Forest Department and Wildlife Institute of India have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for compilation of a comprehensive dossier of Bhitarkanika Conservation Area. Along with its diversity and flora and fauna, Bhitarkanika is known for its unique mangrove ecosystem which is

the second largest in the country after the Sundarbans in Bengal. As part of the mandate to compile wide-ranging ground-level information on biodiversity, ecosystems and local human habitations and socio-economic conditions of locals and their dependence on forest produce, a team from the C2C at WII, Dehradun visited various location in and around the National Park in Odisha's

Kendrapara district during July and August, 2015. Collection of literature and data on the site, meetings with forest officials and stakeholder consultations with the local communities were some of the tasks undertaken by

team. Based on all the information, the draft nomination dossier has been submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris for the preliminary 'completeness check' in September, 2015.

### International Workshop and Training on the Role of Natural World Heritage Sites in Disaster Risk Reduction

The revised Strategy for Risk Reduction at World Heritage Properties as formulated in 2007, the UN-Hyogo Framework for Action Priority 4 and the UN World Conference WCDRR in Sendai, Japan recognise the role of Protected Areas as an instrument for ecosystem-based adaptation to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Natural World Heritage Sites exemplify this role by adding the dimension of traditional values, ecosystem integrity, and hence contribute immensely to this strategy. In furtherance of the above theme, an intensive workshop and training programme was organised from 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 at the UNESCO C2C on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region, Dehradun, India (website: [http://www.wii.gov.in/unesco\\_category2\\_centre](http://www.wii.gov.in/unesco_category2_centre)). The overall objective of the workshop was to strengthen and build capacity of key stakeholders associated with World Natural Heritage Sites in the Asia-Pacific Region. The workshop was attended by over 150 participants from 10 countries (Nepal, India, Bhu-

tan, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Indonesia). Over 25 World Heritage Sites from Asia and India were represented by site managers, scientists, NGO representatives, students and researchers. The team of eminent speakers included more than 30 resource persons from UNESCO (South Asia, Paris and Kathmandu offices), National Disaster Management Authority- Govt of India, UN-SPIDER, UNISDR, IUCN, Tata Institute of Social Sciences-Jamsetji Tata centre for Disaster Management, King's College London, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage and Indian Institute of Remote Sensing etc. The major outcome of the workshop and training has been a more sensitised team of site managers, policy makers and practitioners who now recognise the need to integrate and understand the two way linkage between DRR and natural heritage. A comprehensive network of site managers and documentation has been compiled which shall guide further studies and capacity building initiatives of the UNESCO C2C in the Asia-Pacific Region.



Inaugural Session: Felicitation of Chief Guest Mr. Kamal Kishore (Member, NDMA) by Dr. V. B. Mathur (Director, Wildlife Institute of India)



Inaugural Session: Opening remarks by Dr. Ram Boojh (UNESCO-New Delhi)



Technical Session IV: Talk by Mr. Jair Torres (UNESCO-Paris)



Technical Session IV: Workshop Participants



Group Activity for Participants

## UNESCO C2C INDIA: CURRENT ACTIVITIES

## Government of India approval for C2C

The Union Cabinet of the Government of India formally approved the establishment of the UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The agreement with UNESCO was signed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on behalf of the Government of India on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015. The C2C will function

as an integral part of the Wildlife Institute of India by sharing its campus, management and human resources. The Governing Council will have participation of UNESCO, which will also provide advice from global experts. As the centre will cater to capacity building needs of Asia Pacific, it will also be able to provide additional incentive to WII for providing its services in identification, capacity building for management and monitoring of natural heritage for all the countries in the Region.



Government of India approval for C2C

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Photo theme of this Issue is Nanda Devi & Valley of Flowers National Park (NDVF).