

Brief Report on
Training Program on Application of Very High Resolution Satellite Data in
Natural Heritage Management (11-14, July, 2017)

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention encourages effective conservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites having Outstanding Universal Value for humankind. Among many other ways of management and monitoring, application of Earth Observation (EO) techniques is an effective and efficient way of monitoring the trend and status of the sites. In this context, the UNESCO Category 2 Centre (C2C) on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region at Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun in collaboration with Digital Globe, a leading provider of high-resolution Earth imagery, data and analysis organised a three day course on 'Application of Very High Resolution Satellite Data in Natural Heritage Sites Management' at WII, Dehradun from 11th to 14th July, 2017.

The overall objective of the course was to build capacity of World Heritage stakeholders by providing critical understanding of high resolution satellite imagery in the field of natural heritage management. Specific objectives of the course were:

1. To orient World Heritage Site managers, practitioners, academicians, students, etc. on Very High Resolution Satellite Imagery.
2. To provide knowledge of application of high resolution data in mapping, monitoring and modelling of World Heritage Sites.

A total of 42 participants from 7 countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka) of Asia-Pacific attended the course. They include World Heritage Site managers, practitioners, academic professionals and researchers.

In the inaugural function of the course on 11th July, 2017, Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, WII-C2C highlighted the importance of remote sensing in all aspects of modern governance, including conservation and monitoring of World Heritage Sites. Mr. Shankar Nelamangala, Senior Director, Digital Globe apprised the audience about the developments in use of very high resolution satellite imagery and its significance. The Chief Guest, Mr. Vinay Sheel Oberoi, Former Permanent Representative of India at UNESCO & Former Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India shared his experiences of the World Heritage processes and emphasised on the need for using technology for conservation of World Heritage properties. The course received excellent feedback from the participants.

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