

2.0 Environmental Strategy: At the national level, every effort is being made to ensure that environmental policy and programs will be an integral part of national planning. There have been numerous environmental documents produced in the past from various institutions, both private and public, that have attempted to define and identify environment with respect to other related areas such as forestry, agriculture and tourism. Every effort has been made to make environmental concerns as transparent as possible without confusing it with the problems of its related areas. With this in mind, it is the right time for us to define the nature of our environmental policy and action plans and to conceptualize in a transparent manner what we mean by Nepal environmental policy and action plan, and why we need to formulate environmental guidelines, and local level environmental planning. This process is expected to bring much needed transparency in our policy and action plan and provide necessary directions for future planners. A brief description of the environmental strategy of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, starting with our environmental policy and sectoral action plans, is deemed appropriate in order to conceptualize this process.

The environmental policy document precedes all the documents that exist in the field of environmental policy and programs that HMG/N will adopt in the coming years to combat its rising environmental problems. Sectoral action plans helps the policy makers to achieve basically two objectives: (1) help the policy makers to further integrate environmental concerns into development (including health) areas where rigorous action plan is needed; and (2) come up with sectoral environmental plans in the related field for example forestry, industry, water resources, agriculture, tourism, transport, mining, urban development, land use, population, health and education.

HMG/ Nepal has an integrated environmental strategy package that helps policy makers in the formulation of policies and action plans during the Ninth Plan and beyond. The structure of our environmental strategy is as follows:

2.1 Nepal Environmental Policy: This is a national environment policy document formulated by the National Planning Commission/ Environment division which will contain the necessary policy descriptions.

2.2 Nepal Environment Action Plan (NEAP): This document will identify program areas of importance and include detail action plans to support these areas. This document will identify environment program areas that require action plans to be carried out in conjunction with our national environment policy. Nepal Environmental Policy and Action Plan (NEPAP) has been formulated to support this document.

2.3 Nepal Environment Guidelines (NEG): This is a national document which will outline detailed guidelines to be followed by related agencies while implementing the national policy.

2.4 Local Level Environment Planning (LLEP): This will be a national document that will outline the criteria to be followed by related agencies while conducting environment planning and programs at the local level.

These four documents will form the strategy of our environment programs and planning in Nepal.