

Constitution of Kingdom of Nepal (1990)

The constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal 1990 states the needs for protecting fauna and flora. Article 26 (4) of the constitution states that:

The state shall give priority attention to the conservation of the environment..... and also make special arrangement for the conservation of rare animals species, the forest and the vegetation of the country (HMG/N, 1990 cited in Ghimire, 1999).

Some Silent features of Forest Act 1993 and Forest regulation 1995 on NTFPs are:

- The ownership of the forest products of government managed forest shall be vested in HMG,
- The prescribed authority may grant license in the prescribed manner for the use, removal, sale and distribution, export and transportation of forest product,
- The products shall not be collected, sold and distributed exceeding the quantity specified in approved work plan of government managed forest and operational plan for community forestry,
- The royalty of NTFPs shall be deposited or paid as prescribed rate,
- MAPs from community forests may only be transported after informing the DFO,
- Trade in species not mentioned is not allowed until sanctioned by the government,
- The government may impose a ban on the collection, use, sale, distribution and export of any forest product without justification.

Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)

Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) of the country has extremely stressed on the alleviation of poverty. As part of plan's overall thrust to reduce poverty, the conservation of environment must be integrated into all sectoral development programs (HMG/N, 1998). It emphasizes to give priority on participatory programs, particularly involving women and under-privileged people and adopt all necessary legal and procedural measures to implement international conventions related to environment ratified by HMG.

Major policy statements related to MAPs/NTFPs in the Ninth Five year Plan are:

- To increase income and employment opportunities to the people residing in the remote areas through the training and extension activities on collection and cultivation of MAPs and promotion of their processing plants;
- To support management, marketing, industrial development, processing, and commercialization of medicinal and aromatic plants
- To conduct inventory of endangered MAPs and research on cultivation of these species in order to conserve them.

Tenth Five Year Plan and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2002)

The lessons from the implementation of Fiver Year Plans of government of Nepal have emphasized the need to address poverty issues more strategically and in a sustainable manner. The 10th Plan has aimed to reduce poverty through broad based economic growth, social sector development, targeted programs for backward and vulnerable groups and safety nets; and good governance. Similarly, the recently concluded Nepal Development Forum has emphasized the role of micro and small enterprises for poverty reduction. Pro-poor economic growth, employment generation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood are the highly emphasized agendas of the government. The government has proposed aims to develop the agriculture, forest sector, and industry and the hydropower sector as it provides high opportunity for income employment and income generation. In this, the government will provide special focus on private sector development and natural resource management to increase the production and income of forestry sector. For this, implementation of the focused program on biodiversity, NTFPS and medicinal herbs are emphasized.

11th Three Years Interim Plan (2007-2010)

Controlling of forest encroachment, conservation and wise use of non-timber forest products and enterprise and entrepreneurship development are major challenges in forestry sector.

The Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2063 (ICN 2007)

The Interim Constitution of Nepal is committed to the protection of forests and environment through its Article 35 (4) and (5). It emphasizes the local people while

mobilizing the natural resources and heritage of the country that might be useful and beneficial to the interest of the nation. It is dedicated to maintain clean environment. It has the provision of giving priority to the protection of the environment, and to the prevention to its further damage due to physical development activities by increasing the awareness of the public about environmental cleanliness. The explicit arrangements for the special protection of the environment and the rare wildlife were made. Provisions for the protection of the forest, vegetation and biodiversity, its sustainable use and for equitable distribution of the benefit stemmed thereof are clearly spelled out.