


**Nature in All Goals:**  
**Localization of Environmental  
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nepal**



NGO Federation of Nepal



NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) is an umbrella organization of NGOs working in various fields of social welfare and development in Nepal. Established in 1991 for the promotion and protection of social justice, human rights and pro-poor development, NFN has evolved as a national organization working for the entire NGO movement in Nepal. It is actively working to unite, organize and mobilize civil society to create a peaceful, democratic and just Nepal.

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## Nature in All Goals:

# Localization of Environmental Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nepal



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# **Nature in All Goals:** **Localization of Environmental Sustainable** **Development Goals (SDGs) in Nepal**

## **Publisher**

NGO Federation of Nepal

## **Supported by**

WWF Nepal

## **Publication Year**

2021

## **Design and Layout**

Mr. Nirmal Gaire





## Preface

Biodiversity and environment are important for implementing the SDGs and for transformative change. As the SDGs are underpinned by a path of balance for humanity and planet, conservation of biodiversity and considerations of environment and nature are the most potent levers to achieve sustainability. Environment and biodiversity focused SDGs and targets are the multipliers of benefits across the goals.

This booklet is an effort to explore and highlight the nature and environmental concerns in order to achieve the SDGs and environmental sustainability. With a close look at a few local government level scenarios and initiatives, the booklet guides and emphasizes that sustainable production and use of nature-based products can lead to social and economic benefits and support for transformative change. As the SDGs are interrelated and integrated, integration of the SDGs, with due consideration of nature, at the local level is essential for achievement of the SDGs.

We hope that this booklet will be useful for local governments, civil society, CSOs/NGOs, development workers and policy makers and help them better realize the nature-based solution to achievement of SDGs.

We are thankful to WWF Nepal for partnership with NFN for the initiatives on SDGs while focusing on the environmental goals and indicators. Capacity building workshops, interactions and sharing of the lessons and reflections will hopefully encourage everyone for commitments and actions for environmental considerations in the planning, programming and budgeting at the local government level. This will be catalytic to many other goals in our context where economy and livelihoods largely depend on agriculture, biodiversity and natural resources.

I acknowledge the efforts made by Dr. Sushila Chatterjee Nepali, Mr Dillu Prasad Ghimire, Mr Hum Bhandari and NFN team in the preparation of this booklet. Continuous guidance and feedback of Mr Ek Raj Sigdel on behalf of WWF helped to improve this booklet. Finally, we are grateful to Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality and Suryabinayak Municipality for collaborating with us.



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**Jit Ram Lama**  
President  
NGO Federation of Nepal





## Foreword

WWF Nepal has been working to raise awareness on the importance of integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly environment related SDGs such as SDG-6, SDG-7, SDG-13 and SDG-15 into local development planning process in Nepal since 2016 alongside building the capacity of policy makers, legislative parliamentarians, civil society organizations and local government on the same. WWF has been supporting all three levels of government i.e., the federal, provincial, and local level government in terms of providing capacity development trainings, workshops, and interaction meetings to facilitate localization of SDGs.

While some steps have been taken to integrate SDGs into the government's development plan and budget processes, none of the local governments have been successful in effectively localizing the SDGs so far. This failure to integrate SDGs can be primarily attributed to the lack of adequate capacity and framework for integrated planning. Meanwhile, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has further revealed the consequences of defying the importance of maintaining a healthy balance with nature. The interconnectedness between our health, our economy and our natural environment has become more prominent than ever and so has the need to shift towards Nature Based Solutions for sustainable development. Shifting to Nature Based Solutions also provides unmatched benefits to the marginalized and indigenous communities along with women and economically weak families by uplifting their livelihood and enhancing employment opportunities.

This booklet, "Nature in All Goals" has been developed with the objective of raising awareness on the importance of integrating Nature Based Solutions in planning and budgeting process. The booklet lays out a clear explanation of Nature Based Solution and hopes to serve as a guiding document for localizing environmental SDGs into local development planning process, particularly infrastructure development in Nepal.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to NGO Federation of Nepal for their effort in developing this excellent document and congratulate them for successfully piloting it in several municipalities in Nepal. I am certain that this booklet will be a useful resource for the local government in integrating SDGs at the local level.

Thank you



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**Ghana S. Gurung, PhD.**  
Country Representative  
WWF Nepal





## A decorative graphic consisting of overlapping colored shapes (red, orange, blue) and a blue banner with the word "Contents" in white text.

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## 1. Introduction

This booklet provides a basic approach in integrating and localizing environment in local context to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nepal. The booklet relates to how appropriate considerations about nature and environment can help achieve the SDGs. In addition to reviewing the existing literature, this booklet makes use of field observations and situation analysis conducted in Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality of Sindhupalchok district and Suryabinayak Municipality of Bhaktapur district.

The 2030 Agenda is often referred to as an integrated and transformative agenda. It emphasizes the need for integrated, inclusive, and coherent approaches—that enhance horizontal coordination among various sectors, and vertical integration among different levels of government. SDGs are particularly important because of the underlying principles of ‘leave no one behind’. Therefore, localizing the SDGs means more than just ‘landing’ internationally-agreed goals at the local level. It means translating aspirations of the SDGs into reality for the communities, households and individuals, particularly to those who are at risk of falling behind. There is no single approach to this but entails developing a set of indicators, ensuring that progress and data collected are coherent with national monitoring and reporting system, participation of civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector, cooperatives and communities in the review of national plans, using SDG indicators to monitor and assess local and province level plans and progress, and ensuring that local achievements are recognized and become a part of the national SDG progress reports.

## 2. Context

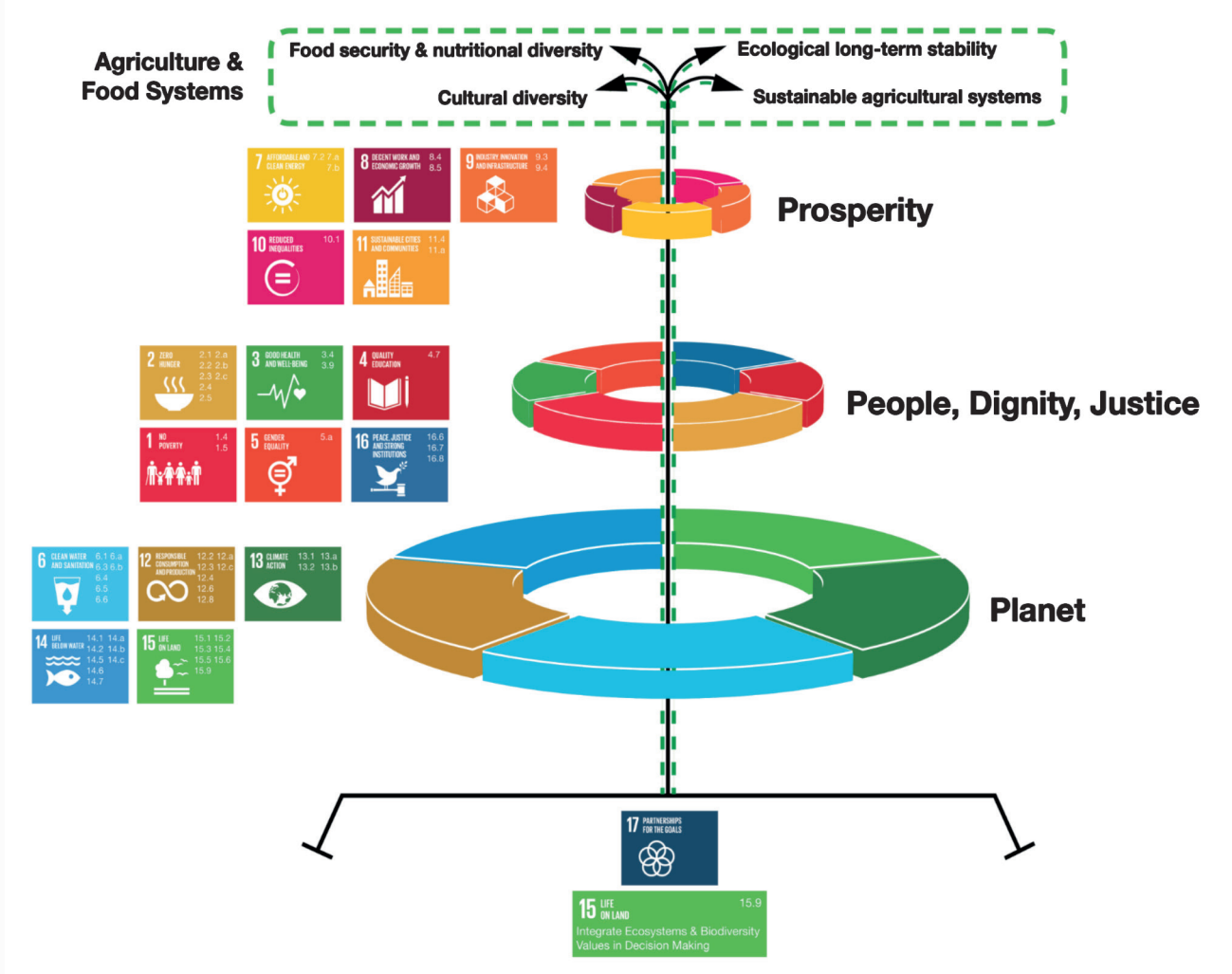
Current environmental issues are associated with ongoing land degradation, depleting forest resources, unplanned urban development, discharge of untreated effluents and disposal of wastes among others. Inadequate consideration of the environment in development planning and implementation have contributed to such environmental concerns. The success of multilevel governance and coherent SDG implementation can be fostered, for instance, by effectively integrating the SDGs into the mandates of responsible institutions and promoting cross-sector collaboration at all levels. This requires adjusting institutional structures, aligning decision-making procedures, and setting up mechanisms that support the cross-cutting and integrative nature of the SDGs.

*Figure 1* indicates how SDG localization has been described by United Cities and Local Governments and Cities Global Learning Unit (UCLG CGLU in High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2020<sup>1</sup> report as “the process of defining, implementing and monitoring strategies at the local level for achieving global, national, and subnational sustainable development goals.” It includes “the process of taking into account sub-national contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, by setting goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using indicators that measure and monitor progress.” The urgency in climate considerations and the reason behind preparing this document can be justified by the statements in UN DESA, 2015 report: “Climate scientists tell us that the window to stop runaway climate change starts closing in 2020 and biologists tell us that we are on track to lose 2/3 of all wild animals by 2020 – a tipping point for mass extinction”. According to UN DESA<sup>2</sup> it is estimated that by 2050 global population will increase to 9.9 billion and will demand energy increase

<sup>1</sup> UCLG CGLU 2020- Towards the Localization of the SDG - Local and Regional Governments Report to the HLPF 2020, How to accelerate transformative actions in the aftermath of the COVID 19 outbreak. Published on Jul 9, 2020

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs (UN DESA) 2015: World Population Prospects, the 2015 Revision.

by 80%, water demand by 55% and food demand by 60%<sup>3</sup>. These trends are placing increasingly stressful demands upon limited natural resources for agriculture, energy and water, making our job all the harder. Figure 1 helps us understand that nature and environment are the foundation to social and economic development, justice and prosperity.



**Figure 1: Need for environmental and SDG integration (Source: UN DESA and IUCN 2020)**

<sup>3</sup> Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Environmental Outlook to 2050: The Consequences of Inaction-Key facts and figures

Until recently, very few local governments have made substantial progress in localizing SDGs. The immediate challenges at the local government level for localizing environmental SDGs include; i) inadequate knowledge to prioritize nature-based solutions to achieve multiple SDGs, ii) not having SDG-oriented planning, monitoring and reporting frameworks, and iii) not having dedicated institutional structures, skilled human resources and budget to integrate SDGs into planning, monitoring and reporting framework.

### 3. Objectives

Nepal has made attempts to develop enabling plans, policies and legislations and to implement them to facilitate sustainable economic growth by enhancing participation of local communities in the management of biodiversity and natural resources. But integration of SDGs—with conscious and purposeful consideration of environmental goals and indicators—by local governments in the planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting is necessary to achieve all the SDGs. Thus, the prime objective of this booklet is to show how localization of environment SDGs can support in achieving SDGs in general. The booklet is expected to be useful for government organizations particularly the local governments, community-based organizations (CBOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), leaders, politicians and other relevant stakeholders. The booklet will be useful:

- To understand the importance of environmental considerations to SDGs and localizing them in the local planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring;
- To analyse the national and local context of environment and map them in the SDG context;
- To generate insight on Nepal's SDG localization process and nature for all solutions; and
- To provide guidance for local level planning adopting nature for all solutions;

### 4. Methodologies of localizing environment and SDGs

National Planning Commission (NPC) has published *SDG Localization Resource Book* which is a general guideline for all the SDGs. When it comes to environmental goals, a focused assessment and work is necessary. Generally, localization process should start from collection and analysis of data and information. Review of existing policies and guidelines provides foundation and the information can be enriched and verified by focus group discussions (FGDs), workshops and consultations. Likewise, interaction and consultation with resource users, communities, community forest user groups (CFUGs), political leaders and local government staff will be useful. Experiences and lessons learned from earlier interventions and initiatives can be utilized in taking initiatives.

#### 4.1 Conduct Policy Review Reviewing plans and policies

A good starting point can be a policy review from international, national to the local level. The local governments are independent to develop contextually appropriate legal instruments such as acts, rules, regulation, plan and policies in the federalized context. But how this has been materialized, how well the policies are coherent with SDGs as well as the policy gaps can also be assessed.

The Constitution of Nepal obliges the state to pursue a policy aimed at identifying and protecting traditional knowledge, skills and practices. Policies and legislation relating to community-based forest management and protected area management have been effective in bringing success. Some important national policies that can support local institutions are The Herbs and Non-Timber Forest Products Development Policy (2004), Agrobiodiversity Policy (2007), Tourism Policy (2009), Rangeland Policy (2012), National Wetland Policy

(2012), Environment Protection Act, 2020, Environment Protection Regulation, 2021 Forest Act, 2020 Environment Protection Policy, 2020, National Climate Change Policy, 2019 and National Forest Policy, 2019. The Plant Protection Act (2007) can be taken as an important step towards controlling introduction of invasive alien plant species.

Some concerns and challenges faced include the fact that some national laws and plans seem to be inconsistent, overlapping or contradictory to local level plans and policies. One of the major gaps in existing laws relates to sustainable utilization of biological resources and equitable sharing of the benefits accrued from conservation of genetic resources. The Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their utilization Bill and National Intellectual Property Policy, which were drafted in 2008 and 2012, respectively, are yet to be endorsed. Lack of strategy to activate and capacitate local bodies (District Coordination Committees - DCCs, municipalities and rural municipalities) for biodiversity management is another major gap.

#### 4.2 Policy planning and localization process

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) stresses the importance of an integrated approach in the implementation of SDGs. Many SDGs are interconnected with each other; an integrated approach implies managing trade-offs and maximizing synergies across targets. Not all the targets relate directly to environment friendly SDG implementation but some indirectly contribute, for example progress in achieving SDG 1 *No poverty* has direct and indirect positive impacts on health and wellbeing (SDG3), life on land (SDG 15), quality education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG 5), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), and potentially leads to reduced inequalities (SDG 10) but these aspects are equally relevant to address environmental concerns.

On the other hand, for instance, using coal to improve energy access and deliver on SDG 7 *Affordable and clean energy*, would accelerate climate change and acidify the oceans. This would undermine SDG 13 *Climate action* and SDG 14 *Life below water*. It would also exacerbate other problems such as damage to health from air pollution, which in turn would affect SDG 3 *Good health and wellbeing*. Therefore, localizing environment and SDGs in an integrated way is necessary. In this effort, several tools have been designed to achieve integration and policy coherence.

The SDGs are said to have been well-integrated into Nepal's national development frameworks. Nepal has developed the *SDGs Status and Roadmap 2016-2030*. Guided by the overarching national aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali', the 15th Development Plan (2019/20-2023/24) has mainstreamed the SDGs, but not all the provinces and local governments have been able to adopt the approach. The need for localizing SDGs by local government is mandated by Local Level Government Operations Act 2074 and main reasons explained were:

- a. All the important local services addressed by local governments to be handed over to them;
- b. Human and other resources to be decentralized locally;
- c. Adopt and implement SDG targets in the local level context as prioritized;
- d. Improve the local expenditure and increase productivity and innovation;
- e. Promote people's meaningful participation in the local level;
- f. Ensure equality and equity, leaving no one behind locally in all development;
- g. Collaboration and partnership at all levels; and
- h. Reduce the duplication of resource use and allocation;

Local governments are critical in turning Agenda 2030 from a global vision into a local reality. According to the *SDG Localization Resource Book* by NPC, the 15<sup>th</sup> periodic plan has identified 10 targets-4 based on prosperity and 6 based on happiness-in line with the national aspiration of *Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali*. As shown in Figure 2 below, SDG 2,7, 9 and 11 contribute to achieving prosperity and SDG 5, 6, 13, 15, 16 and 17 are necessary for happiness, whereas SDG 1, 3, 4, 8, 10 and 12 contribute to both prosperity and happiness as well as long term visions:

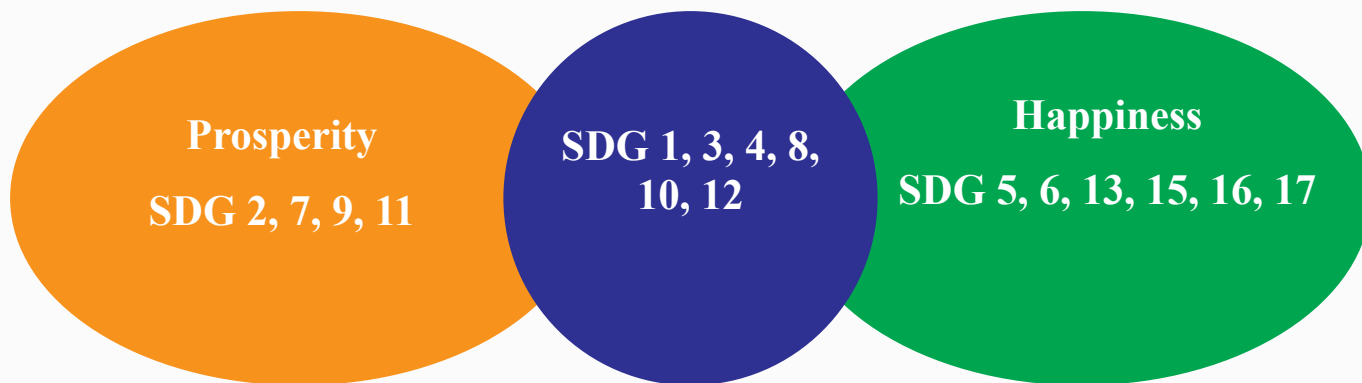


Figure 2: SDGs integrated with long term national vision (Source: SDG Localization Resource Book)

Figure 3 indicates the localization process guideline 2021 published by NPC. For the project planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation committees have to be formed under the leadership of the rural municipality chair or the municipality mayor.

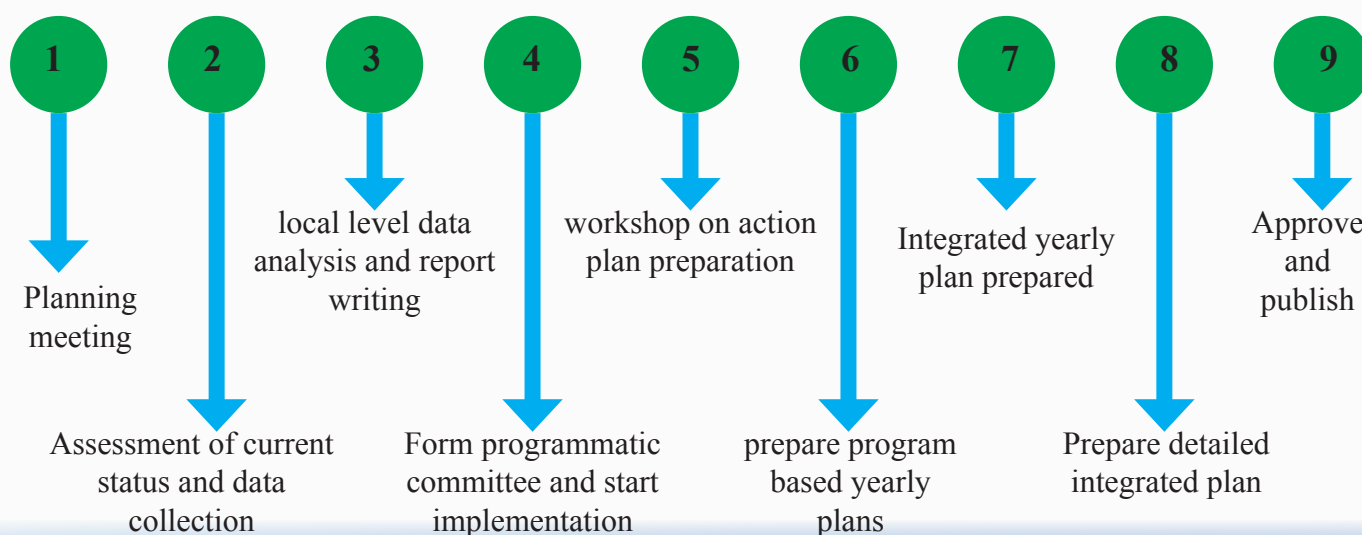


Figure 3: Approaches in localizing environment and SDGs based on NPC guideline

Using the approaches mentioned in above figure, data collection or profile can be prepared. In each stage, environmental considerations are to be consciously identified and integrated.



### 4.3 Nature based solutions for all SDGs

SDG baseline report by NPC<sup>4</sup> indicated that political and social strife, prolonged political transition, and instability of the government has deteriorated investment climate, suppressed agricultural activities, and undermined the expansion of service sectors like tourism and finance resulting in slow economic growth. Besides, the country has been passing through various economic and environmental risks and vulnerabilities. During the phase of MDG, Nepal reduced the loss of biodiversity and forest cover has increased from less than 40 percent in 2000 to 44.7 percent of total land area in 2015. Amidst these facts and the country's vulnerability to climate change and disasters, it is important to promote nature-based solutions while implementing all SDGs to retain and maintain biodiversity, reduce soil erosion and preserve wetlands and watersheds.

In 2016, IUCN<sup>5</sup> coined the phrase *nature-based solutions*, defined as actions to protect, sustainably use, manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, which address societal challenges, effectively and adaptively, providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits. This has been derived from established practices such as forest landscape restoration, integrated water resource management, ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation, and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction as shown in the figure. The standard consists of 8 criteria and 28 indicators as mentioned in figure 4.



Figure 4: Nature based solutions adopted (IUCN, 2020)

For the purpose of integrating and localizing environmental objectives and SDGs, *Figure 4*<sup>6</sup> can be used and analysed. It can be adopted considering the dependencies of social and economic health on a strong ecological foundation which are analogous to a tree, where, the roots are healthy ecosystems that provide the basis for social and economic prosperity.

The *Figure 5* will be helpful in understanding the current planning process and programs in relation to national and local SDG targets. Five major thematic issues in the current planning process namely

<sup>4</sup> NPC, 2017. Nepal's Sustainable Development Goals, Baseline Report. Kathmandu.

<sup>5</sup> IUCN, 2020. Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions. A user-friendly framework for the verification, design and scaling up of NbS. First edition. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

<sup>6</sup> Reid, et.al, 2017. Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals still neglecting their environmental roots in the Anthropocene. Published in Environmental Science and Policy. DOI: 10.1016/j.envsci.2017.07.006

physical infrastructure; forest, science and environment; social development; governance and institutional development; and economic development should be taken as integrated and mutually reinforcing. This will help integrate environmental SDGs complementing to achieve multilevel targets as indicated in the tree figure.

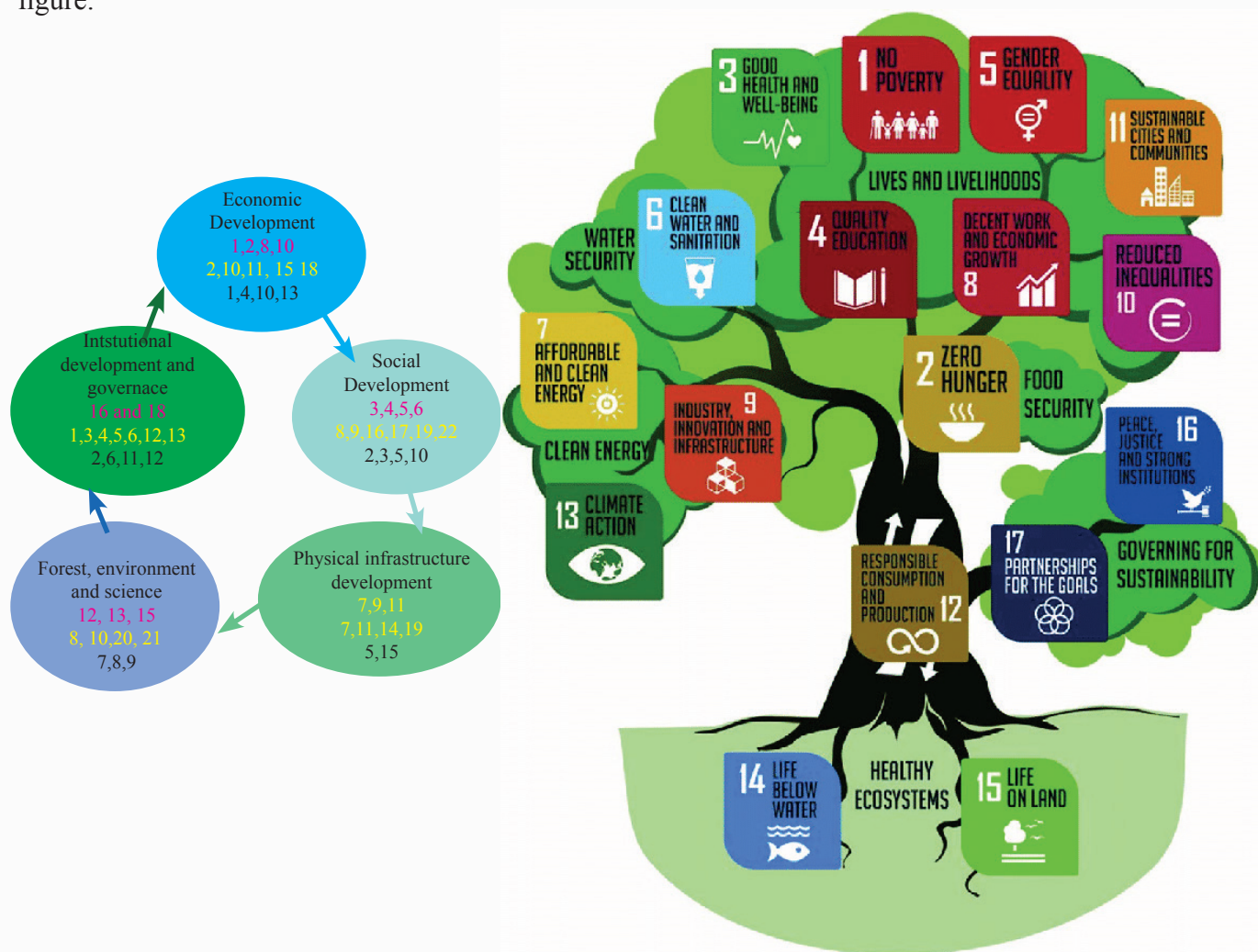


Figure 5: The environmental roots for achieving SDGs in local context (Source: Reid, et.al, 2017)

Note: According to NPC guideline for localizing SDGs in the given figure, the pink numbers denote Local Level's rights and responsibilities in Schedule 8, yellow numbers denote list of common rights in Schedule 9 of the constitution and black numbers denote SDGs.



#### 4.4 Guiding tools in integrating environment and SDGs in the local level planning

This section provides further guidance for integrating environmental concerns and SDGs in the local context. Enhancing environmental development for healthy wellbeing through better air quality, water and sanitation, waste management, along with efforts to safeguard biodiversity, will reduce the vulnerability of communities to pandemics and thus improve overall societal well-being and resilience.

##### *Step 1: Documenting resource base, traditional practices and knowledge, and vulnerability context*

Prior to any strategy or actions, one must collect the data on the resources available and their status not only to get the information but also to ensure how they can be managed to meet the environmental goals and SDG targets. Documenting traditional practices and knowledge will support in sustaining the resources while maintaining traditional practices. Likewise, the vulnerability context analysis will help map out the climate vulnerability and other contexts that can hinder the development. With due consideration of the identified vulnerabilities, plans will address to reduce or manage them.

##### *Step 2: Strength, Weakness, Threat and Opportunity Analysis*

Though the federal government and local governments have been preparing their own acts, policies and regulations, the policy planning process needs to have better alignment and harmonization. Stakeholder analysis, participatory planning and implementation needs to be strengthened. Specifically in terms of the governance of natural resources to effectively deliver livelihood benefits, it is important to have clear and fair governance arrangements. Specific arrangements need to be made based on the type of resources at stake.

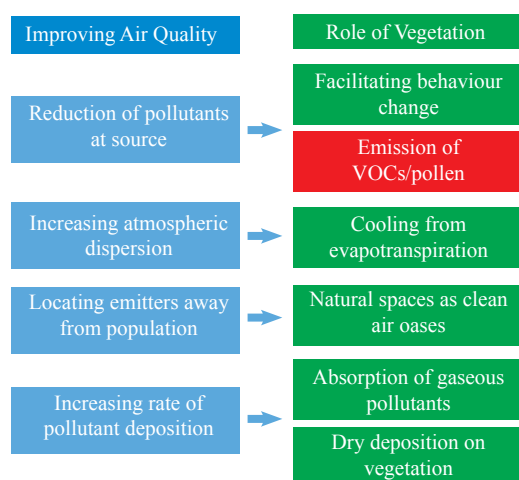
Therefore, SWOT analysis will help in participatory planning and implementation of the projects and guides on how and what aspects needs to be focused. The following table, based on the analysis of a local government, has been presented as an example.

Programs	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
PLANNING PROCESS	Regularly done and strategy well developed	Limited participation of stakeholders; No baseline to map the outcomes;	Improve the planning process and make implementable	
INTEGRATIONS OF ENVIRONMENT	Has incorporated a section in the plan on forest and environment;	Less focused and not prioritized	Local policy to be developed and capacity and awareness to be increased	Degradation of environment
IMPLEMENTATION	Has different units for implementation	Role and process of implementation are not defined	Develop action plans and capacitate local level staff	Not completing the tasks on time
BUDGETING	Regular budgeting done	Budget allocation not on priority basis	Has authority to allocate budget based on priority	Budget not spent timely
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	Committee formed	Not done regularly and limited capacity	Capacity building and documenting lessons learned to scale up successful projects;	Unsystematic and misleading;
COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION	Satisfactory coordination and collaboration	Communication and sharing mechanisms are weak	If done properly, stakeholder support can be received;	Hostility, misunderstanding and lack of cooperation;
SDG INTEGRATION IN PLANNING	Basic knowledge of SDG integration	Plans do not integrate the SDGs	Achievement of SDGs, securing additional resources and socio-economic change;	SDG targets and outcomes may not be achieved and documented; being left behind;



### Step 3: Assessment and documentation of nature for all solutions

Pathways by which vegetation affects air quality



Source: Brink, et al P. 2016<sup>7</sup>.

- **Supporting Services** such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and
- **Cultural Services** such as educational, aesthetic, and cultural heritage values as well as recreation and tourism.

Focus group discussion (FGD) and key informant interviews can be used for this as well. Nature for all solutions should focus on ecosystem-based conservation and sustainable utilization. Nature for all solutions to SDG can be tied to the benefits received from the ecosystem services such as purification of air and water, detoxification and decomposition of wastes, regulation of climate, regeneration of soil fertility, and production and maintenance of biodiversity, from which key ingredients of our agricultural, pharmaceutical, and industrial enterprises are derived. The ecosystem services provide four major services for improved human wellbeing and they need to be mapped out in the area and relate with nature for all solutions.

- **Provisioning Services** or the provision of food, fresh water, fuel, fibre, and other goods;
- **Regulating Services** such as climate, water, and

Following is an example, which is derived after an exercise in Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality, on how we can assess data for some major ecosystems and their services in an effort to localize environment and SDGs:

**Table 1: Assessing nature for all solutions to SDG**

Natural resources	Related SDGs or targets	How to contribute to the SDGs
Forest	poverty, zero hunger, education, health, gender equality, industry and infrastructure, climate change, life on land, peace and governance, education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income generation from forest products,</li> <li>• Address climate change issues,</li> <li>• Adaptation through plantation,</li> <li>• Forest products for food and medicine,</li> <li>• Forest based industry and promotion,</li> <li>• Gesi in resource management,</li> <li>• Control degradation, landslides,</li> <li>• Water sources management,</li> <li>• Land use policy, and resource governance,</li> <li>• Conservation initiatives and protect endangered flora and fauna,</li> <li>• Promotion of eco-tourism,</li> <li>• Develop medicinal plants and document their use and support access to genetic resources and benefit sharing strategy,</li> </ul>
Water	health, education, industry, drinking water and sanitation, life on land, energy, gender equality, sustainable production and consumption,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean drinking water and sanitation,</li> <li>• Irrigation, and watershed management,</li> <li>• Wetland and fishery promotion,</li> <li>• Cultural sites, and recreation,</li> <li>• Sources of energy,</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup>Brink, et al (2016) The Health and Social Benefits of Nature and Biodiversity Protection. A report for the European Commission (ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039), Institute for European Environmental Policy, London/Brussels.

Natural resources	Related SDGs or targets	How to contribute to the SDGs
Agriculture	poverty, zero hunger, health, industry and innovation, gender equality, climate change, life on land, sustainable production and consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production and conservation of local crops and varieties,</li> <li>• Livelihood and income generation;</li> <li>• Nutrition and food security,</li> <li>• Agriculture and food technology development, market facility,</li> <li>• Climate resilient species and control of soil erosion;</li> <li>• Awareness in farming practices and innovation;</li> <li>• Promote organic farming and products,</li> </ul>
Pasture and grasslands	poverty, equality, climate change, consumption and production, life on land,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable management of grassland and pasture lands;</li> <li>• Introducing productive breeds,</li> </ul>

#### Step 4: Mapping environment and SDG targets

Through the review of the policies and documents of the concerned local government as well as by discussing with key informants of the local government, activities mapping can be done. Following table is presented as an example and is also a reflection of a similar exercise in Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality.

**Table 2: Local Government's activities related to environment and SDGs**

Activities	Aligning with SDGs	Environment Friendly activities examples	Stakeholders
Education development	4	Environmental awareness and cleaning in the schools	
Municipality health services	3	WASH, waste management	
Tourism	1, 10, 11	Ecotourism, home stay	
Agriculture and livestock	1, 2, 3, 8, 12, 15	Small industry, off-season vegetable farming- mushroom, big cardamom, kiwi, etc	
Energy and hydropower	7, 13, 15, 17	Alternative energy such as biogas, LPG has been used and replaced firewood	
Drinking water and sanitation	3, 6	Concept of 1 house 1 drinking water tap, waste management arrangements	
Reconstruction and rural urban development	11	Temple, monastery, local traditional taps, roads, health posts, post-earthquake reconstruction	
Communication and information	16, 17	Communication / dissemination of all the relevant laws and rules through FM radio stations and local newspapers	
Physical development	11, 17	Development of roads,	
Institutional development and governance	5, 10, 16, 17	Different laws, regulation and work plans developed; inclusion policy developed;	
Forest and science	13, 15, 17	Community forest user groups (CFUG) governance and facilitation;	

Various activities and initiatives of the local governments may directly and indirectly contribute to multiple SDGs and targets. Realization of this and a conscious and deliberate planning along with reporting mechanisms would be helpful in planning, implementation and reporting of the success. Following table illustrates a mapping of activities and their potential contributions to SDGs.

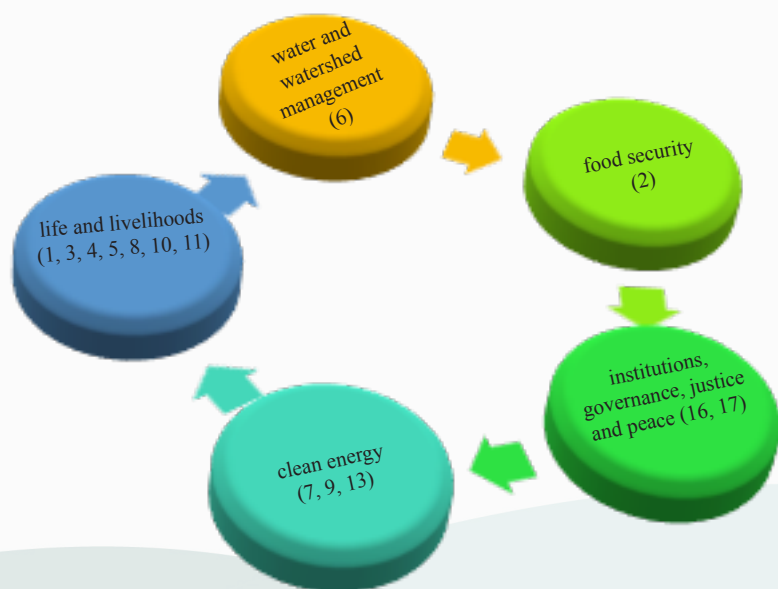
**Table 3: Mapping of environmental activities and their contribution to SDGs**

Activities and related SDGs	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17
<b>Forest, environment and science</b>																
Watershed Management		■				■						■	■	■		
Water source conservation			■			■						■		■		■
Agroforestry		■	■		■							■		■		
Non timber forest products management		■										■		■		
<b>Physical Infrastructure Development</b>																
Rural and urban road construction	■								■							■
School building				■					■		■					■
Bridge construction									■		■				■	■
Community hall/ office									■							■
Infrastructure development (temple, crematory)									■		■				■	■
Toilet construction						■			■	■	■					■
Drinking water distribution			■			■			■	■	■	■			■	■
<b>Social Development</b>																
Vegetable farming	■	■			■					■		■		■		■
Terrace farming (kausi kheti)	■	■			■					■		■		■		■
Mushrooms farming	■	■			■							■		■		■
Health facilities			■							■		■			■	■
Education system management				■	■					■		■			■	■
<b>Economic activities</b>																
Industry promotion							■	■	■			■		■		■
Skill development	■				■					■		■		■		■
Land use management	■											■		■		■
<b>Governance and institutional Development</b>																
Support to disadvantaged groups	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■			■	■	■	■
Communication and information	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						■	■	■	■
Social security	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■			■	■	■	■



### Step 5: Nature for all solutions plan

Voluntary National Review (VNR) report by NPC 2020 outlines that “Nepal’s equity-based approach and rapid development aspirations with sustainable use of resources finds strong resonance in the SDGs. Nature provides us with vital resources such as food, air, water, and energy. In addition, nature can be harnessed to create solutions to the challenges set out in the SDGs, solutions that are positive for social, economic, governance and environmental outcomes. Realizing the benefits of nature requires mainstreaming nature into decision-making, building multi-stakeholder partnerships and strengthening good governance. This will contribute to agency, dignity and human rights of vulnerable communities through global action on the SDGs. Further, WWF UK, 2019<sup>8</sup>, verifies that there are 12 targets that integrate elements of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. These 12 targets fall within five goal areas - SDG 2 (Food security), SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation), SDG 12 (Consumption and Production), SDG 14 (Life in Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).



Nature-based solutions for healthy environment and life has been categorized based on life and livelihoods, clean energy, water and watershed management, food security, and institutional development and governance as illustrated in the Figure 6. These aspects reinforce each other and contribute to environmental sustainability.

**Figure 6: Nature for all solutions meeting SDG**

<sup>8</sup> WWF UK, 2019: Nature in All Goals, How nature based solutions can help us achieve all SDG Targets, WWF UK publication

SDGs aim to encourage sustained economic growth by achieving higher levels of productivity and through technological innovation. ‘Nature for all solutions to meet SDGs in local context can be further explained to map out the examples and to document them. Some of the key aspects have been further explained below.

### Life and Livelihood



SDG 1 No Poverty



SDG 3: Good health and wellbeing



SDG 4: Quality Education

It is necessary to realize that life and livelihood can be secured if healthy environment exists. Nature based products can be linked to reducing poverty, healthy lives, education to children and improving lives of local communities. Planning needs to be guided by the principle of ‘leave no one behind’ while addressing gender inequalities, creating decent work opportunities for all, reducing inequality in income, and access to public services and resources. Also keeping in mind the conservation of environmental and restoring agro-biodiversity, it is necessary to list out all the activities in local context and document the practices of sustainability to scale up the process and plan them for budgeting.

### Sources of Clean Energy



For both rural and urban people of Nepal, dependence on firewood persists as the source for cooking energy. Though government has promoted alternate energy, they are still associated with nature since biogas and hydroelectricity depends on perennial availability of the natural resources involved. Collection of firewood may have been reduced due to availability of liquefied petroleum gas gas, but still cooking cattle feed is done in firewood stoves. Therefore, sources of clean energy will help reduce respiratory and eye problems especially among women. Healthy environment also means to tackling with climate change.



SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy

### Water and watershed conservation

Water for life and its relationship with conservation of nature has to be understood and needs to be managed. Nepalese wetlands have very high ecological significance, as they harbour many threatened species of flora and fauna and serve as resting places for many migratory and globally threatened birds. The wetlands also have high cultural and economic significance. Many ethnic groups are dependent on wetlands for their livelihoods. During the planning session, participants should map out the wetlands and its use and ways of conserving the water for future.



SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation

### Food security – Zero hunger

It is clearly known that the growing population needs food and securing food with limited land is a challenge. The knowledge of community-based biodiversity management, including the registration of farmers’ indigenous varieties, participatory plant breeding, and community seed banks, are some successful initiatives contributing to agrobiodiversity conservation. Examples



SDG 1: No poverty



of food security initiatives include establishment of agriculture genetic resource centres, tissue culture, and identification and characterization of local livestock breeds. Lack of incentives for conservation of native landraces, inadequate capacity for bio-prospecting and quarantine, and weak coordination and cooperation among different agencies are some of the major gaps related to conservation of agrobiodiversity.

### Healthy environment - Life on land



One must understand that *life on land* (SDG 15) is supports good health and better livelihood. *Life on land* means protection of the earth’s ecosystems, sustainable management of forests, and halting land degradation and biodiversity loss. This goal aims to conserve all forms of life on land. It means that programs should focus on conservation, restoring terrestrial and fresh water ecosystems, ending deforestation and restoring degraded forests, conserving mountain ecosystem, protecting biodiversity and natural habitats and fighting against illegal trade and poaching. Some examples from Nepal would be community forestry, Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP), watershed management, religious and cultural nature-based tourism, etc.

### Institutions, governance and peace

It is widely acknowledged that good governance processes need to be inclusive and participatory. To engage meaningfully, essence of partnership and local actors--including civil society, private sector, and cooperatives--need to be needs to be internalized. Accountable and participatory governance is underpinned explicitly by SDG 16. The goal also focuses on building peaceful, just and inclusive societies. It not only requires the presence of transparent and more inclusive institutions, but also a strong commitment to curb all forms of corruption, down to the local level.

SDGs value partnerships for their ability to guide our strategic priorities, spur concerted action to deliver on shared objectives, to ensure that synergies give better return on investment. More than ever, we need to bring together national and local governments, private sector, civil society and non-traditional players in the development arena such as foundations, social enterprises, traditional leaders, religious organizations and academia. An integrated approach and collaborative action are necessary to foster inclusivity and participation.



### Step 6: Action plan preparation

Finally, a planning framework has been proposed as in the Table 4. A few useful activities as observed in Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality has been included as references.

**Table 4: Action plan preparation addressing SDG targets, indicators and nature for all solutions**

SDG Targets	SDG indicators related to environment	Policy Arrangements	Local targets	Activities	Where to Implement	Responsibility
<b>SDG 1</b> No Poverty	Target 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	Agriculture and Livestock Management Act 2074				
<b>SDG 2</b> Zero hunger	Target 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round	Agriculture and Livestock Management Act 2074		Form land use policy, Promote agri-based income generation		
<b>SDG 3</b> Better Life and Quality Health	Target 3b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and noncommunicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade- Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all	Local Waste and Cleaning Act 2074		Awareness program in waste management, Determine dumping sites, Establish public health facilities,		
<b>SDG 4</b> Quality Education	Target 4.4 By 2030, increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship			School eco clubs, awareness campaigns		
<b>SDG 5</b> Gender Equality	Target 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life			develop GESI policy, capacity building, awareness		
<b>SDG 6</b> Clean Water and Sanitation	Target 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all			formation of wetland and watershed management policy, formation of user committees		
<b>SDG 7</b> Affordable and Clean Energy	Target 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services			develop alternative energy plants, and promote alternate energy		
<b>SDG 8</b> Decent Work and Economic Growth	Target 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value-added and labour-intensive sectors	Labour Act 2074		formation of labour and wage equality policy,		

SDG Targets	SDG indicators related to environment	Policy Arrangements	Local targets	Activities	Where to Implement	Responsibility
<b>SDG 9</b> Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Target 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development & human well-being, with a focus on affordable & equitable access for all	Physical Infrastructure Act 2077		Institute environment impact assessments and initial environment examination practices		
<b>SDG 10</b> Reduced Inequalities	Target 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	Social Security and Program Act 2074		awareness for equal wages for all labours, policy formulation,		
<b>SDG 11</b> Sustainable Cities and Communities	Target 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	Physical Infrastructure Act 2077		Earthquake resilient building construction norms and practices,		
<b>SDG 12</b> Responsible Consumption and Production	Target 12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programs on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries	Social Security and Programme Act 2074		use the fallow land for production and promote local production, agri-based income generation, revolving funds		
<b>SDG 13</b> Climate Action	Target 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries			awareness on climate change and map vulnerability context		
<b>SDG 15</b> Life on Land	Target 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements			awareness program, nursery production, bio engineering plantation, community forestry,		
<b>SDG 16</b> Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere			Grievance handling mechanisms, coordination and collaboration, awareness program for legal actions and controlling crime		
<b>SDG 17</b> Partnerships for the Goals	Target 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources			coordination and collaboration, awareness programs for sustainability		

*There can be more targets and indicators than in the table related to environment and nature.*



## 5. Conclusion and recommendations

Nature provides us with vital resources such as food, air, water, and energy which can be harnessed to create solutions to the challenges set out in the SDGs. These solutions can lead to positive social, economic, governance and environmental outcomes. Realizing the benefits of nature requires mainstreaming nature into decision-making, building multi-stakeholder partnerships and strengthening good governance in order to protect the agency, dignity and human rights of vulnerable communities. SDGs provide us with an opportunity to further develop participatory models of governance and accountability mechanisms, and to craft multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Considering the unique role of federal, provincial and local governments in this process, the present booklet is expected to guide the exercise of compiling and mapping existing modalities and approaches adopted by some local initiation and that contribute to the localization of the environment and SDGs as nature for all solutions. Capturing this panorama will not only stimulate subnational governments to engage with the 2030 Agenda, but will also provide insights on ways to improve the implementation of the SDGs.

This booklet will support in integrating the SDGs to local plans and implementation. It will be catalytic to review policy making, improve thematic coordination and boost morale in public services by engaging civil servants, communities and experts. Accelerating the progress on SDGs in fact needs integration of the environmental concerns and environmental indicators of the SDGs at the local level.





Nepal SDGs Forum was established in 2016 as a common platform of thematic federations and networks, CSOs, I/NGOs, private sector, cooperatives, media, UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral development partners and major groups and stakeholders which aspire to contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Nepal SDGs Forum is the only civil society platform recognized by High-Level SDG Steering Committee, Thematic Committees as well as Nepal Government's institutional mechanisms set up for implementation of SDGs. Now, more than 50 federations and alliances and over 500 organizations from across the country are the members of this Forum. This Forum comprises of organizations which have taken their specific responsibilities as Conveners, Co-Conveners, and Major Groups. In addition to the designated Conveners and Co-conveners for each goals, Nepal SDGs Forum has formed the civil society Major Groups as well as cross-cutting or thematic areas that include Youth, Women, People with Disabilities, Senior Citizens, Children, Dalit, Indigenous Communities, LGBTIQ, Farmers, Development Partners, Cooperatives, Media, Trade Unions, Private Sectors, Science and Technology. As an open forum, Nepal SDGs Forum welcomes everyone interested in SDGs to join this forum. INGOs working in Nepal are part of this forum as advisors.

Nepal SDGs Forum aims to accelerate, localize and contribute to achieving SDGs while guided by the principles of 'leaving no one behind', shared and sustained prosperity, and increased role and participation of civil society. It works in close coordination with National Planning Commission (NPC) and other state and non-state actors. By working under this Forum, various stakeholders aim to coordinate, collaborate and build synergy in influencing and impacting sustainable development. Although different organizations have their own priorities and actions, they come together under this Forum so as to impact and influence policy, coherence, harmonization as well as to create a common understanding and voice at the national and international level. They share their activities, lessons learned, priorities and way forward by meeting regularly.

NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) facilitates in the functioning of Nepal SDGs Forum at central and province levels. Its secretariat is located at NFN at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu. As a host organization of Nepal SDGs Forum as well as the leading CSO network of Nepal, NFN functionalizes this forum, coordinates and builds synergy among CSOs, NGOs, INGOs, and establishes linkage with Government of Nepal. This has made it possible to localize the SDGs at grassroots level, while engaging with national, provincial and local level state and non-state actors and stakeholders for The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

For more information, visit: [www.nepalsdgforum.org](http://www.nepalsdgforum.org).



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