

1.2 International Commitments

Various initiatives have been taken at the regional and international level for promoting agricultural and forestry activities in a sustainable and environment-friendly way. As a member of United Nations system, Nepal participated in the UN Conferences on Human Environment, and Environment and Development held at Stockholm and Rio de Janeiro in June 1972 and 1992 respectively. Nepal is making every effort to tune her environmental policies with the Stockholm and Rio Declarations, including decisions of the UN General Assembly on natural resource conservation, environment and development.

Besides, Nepal has also joined international efforts for land improvement and species conservation by being Party to legally binding environmental instruments, treaties, conventions and agreements. Related with these two sectors, Nepal has become a Party to seven conventions and agreements (Table 1.6). Based on the provisions of these instruments, Nepal is preparing and implementing environment-friendly policies, programmes, and action plans. However, additional efforts are still required to implement some of commitments made. For example, a separate action plan should be prepared and implemented under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Furthermore, the provisions of these instruments shall prevail in Nepal, in case, any provision as mentioned in the prevailing laws is inconsistent with the provision of the treaty based on the Section 9 of the *Nepal Treaty Act, 1990*.

Table 1.6 **Agriculture and Forestry Related Conventions**

Conventions	Entry into Force in Nepal	Major Obligations
UN Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 1994	13 January 1997	Combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought by adopting integrated approach to address the physical, biological, and socio economic aspects of the processes of desertification and drought; and Integration of strategies for poverty eradication, and preparation and implementation of the National Action Programmes
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992	31 July 1994	Stabilisation of green house gases concentrations in the atmosphere and protection of the climate system; Precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimise the causes of climate change; Formulation of national policies and corresponding measures; and Promotion, co-operation and facilitation in research and public awareness on climate change and its effect
Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992	21 February 1994	Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and equitable sharing of benefits; Preparation and implementation of national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and Conservation in <i>in-situ</i> and <i>ex-situ</i> conditions, and promotion on biotechnology and genetic research

Agreement on the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia and the Pacific, 1988	4 January 1990	Expansion of aquaculture development through multi-disciplinary research on selected aqua-farming system and transfer of technologies; and Establishment of a regional information system, and train and upgrade core personnel for national aquaculture planning, research, training, extension and development
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, 1971	17 April 1988	Designation of wetlands of national and international importance and conservation, management and wise use of migratory stock of waterfowl and their habitats

Conventions	Entry into Force in Nepal	Major Obligations
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1973	16 September 1975	Protection of natural ecosystem including wild fauna and flora; and Regulation on trade, import and export of species listed in Appendices
Plant Protection Agreement for the South East Asia and Pacific (as amended), 1956	12 August, 1965	Prevention on the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and promotion of measures for their control during import and export

Source: MOPE, 2000.

Effective implementation of commitments under these international instruments would also help in maintaining environmental quality and in meeting our obligations. In the spirit of the above considerations, the following chapters describe the pressure, state, impact, and response measures in the agriculture and forestry sectors.

