

Preface



Nepal's environmental problems in the rural and urban areas are of different nature. Fragile slopes, cultivation in the marginal land, and deforestation has accelerated soil erosion and landslide in the mountains, while riverbank cutting, sedimentation and forest encroachment are pronounced in the Terai areas. Human activities such as use of agro-chemicals, land tilling practices, and farming on steep slopes resulted in the decline of production of major cereal crops and the quality as well. Furthermore, forest depletion has increased the area of shrub land and the area of climax forest has decreased each year.

In order to address these concerns, His Majesty's Government has institutionalised the community user group concept and people's participation in natural resource management. The Ministry of Population and Environment is encouraging its partners including non-governmental and community-based organisations in this initiative, and the Ministry is in the process of developing environmental instruments with stakeholders' participation.

Since its establishment, the Ministry has created public awareness by communicating environmental information, and bringing people in the mainstream of environmental management. To this effect, the Ministry started the publication of the *State of the Environment Report* since 1998. A similar report was published in June 2000 and this is the third in series. With a view to communicating sectoral level environmental information, this Report outlines the environmental trends in the green sector, particularly in the forestry and agriculture sectors. This report attempts to impart information on P-S-I-R (Pressure-State-Impact-Response) format.

I would like to appreciate the contribution of Dr. Arzu Rana-Deuba for preparing this Report. I would also like to express my thanks to my colleagues Messrs J. R. Joshi, Joint Secretary, and B. K. Uprety, Ecologist of this Ministry for their efforts in bringing out this Report in the present form.

June 5, 2000
Kathmandu

Dr. Mukti Narayan Shrestha
Secretary