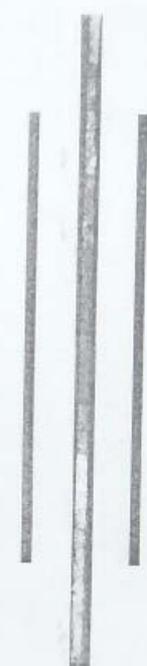


**Government of Nepal
Forest Fire Management Strategy 2010**

Unofficial Translation, June 2010

डढेलो व्यवस्थापन रणनीति, २०६७



नेपाल सरकार

वन तथा भू-संरक्षण मन्त्रालय

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Background

Nepal has been experiencing wildfire disasters during the recent years. On the one hand, the government of Nepal has lacking institutional, policy and legal frameworks and at the same time facing a challenge in financial and human resource development, awareness rising, development of plans and programmes to cope with wildfire disasters in the country. On the other hand, transboundary wildfires and haze pollution are becoming another emerging issue which needs to be addressed collectively.

Procedures

In light with the above scenarios, the foundation meeting of the UNISDR-Regional South Asia Wildland Fire Network was conducted in Kathmandu in 2-3 April 2007 which was funded by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), cosponsored by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and supported by the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation.¹

Following the foundation meeting, a Round Table for the Development of National Strategy for Wildland Fire Management in Nepal was conducted in conjunction with the '3-level wildland fire management project for Nepal' funded by the German Foreign Office (GFO) and implemented by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) in close collaboration with Department of Forests (DoF/Government of Nepal), UNISDR-Regional South Asia Wildland Fire Network, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Nepal and ICIMOD in Kathmandu, on 16 December 2007.²

A Multi-stakeholders Round Table meeting for the 'Development of a Policy, a Strategy and Building Capacities in Local, National and Transboundary Forest Fire Management for Nepal' was held in Kathmandu in 11 March 2009 funded by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and being implemented jointly by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) of Government of Nepal and facilitated by the UNISDR-Regional Wildland Fire Network (RSAWFN).³

Another high-level multi-stakeholder Meeting for Development of a National Strategy for Wildland Fire Management in Nepal was held by the Department of Forests (DoF) in Dhulikhel, Kathmandu, on 22 June 2009.

A Task Force, established by the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) and facilitated by the UNISDR-RSAWFN, acting as secretariat, conducted a series of meetings on the development of a National Forest Fire Management Strategy, with support from local development partners particularly the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Nepal.

¹ (http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/South_Asia/Meetings_activities/Report-main.pdf)

² http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/South_Asia/Meetings_activities/Round-table_Nepal.html)

³ http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/South_Asia/Meetings_activities/Southasia_meetings-2.html

The Strategy

After several consultations and meetings with concerned stakeholders including development partners, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal has finally endorsed 'Forest Fire Management Strategy 2010'.

The strategy has four pillars for forest fire management in Nepal, namely:

1. Policy, legal and institutional development and improvement;
2. Education, awareness raising, capacity building and technology development;
3. Participatory (involving local community) fire management and research; and
4. Coordination and collaboration, international cooperation, networking, and infrastructure development.

It has a vision 'to safeguard life and properties, to protect environment and to provide livelihood supports to the local communities'.

The goal of the strategy is 'to mitigate losses of life, properties, biodiversity and ecosystem by properly managing forest fires to increase productivity of forests.

The main objectives of the strategy are:

1. To develop and strengthen necessary policy and institution for forest fire management;
2. To mobilize local communities, civil societies, government and non-government organization prevention and control of forest fires;
3. To develop communication and information management system for forest fire disaster mitigation;
4. To incorporate wise use of fires for ecosystem management and for livelihoods of the local people;
5. To create an enabling environment from all possible donors including national, international, bi-lateral, multi-lateral for financial, technical and other resource support to solve the problems arising from uncontrolled national and transboundary fire disaster and its impacts on climate change and other environmental issues.

Major approaches for implementation and monitoring of the strategy, among others, are:

- Multi-stakeholder involvement
- Community-based emphasis
- Primary emphasis on prevention of uncontrolled forest fires
- Forest fire management shall be an integral part of all forestry sector plans and programmes
- Motivation and encouragement of people and institutions involved in fire and its management
- Local and national level capacity development
- Awareness raising
- Conserve biodiversity and reduce carbon emission,
- Communication and information management,
- Coordination, collaboration and networking at all levels,
- Regional and International cooperation,
- Prescribed burning
- Incorporate livelihood supports to local people,
- Human Resource and Institutional Development for Introduction of the Incident Command System (ICS)
- Celebration of a 'Fire Management Week' in every year
- Provision of a declaration of 'fire emergency'
- Rescue, relief and rehabilitation
- Focal agency will be the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation