

The VNR in a Nutshell – National Strategies for SDGs.

NEPAL

Capital	Kathmandu
Area (in sq. km)	147,181
Topography	Geographically, the country is divided in three regions; Mountain, Hill and Terai region.
Bordering countries	India and China
Currency	Nepali Rupees
Major language	Nepali
Major religions	Hinduism, Buddhism
Population	28.98 mil
International	
Tourist Arrivals (2015)	

Sources: Human Development Report, World Bank, UNWTO



The recognition of the role of tourism in sustainable development and the emphasis placed in the SDGs on the development of public policies for sustainable tourism is a landmark breakthrough that provides a unique opportunity for all governments to create a sound and favourable policy foundation.

The first two years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have shown that countries are making headway in aligning national strategies, adapting institutional frameworks and adjusting policies to realize the SDGs.

The countries' efforts have been reported in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), presented by UN Member States during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2016 and 2017

Title of VNR: National Review of Sustainable Development Goals Government of Nepal 2017

Presenter for VNR: Min Bahadur Shrestha, National Planning Commission

National Thematic Focus:

Nepal's 14th Plan has 5 major pillar-

- (i) Infrastructure (Goals 6, 7, 9 and 11),
- (ii) Social (Goals 3 and 4),
- (iii) Economic (Goals 1, 2, 8, 9, 10 and 12),
- (iv) Governance (Goals 16 and 17) and
- (v) Cross-cutting (Goals 5, 13, and 15).

The Plan aims at building an independent and prosperous state ensuring access to basic social services and providing adequate food, health, energy and job security, and at the same time also calls for working towards the SDGs to pave the way to transform Nepal from a low to a middle income country by 2030.

National priorities have now been shifted to infrastructure development, hydropower development, and industrialization

Institutional Arrangement:

Nepal has established three entities to coordinate and oversee implementation of the SDGs at the national level:

- The SDGs Steering Committee provides policy guidance and general oversight, builds partnerships for achieving the SDGs, reviews annual progress, and gives feedback to the SDGs

Coordination and Implementation Committee and other levels of government. It is chaired by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, who also serves as the Chairman of the National Planning Commission. The Committee includes the Finance Minister, Foreign Minister, and the Chief Secretary. The Secretary of the NPC also serves as the Member Secretary at the Committee. There is the provision of including representatives from civil society, the private sector and other invitee members

- Managing, coordinating and financing implementation: The SDGs Coordination and Implementation Committee arranges financial, human and technical resources by mobilising internal and external resources. It coordinates between the public, non-profit, and private sectors. It is chaired by the Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission, and prepares periodic national SDG reports.
- Supporting and reviewing sectoral implementation: Nine SDG Implementation and Monitoring Thematic Committees provide direct support and guidance to line ministries and other government institutions for the incorporation of the SDGs into national plans, policies and programmes. They oversee monitoring of the SDGs through selected indicators, and organize the allocation of ODA through the national budget. They are each headed by a member of the National Planning Commission, and include representatives from the relevant government bodies, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations. Each committee submits trimester reports to the Coordination and Implementation Committee.

SDG Incorporation to National Framework:

Nepal is working to integrate the SDGs into its plans and policies. The Fourteenth Periodic Plan (2016/17 – 2018/19), integrates 5 key strategies that are already consistent with the 2030 Agenda goals. The SDGs are also being incorporated into sectoral strategies and annual programmes.

The "SDG Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030" produced by the National Planning Commission (NPC) serves as a framework for implementation of the SDGs. It describes the SDG targets and indicators, and sets future milestones for implementation. The monitoring framework in the report aligns and updates national SDGs indicators with global ones.

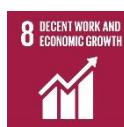
Tourism Ministry /NTA portfolio:

[Ministry of Culture Tourism and Aviation](#)

Tourism and SDG in Nepal:

Opportunities

- **Industry, transport and infrastructure**



- **Tourism— Nepal’s tourism infrastructures is improving.** The country has 1,073 tourist standard hotels, world class trekking trails, and 957 cultural heritage tourist attractions (NPC 2017b). In 2015, 790,000 tourists visited Nepal staying on an average 13 days and spending \$69 per day (MOF 2016). The government aims to increase tourist arrivals to 1.34 million and increase length of stay to 15 days by 2020 (MOTCA 2016).

- Finance and investment
- Partnerships



- **Private sector initiatives**

The government and the private sector held an investment summit in March 2017 in Kathmandu. The commitments made surpassed expectations with a whopping US\$ 13.52 billion pledged. Domestic investors are also willing to invest in mega projects with more than 250 investors from different countries pledged to invest. Political commitments, an investment-friendly constitution and the lessening energy crisis are increasing investor confidence to invest in energy, transport, agriculture, and **tourism** and information technology

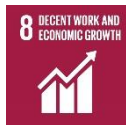
- **Industry transport and infrastructure**



- **The country's tourism infrastructure is improving with 1,073 tourist standard hotels**

Nepal has improved its infrastructure. The length of roads reached 82,412 km in 2016 of which 14 percent was black-topped, 23 percent graveled and 63 percent earthen. The road density was 0.44 km/sq2 in 2015/16. And 51.4 percent of people have access to a paved road within 30 minutes' walk. The construction of railroads has begun. Connectivity by air transport is improving. Nepal has 33 airports in operation and 25 domestic private airlines and 26 international airlines operating flights in and to Nepal.

- Finance and investment
- Partnerships



- **Internal resource mobilisation**

All federal, provincial and local governments need to promote the **involvement of the private sector**. This sector has a critical role in promoting economic growth by developing industries and services, generating jobs in agriculture, **tourism**, construction and urban development, and by improving housing and transportation. Also, this sector will help the government upscale SDG investment by paying its taxes. The anomalies of private sector growth (less attention to inclusiveness and affordability by the poor) can be neutralized through social protection measures funded from tax revenues. The three levels of government also need to encourage civil society organisations and cooperatives to mobilise more financial and material resources.

Resources and Useful Links

[Nepal VNR 2017](#)