

## **Towards Building a National Geospatial Information System in Nepal**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Nepal is a developing nation nested between two giant nations China and India. More than two third population of Nepal depends on agriculture for their livelihood. For the proper management of land and land based resources for supporting livelihoods of the general people, maintaining societal justice, and ensuring sustainable economic and social development of the nation, Geospatial Information is believed to play important role. In addition, spatially enabled planning and decision making system has emphasized the need of Geospatial Information in the recent years. Various entities including Government and Private sectors are involving in Geospatial Information production in order to meet such needs. Survey Department, the National Mapping Organization of Nepal, is the main Organization in this business. The need of Geospatial Information and involvement of various organizations have brought the possibility of duplication of efforts and investment, inconsistencies in data standards, and misuse of public funds. In addition, as more than two third population of Nepal depends on agriculture for their livelihood, proper developing, use and management of Geospatial Information has been a critically important intervention.

In this context, there is a need of building National Geospatial Information System in Nepal. Survey Department has taken such initiative through establishing National Geographic Information Infrastructure Project since 2000. The initiative is not growing as expected due to the various challenges and gaps in the national policies. However, the government's efforts are continued to strengthen this effort.

**Keywords:** *Geospatial Information, Spatial Data Infrastructure, Sustainable development.*