

## 2<sup>nd</sup> National River Summit 2017

### Declaration, 2017

#### Preamble:

Given the background that constitution of Nepal has prioritized management of natural resources including water resources in its provisions and reminiscing 15 points declaration of first national summit, 2014, considering implementation of climate change related Paris agreement 2015, Biodiversity Convention, Sendai Framework, Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and other Nepal related national and international treaties and conventions; also in context that Nepal is undergoing federal structure reform, the formation of local level institutions and the responsibility of water resources conservation and management granted to them by the constitution, this summit realizes the need of water and wetland conservation and thus this summit presents following common understandings as Trishuli Declaration.

1. National river policy shall be framed and implemented for sustainable management and utilization of rivers and river resources in Nepal.
2. High Powered National River Commission shall be established for overall development and management of water resources.
3. Government shall formulate and execute watershed management policies based on principles of Integrated Water Resources Management.
4. Immediate actions for promotion of scientific research and data collection on rivers shall be carried out to develop scientific database and understanding thus providing a data driven decision making framework for sustainable management of rivers.

5. Sustainable management and conservation of water resources, ensured by the constitution, shall be guaranteed in the law, policies and planning framed at the state and local level under the federal structure of the constitution.
6. At least one river shall be declared as naturally free flowing river in each of the large river basins, respecting the right of rivers to flow naturally and ensuring the right of future generation on river resources. Rivers with high biodiversity, environment, culture and religion and tourism value shall be nominated as free flowing rivers.
7. Amount of benefit sharing assured by the policies of the government, on river related infrastructure development, to the communities, dependent on river for livelihood, such as Majhi, Bote, Rajhi, Musahar, Danuwar, Sudana shall be quantified and institutionalized.
8. In the context where increasing river pollution is a serious threat to entire Nepalese society, Bagmati cleaning campaign is being organized successfully. Different stakeholders shall coordinate and replicate such campaign in other rivers of the country as well.
9. While carrying out construction of road, water supply, irrigation, hydropower and other development activities, the Government of Nepal and all concerned agencies shall adopt principles of sustainable development and carry out the activities incurring minimum adverse effect on river system and their surrounding systems.
10. Current unmanaged and unsustainable river resources exploitation practices shall be discouraged and halted immediately.
11. The Government and concerned agencies shall adopt conservation strategies to maintain the natural state of the Trishuli River that holds varied significance along with ecotourism.

12. A network comprising of different bodies, organizations and actors working for water conservation shall be established and conservation activities shall be amplified under the collaboration.

13. In March of every two years, National River Summit shall be organized and in March of 2019, next river summit shall be organized in the Karnali River.

2073 Chaitra 6 (19<sup>th</sup> March 2017), Sunday