

3rd National River Summit 2019

Karnali Declaration

Organized on March 28th-31st 2019 AD, in the banks of Rakam Karnali at Aathbish Municipality of Dailekh district within the Karnali Province; 3rd National River Summit, reminiscing the past summit's declarations, publishes this Karnali Declaration for the conservation as well as sustainable and conscious use of Nepal's rivers, lakes and other watershed areas.

1. Emphasizes serious concerns over excessive mining of river products in the name of infrastructural development, as per the decrease in the life of rivers due to unplanned urbanization and pollution, requests the government to take essential steps for immediate and impactful solutions to these problems.
2. Urges the local and provincial government to take essential steps to formulate essential study guides such as Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) to manage excessive mining and excavation of riverine products, as well as control the carelessness in execution; only allow excavation on the basis of application prepared after all requirements are fulfilled and in the absence of which penalize accordingly.
3. Requires the completion of Cumulative Impact Assessment and Strategic Basin Management Study during Hydropower construction as Hydropower Development may result in long-term unfavorable impacts in Himalayan, Hilly and Terai regions.
4. Sustainable utility of benefits obtained from employing river products and management of consumption of environmental services for conservation.
5. Redefine development, after proper differentiation between constructive and destructive development, as the solution for the intellectual conflict between development and environment, and plan efforts of conservation for the benefit and livelihood of the most marginalized and nature-dependent communities
6. Control rivers to protect from river disasters triggered in the context of rivers being trapped in the hands of climate change and other calamities and not picturizing coasts as the only solution but managing favorable condition for manmade settlements to migrate out of risky areas for which integrated land utilization plan should be implemented after construction and discourage haphazard development.
7. As Nepal's weather forecasting technology is found to be reliable, trustworthy and effective thus, the same technology can be integrated for preparedness of river disasters through strengthening the technology for the development of information sharing between downstream and upstream residents
8. This Summit revolts against the blind distribution of Hydropower generation license and its commercialization and demands for the immediate end of all discrepancies of development
9. Asks Nepal Government to create a legal framework for programs relating to Hydropower, Irrigation and other water utility programs to release the minimum amount of water for the river's natural and biotic values as well as its religious, cultural and spiritual qualities and for its regular inspection
10. Execution and drafting of biodiversity relating policies in federal, provincial, as well as local level regarding the river's situational technology and teach sustainable practices of fishing to save endangered fish species for conservation of fish and other aquatic beings

11. To make the Karnali river unique, important, cultural, and naturally, by declaring a 5 kilometer area in each side of the river as a Sacred Karnali River Corridor and adding to the world heritage list, for setting up the activities and schemes, under the holy Karnali river, keeping special plans in the area, in order to honor and preserve the rights of the future generations, the Karnali River, which has not been destroyed till now, will take some section/part of the river as natural and indefinite (free flowing river) as a gift to the future generation.
12. By making the holy Karnali river area in 5 kilometers of the river around the river for special purpose, by declaring the heritage river of the special importance of historical, cultural and natural sight, to the Karnali river, the special importance of the historic river, making special plans in the area and organizing the activities of the future Recent to respect and preserve To initiate the river, the Karnali River, which is not destroyed, will be destroyed as a river and a river for future generations.
13. Following all the protocols, declare Karnali river as Wild and Scenic River for which proper legislature prior to its execution should be made.
14. Karnali river system as well as the entire Karnali Pradesh is rich in biodiversity and center focusing its backwardness; in perspective of economic development urges for intensive study and research on this subject; and make Karnali river and Karnali Province recognizable in national and international level and initiatives its special campaign for establishing a specific area/center for tourism, education and research
15. Prioritize the formulation of (only) favorable developmental plan as the potentiality of abundant hydroelectricity production needed for Karnali region and nation in economical, reliable and environmentally friendly way has been identified through proper hydro energy production project in tributaries of Karnali river
16. To develop the cultural, religious and natural tourism of Karnali region, religious, cultural and natural trail should be identified to develop the infrastructure accordingly, followed by intense advertisement to develop it as a tourism hub of the world. World's longest rafting competition shall be held covering the area of Province no 5, Karnali province and Far-western region, from Rakam, Karnali to Tikapur, Kailali in every 2 years.
17. Building networks in different waterbodies and rivers for river conservation, development and management incorporating committed Nepali and foreign river lovers with similar vision and as it's start a network of 'Friends of Karnali' will be established for development of Karnali province and conservation of Karnali rover
18. As festivals celebrated in different regions and communities of Nepal has rituals and traditions to respect rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, springs and water bodies as whole like Sithi Nakha of Kathmandu Valley, Chatth of Terai Region, river Festival celebrated in 3rd week in Majhi community, a thorough study/research on its relationship should be done and advocacy to identify and observe such festivals as national festivals
19. Joint initiative/ advocacy by province government of Province No. 5, Karnali Province and Sudurpaschim Province for flooding and change in water current in Nepal due to Girjapuri dam built in India
20. Next 4th National River Summit to be conducted in Kaligandaki River in 2077 BS viz 2021 AD.

Sunday, 31st March 2019