

# Nepal PhD Association (NPA) "Unity in Diversity"

## **Strategic Plan**

(2025 - 2029)

December 2024

### **Prolusion from the President**

As President of Nepal PhD Association (NPA), I am honored to present the Strategic Plan for 2025-2029. This document serves not only as a roadmap for our future but also as a reflection of our shared vision to advance our initiatives under the guiding principles of "Unity in Diversity" and "Together for Betterment" in Nepal.

My heartfelt thank goes to the Strategic Plan Preparation Committee members for their dedication and hard work in developing this comprehensive plan. I have full confidence that it will guide the Executive Committee in directing activities and achieving the strategic goals and objectives of NPA.

With this pivotal document and the strength of our collective teamwork, I am confident that the Association will achieve new milestones, enhance the pride and morale of our members, and contribute meaningfully to both society and the nation-building process.

Thank you.

(Sunil Babu Shrestha, PhD)
President
Nepal PhD Association (NPA)

### **Contents**

Pro	olusion from the President	2
Exe	ecutive Summary	i
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Rationale of Developing the Strategy Plan and Formulation Process	1
3.	Situation Analysis	2
4.	Core Values, Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives of NPA	3
5.	Strategic Goals, Objectives and Performance Indicators	4
6.	Implementation Plan	5
7.	Monitoring, Evaluation and Lesson Learned	7
8.	Management of Resources	7
9.	Risk, Challenges and Mitigation Strategies	7
An	inexes	9
(	Current Executive Committee of NPA	9
;	Sub-committees	10
(	Organizational Structure of NPA	11

### **Executive Summary**

Nepal PhD Association (NPA), established in 2008, aims to bring together PhD holders from both Nepal and abroad under one umbrella. As a non-political, non-profitable, and non-governmental organization, NPA serves as a think tank that contributes to national development. Its diverse membership, encompassing academia, social sectors, and professionals with institutional affiliations, positions NPA to play a pivotal role in shaping development policies, plans, and implementation strategies for a "Prosperous Nepal." The Association's efforts are geared towards fostering national unity, ethnic harmony, equitable development, and inclusion in national programs with a focus on sustainability.

A subcommittee formed by the Association has reviewed the previous strategic plan and developed a new Five-Year Strategic Plan (2025-2029). This plan aligns with Nepal's 16th Periodic Plan and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The review process involved comprehensive tools such as the SWOCC (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges, and Constraints) analysis, which informed the definition of NPA's core values, priority needs, goals, and key activities with measurable performance indicators.

### Core Values, Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives

**Core Values:** NPA believes in the importance of good governance, human rights, and equitable resource distribution as fundamental pillars for poverty reduction, peace, prosperity, and security. The Association emphasizes inclusive decision-making and the democratic empowerment of individuals.

**Vision:** NPA envisions a Nepal where PhD holders respect fundamental rights; values shaped by academic rigor, and contribute knowledge to benefit the people and the environment.

**Mission:** NPA's mission is to strengthen governance and foster a research culture in Nepal by supporting individual researchers and research organizations.

**Overall Goal:** To establish NPA as a leading research-driven "Think Tank Institution" that generates knowledge and contributes to strengthening governance systems and promoting sustainable development in Nepal.

### **Overall Objectives:**

- To strengthen scientific research capacity across various fields to promote development and governance.
- To establish a scientific research forum for knowledge sharing through publishing and disseminating research findings.
- To enhance the research capacity of academic institutions both nationally and internationally.
- To foster research collaboration and development cooperation based on the country's priority needs at international, national, and sub-national levels.

### **Summary of Strategic Goals, Objectives, and Performance Indicators**

Strategic Goals	Strategic Objectives	Performance Indicators
<b>Goal 1:</b> Institutionalize NPA as a research and governance-promoting institution.	<b>Objective 1.1:</b> Undertake studies for stakeholders on a consulting basis.	Indicator 1.1.1: Number of studies undertaken.
	<b>Objective 1.2:</b> Write grants proposals for NPA's long-term development.	Indicator 1.2.1: Number of grant proposals submitted.
	<b>Objective 1.3:</b> Manage publications and disseminate research findings.	Indicator 1.3.1: Number of publications published and disseminated.
	<b>Objective 1.4:</b> Establish and manage NPA as a research-based information center.	Indicator 1.4.1: Operational research-based information center established.
<b>Goal 2:</b> Strengthen NPA's institutional capacity.	<b>Objective 2.1:</b> Develop required infrastructure for NPA.	Indicator 2.1.1: Progress on infrastructure development.
	<b>Objective 2.2:</b> Develop organizational policies and systems.	Indicator 2.2.1: Development and implementation of policies.
	<b>Objective 2.3:</b> Develop a membership profile.	Indicator 2.3.1: Developed membership and organizational profile.
<b>Goal 3:</b> Build networks, coordination, and partnerships with different stakeholders.	<b>Objective 3.1:</b> Define primary and secondary stakeholders.	Indicator 3.1.1: Identified stakeholders.
	<b>Objective 3.2:</b> Develop coordination mechanisms for stakeholders.	Indicator 3.2.1: Functional coordination mechanism.
	<b>Objective 3.3:</b> Facilitate research and policy development in collaboration with government and NGOs.	Indicator 3.3.1: Number of I/NGOs facilitated.
	•	Indicator 3.4.1: Developed international collaborations and partnerships.

### Monitoring, Evaluation, and Lessons Learned

A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Sub-Committee will be formed to oversee the mid-term and final evaluations of the strategic plan's implementation. This committee will regularly assess the progress of the action plan, incorporating lessons learned to refine the strategy as necessary.

### **Resource Management**

The Executive Committee will prepare and allocate an annual budget to support the activities outlined in this Strategic Plan. This budget will take into account available funding sources and the priority needs of the program activities. Potential funding sources include:

- Membership fees and contributions
- Grants and donations from national and international organizations
- Revenue generated through research, consultancy, and networking services

### **Limitations and Challenges**

Challenges may arise during the implementation phase, including internal and external obstacles. Key challenges to address include inconsistent or insufficient support from NPA members, identifying primary stakeholders, and developing and strengthening partnerships with national and international organizations. Overcoming these hurdles will be crucial to ensuring successful implementation and achieving NPA's objectives.

### 1. Introduction

Nepal PhD Association (NPA), formally established in 2008, intends to bring the scholars of PhD holders who have received PhD degrees from Nepal and abroad under one umbrella. The Association is a solely non-political, non-profitable and non-governmental organization. It is a think-tank of academic excellence and can generate multidisciplinary knowledge and skills needed for the nation's development. It is an institution comprising individuals with diverse skills and knowledge contributing to scientific advancement and development. The Association deserves the capacity to foster development policies, plans and implementation strategies for a "Prosperous Nepal" as its members represent a wide and varied arena of professionals from academia, the social and development sector, and professionals with institutional affiliations.

NPA can play a vital role in bridging the gap between planners and practitioners where the researchers can suggest, coordinate, and assist several national programs run by governmental and non-governmental organizations/institutions. This would further enhance the employment of a vast sector of skills needed for the development of the country in a sustainable manner. As a research and think tank organization, the Association could be a proper forum to play the role of an intellectual watchdog, identifying and bridging the intellectual gap between development plans and their implementation. It can also contribute to the nation-building process.

### 2. Rationale of Developing the Strategy Plan and Formulation Process

This strategic plan outlines the NPA's goals and achievement process. The notion of NPA determines cooperation and coordination among academia, researchers and planners at national and international levels. It interacts through dialogues and sharing experiences on several innovative works as per the demand of the time. NPA, as an academic forum, provides opportunities for concerned individuals to express their views and findings on their research works and disseminate information through publications, seminars and talk programs. This could enhance the knowledge of every circle explicitly, steering towards the nation-building process.

The Association requires possessing an intellectual environment where PhD holders from varied disciplines can come together with their innovative ideas and opinions to contribute to minimizing the problems faced by the Nepali people. NPA believes in the values of good governance, human rights, and distribution of resources equitably, which are the key factors for poverty reduction and ensuring the peace, prosperity, and security of the country. Hence, NPA aims to contribute to maintaining Nepal's integrity instigated by ethnic harmony, equal distribution of development and inclusion in national development programs with a sustainable approach.

A strategic plan review and development subcommittee has reviewed the previous strategic plan considering the 16<sup>th</sup> Periodic Plan of the Government of Nepal and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The following formulation processes were adopted:

- Situation Analysis (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges and Constraints
   -SWOCC Analysis)
- Revision of Organizational Core Values
- Organization Needs Assessment

• Prioritization of Organizational and Program Development Initiatives

This strategic plan presents the findings and conclusions of the review process, including proposed strategic goals, objectives and action plans for the period of 2025 to 2029.

### 3. Situation Analysis

Based on previous experience, the review team conducted the SWOCC analysis to meticulously assess the current situation of NPA. A SWOCC analysis is a tool used to understand key factors/issues - strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, challenges and constraints – affecting a social organization, like NPA. It involves identifying the internal (strengths & weaknesses) and external (opportunities, challenges and constraints) factors that are either supportive or unfavorable to achieving the organization's objectives. The summary of this analysis is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Organizational SWOCC Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
Established under the specified law of Nepal	Not being able to unite all the members
Professional and diversified expert members	Insufficient commitment from the members
Ability to work as a 'Think Tank' institution	Absence of strategies for sustainability
<ul><li>for the Government of Nepal</li><li>Highly qualified and experienced members</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Lack of regular professional networks with primary stakeholders</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Inadequate organizational set-up</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Insufficient financial base</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Insufficient initiatives to attract and involve its members to achieve common goals and objectives</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Challenges and Constraints
Collaboration with academic and other	Resources Constraints
institutions	Over-expectations among members
Establishment of a research-based information resource center	Conflict of interest of some members
Policy review and development of the Government  Int'l and National Networking for R&D	<ul> <li>Institutionalization of NPA as a research institution</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Creating an environment for support from primary stakeholders and others for the sustainability of NPA</li> </ul>
	The growing number of research institutions

Currently, the Association has been struggling with some critical challenges and constraints that are created by the political and legal system of governance. For example, the Association was registered under the Institutional Registration Act 2034, which contains outdated provisions such as approval from the government for the amendment of the NPA's Statute.

With the assessment of above mentioned societal and governance context, particularly the State's plan of judicial governance and its own strengths and limitations, NPA has set-up the

following institutional values, vision, mission, and strategic goals and objectives as part of its Strategic Plan for 2025-2029.

### 4. Core Values, Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives of NPA

### **Core Values**

NPA believes that effective governance systems, human rights, and the equitable distribution of resources are essential for poverty reduction and for ensuring peace, prosperity, and security in the country. Additionally, NPA recognizes the importance of amplifying individual voices through democratic processes, ensuring that these voices are included in decision-making to foster social, environmental, and inclusive economic reforms.

### Vision

NPA envisages Nepal where an intellectual group of PhD holders respects fundamental rights and values shaped by the academic environment and subsequently affirms knowledge-based links for the benefit of the people and their environment.

### Mission

The NPA's mission is to help individual researchers and research organizations promote and strengthen governance and develop a research culture in Nepal.

### **Overall Goal:**

To establish NPA as a leading research-driven "Think Tank Institution" that generates knowledge and contributes to strengthening governance systems and promoting sustainable development in Nepal.

### **Overall Objectives**

- To strengthen scientific research capacity in different fields to promote and strengthen development and governance in Nepal.
- To establish a scientific research forum by sharing knowledge (publishing and disseminating scientific research findings).
- To enhance the research capacity of academic institutions at national and international levels.
- To foster research collaboration and development cooperation aligned with the nation's priority needs at the international, national, and sub-national/local levels.

### 5. Strategic Goals, Objectives and Performance Indicators

Strategic Goal 1: To institutionalize NPA as a research and governance-promoting institution

Strategic Objective 1.1: Undertaking studies for stakeholders on a consulting basis.

(Indicator 1.1.1: Numbers of studies for stakeholders undertaken)

Strategic Objective 1.2: Writing grant proposals for the long-term development of NPA.

(Indicator 1.2.1: Numbers of grant proposals prepared for funding submitted)

Strategic Objective 1.3: Managing publications and disseminating research findings.

(Indicator 1.3.1: Numbers of publications published and research findings disseminated)

Strategic Objective 1.4: Establishing and managing NPA as a research-based information center.

(Indicator 1.4.1: An operational research-based information center established)

Strategic Goal 2: To strengthen the institutional capacity of NPA

Strategic Objective 2.1: Developing the required infrastructure of/for NPA.

(Indicator 2.1.1: The process of building NPA's own infrastructure started and adequate facilities for studies were set up)

Strategic Objective 2.2: Developing organizational policies and systems of NPA.

(Indicator 2.2.1: Development and implementation of organizational policies)

Strategic Objective 2.3: Developing a membership profile of NPA members

(Indicator 2.3.1: Membership and organizational profile developed)

Strategic Goal 3: To establish and build up networking, coordination and partnership with various stakeholders

Strategic Objective 3.1: Defining primary and secondary stakeholders of NPA.

(Indicator 3.1.1: Primary and secondary stakeholders of NPA Identified)

Strategic Objective 3.2: Developing a coordination mechanism for both the primary and secondary stakeholders.

(Indicator 3.2.1: Coordination mechanism developed and functional)

Strategic Objective 3.3: Facilitating government and nongovernment organizations, particularly in research and policy development.

(Indicator 3.3.1: No of I/NGOs Facilitated/supported)

Strategic Objective 3.4: Networking with International Agencies for collaboration and partnership.

(Indicator 3.4.1: Network and collaboration/partnership with International Agencies developed)

### 6. Implementation Plan

To achieve the strategic goals and objectives, the following implementation plans are developed:

Strategic Goal 1: To institutionalize NPA as a research and governance-promoting institution

Strategic			Time Fram	ie		Responsibility	Performance
Objectives/Actions	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029		Indicators
Strategic Objective 1.1: Undertaking studies for stakeholders on a consulting basis.	х	х	х	х	х	EC	Indicator 1.1.1: Numbers of studies for stakeholders undertaken.
Action 1.1.1: Action 1.1.2:						Sub- committee	
Strategic Objective 1.2: Writing grant proposals for the long-term development of NPA.						EC	Indicator 1.2.1: Numbers of grant proposals prepared for funding submitted.
Action 1.2.1: Action 1.2.2:						Sub- committee	
Strategic Objective 1.3: Managing publications and disseminating research findings.						EC	Indicator 1.3.1: Numbers of publications published and research findings disseminated.
Action 1.3.1: Action 1.3.2: 						Sub- committee	
Strategic Objective 1.4: Establishing and managing NPA as a research-based information center.							Indicator 1.4.1: An operational research-based information center established.
Action 1.4.1: Action 1.4.2: 						Sub- committee	

### Strategic Goal 2: To strengthen the institutional capacity of NPA

Strategic		Tir	me Fram	е	Responsibility	Performance	
Objectives/Actions	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029		Indicators

Strategic Objective 2.1: Developing the required infrastructure of/for NPA.	х	х	х	х	х	EC	Indicator 2.1.1: The process of building NPA's own infrastructure started and adequate facilities for studies were set up.
Action 2.1.1: Action 2.1.2:						Sub- committee	
Strategic Objective 2.2: Developing organizational policies and systems of NPA.						EC	Indicator 2.2.1: Development and implementation of organizational policies.
Action 2.2.1: Action 2.2.2:						Sub- committee	
Strategic Objective 2.3: Developing a membership profile of NPA members.						EC	Indicator 2.3.1: Membership and organizational profile developed.
Action 2.3.1: Action 2.3.2:						Sub- committee	

### Strategic Goal 3: To establish and build up networking, coordination and partnership with various stakeholders

Strategic		Time Frame				Responsibility	Performance
Objectives/Actions	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029		Indicators
Strategic Objective 3.1: Defining primary and secondary stakeholders of NPA.	х	х	х	Х	х	EC	Indicator 3.1.1: Primary and secondary stakeholders of NPA Identified.
Action 3.1.1: Action 3.1.2:						Sub- committee	
Strategic Objective 3.2: Developing a coordination mechanism for both the primary and secondary stakeholders.						EC	Indicator 3.2.1: Coordination mechanism developed and functional.
Action 3.2.1: Action 3.2.2:						Sub- committee	

Strategic Objective 3.3: Facilitating government and nongovernment organizations, particularly in research and policy development.			EC	Indicator 3.3.1: No of I/NGOs Facilitated/suppor ted.
Action 3.3.1: Action 3.3.2:			Sub- committee	
Strategic Objective 3.4: Networking with International Agencies for collaboration and partnership.			EC	Indicator 3.4.1: Network and collaboration/part nership with International Agencies developed.
Action 3.4.1: Action 3.4.2:			Sub- committee	

### 7. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lesson Learned

The NPA's Executive Committee will form a Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-Committee to carry out mid-term and final evaluations of the NPA's actions. The sub-committee will be responsible for periodic Monitoring and Evaluation of the action plan. The EC/sub-committee will revise the strategy plan after the mid-term evaluation and lessons learned.

### 8. Management of Resources

For the effective implementation of various activities mentioned in this Strategic Plan, the Executive Committee will prepare the estimated budget and allocate it annually. While allocating the budget, the Executive Committee will consider the availability of funding sources and priority needs of the programme activities.

NPA requires constant financial resources for its operation and programme implementation to meet its objectives. The potential funding sources are as follows:

- Membership fees and contributions
- Assistance, grants and donations from national and international organizations
- Funds generated from research, consultancy and networking services

### 9. Risk, Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

In the course of the implementation of the plan, internal and/or external hurdles or deadlocks may come up, which need to be managed effectively. Table 2 below summarizes the assessment of the potential limitations and challenges. It also outlines recommended strategies for mitigating these limitations and challenges.

Table 2: Potential Limitations, Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

S. N.   Possible Risks and Challenges   Mitigation Strategies   Respor
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### Unity in Diversity and Together for Betterment

1	Inconsistent and insufficient support from the NPA members.	Identify primary stakeholders, strengthen partnerships with them and involve NPA members, ensuring their commitment and support.	EC
2	Inadequate organizational setup and insufficient financial base	Focus on the organizational set-up, institutionalization of NPA, and income generation through providing various consulting and networking services.  Seek assistance, grants and donations from national and international organizations.	EC
3	Insufficient initiatives to attract and involve members to achieve common goals and objectives.	Build the institutional capacity of NPA for conducting quality research.	EC
4	Inadequate and irregular follow-up of the performance of different sub-committees.	Form a strong monitoring and evaluation committee, establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track and support the progress made by different subcommittees.	EC

### **Annexes**

### **Current Executive Committee of NPA**

1. Dr. Sunil Babu Shrestha	President
2. Prof. Dr. Rejina Maskey Byanju	Immediate Former President
3. Dr. Chandra Kanta Gyawali	Vice - President
4. Dr. Sundari Devi Pokharel	General Secretary
5. Dr. Divas Amatya	Secretary
6. Dr. Sarika Amatya	Treasurer
7. Dr. Bhola Nath Dhakal	Member
8. Dr. Lekha Nath Bhandari	Member
9. Dr. Ram Sharan Thapaliya	Member
10. Dr. Ramesh Kumar Bhandari	Member
11. Dr. Suraksha Subedi	Member
12. Dr. Mala Kunwar Kharel	Member

### **Sub-committees**

### 1) Financial Management Subcommittee

- Dr. Sarika Amatya (Coordinator) 9851106632
- Dr. Himal Bhattarai (Member) 9851104322
- Dr. Bishnu Hari Timilsina (Member) 9856035870

### 2) Membership Management Subcommittee

- Dr. Ram Sharan Thapaliya (Coordinator) 9851020780
- Dr. Sabina Maharjan (Member) 9843726777
- Dr. Maheshwor Prasad Yadav (Member) 9851159200

### 3) Event Management Subcommittee

- Dr. Sundari Devi Pokharel (Coordinator) 9864468002
- Dr. Divas Amatya (Member) 9801053707
- Dr. Suraksha Subedi (Member) 9840059283

### 4) Training Management Subcommittee

- Dr. Suraksha Subedi (Coordinator) 9840059283
- Dr. Mukunda Mani Khanal (Member) 9841395714
- Dr. Dibakar Basistha (Member) 9851099912
- Dr. Gopal Bhatta (Member) 9841539918

### 5) Partnership & Project Management Subcommittee

- Dr. Divas Amatya (Coordinator) 9801053707
- Dr. Anjay Kumar Mishra (Member) 9819815050
- Dr. Manoj Kunwar (Member) 9860359184

### 6) **Publication Subcommittee**

- Dr. Bhola Nath Dhakal (Coordinator) 9841381007
- Dr. Udhab Raj Khadka (Member) 9849242191
- Dr. Narayan Deshar (Member) 9851172125

### 7) Legal Subcommittee

- Dr. Kumar Sharma Acharya (Coordinator) 9851100776
- Dr. Kishor G.C. (Member) 9841728474
- Dr. Mukti Rijal (Member) 9851063731

### 8) Research & Development Subcommittee

- Prof. Dr. Rejina Maskey (Coordinator) 9841359172
- Dr. Ganga Datta Nepal (Member) 9841831976
- Dr. Bhishma Karki (Member) 9851014005
- Dr. Bal Krishna Sharma (Member) 9841393070
- Dr. Narayan Bhatta (Member) 9841582812
- Dr. Bishwa Mohan Acharya (Member) 9841612119
- Dr. Rajendra Kumar Pradhan (Member)- 9803913130

### 9) International Relations Subcommittee

- Dr. Lekha Nath Bhandari (Coordinator) 9851023226
- Dr. Nakul Baniya (Member) 9841907697
- Prof. Dr. Sanjay Acharya (Member) 9841044741

### 10) Strategic Plan Review and Development Subcommittee

- Dr. Chandra Kanta Gyawali (Coordinator) 9851001860
- Dr. Ghana Shyam Gurung (Member) 9801033839
- Dr. Dil Prasad Shrestha (Member) 9841219357
- Dr. Chintamani Gautam (Member) 9851092635

### **Organizational Structure of NPA**

- General Assembly
- Executive Committee
- Different Sub-committees
- Regional Chapter
- International Chapter