

# Interim plan likely to go for environment-friendly projects

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Finally, the National Planning Commission seems to have woken up to the threat that poorly planned and executed development projects to the country's fragile environment.

If all goes well as per the

commission's plans, the three-year interim plan will include environment protection as a key component of the projects.

"We already have gender equality and poverty alleviation as key components of projects. This time, we are adding environment protection as yet another compo-

nent," said NPC vice-chairman Dr Jagadish Chandra Pokharel at a programme organised by the Youth Network for Social and Environmental Development and other I/NGOs on Biodiversity conservation in the Capital.

"Environmental degradation cannot be compensated

by any other means, so our focus must be on environmental protection," he said.

On the occasion, other experts stressed the need to use Nepal's natural resources for the welfare of the masses.

"We are endowed with natural resources that we can use for the well-being of humankind. Due to lack of

knowhow, we have not been able to prepare rigid plans that can be instrumental in utilising these resources properly," said Dr Dinesh Raj Bhujju, Chief, Research Department, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology.

"Environment protection is not a matter of luxury, it is a must and the issue of liveli-

hood should be taken seriously," Annie Isabelle, Country Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said, while Dr. Ghanashyam Gurung, Conservation Director, World Wildlife Fund Nepal, maintained that conservation efforts should have 'human face'.