

Country Profile: Nepal

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Country Resources

Topographic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Nepal 1:25,000 Scale Topographic Maps	NSD	1:25,000	1993 - 2000	586
Nepal 1:50,000 Scale Topographic Maps	NSD	1:50,000	1996 - 2001	115

Geoscientific

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
China 1:2,500,000 Scale Geological Map (6 sheets)	GPH	1:2,500,000	2005	1
China 1:2,500,000 Scale Quaternary Geological Map (9 sheets)	GPH	1:2,500,000	1990	1
China 1:4,000,000 Scale Geological Map (2 sheets)	GPH	1:4,000,000	1977	1
China 1:5,000,000 Scale Metallic Resources Map	GPH	1:5,000,000	1992	1
China 1:5,000,000 Scale Mineral Resources Map	GPH	1:5,000,000	1992	1
China 1:5,000,000 Scale Nonmetallic Resources Map	GPH	1:5,000,000	1992	1
Nepal 1:1,000,000 Scale Geological Map	DMG	1:1,000,000	1994	1
Nepal 1:250,000 Scale Geological Maps	NSD	1:250,000	1984 - 2011	5

Thematic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
The World 1:30,000,000 Scale Topographic Map Series 1145 (NGA)	DMA	1:30,000,000		2
Nepal 1:50,000 Scale Land Capability Map	NTSB	1:50,000	1982 - 1985	266
Nepal 1:50,000 Scale Land Systems Map	NTSB	1:50,000	1981 - 1984	266
Nepal 1:50,000 Scale Land Utilization Map	NTSB	1:50,000	1979 - 1985	266

Global Census Archive: GIS Census Data

East View Geospatial has an ongoing effort to add GIS census data to our Global Census Archive program. Please contact us for the status and availability of Nepal census resources.

Global Resources

Topographic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Soviet Military City Plans	VTU GSh	Varies	1944 - 2003	3,020
Soviet Military 1:100,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:100,000	1947 - 1999	24,897
Soviet Military 1:200,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:200,000	1949 - 2009	17,799
Soviet Military 1:500,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:500,000	1953 - 1998	3,093
Soviet Military 1:1,000,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:1,000,000	1948 - 1994	1,089

Nautical

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
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NGA Nautical Charts POD Certified (All Scales)	NGA	Varies	1943 – 2013	4,517
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Aeronautical

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Joint Operations Graphic (JOG 1501A) 1:250,000 – Aeronautical	DMA	1:250,000	1958 – 2007	6,380
Tactical Pilotage Chart (TPC) 1:500,000 Scale – Aeronautical	DMA	1:500,000	1967 – 2006	598
Operational Navigation Chart (ONC) 1:1,000,000 Scale – Aeronautical	DMA	1:1,000,000	1969 – 2001	243
Jet Navigation Chart (JNC) 1:2,000,000 Scale – Aeronautical	DMA	1:2,000,000	1971 – 1999	117
Global Navigation and Planning Chart (GNC) 1:5,000,000 Scale – Aeronautical	DMA	1:5,000,000	1981 – 1999	27

Note: East View Geospatial is continuously sourcing new resources that may not yet be listed in Global Explorer. Please contact us if you have geodata needs beyond what is listed above and we will be happy to discuss available off-the-shelf and custom solutions.

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Historical Country Mapping Information

Jump to: [Topographic](#) | [Geological/Scientific](#) | [Imagery](#) | [Vegetation/Forestry](#) | [Thematic](#) | [Cadaster](#) | [Tourist/Reference](#) | [Census/Demography/Statistics](#)

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Topographic

The **Survey Department Nepal (NSD)** in the **Ministry of Land Reform and Management** is the central organization for all mapping services in the country and undertakes cadastral, geodetic and topographic surveys. It was founded in 1958, compiles cadastral, topographic, administrative and land resource mapping and is establishing an active digital mapping program with new topographic coverage, following substantial Canadian, German, Japanese and Finnish technical aid programs.

Until the 1960s mapping of the country was carried out in conjunction with the **Survey of India**, and conformed to standard specifications established across the sub-continent. A one-inch map of Nepal in 266 15' quads was started under the Colombo plan in the 1950s, based upon survey data completed by **NSD** in 1962. This series was on a polyconic projection, Everest ellipsoid, and showed relief with 100 ft contours. The series was completed in 1980, and photographically enlarged to 1:50,000 scale as an interim measure pending modernization of the mapping infrastructure. Meanwhile American 1:250,000 scale (Series U502) maps were compiled from **Survey of India** quarter-inch coverage.

The final initiative is to update the topographic coverage and establish a new geodetic framework for topographic mapping. New basic scale mapping of the country has been started by **NSD**, which will offer metric 1:25,000 scale coverage of the terrain and lower mountain ranges and 1:50,000 scale coverage of the more mountainous parts of Nepal. This program will result in polychrome hard copy mapping on the UTM projection and was started in 1989. 1:25,000 scale coverage of the Lumbini zone has been compiled in a cooperative arrangement with the Japanese technical aid agency **JICA** and completed in 1992, while Finland has been assisting in the compilation of 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 scale coverage of the eastern and central development regions. This area has been used as a pilot for the introduction of a new digital mapping system, and there are plans to capture the whole of the new topographic mapping and to institute a policy of continuous update based upon recent aerial photography. Hard copy map publication of the remaining western parts of the country should have been completed by Year 2000.

High quality topographic mapping of East Nepal has been carried out by the **Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Vergleichende Hochgebirgsforschung**. These were published in the *Nepal Kartenwerk* series, mostly at 1:50 000 scale, in German and English and with 40 m contours. The major Himalayan summits and trekking areas are covered and the series extends down to Kathmandu, with the valley and Kathmandu itself covered.

Soviet military topographic mapping of Nepal is available at the following scales: 1:1,000,000 (4 sheets, complete coverage, published 1958-1973); 1:500,000 (8 sheets, complete coverage, published 1970-1987); 1:200,000 (38 sheets, complete coverage, published

1955-1987) and a city (1:10,000) topographic map of Kathmandu published in 1979. These products are available in print, digital raster and digital vector GIS formats from **East View Geospatial**.

[Back to top](#)

Geological/Scientific

DMG had completed provisional geological mapping of all lowland parts of the country, on one-inch sheet lines in programs started in the 1960s. A five-sheet 1:250,000 scale geological map was derived from the Canadian data in the 1980s, and a new single-sheet 1:1,000,000 scale map was published in 1994. The current earth sciences program includes new 1:50,000 scale mapping. Coverage of the Pokhara valley has been extended to the area around Kathmandu, and it is planned to have compiled over 20 sheets, by 2000.

[Back to top](#)

Imagery

An initiative involving the use of satellite imagery and was initiated by the **Nepal National Remote Sensing Center** in conjunction with the **International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)** in Kathmandu. In 1986 a full colour 1:250,000 scale image map was produced with funding from the World Bank and the German technical aid program **GZT**. This national resources and mapping project used rectified LANDSAT MSS coverage, to produce a 19-sheet coverage of Nepal on (Series U502) sheet lines.

[Back to top](#)

Vegetation/Forestry

Overseas involvement in mapping projects in Nepal has resulted in a wide variety of different map themes. Vegetation mapping of Nepal was compiled by the French **Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)**.

The *Carte écologique du Nepal* was started in 1970 and completed in 1985, and included multicolour 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 scale maps covering most of the country and issued with explanations. More recent vegetation mapping initiatives have been sponsored by **Forest Research and Soil Survey Center (FRSSC)** Kathmandu and a GIS-based digital national forest inventory is being created with aid from **Finnmap**.

Other environmental mapping of the country has been prepared as part of the **Mountain Hazards Mapping Project** funded through the **United Nations University**. Prototype land use, hazards, geomorphic damage and base maps of three test areas in different environmental zones have been compiled and published.

[Back to top](#)

Thematic

Three initiatives have substantially altered the official Nepalese map base in the 1980s and 1990s. The first arose from a Canadian aid project initiated in 1977, which funded new aerial photographic coverage of the whole country. This aerial coverage has been used to compile important resource map bases. Three 1:50,000 scale monochrome series were completed: a land utilization map; a soil map (designated as a land system series) and a map of land capability. All give national coverage in 266 sheets on topographic sheet lines. Climatological mapping, in seven sheets covering the Western part of the country, was completed at 1:250,000 scale, and a black and white 1:125,000 scale geological map covering Nepal in 82 sheets was also compiled, in association with the Nepalese earth science mapping agency, the **Department of Mines and Geology (DMG)** in Kathmandu.

[Back to top](#)

Cadaster

NSD also maintains cadastral information in Nepal. Surveying was started in 1964 to support land reform and was completed in 1996, resulting in 1:2,400 and 1:4,800 scale manuscript mapping. It is intended to move from this graphical cadastre towards a multi-purpose record and land information system, in an eight-year project started in 1997.

[Back to top](#)

Tourist/Reference

Commercial mapping has increased with the growing popularity of Nepal as a destination for tourists. Small scale maps of the country are available from companies such as **Berndtson & Berndtson (B&B)**, **Nelles, ITM**, the French **Institut Géographique National (IGN)** and **Mairs**. Specialist trekking maps are published by Western companies such as **West Col** who distribute the Leoman ridge line series, and **Cartoconsult** who have started to publish a series of satellite image based trekking maps of Nepal. **Nepa Maps**, Kathmandu publish an extensive trekking range with mapping derived from Soviet 1:200,000 scale coverage, or for some areas, from Nepali 1:50,000 scale mapping. Several local mapping agencies, notably **Mandala Maps** and **Himalayan Booksellers**, publish lower quality trekking maps and the **Suspension Bridge Division** of the **Ministry of Works and Transport** has also published a 1:250,000 scale six-sheet trekking series of the whole country. These and other trekking maps are available from the **SM Trading Company** in Kathmandu.

[Back to top](#)

Census/Demography/Statistics

NSD has published small scale mapping of Nepal and a wide variety of administrative series. These include a five-sheet bilingual 1:500,000 scale map of the regions, and a number of larger scale series in Devanagiri script: zonal mapping in 15 sheets at 1:250,000; 76 sheets at 1:125,000 scale mapping district boundaries and nearly 4,000 sheets at scales between 1:10,000 and 1:50,000 providing mapping down to the village level. Census mapping of Nepal is carried out by the **Central Bureau of Statistics**, established in 1959. Other administrative mapping is carried out by the **National Planning Commission (NPC)** which is establishing digital thematic image coverage for each district development commission in Nepal. **NPC** is capturing topographic data as a backdrop for ARC/INFO and ERDAS-based digital mapping.

[Back to top](#)

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