

6 SUMMARY

This study is based on the in-depth analysis, synthesis, evaluation and interpretation of the overall landscape-ecological conditions of the planned territory. Its main contributions are summarized below:

- Preparation of propositions for the optimal allocation of land for the fundamental functional elements of the territory, analysis and synthesis of environmental problems and the creation and protection of the landscape/environment around the environmentally sensitive sites.
- All the parameters (geomorphological units, angle of slope, potential soil unit and present day land use) are delineated by a sharp boundary. These delineated units provide a clear picture of the landscape structure, function, properties etc.
- Apart from the landscape-ecological potential of the site, the environmental Maps 10 and 23 provide essential information about the degree of pollution in different locations and thus form a vital part of any future planning.
- With a view to protect the old alluvial plains (tars) and to minimize the ecological risk in this region, future expansion is encouraged only in the tar lands in general. The units for future needs are also delineated.
- The young alluvial plain (dol) is highly vulnerable to potential ecological risk. However, this area is under heavy pressure from the present day urbanization process. A great ecological crisis may result if these lands are totally consumed by settlement. The study has, therefore, clearly delineated these areas which are to be preserved, regulated and controlled.
- Though it was possible to delineate areas of varying potential risk in both the dol and the tars, the following has been pointed out once more. It would be most desirable if any future settlement in the most fertile and vulnerable "dol" area could be avoided altogether; since this does not seem to be possible concluding from current estimates, settlement should be strictly contained to those areas delineated as relatively less vulnerable (e. g. through a relatively low water table in elevated parts of the dol, as well as various economically favorable factors). As one can deduct from the different maps, tables and charts provided, the tars, an area of traditional settlement, shows very fertile zones as well which should be saved to make the – in the future sorely needed – ecological balance between the human needs in Kathmandu Valley and the governing principles of nature possible.
- For obvious socio-economic reasons it is not feasible to relocate already established settlements (e. g. from the whole of the dol area), but it is absolutely vital to discourage any further building development in high risk areas.