

Natural resources

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Introduction

A natural resource is anything people can use which comes from nature. People do not make natural resources, but gather them from the earth.

Examples of natural resource are air, water, wood, crude oil, solar energy, wind energy, hydroelectric energy, coal, etc. Refined oil is not a natural resource, for example, because people make it.

Natural Resource

Meaning

- ◆ Natural resources are naturally occurring substances that are considered valuable in their relatively unmodified (natural) form.
- ◆ Any part of our natural materials that man can be utilized to promote the welfare, may be regarded as natural resources



TYPES OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- **On the basis of origin**
- **Abiotic**
- **Biotic**
- **On the basis of renewability**
- **Renewable**
- **Non renewable**
- **Inexhaustible**
- **Exhaustible**

ON THE BASIS OF ORIGIN

- *Biotic Resources*
- *Biotic natural resources are all living resources that are able to reproduce replace life and grow in numbers .*
- *These are all the resources that are obtainable from the biosphere*
- *Example Mineral fuels, fish, wildlife etc..*

- ***Abiotic Resources***

- ***Abiotic natural resources are all the non-living resources that cannot replace themselves easily and are obtained from the surface of the earth crust Some of these resources are reproduced of extremely slow rates in terms of human life periods***
- ***Examples would include water, land mineral ores such as copper, silver, gold etc..***

Biotic Factors

*All living
organisms*

Plants

Animals

Microorganisms

Abiotic Factors

*Water, soil,
minerals, gases*

*Temperature,
humidity, wind*

*Light, nutrients
(C, O, P, N, etc.)*

Natural Resources

- Forest resources
- Water resources
- Mineral resources
- Food resources
- Energy resources
- Land resources



Forest Resources



Forest Resources

- Scientists estimate that India should ideally have 33% of its land under forests. Today we have only about 12%. Thus we need not only to protect existing forest but also to increase our forest cover.



Commercial use

- Timber
- Pulpwood
- Fruits
- Spices, beverages
- Fodder
- Rubber, Gum
- Fibres
- Drugs & medicines
- Minerals

Ecological uses

- Production of oxygen
- Reducing global warming
- Wildlife habitat
- Regulation of hydrological cycle
- Soil conservation
- Pollution moderator

Reasons for the large scale depletion of forest

- Expansion of agriculture, more forest have been cleared for agriculture.
- Large area of forest lands have been cleared for urbanization and human settlement.
- Commercial exploitation of forest .
- Forest fires.
- Mining activities in forest areas.
- Forest diseases are also partly responsible for depletion forest.

Adverse effect of depletion of trees

- It has contributed to **rise in temperature.**
- It has contributed to **lesser precipitation.**
- It is responsible for **increased rate of soil erosion.**
- It is responsible for **increase in the frequency and volume of floods.**
- It has lead to **loss of soil productivity.**
- It is responsible for **loss of biodiversity.**
- It has lead to **extinction of several species of plants and animals.**
- It has caused **imbalance in ecosystem.**

Conservation of Forest

- Regulated and planned cutting of trees.
- Control over forest fires.
- Reforestation.
- Afforestation
- Check on forest clearance for agriculture and human habitation and settlement.
- Development green belt around cities.
- Check on mining activities in forest areas.
- Protection of existing forest.
- Conservation of threatened species of trees.



Conservation of Forest



- Agro-forestry.
- Development of national parks and sanctuaries.
- Development of botanical gardens.
- Development of seed banks.
- Forest management.
- Proper role of government in forest conservation

Deforestation

- Cutting down of the forest at large scale

Total forest of the world in

- 1900 -----7,000 million hectare.
- 1975----- 2890 million hectare.
- 2000-----2,300 million hectare.

Causes of deforestation

- Shifting cultivation
- Fuel requirements
- Raw materials for industrial use
- Development projects
- Growing food needs
- Overgrazing
- Forest fires