Natural Resources

1. **What are the natural resources?**

   Natural resources are the environmental components which developed without the intervention of mankind. It includes mainly air, sunlight, water, soil, stone, minerals, fossil fuels etc.

   Natural resources are the naturally occurring materials which are useful to us under conceivable technological, economic or social circumstances or supplies drawn from the earth supplies such as food, building and clothing materials, fertilizers, metals, water, and geothermal power. For a long time, natural resources were the domain of the natural sciences.

2. **What is the importance of natural resources?**

   a. Natural resources are very important for surviving of lives.

   b. Every sector of economy such as industry, farming, transports, commercial and domestic needs input of these resources. So they play a vital role in developing the economy of country by enriching agriculture, trades, import-export of commercial goods etc.

   c. It needs to be preserved fore future generations with a growing population.

3. **What are different types of natural resources?**

   a. Renewable and Non renewable natural resources

   Renewable Natural Resources –

   These resources are sustainable in nature and eco-friendly to environment and it can be available in infinite quantity. It can be replenished by nature itself. It is very important

fore our pollution free environment which contributes a change in the environment. The most important renewable natural resources are solar, wind, water, land or soil and forest.

Non Renewable Natural Resources –

These natural resources cannot be used repeatedly because of their non-renewable nature. Its presence may be run out in the future. It can be replenished very slowly or do not replenished naturally. Example of non-renewable resources include fossil fuels, minerals etc.

b. Biotic and Abiotic natural resources

Biotic Natural Resources –

The Biotic natural resources are the ones that come from the ecosphere (organic and living materials). These include resources such as animals, forests (vegetation), and other materials obtainable from them. Fossil fuels such as petroleum, oil, and coal are also included in this grouping because they are generated from decayed organic matter.

Abiotic Natural Resources –

The abiotic natural resources are the ones that come from non-organic and non-living materials. Examples of abiotic natural resources are water, land, air and heavy metals like iron, copper, silver, gold, and so on.

c. Stock Natural Resources

Stock natural resources are those that are present in the environment but t the necessary expertise or technology to have them exploited. Hydrogen is an example of a stock natural resource.

4. **How do humans depend on natural resources?**

Living things need the land's water, air, and energy, and they live in places with the things they need. For all they do, humans use natural resources. Human use of energy and fuels is derived from natural sources and its use affects the climate.

5. **What are the threats of natural resources?**

Overpopulation causes overexploitations:

This is the most significant, single threat to natural resources . The population is increases at a very fast rate in the world. In the USA, a baby is born in every 8 seconds, and a person dies in every 13 seconds. Population growth means there will be pressure on almost all natural resources.

Land use:

With more mouths to feed and people to house, more land will need to be cultivated and developed for housing. More agriculture will be implemented to increase food production. More chemical fertilizers will be applied. Many forest or vegetative lands will be converted to settlements for people, roads and farms.

Forest Products:

Demand for wood (timber), food, roads and forest products will be more. People will therefore use more forest resources than they restore them naturally.

Water and water ecosystem:

Fresh water and sea food will face problems as we continue to rely heavily on them. Larger fishing companies are going to the deep sea to catch fish more fish. Some of the fishing methods they use are not suitable, therefore causing death of much more fish and sea creatures in this process.

Need for more:

Human's demand for a comfortable life means more items (communication, transport, education, entertainment and recreation) will need to be produced. This means more industrial processes and more need for raw materials and natural resources.

The changes in climate and global warming:

The serous changes in climate patterns as a result of human activities and overpopulation that generate green house gases like carbon, methane, CFC and carbon foot print in the atmosphere threatens biodiversity as well as other numerous natural resources. Species that have acclimatized to specific environments are highly affected as the climate change and global warming alters the favorable survival conditions of nature.

The profound effect of weather change and global warming is habitat loss to an extent of threatening biodiversity and the survival of species. For instance, wildlife requires cool temperatures of high elevations such as the rock rabbit and mountain gorillas may in the near future run out of habitat due to global warming and climate change.

Environmental pollution:

The majority of natural resources have been destroyed and a large portion is under immense threat due to the toxic substances and chemicals emitted from industries, homemade utilities, and agricultural products among other processed materials. Land, air, and water pollution pose long-term vast impacts on the natural resources and the quality of the nature in which they occur.

Seriously polluted natural resources have become obsolete in value because pollution makes it harsh for the sustainability of biotic and abiotic components. Pollution effects the compositions of air, lands, soil, ocean water, underground water, and other natural resources. A good example is an acidic lake that cannot support aquatic ecosystems.

References:

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https://eschooltoday.com/natural-resources/threats-to-natural-resources.html

(All the informations are collected from above references and will be used only for teaching and learning purposes)