

# Natural Resources

Our planet is made of natural components. The natural components in the environment are called natural resources. These resources are the basis of life on earth and can be consumed directly or indirectly.



Fig: Natural Resources

**Definition:** The resources found in the natural environment, that are developed without the intervention of humans are called natural resources. Air, sunlight, water, soil, stone, plants, animals and fossil fuels are the examples.

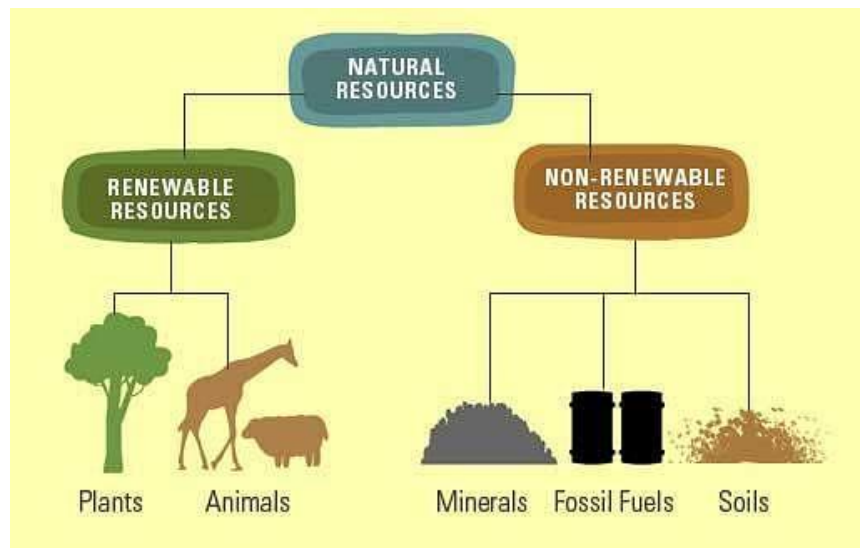


Fig: Types of Resources

What are the different types?

Based on the availability are two types of natural resources:

1. Renewable – Resources that are available in infinite quantity and can be used repeatedly are called renewable resources. Example: Forest, wind, water etc.
2. Non Renewable- There are resources that are limited in nature due to non renewal property and will extinct in the future are called non-renewable resources. Some of the examples include : Fossil fuels, minerals etc.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

RENEWABLE RESOURCES	NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES
Sunlight	Land (soil)
Wind	Minerals
Water	Oil
Plants	Coal
Animals	Natural gas
Wood	Petrol
Timber	Diamonds
Paper	Petroleum
Leather	

Difference between Renewable and Non-renewable resources:

Renewable resource	Non-renewable resource
It can be renewed as it is available in infinite quantity	Once completely consumed, it cannot be renewed due to limited stock
Sustainable by nature	Exhaustible by nature
Low cost and environment friendly	High cost and less environment friendly
Biodegradable and infinite in nature	Minerals and man made products

**Top 5 natural resources are:**

1. Air: Clean air is important for all the plants, animals, humans to survive on this planet. So it is necessary to take measures to reduce air pollution.
2. Water: 70% of earth is covered in water and only 2 % of that is fresh water. Initiative to educate and regulate the use of water should be taken.
3. Soil: Soil is composed of various particles and nutrients. It helps plants grow

4. Iron: It is made from silica and is used to build strong weapons, transportation and buildings
5. Forests: As the population increases, the demand for housing and construction projects also increases. Forests provide clean air and preserve the ecology of the world

### **Some of the non-renewable natural resources are:**

- Fossil fuels: Natural resources like Coal, natural gas and petroleum can be over s
- someday i.e. they are exhaustible. It takes millions of years for a dead organism to get converted into fuels. They are consumed with a much faster rate than the rate by which it is formed. The excess burning of fossil fuels leads to air pollution as it gives out carbon dioxide which is a greenhouse gas.



Fig: Non-renewable resources

- Water: A very less amount of freshwater is present on earth and also out of that some are portable i.e. it can be used for drinking. Because of the change in climate, there is a change in the rainfall pattern as well as the melting of ice is also dropped in winter these all factors results in lowering the amount of this natural resource.
- Air: For the proper existence of living beings we need clean air. But because of many reasons the air gets polluted and affects the health of living beings.

### **Conservation of Natural Resources**



Fig: Conservation of Natural Resources

It is very important that these natural resources are conserved as they are getting exhausted at an alarming rate. Apart from that, it is having an adverse effect on the environment which is indirectly causing harm to living beings. By following the below tips, we can conserve the natural resources:

- Minimize the use of vehicles
- Use water sparingly and do not waste water.