

CHAPTER 16

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Introduction:

Anything in the environment, which can be used is called a natural resource.

Natural Resources includes total natural environment that support human life and contribute to the production of necessities and comforts to mankind. Natural resources are the components of atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere.

Types of Natural Resources:

Based on abundance and availability, the natural resources are of two types.

- Inexhaustible
- Exhaustible

Inexhaustible:

These are in plenty and cannot be exhausted by man's consumption.

Example: Air, Sand, Clay etc. It gets affected by the over-population of mankind.

Exhaustible:

These are limited and can get exhausted over a period of time, i.e., coal, petroleum etc.

Management of Natural Resources:

A system of controlling the use of natural resources in such a way, as to avoid their wastage and to use them in the most effective way is called management of natural resources.

Three R's to save the environment.

Reduce:

It means we should minimise our use of natural resources, sources of energy and food materials.

Recycle:

It means that we should collect materials like paper, plastics, glass and metal items. These waste materials should be recycled to obtain these materials again for use.

Reuse:

In this strategy, we should be encouraged to use things again and again instead of throwing them away. For example, plastic bottles those we get with jams and pickle can be reused for storing things in the kitchen.

Forest and wildlife conservation:

Forests are biodiversity hot spots. Biodiversity of an area is the number of species of different life forms like bacteria, fungi, flowering plants, insects, birds etc. The main aim of forest conservation is to preserve the biodiversity we have inherited.

Stakeholders:

Those persons, who are directly or indirectly involved in using the produce of forests or are interested in the conservation of forests, are called stakeholders.

Hotspot:

Means an area full of biological diversity. Loss of diversity may lead to a loss of ecological stability/ecological imbalance.

Sustainable management:

Management of forest resources wisely to make it available for future generations. Sustainable development is development encourages the judicious use of natural resources to meet the current basic human needs, while preserving the resources for the needs of future generations.

