

CHAPTER 16

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Why do we need to manage our natural resources?

We need to manage our natural resources because of the following reasons:

- The resources of the earth are limited. Because of the rapid increase in human population, the demand for resources is increasing day-by-day. The proper management can ensure that the natural resources are used judiciously, so that they fulfill the needs of present generation and last for the generations to come.
- The proper management of natural resources takes into consideration long-term perspective (or view) and prevents their exploitation to hilt for short-term gains.
- The proper management can ensure equitable distribution of natural resources so that all the people can benefit from the development of these resources.
- The proper management will take into consideration the damage caused to the environment during the ‘extraction’ or ‘use’ of the natural resources and find ways and means to minimise this damage.