RESOURCES

- Resource refers to all the materials available in our environment which help us to satisfy our needs and wants. Resources can broadly be classified upon their availability — they are classified into <u>renewable</u> and <u>non-</u> <u>renewable</u> resources.
- ➤ They can also be classified as actual and potential on the basis of the level of development and use, on the basis of origin they can be classified as biotic and abiotic,
- > and on the basis of their distribution, as ubiquitous and localised (private, community-owned, national and international resources).
- An item becomes a resource with time and developing <u>technology</u>.
- ➤ The benefits of resource utilization may include increased wealth, proper functioning of a system, or enhanced well-being.
- From a <u>human</u> perspective, a natural resource is anything obtained from the <u>environment</u> to satisfy human needs and wants. [1]
- From a broader biological or ecological perspective, a resource satisfies the needs of a living organism (see <u>biological resource</u>).[2]
- The concept of resources has been developed across many established areas of work, in economics, biology and ecology, computer
 science, management, and human resources for example linked to the concepts of competition, sustainability, conservation, and stewardship.
- In application within human <u>society</u>, commercial or non-commercial factors require <u>resource allocation</u> through <u>resource management</u>.

Economic

- In <u>economics</u> a resource is defined as a service or other asset used to produce goods and services that meet human needs and wants. [3]
- ➤ Economics itself has been defined as the study of how society manages and allocates its scarce resources. [4]
- ➤ <u>Classical economics</u> recognizes three categories of resources, also referred to as factors of production: land, labor, and capital. [5]
- ➤ Land includes all <u>natural resources</u> and is viewed as both the site of production and the source of raw materials.
- ➤ Labour or <u>human resources</u> consists of human effort provided in the creation of products, paid in <u>wage</u>. C
- ➤ apital consists of human-made goods or means of production (machinery, buildings, and other <u>infrastructure</u>) used in the production of other goods and services, paid in interest.

Biological

- In biology and ecology a resource is defined as a substance that is required by a living organism for normal growth, maintenance, and reproduction (see biological resource).
- ➤ The main essential resources for animals are food, water, and territory. For plants, key resources include sunlight, nutrients, water, and a place to grow. [2]
- Resources can be consumed by an organism and, as a result, become unavailable to other organisms.
- Competition for resource varies from <u>complete symmetric</u> (all individuals receive the same amount of resources, irrespective of their size) to <u>perfectly size symmetric</u> (all individuals exploit the same amount of resource per unit biomass) to absolutely <u>size-asymmetric</u> (the largest individuals exploit all the available resource).
- The degree of size asymmetry has major effects on the structure and diversity of ecological communities, e.g. in plant communities sizeasymmetric competition for light has stronger effects on diversity compared with competition for soil resources.
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Natural

- Natural resources are derived from the environment.
- Many natural resources are essential for human survival, while others are used for satisfying human desire.
- Conservation is management of <u>natural resources</u> with the goal of <u>sustainability</u>.
- ➤ Natural resources may be further classified in different ways. ☐

Resources can be categorized on the basis of origin:

- Abiotic resources comprise non-living things (e.g., land, water, air and minerals such as gold, iron, copper, silver).
- Biotic resources are obtained from the <u>biosphere</u>. Forests and their products, animals, birds and their products, <u>fish</u> and other marine organisms are important examples. <u>Minerals</u> such as coal and <u>petroleum</u> are sometimes included in this category because they were formed from fossilized organic matter, though over long periods of time.

Natural resources are also categorized based on the stage of development:

- Potential resources are known to exist and may be used in the future. For example, <u>petroleum</u> may exist in many parts of India and Kuwait that have sedimentary rocks, but until the time it is actually drilled out and put into use, it remains a potential resource.
- Actual resources are those that have been surveyed, their quantity and quality determined, and are being used in present times. For example, petroleum and natural gas is actively being obtained from the Mumbai High Fields. The development of an actual resource, such as <u>wood processing</u> depends upon the technology available and the <u>cost</u> involved. That part of the actual resource that

can be developed profitably with available technology is known as a reserve resource, while that part that can not be developed profitably because of lack of technology is known as a stock resource.

Natural resources can be categorized on the basis of renewability:

- <u>Non-renewable resources</u> are formed over very long <u>geological periods</u>. Minerals and fossils are included in this category.
- Since their rate of formation is extremely slow, they cannot be replenished, once they are <u>depleted</u>.
- Out of these, the metallic minerals can be re-used by recycling them, but coal and petroleum cannot be recycled.
- <u>Renewable resources</u>, such as forests and fisheries, can be replenished or reproduced relatively quickly.
- The highest rate at which a resource can be used sustainably is the <u>sustainable</u> <u>yield</u>. Some resources, such as sunlight, air, and wind, are called perpetual resources because they are available continuously, though at a limited rate.
- Their quantity is not affected by human consumption. Many renewable resources can be depleted by human use, but may also be replenished, thus maintaining a flow.
- Some of these, such as agricultural crops, take a short time for renewal; others, such as water, take a comparatively longer time, while still others, such as forests, take even longer.

Dependent upon the speed and quantity of consumption, overconsumption can lead to depletion or total and everlasting destruction of a resource.

Important examples are agricultural areas, fish and other animals, forests, healthy water and soil, cultivated and natural landscapes.

Such conditionally renewable resources are sometimes classified as a third kind of resource, or as a subtype of renewable resources.

Conditionally renewable resources are presently subject to excess human consumption and the only sustainable long term use of such resources is within the so-called <u>zero ecological footprint</u>, where in human use less than the Earth's ecological capacity to regenerate.

Natural resources are also categorized based on distribution:

- Ubiquitous resources are found everywhere (for example air, light, and water).
- Localized resources are found only in certain parts of the world (for example metal ores and geothermal power).

Actual vs. potential natural resources are distinguished as follows:

- Actual resources are those resources whose location and quantity are known and we have the technology to exploit and use them.
- Potential resources are the ones of which we have insufficient knowledge or we do not have the technology to exploit them at present.

On the basis of ownership, resources can be classified as individual, community, national, and international.

Labour or human resources

- ➤ In economics, labor or <u>human resources</u> refers to the human effort in the production of goods and rendering of services.
- Human resources can be defined in terms of skills, energy, talent, abilities, or knowledge.
- ➤ In a <u>project management</u> context, human resources are those employees responsible for undertaking the activities defined in the project plan. [7]

- Typically resources cannot be consumed in their original form, but rather through resource development they must be processed into more usable commodities and usable things.
- With the increasing population, the demand for resources is increasing.
- There are marked differences in <u>resource distribution</u> and associated <u>economic inequality</u> between regions or countries, with developed countries using more natural resources than developing countries. <u>Sustainable development</u> is a pattern of resource use, that aims to meet human needs while preserving the <u>environment</u>. [1]
- Sustainable development means that we should exploit our resources carefully to meet our present requirement without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- ➤ The practice of the three R's reduce, reuse and recycle must be followed in order to save and extend the availability of resources.

Various problems relate to the usage of resources:

- Environmental degradation
- Over-consumption
- Resource curse
- Resource depletion
- Tragedy of the commons
- Myth of superabundance

Various benefits can result from the wise usage of resources:

- Economic growth
- Ethical consumerism
- Prosperity
- Quality of life
- Sustainability
- Wealth

Natural resource management

- Natural resource management (NRM) is the management of <u>natural</u> resources such as <u>land</u>, <u>water</u>, <u>soil</u>, <u>plants</u> and <u>animals</u>, with a particular focus on how management affects the <u>quality of life</u> for both present and <u>future generations</u> (<u>stewardship</u>).
- ➤ Natural resource management deals with managing the way in which people and natural <u>landscapes</u> interact.
- ➤ It brings together <u>natural heritage</u> management, land use planning, water management, <u>bio-diversity conservation</u>, and the future sustainability of industries like agriculture, mining, tourism, fisheries and forestry.

- ➤ It recognises that people and their livelihoods rely on the health and productivity of our landscapes, and their actions as stewards of the land play a critical role in maintaining this health and productivity.[□]
- Natural resource management specifically focuses on a scientific and technical understanding of resources and <u>ecology</u> and the life-supporting capacity of those resources.
- Environmental management is similar to natural resource management.
- ➤ In academic contexts, the <u>sociology of natural resources</u> is closely related to, but distinct from, natural resource management.

History

The <u>Bureau of Land Management</u> in the United States manages America's <u>public lands</u>, totaling approximately 264 million acres (1,070,000 km2) or one-eighth of the landmass of the country.

The emphasis on a sustainability can be traced back to early attempts to understand the ecological nature of North American rangelands in the late 19th century, and the resource conservation movement of the same time. [3][4]

This type of analysis coalesced in the 20th century with recognition that preservationist <u>conservation</u> strategies had not been effective in halting the decline of natural resources.

A more integrated approach was implemented recognising the intertwined social, cultural, economic and political aspects of resource management. [5]

A more holistic, national and even global form evolved, from the <u>Brundtland</u> <u>Commission</u> and the advocacy of <u>sustainable development</u>.

In 2005 the government of New South Wales, Australia established a Standard for Quality Natural Resource Management, [6] to improve the consistency of practice, based on an adaptive management approach.

In the United States, the most active areas of natural resource management are <u>fisheries management</u>, <u>wildlife management</u>, <u>lal</u> often associated with ecotourism and rangeland management, and forest management.

In Australia, water sharing, such as the <u>Murray Darling Basin Plan</u> and <u>catchment management</u> are also significant

Management of the resources

- > Natural resource management issues are inherently complex and contentious.
- > First, they involve the ecological cycles, hydrological cycles, climate, animals, plants and geography, etc.
- > All these are dynamic and inter-related.
- A change in one of them may have far reaching and/or long term impacts which may even be irreversible.
- > Second, in addition to the complexity of the natural systems, managers also has to consider various stakeholders and their interests, policies, politics, geographical boundaries, and economic implications.
- It is impossible to fully satisfy all aspects at the same time.

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- Therefore, between the scientific complexity and the diverse stakeholders, natural resource management is typically contentious.
- > After the United Nations Conference for the Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, most nations subscribed to new principles for the integrated management of land, water, and forests.
- > Although program names vary from nation to nation, all express similar aims.
- > The various approaches applied to natural resource management include:
 - Top-down (command and control)
 - Community-based natural resource management
 - Adaptive management
 - Precautionary approach
 - Integrated natural resource management
 - Ecosystem management

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