Natural Resources

- **Natural resources includes** air, water, forests, animals, fishes, marine life, biomass, fossile fuels, like coal, petroleum and natural gases, wild life, renewable energy sources like solar energy, wind energy, biomass energy, geothermal energy etc.
- **Prosperity of a nation** is dependent on the natural resources available in the nation.

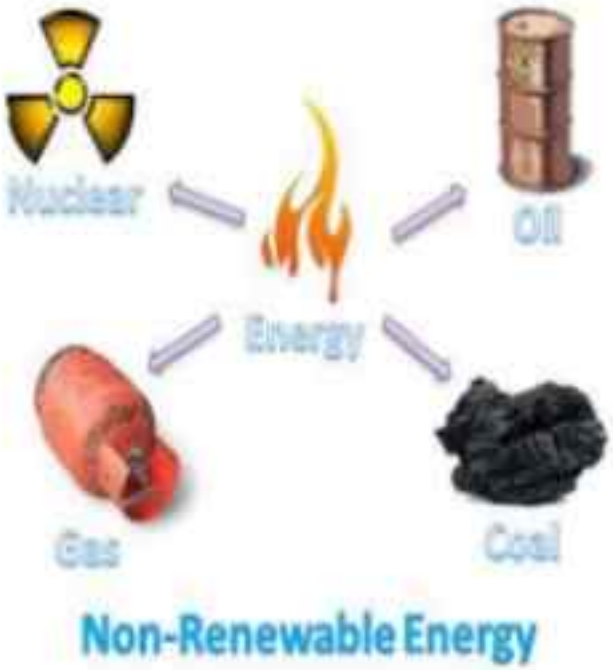
Renewable Resource

- Renewable energy is energy which is generated from natural sources i.e. sun, wind, rain, tides and can be **generated again and again** as and when required.
- They are available in plenty and by far most the **cleanest sources** of energy available on this planet.
- **Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Geothermal Energy, Biomass Energy From Plants, Tidal Energy** are the examples of Renewable resources.

					
Solar	Wind	Geo	Hydro	Bio	Tide

Non Renewable Resource

- A non renewable resource is a natural resource that **cannot be re-made or re-grown** at a scale comparable to its consumption.
- Non-renewable sources are **not environmental friendly** and can have serious effect on our health.
- They are called non-renewable because **they cannot be re-generated within a short span of time.**
- Non-renewable sources exist in the form of fossil fuels, natural gas, oil and coal.



Natural resources are Earth materials used to support life and meet the needs of people. Any organic material used by humans can be considered as a **natural resource**. **Natural resources** include oil, coal, **natural** gas, metals, stone, and sand. Air, sunlight, soil, and water are other **natural resources**. 22-Oct-2020

On the **basis of origin**, natural resources may be divided into two types:

- *Biotic* — Biotic resources are obtained from the biosphere (living and organic material), such as forests and animals, and the materials that can be obtained from them. Fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum are also included in this category because they are formed from decayed organic matter.
- *Abiotic* – Abiotic resources are those that come from non-living, non-organic material. Examples of abiotic resources include land, fresh water, air, rare-earth elements, and heavy metals including ores, such as gold, iron, copper, silver, etc.

On the **basis of recovery rate**, natural resources can be categorized as follows:

- *Renewable resources* — Renewable resources can be replenished naturally. Some of these resources, like sunlight, air, wind, water, etc. are continuously available and their quantities are not noticeably affected by human consumption. Though many renewable resources do not have such a rapid recovery rate, these resources are susceptible to depletion by over-use. Resources from a human use perspective are classified as renewable so long as the rate of replenishment/recovery exceeds that of the rate of consumption. They replenish easily compared to non-renewable resources.

- *Non-renewable resources* – Non-renewable resources either form slowly or do not naturally form in the environment. Minerals are the most common resource included in this category. From the human perspective, resources are non-renewable when their rate of consumption exceeds the rate of replenishment/recovery; a good example of this are fossil fuels, which are in this category because their rate of formation is extremely slow (potentially millions of years), meaning they are considered non-renewable. Some resources naturally deplete in amount without human interference, the most notable of these being radio-active elements such as uranium, which naturally decay into heavy metals. Of these, the metallic minerals can be re-used by recycling them,[5] but coal and petroleum cannot be recycled.[6] Once they are completely used they take millions of years to replenish.

Major causes of resource depletion are:
Population growth: With the increase in population the depletion of natural resources will also increase. It is because of the necessary activities of man. Man overexploit natural resources for his comforts. This can ultimately lead to the scarcity of these resources in the near future.

Deforestation: Due to the deforestation cause the decrease in rainfall and amount of firewood. Due to this, 200 crores people suffer from the scarcity of water. Besides this, man is over consuming the available source of water.

Natural calamities: natural calamities like flood and drought cause a mass depletion of natural resources. Example: a landslide named Jure landslide swept away a hill consisting a village within it in 2014 in Nepal.

Pollution: pollution is one of the most destructive causes of the depletion of the natural resources, example: Pollution in Bagmati and Bishnumati rivers in Kathmandu has led to depletion in number of fish and aquatic species.