**B.Sc. 2nd Sem**

**Sub: Environmental Studies**

**Unit 2: Natural Resource**

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Natural Resources are, all of the Earth’s organisms, such as air, water, soil and the materials which are removed from the ground like oil, coal and various ores. These resources cannot be produced by our mankind. Natural Resources can be classified in two broad categories

1. Renewable Resources 2. Nonrenewable Resources

**1. Renewable Resources :**

Resources that can be replenished (i.e replaced) naturally in the course of time are called Renewable Resources. Examples: (i) Wind–caused by the uneven heating of the Earth Not only renewable but in exhaustible. (ii) Water–constantly renewed/replenished by the water cycle. (iii) Sun–light from the sun supports all the life on Earth as we know it. Also considered inexhaustible. (at least for the next 5 billion years). Besides that, other Renewable Resources are- (iv) Soil–a mixture of living organisms and dirt. Even though it initially takes thousands of years to form, the rate at which soil can regenerate depends on the climate of an area. (v) Food and fiber–are renewable agricultural resources that can be harvested or raised indefinitely unless their use exceeds the rate they can be replaced

**2. Non-renewable Resources:**

Resources that exist in limited supply and cannot be replaced if they are used up are called Non-Renewable Resources. They took thousands of years to form and exist in fixed amounts in the Earth and need to be conserved before they become depleted. Examples: (i) Ores-Ores are mineral deposits from which valuable metals and nonmetals can be recovered for profit. Metallic ores include: gold, silver, copper, aluminum, zinc, etc. Non-metallic ores include: salt, sand, gravel, clay, diamonds, gemstones, etc. (ii) Fossil Fuels- They are nonrenewable because they take thousands of years to form. In developing countries, the fossil fuels are fossilized wood, charcoal, and peat. In developed countries, the fossil fuels are mainly coal, natural gas, and oil. (iii) Coal– It is the remains of wetland plants that have been compressed over millions of years. Different types of coal are- Peat, Lignite, Bituminous, Anthracite. (iv) Petroleum and Natural Gas–They are the remains of mainly marine organisms.