

# Resources and Forest Resources

## Natural resources:

Natural resources are the source which are useful to man or it can be transformed into a useful product.

## Two types

### Renewable resources

These resources are capable of being regenerated by ecological processes within a reasonable time period. Example Soil, water, air

### Non Renewable resources

These resources are not capable of being regenerated by ecological processes.

## RESOURCES

FOREST RESOURCES,

WATER RESOURCES,

MINERAL RESOURCES,

ENERGY RESOURCES

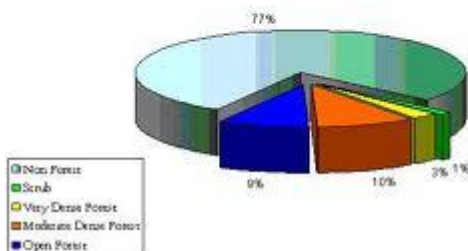
LAND RESOURCES

FOOD RESOURCES

## Forest resources:

One of the important renewable natural resource on earth. 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the world's land surface is covered with forest. Forest covering the earth like a green blanket. Forest not only produce innumerable material goods, but also provide several environmental services.

Forest Cover of India



## Types of forest:

### Ever green forest:

Found in equatorial region. Where temperature and rain fall is high, due to heavy rain the forest are ever green. (e.g) silent valley in kerela

Important trees teak and rosewood.

### **Deciduous forest:**

These forest receive only seasonal rainfall. Therefore they loose their leaves during summer season. Trees sandal wood.

### **Coniferous trees:**

Trees contain needle shaped leaves (e.g) pine tree, spruce tree

### **Functions of forest:**

1. It performs very important function both to human and to nature.
2. They are habitats to millions of plants, animals and wild life.
3. They recycle rain water.
4. They remove pollutant from air.
5. They control water quality.
6. They moderate temperature and weather.
7. They influence soil condition and prevent soil erosion.
8. They promote tourism.

### **Uses of forest:**

1. Commercial uses
2. Ecological uses

### **Commercial uses:**

1. Wood – used as a fuel
2. Supply wood for various industries – Raw materials as pulp, paper, furniture timber etc.
3. Minor forest products – gum, dyes, resins
4. Many plants – Medicines
5. Supply variety of animal products – honey, Ivory, horns etc.
6. Many forest lands are used for - Mining, grazing, for dams and recreation.

### **Ecological uses:**

Forest provides number of environmental services.

#### **1. Production of oxygen:**

Photosynthesis produces large amount of oxygen which is essential for life.

#### **2. Reducing global warming:**

Carbon dioxide is one of the main green house gas. It is absorbed by plants for photosynthesis. Therefore the problem of global warming caused by CO<sub>2</sub> is reduced.

### **3. Soil conservation:**

Roots of trees bind the soil tightly and prevent soil erosion. They also act as wind breaks.

### **4. Regulation of hydrological cycle:**

Watershed in forest act like giant sponges and slowly release the water fore recharge of spring.

### **5. Pollution moderators:**

Forest can absorb many toxic gases and noises and help in preventing air and noise pollution.

### **6. Wild life habitat:**

Forest is the homes of millions of wild animals and plants.

### **Over exploitation of forest:**

Due to over population, there is a demand fort medicine, shelter, wood and fuel increases.

Hence exploitation of forest material going on increases.

### **Reason for deficiency of forest:**

In India the minimum area of forest required to maintain good ecological balance is about 33% of total area. But at present it is only about 22%. So over exploitation of forest material occur.

### **Cause of over exploitation:**

1. Increasing agricultural production.
2. Increasing agricultural activities.
3. Increase in demand of wood resources.

### **Deforestation:**

It is process of removal of forest resources due to natural or man made activities (i.e.) destruction of forests.

Source : <http://nprcet.org/e%20content/eee/EVS.pdf>