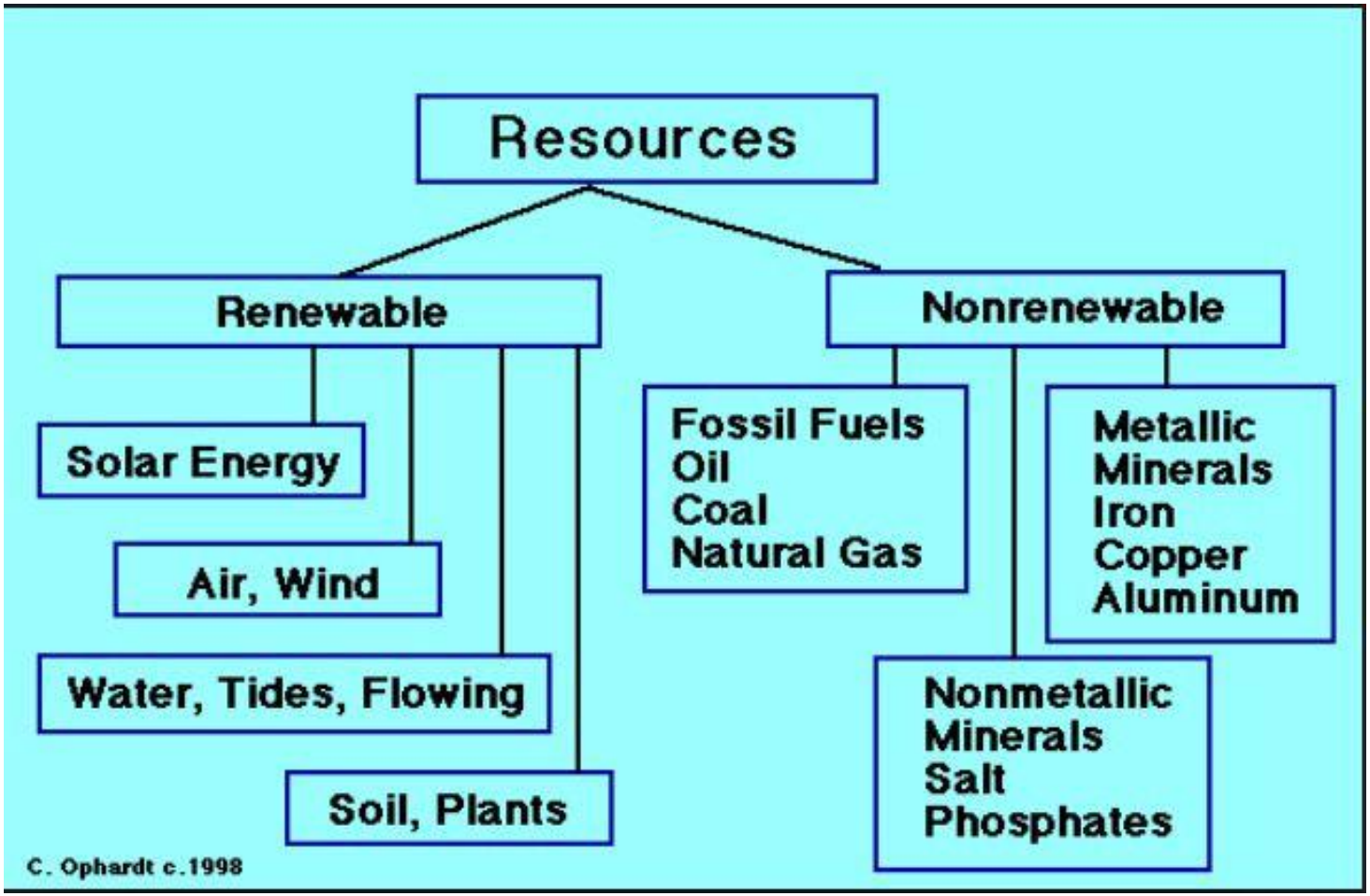
Natural Resources & Minerals of Bangladesh

Definition of Natural Resource

- Natural resources are materials from the Earth that are used to support life and meet people's needs.
- Natural resources are natural assets (raw materials) occurring in nature that can be used for economic production or consumption.
- Any natural substance that humans use can be considered a natural resource. Oil, coal, natural gas, metals, stone and sand are natural resources. Other natural resources are air, sunlight, soil and water.

Types of Natural Resources



Differences between Renewable and Non –Renewable Resources

Renewable resources	Non- renewable resources
Resources which can be renewed or can be reused are renewable resources.	Resources which cannot be renewed or reused once utilized are called non-renewable resources.
These include components like air, water, wind, sunlight etc.	These include components like fossil fuels, LPG gases.
They are sustainable resources.	They are exhaustible resources.
Their rate of renewal is greater than the rate of getting exhausted.	Their rate of renewal is slower than the rate of getting exhausted.
They are mostly environmental friendly and does not cause pollution.	They are the main cause of pollution.

Major natural resources of Bangladesh

- Bangladesh is a developing country with vast quantities of natural resources that play a vital role in economic growth and diversification.
- Bangladesh is small country with a rapidly growing population that has increased pressure on its natural resources.
- These natural resources are either renewable or non-renewable of which most have been conserved such as coral reefs, islands, evergreen vegetation and mangrove forests, and wildlife

Forest Resources

- The country is covered with evergreen highlands in northeastern and southeastern regions with natural deciduous forests.
- Sundarbans consists the largest forest reserve in the country, taking a large share of nearly 40 percent of the total forest cover in Bangladesh.
- The total land covered by forests is about 20 percent of the main land.

- Valuable tree species native to Bangladesh forests include the Passur, Baen, Sundari, and Keora.
- Efforts are being made to safeguard the forests from population pressure through enactment of laws, educating the public on conservation measures and adopting agro-forestry policies to maximize food production as well as conserve trees.

Natural Gas

- Natural gas is a major source of energy for Bangladesh where mining began in the 19th century and contributes to more than 70% of commercial energy in the country.

- At present Bangladehsh is the 7th largest natural gas producer in Asia with 28 gas fields of production producing about 2,900 million cubic feet of natural gas daily.

- Like many other natural resources, overexploitation leads to exhaustion which poses the main threat to natural gas reserves. In addition, the lack of proper skilled personnel to mine natural gas results in wastage and loss.

- The government has to import skilled labor from mining companies in developed nations such as the USA and Japan.

Fisheries

- The fisheries resource in Bangladesh comprises of marine sources such as the sea and inland resources like ponds, rivers and lakes which take the major percentage of fish production in the country.
- Bangladeshis are the biggest consumers of fish-based animal protein based on the highest per capita income and culture with 60% protein coming from fish supplies.
- Bangladesh is among the leading inland fisheries producers, producing more than 2.8 million tons of fish every year. It possesses plenty of prawns, lobsters, turtles, mollusks, and other fishery resources in the vast rivers and inland water bodies.

- The fishing industry provides about 1.4 million job opportunities to citizens of Bangladesh which helps lift the economy. In addition, fisheries contribute to foreign exchange earnings and an overall nutritious diet to the locals.
- Bangladesh is currently stand in the 3rd position of overall fish production and 1st position in the overall Hilsha production.
- Almost 3% of our GDP is contributed from fisheries production.

Land Resources

- The land resource in Bangladesh is scarce and in high demand largely because of the population growth which is quite rapid.
- Many nutrient-rich alluvial soils are deposited after flooding, as a result Bangladesh has one of the most fertile soils in the world.
- Heavy rainfall and long growing season boost the fertility of Bangladesh's lands which increases agricultural yields of wheat, maize, sugarcane, cotton, linseed, repressed mustard, and rice.

- Bangladesh is one of the largest producers of rice, jute, and other agricultural products in the world which helps to stabilize the income sources of the government hence able to plan for its citizens.
- The government has embraced sustainable agricultural land management through heavy reliance on modern agriculture.

Water Resources

- Water is a unique resource important for survival and balance of the ecological processes in the environment.
- Modern agricultural technology can produce higher agricultural yields through increased and efficient use of water.
- Major sources of water in Bangladesh are ground water stored in the impermeable rocks, stream flow and rainfall water.

- Stream flow water comes from the major rivers such as the Ganges, Meghna, and the Brahmaputra and plays a major role in balancing the ecological, social and cultural structure of the inhabitants.
- These sources provide water for farming through irrigation, domestic use and industrial application, fisheries, transportation means through navigable rivers and lakes, electricity production, and recreation.

Minerals Resources of Bangladesh

- Important mineral resources of Bangladesh are given below :
- Oil & Gas
- Coal
- Limestone
- Hardrock
- Peat
- Construction Sand
- White Sand

- Glass sand
- Beach sand
- Brick clay etc

Area wise distribution of Major Mineral Resources

- There are about 28 gas fields in our country among them “Bibiyana” gas field in “Habiganj” is the largest of all.
- Four Potential areas of coal mine of Bangladesh are :Dinajpur, Nawabganj, Parbatipur and Birampur.
- Limestones of Bangladesh can be found in Saint-Martin Island of Cox’s Bazar district, Bhangerghat-Lalghat-Takerghat of Sunamgonj district.

- Hard-rock of Bangladesh is found in following areas which are Ranipukur and Pirganj in Rangpur district, Bogra, Joypurhat and Jamalgonj.
- In Bangladesh glass sands are Bajuri of Sherpur districr, Shahjibazar and Teliapara of Habiganj district and Chauddagram upazilla of cumilla district.

Economic significance of minerals of Bangladesh

- The economic significance of minerals to a country's national development depends not only on mineral development, but also on the proper utilization of those mineral resources.
- Mineral resource utilization helps in power generating industries to generate power domestically which helps to flourish the economy of a country.

- Employment generation, increased per capita income.
- Alleviation of poverty and improving overall life standards.
- Fostering export revenue through export of mineral based raw materials.
- Reducing crime ,corruption and helps to achieve sustainable development.

Importance of conservation of natural resources

- As the population of the world is increasing at an alarming rate, the consumption of natural resources is also increasing.
- These resources should be conserved to maintain ecological balance and save them for future generations.
- Due to overpopulation and human negligence we started to over-exploit our resources. If this continues, there will no resources left for our future generation.

- The need to conserve the resources are-
- To support life by supporting ecological balance
- To ensure that the future generations will be able to access the resources
- To preserve the biodiversity
- To make sure human race survives.

- Also sustaibale uses of these resources are also important because in the SDG goal no-7 importance have given on to ensure clean and affordable energy.
- SDG-7 focuses on how resources should be utilized in an environmental friendly way so that our environmental status don’t get degraded.