

Natural Resources, Natural Capital, and Ecosystem Services – Worksheet

Part A: Key Definitions

1. Define the following terms in your own words: a) Natural resources b) Natural capital c) Natural income
2. Explain how natural capital differs from economic capital.
3. Identify two examples each of: • Goods derived from natural capital • Services provided by natural capital

Part B: Classification of Natural Capital

4. Complete the table below:

Type of Natural Capital	Characteristics	Examples
Non-renewable		
Renewable		

5. Why are all natural resources considered finite?
6. Describe the main difference between renewable and non-renewable natural capital.
7. Give one example of how water can function as both renewable and non-renewable natural capital.

Part C: Recyclable Resources

8. Explain why iron ore is considered non-renewable, but iron and steel are considered recyclable.
9. How does recycling contribute to sustainability?

10. Provide another example of a recyclable material and explain its environmental benefit.

Part D: Forests as Natural Capital and Natural Income

11. Describe the role of forests as natural capital and natural income.

12. List three conditions required for sustainable forest management.

13. What are some environmental and social impacts of unsustainable logging practices?

14. Explain how the rate of forest harvesting must relate to the rate of natural growth for sustainability.

Part E: Fish as Natural Capital

15. Why are fish populations considered renewable natural capital?

16. Describe how unsustainable fishing practices have affected global fish stocks.

17. Using the example of bluefin tuna, explain how human activity has influenced marine ecosystems.

Part F: Life-Support Ecosystem Services

18. Define 'ecosystem services.'

19. Why are ecosystem services often difficult to assign a monetary value?

20. What was the main purpose of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA)?

21. List the four main objectives of the MEA.

Part G: Services Provided by Vegetation

22. Identify four major life-support services provided by vegetation.

23. Explain how vegetation contributes to water regulation and flood prevention.

24. How have changes to the Mississippi River wetlands affected their flood storage capacity?

25. In what ways do reed beds and trees improve air and water quality?

26. List at least five pollutants that vegetation helps to remove from the atmosphere.

Part H: Critical Thinking and Application

27. Discuss how high-income countries (HICs) and low-income countries (LICs) differ in their use and management of natural capital.

28. Suggest three ways that governments can promote the sustainable use of renewable natural capital.

29. Evaluate the importance of including natural capital in a country's measure of wealth.

30. Design one local or school-based project that could promote awareness of natural resource conservation.

Extension Activity

Create a concept map linking the following terms: Natural resources, natural capital, natural income, renewable, non-renewable, recyclable resources, forests, fish, ecosystem services, vegetation.