

The Challenges of Using Natural Resources

Extracting, processing and using natural resources can cause environmental problems such as:

- air, land and water pollution
- disruption or destruction of ecosystems
- A decrease in biodiversity.

For example:

- Carbon dioxide – which is produced from burning coal, oil and natural gas (fossil fuels) – is a critical greenhouse gas. Greenhouse gases absorb and retain heat from the sun. The build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere can cause global climate change.

Extracting and using natural resources also can disturb relationships within ecosystems which included

- Ponds or wetlands,
- Mangrove forests
- plants and animals
- Water resources
- Marine resources

Examples:

- Trees cleared from a field can destroy habitats used by many animals and people.
- Destruction of the mangrove nursery ecosystem impacts the myriad of marine resources for our country, the Caribbean and the western world.

Extracting and using natural resources – along with other human activities – may decrease biodiversity.

Diminishing the Earth's biodiversity has substantial human costs because wild species and natural ecosystems are important resources.

Economists estimate that the lost pharmaceutical value from plant species extinctions in the United States is about **\$12 billion.**

We have no knowledge of what we have lost in pharmaceutical value from the many species destroyed in The Bahamas based on our very own Indigenous Medicine Practices.

We have a beautiful country

RICH with **RESOURCES.**

Many know our value...

DO YOU?

"Natural resources belong to the people as a whole. They must be used for the benefit of the nation, not just a privileged few. Access to and control over natural resources must be justly distributed, ensuring the rights of marginalized and vulnerable communities are protected. Only then can we achieve true environmental and social justice." - Vandana Shiva, Indian scholar and environmental activist.