

ECOSYSTEMS

An ecosystem is a self supporting environment that includes all living and non-living organisms co-existing together. These are:-



Savannah Ecosystem



Aquatic (water) Ecosystem



Forest Ecosystem



Wetland Ecosystem



Desert Ecosystem

IMPORTANCE OF ECOSYSTEMS

Ecosystems are important for plants and animals survival since species depend on one another for food, air, shelter and water. No species can survive in isolation. The greatest challenge in conservation of ecosystems is the continuous exhaustive use of natural resources for economic development, thus causing an imbalance that affects living organisms.

THREATS TO ECOSYSTEMS

- Unsustainable infrastructure development.
- Changing land use patterns
- Environmental pollution
- Rapid increase in human population.
- Unsustainable harvesting of resources/species
- Human activities such as, recreational use, offshore trash disposal, oil and gasoline spills.
- Lack of political good will

HOW CAN WE CONSERVE THE ECOSYSTEMS

If benefits provided at the ecosystem level are to be sustained then action needs to be taken at all levels through:-

- Protection of already existing ecosystems.
- Creation of reserves/parks and sanctuaries.
- Through conventions, regulation, policies, laws and guidelines on use, conservation, and protection of species and ecosystem.
- Creation of environmental awareness
- Encourage protection of the traditional land use systems.
- Reconcile immediate human needs with conservation activities.



The cultural integrity of the local people and the conservation of different life forms are deeply rooted within the ecosystems.

