

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The functions of wooded lands and natural ecosystems

Forest ecosystems provide numerous benefits to human communities each day. These benefits are essential for community life and well-being. In scientific language, these benefits are called “ecosystem services”.

Ecosystem **supply** services comprise direct production of resources for nourishment, energy sources and oxygen.

Ecosystem **regulating** services refer to ecosystem functions and their capacity to regulate the local microclimate, control water flows, purify water and air, preserve soil fertility against erosion, avoid or mitigate floods, store water and carbon dioxide, and act as habitat for the flora and fauna.

Finally, ecosystem **cultural** services refer to the possibility of having recreational, sports, educational and nature observation experiences and to the symbolic, spiritual, landscape, and historic and cultural memory conservation values that every ecosystem expresses.

The more biodiverse the ecosystem, the greater the quantity and variety of ecosystem services it produces in space and time.



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