

Ecosystem

An ecosystem: is a community of living organisms in conjunction with the nonliving components of their environment interacting as a system.

- The nonliving parts of an organism's environment are the **abiotic factors**. Examples of abiotic factors include air currents, temperature, moisture, light, and soil.

- All the living organisms that inhabit an environment are called **biotic factors**. Examples of biotic factors include plants, animals and microbes.

There are two major kinds of ecosystems:

- 1- **Terrestrial ecosystems**: are those located on land. Examples include forests, meadows, and rotting logs.
- 2- **Aquatic ecosystems**: occur in both fresh and saltwater. Freshwater ecosystems include ponds, lakes, and streams. While saltwater ecosystems, also called marine ecosystems, make up approximately 70 percent of Earth's surface.

The Relationship Between Organism in Ecosystem

1- **Predation**: is when one organism eats another organism to obtain nutrients. Examples of predation are owls that eat mice.

2- **Competition**: is when individuals or populations compete for the same resource and can occur within or between species. An example is lions and hyenas that compete for prey.

3- **Commensalism**: is a relationship in which one organism benefits while the other is neither helped nor harmed. Examples are barnacles that grow on whales.

4- **Parasitism**: is a relationship in which one organism benefits and the other organism is harmed, but not always killed. Such as intestinal worms that live inside the host.

5- **Mutualism**: is a relationship in which both species benefit. An example is ants and aphids.