

## **18. Ecosystems**

Ecology is a branch of science which deals with the study of ecosystems.

Ecosystem includes both living and non-living components of an area. Thus, an ecosystem includes both the biological community and non-living components of an area. Ponds, forests, grasslands, etc. are a few examples of ecosystems.

The living components of an ecosystem are called biotic factors whereas the non living components of an ecosystem are called abiotic factors.

Abiotic factors include light, temperature, water, air, soil, inorganic nutrients, etc.

Biotic factors are the living components of any habitat. They include plants, animals, etc.

Biome is a term which refers to a specific type of ecosystem which develops in a vast area due to the same climatic conditions and abiotic factors of that area. There are two types of biomes which are found on earth:

1. Land biomes
2. Aquatic biomes