

1. aquatic ecosystems	ecosystems of marine and freshwater environments	21. sere	a stage in the sequence of events in which a plant or animal community in an area develops over a period of time
2. biological diversity	the variety of life, encompassing the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes and the ecosystems of which they form a part	22. species	a group of closely allied plant or animal types that can reproduce with each other
3. biomass	the total weight of living things in a given area	23. species diversity	the number of different species or species richness
4. biomes	very large ecosystems made up of specific vegetation types and their associated fauna	24. succession	natural changes in the structure and species composition of a community over time
5. biosphere	the surface zone of the earth and its adjacent atmosphere, in which all organic life exists	25. symbiotic relationship	mutually beneficial relationships that develop between species
6. climax community	the end product of succession; a community that is in equilibrium with its environment	26. terrestrial ecosystems	communities of plants and animals spread broadly over the surface of the continents
7. disclimax	the community that results when a climax community becomes modified or displaced		
8. ecology	the study of the interactions of living organisms with each other, and with their habitats and environments		
9. ecosystem	the community of species and their non-living habitat		
10. fauna	the animal life of an area or region		
11. flora	the plant life of an area or region		
12. genetic diversity	the inherited variation that occurs within populations of species as a result of different genes or biological combinations		
13. habitat	the place where a particular plant or animal lives		
14. megafauna	large mammals and birds such as those thought to have occupied Australia up to 10 000 to 30 000 years ago		
15. natural vegetation	plants originally found in an area		
16. niche	the position and function of a plant or animal in its community		
17. photosynthesis	the process by which plants collect energy from the sun and use it to combine carbon dioxide with water to produce organic nutrients		
18. primary succession	the sequential development of more complex plant communities		
19. prisere	a complete chain of successive seres beginning with a pioneer community and ending with a climax community		
20. secondary succession	the development of a disclimax community once an original community has been removed or destroyed		