

Ecosystem Processes

Ecosystem processes are intrinsic characteristics of an ecosystem and are essential for the ecosystem to operate, develop and maintain its integrity (UK National Ecosystem Assessment 2011)¹⁾. Ecosystem processes include decomposition, production, nutrient cycling, and fluxes of nutrients and energy (Reid 2005)²⁾ as well as characteristics determining population dynamics such as seed dispersal and migration (Potschin et al. 2016)³⁾. They are the interactions among biotic and abiotic elements of the ecosystem which are the basis for ecosystem functions (see [ecosystem functions](#)) (Harrington et al. 2010)⁴⁾.

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UK National Ecosystem Assessment (Ed.) (2011): Technical Report (Glossary).

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Reid, W. V. (Ed.) (2005): Ecosystems and human well-being. Synthesis; a report of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, MEA - Millennium Ecosystem Assessment & WRI - World Resources Institute. Washington, DC.

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Potschin, M.; Haines-Young, R.; Heink, U. & Jax, K. (Eds.) (2016): OpenNESS Glossary (V3.0). Prepared by the "Glossary editorial team". Online available at <http://www.openness-project.eu/glossary>.

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Harrington, R.; Anton, C.; Dawson, T. P.; Bello, F. de; Feld, C. K.; Haslett, J. R., et al. (2010): Ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation. Concepts and a glossary. In: Biodiversity and Conservation 19 (10), p. 2773–2790.

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