

Ecosystem Services

Biology

What ecosystems provide, grouped into four categories.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment categories.

Category	Examples
Provisioning	Food, water, timber, fibre, medicines
Regulating	Climate, flood control, pollination, disease
Cultural	Recreation, aesthetics, spiritual value
Supporting	Soil formation, nutrient cycling, photosynthesis

Supporting services underpin all the others, which is why damage to soil or nutrient cycling has such wide consequences.