

Course- WL- 707 Terrestrial Wildlife
Management
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Ist Lecture

Introduction to terrestrial ecosystem

Ecosystem:

An ecosystem is a collection of communities of both living and non-living things that are interrelated. While many ecosystems exist on land and in the waters of the world.

Terrestrial ecosystems are those that are found only on land. The biotic, or living things found in an ecosystem, include various life forms, such as plants and animals. The abiotic, or non-living things found in an ecosystem, include the various land-forms and the climate.

Terrestrial animals are animals that live predominantly or entirely on land (e.g., cats, ants, spiders), as compared with aquatic animals, which live predominantly or entirely in the water (e.g., fish, lobsters, octopuses), or amphibians, which rely on a combination of aquatic and

Types of Terrestrial Ecosystems

While there have been many classification schemes developed over time, it is now generally accepted that there are six types of terrestrial ecosystems. These include

- Taiga,
- Tundra,
- Deciduous forest
- Grasslands
- Tropical rain forests, and deserts.

Terrestrial ecosystem term include all flora and fauna that inhabit our landscape. Terrestrial ecosystem provides;

- Providing habitat for flora and fauna

- Providing food' fiber' shelter and other resources.
- Storing, transformation, releasing carbon water and other nutrients.
- Reducing the impact of flood and drought.
- Protect soil resources from salinity and erosion.
- Regulating climate.

Animals which live in land and do their biological activities n land are known as terrestrial animals.

On the basis of their mode of life terrestrial animals have divided into following types.

1. Cursorial
2. Arboreal
3. Fossorial
4. Aerial animals
5. Desert animals

1. Cursorial animals:

Those animals which live in open places and are adopted to run on hard ground e.g. tiger, lion, deer etc.

- Limbs are long and strong
- Locomotion is digitigrade
- The body is streamlined which help them in swift movement.

2. Fossorial animals:

Those animals which are adapted for burrowing mode of life e.g. rabbit, rat etc.

- Head is small and taper anteriorly to form snout for digging
- Forelimbs are short with powerful claws
- The eyes and ears are small

3. Arboreal animals:

They are those animals which are adapted for climbing e.g. squirrel and chameleon.

- Body is stout, ribs are very much curved.
- Locomotion is plantigrade.
- Muscle of chest are very strong.

4. Aerial animals:

Animals that are adapted for aerial mode of life. E.g. birds

- Bones are hollow and spongy

- Forelimbs are modified into wings.

5. Desert animals:

Desert animals are adapted for dry land and hot habitat. E.g. camel, lizard etc.

- Conserve water in water poaches.
- Thick skin and dull color to avoid loss of water.

6. Conservation of wildlife

- Reduce, reuse, and recycle to protect wildlife habitat in the U.S. and abroad.
- Adopt a plant-based diet. Millions of acres of wildlife habitat are degraded in the U.S. and abroad to raise livestock for slaughter and crops to feed livestock prior to slaughter.
- Do not participate in sport hunting. Take shots only from your camera.
- Write your legislators to express your support for laws that protect wild animals and habitat.
- Live harmoniously with wild animals around your own home and when visiting public lands.
- Learn about invasive species – both plant and animal and do your part to stop their spread. Only plant native and non-invasive plants in your yard and garden.