

## **ecosystem** [1]

**Type of Speech:**

noun [2]

**Definition:**

a functional unit consisting of all the living organisms (plants, animals, and microbes) in a given area, and all the non-living physical and chemical factors of their environment, linked together through nutrient cycling and energy flow. An ecosystem can be of any size-a log, pond, field, forest, or the earth's biosphere-but it always functions as a whole unit.

---

**Source URL:**<https://www.ncpedia.org/glossary/ecosystem>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/glossary/ecosystem> [2] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/parts-speech/noun>