

RESOURCES AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

Forest ecosystems provide many services to human societies through a range of processes, including photosynthesis, the recycling of plant and animal debris, and tree growth.

In addition to providing food and materials, they regulate local climates and help mitigate climate change by storing carbon. Forested areas also purify surface and groundwater and contribute to its availability by generating local precipitation.

Tree roots structure soil formation, providing protection against natural hazards like floods, avalanches and landslides. The quality of these services depends on the forest — its density, the age of its trees, how it is managed and the way its land has been used over time — and its biodiversity.

SUPPORTING SERVICES

- ① Contribution to global biogeochemical cycles
- ② Production of organic matter through photosynthesis
- ③ Soil structuring
- ④ Conservation of biodiversity



REGULATING SERVICES

- ⑤ Regulation of global climate and local micro-climate
- ⑥ Protection against natural hazards
- ⑦ Protection against soil erosion



PROVISIONING SERVICES

- ⑧ Food
- ⑨ Fresh water
- ⑩ Timber
- ⑪ Biosourced materials



CULTURAL SERVICES

- ⑫ Recreational sports, arts activities and eco-tourism
- ⑬ Cultural identity
- ⑭ Physical health and mental well-being
- ⑮ Hunting

