

Chapter 12 Biodiversity: Preserving Landscapes

This chapter explains the nature of forests, grasslands, and nature preserves. Ecosystem services that forests provide include pulp wood for paper and wood for cooking, and much more. These vital ecosystems play a role in our lives every day. Environmental issues arise as a result of human intervention, but steps can be taken to remediate or solve these issues.

Grasslands are vibrant ecosystems that are critical to humans as grazing grounds for cattle. The effects of overgrazing and desertification carry significant consequences. We must continue to examine ways we can use ecosystem resources without destroying the ecosystem environments. As an example, natural methods can maintain prairie ecosystems.

Nature preserves, both terrestrial and aquatic, are designated to protect these ecosystems and their inhabitants, but not all preserves are created equally. Working in conjunction with the human inhabitants of an area, biosphere preserves are created. This, in turn, is beneficial as ecotourism becomes a boost to the local economy.