

Chapter 5 Biomes

The type of climate in various geographic locations throughout the world is the determining factor for the myriad of species in these locations; each species has a particular set of parameters for survival. Precipitation and temperature are two vital parameters that determine terrestrial biomes. This chapter focuses on the major biomes of the world with specific reference to temperature, precipitation, flora and fauna.

In addition to the terrestrial biomes, there are both marine and freshwater ecosystems. Less specific than terrestrial biomes, aquatic ecosystems play a vital role in the cycling of nutrients. Coral reefs are often referred to as “the rain forests of the oceans” because they have a high level of biodiversity. Wetlands function as filtration systems, and also provide protection from storm surge to coastal areas. It is important to understand the value of wetlands and how humans impact these essential and significant ecosystems.