

## Forest ecosystem

### Definition

A forest ecosystem is a **dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their abiotic environment interacting as a functional unit, where trees are a key component of the system**

## forest ecosystem key-features

1. **Structure**: an ecosystem is composed of biotic and abiotic components arranged in vertical and horizontal patterns
2. **Function**: continuous flow of matter and energy between the living community and the abiotic environment
3. **Complexity**: assemblages of living organisms, connected to dead organic matter and the physical environment
4. **Interactions**: between living organisms, dead organic material and abiotic components: changes in one set of components induces change in almost all others as well > superorganism
5. **No clear boundaries**:
6. **Dynamical**: ecosystems change over time

# Forest Ecosystem Functions

