

# Ecotone

Ecotone can be defined as the zone where two different ecosystems meet. Mountain ranges can also create Ecotone as there are different climate conditions on the slopes.

- As it is, they are between two ecosystems; it holds the features of each ecosystem and contains species that aren't found in the overlapping groups.
- Ecotones can also be spotted at the water-land interface or one body of water meets another.
- For example, Mangrove Forests are an ecotone between the terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

## Characteristics of Ecotone

The Ecotone can be wide or narrow, and it has species that are different from those found in the bordering systems.

- Ecotone can be man-made or natural. A common example of man-made Ecotone can be the area between agricultural fields and a forest.
- The characteristics of Ecotone are transitional to the neighboring ecosystems.
- Here, the number of species or their population density of them can be significantly higher than in either ecosystem. This is known as the edge effect.

## Importance of Ecotone

The Ecotone contains a wide range of species and a greater variety of organisms. It offers a nesting place for animals. It works like a bridge between two different populations because of the larger genetic diversity.

Ecotones can also work like buffer zones that offer protection to the ecosystems from possible damage. For example, Wetlands can absorb pollutants. Ecotones tell about global climate change. Nowadays, scientists are taking an interest in studying Ecotones so that they can learn about the shifting boundaries between the ecosystems.