

## Ecosystem Components

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While all ecosystems are distinct in their particular combination of components, some specialized component land cover types can be dramatically different from their surroundings. Examples include a wetland, an alpine meadow, or a unique forest. Ecosystem components consist of plants, wildlife, climate, landforms and human activities. All components are important to the ecosystem.

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Canada's ecosystems possess thousands of species of plants and animals, not to mention the enormous diversity of insects, microorganisms and other organisms. This richness is a result of the interaction of other ecosystem features such as landform, soils, and climate. The maps of Endemic Plant Diversity and Rare Plant Diversity present some examples of the richness of the Canadian vegetation cover.

