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Essentials of ecology.

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Abstract : This book outlines the essential principles of ecology from the theoretical fundamentals to their practical applications. It is divided into four sections. The first section (Chapters 1-2) discusses what is ecology and how ecologists do it - how ecological understanding is achieved, and introduced 'The ecology of evolution' and shows how ecologists need a full understanding of the evolutionary biologist's discipline to make sense of patterns and processes in nature. The second section deals with environmental conditions and resources, both as they influence individual species (Chapters 3-4).

terms of their consequences for the composition and distribution of multispecies communities, for example in deserts, rain forests, rivers, lakes and oceans (Chapter 4). The third section (Chapters 5-11) deals systematically with the ecology of individual organisms, populations of a single species, communities consisting of many species and ecosystems. Finally, the book turns to the applied questions of how to conserve and manage resources sustainably (Chapter 12), then to a diversity of pollution problems ranging from local enrichment of a lake by sewage to global climate change caused by the use of fossil fuels (Chapter 13), and lastly an armoury of approaches that can help save the endangered species from extinction and conserve some of the remaining wilderness of nature (Chapter 14).

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