

## capitolo 1 La biosfera

### verifica la comprensione

Leggi il brano e rispondi alle domande.



#### The world's biomes

Biomes are defined as the world's major communities, classified according to the predominant vegetation and characterized by adaptations of organisms to that particular environment. Biomes have changed and moved many times during the history of life on Earth. More recently, human activities have drastically altered these communities. Thus, conservation and preservation of biomes should be a major concern to all.



For example, forests are important as they are home to the most diverse biotic communities in the world. Hidden within these biomes are potential medicines

and many thousands of unseen and undiscovered species. Also, forests have a global climate-buffering capacity, so their destruction may cause large-scale changes in global climate.

Logging has depleted many old-growth temperate forests. The increased demand for homes, paper, and other wood products have not allowed for much conservation. More recently, people have begun to realize that logging has cleared much of these forests. Wiser use of the forests and efforts to replant trees have helped to slow down the depletion of these communities.

Tropical forests have fallen victim to timber exploitation, slash and burn farming, and clearfelling for industrial use or cattle ranching, particularly in Latin America. Our increasing demand for meat products has spurred these events. For years, this destruction was occurring at a rapid rate. Over half of the world's original tropical forests are already gone. Public attention to this exploitation has helped to alleviate the problem somewhat, though many challenges are still to be faced.

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- Why are forest biomes important?
- What has caused the increase in deforestation?
- What could be the cause of large-scale destruction of forests?