

# Ecosystem Management and Ecosystem Classification of Korea

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# **Ecosystem Management and Ecosystem Classification of Korea**

Joon Hwan Shin

Korea Forest Research Institute,  
Seoul, Korea

Ecosystem management is a key strategy to sustainable development of natural resources. A workable definition of ecosystem is necessary to manage ecosystems successfully. It is necessary to make hierarchy of ecosystem division in spatial scale to define concrete forest ecosystems. Korea is a nation located in a peninsula situated between both the largest continent and ocean in the world. These special circumstances have rendered the Korean climate and vegetation very unique. Since relief and distance to the ocean are major causes of spatial differentiation, however, regional climate in the peninsula is peculiar to the regional geography and topography. Such characteristics are important in classifying ecosystem. Among six levels in ecosystem units (ecoprovince, ecoregion, ecodistrict, ecosector, ecoseries, ecotope) of Korea, ecoprovinces, ecoregions and ecodistricts have been classified; the criteria of ecoprovince classification is ecosystem connectivity and cultural homogeneity. Ecoregions are classified by cluster analysis. The variables used in the analysis are latitude, longitude, seasonal mean temperature, and seasonal precipitation. Korea is divided into nine ecoprovinces, and South Korea into sixteen ecoregions. The ecoprovince is a unit useful in showing the distributions of animals, the ecoregion to express climate regime as well as the distribution of mushroom and the frequency and scale of forest fire. Some ecoregions have been found to hold problems for biodiversity conservation while some have high biodiversity potentials.