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Fundamental Processes in Ecology: An Earth Systems Approach (Paperback)

By School of Biological and Earth Sciences David M Wilkinson

Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 228 x 154 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Fundamental Processes in Ecology presents a way to study ecosystems that is not yet available in ecology textbooks but is resonant with current thinking in the emerging fields of geobiology and Earth System Science. It provides an alternative, process-based classification of ecology and proposes a truly planetary view of ecological science. To achieve this, it asks (and endeavours to answer) the question, what are the fundamental ecological processes which would be found on any planet with Earth-like, carbon based, life? The author demonstrates how the idea of fundamental ecological processes can be developed at the systems level, specifically their involvement in control and feedback mechanisms. This approach allows us to reconsider basic ecological ideas such as energy flow, guilds, trade-offs, carbon cycling and photosynthesis; and to put these in a global context. In doing so, the book puts a much stronger emphasis on microorganisms than has traditionally been the case. The integration of Earth System Science with ecology is vitally important if ecological science is to successfully contribute to the massive problems and future challenges associated...



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