

Delta State University
SOC 422/522 COD 522
Spring Semester 2004

Study Questions, Week 9

Topics for the Week:

Plants & Animals; Forests, Biodiversity

Readings for the Week:

Kummer, David M. and B.L. Turner II. 1994. The human causes of deforestation in Southeast Asia. *BioScience* 44(5):323–328.

Lynch, Owen J. 1998. Law, pluralism and the promotion of sustainable community-based forest management. *Unasylva* 49(3):52–56.

Biodiversity Websites:

<http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/center/what.html>
<http://wri.igc.org/biodiv/>
<http://endangered.fws.gov/>
<http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/Hotspots/hotspotsScience/>
<http://www.mdwfp.com/museum/downloads/tandelist.pdf>

Questions:

- (1) What variables contribute to deforestation in tropical areas? What role do government policies play in deforestation?
- (2) Describe the processes through which deforestation occurs in the Philippines, according to Kummer and Turner. What evidence do they provide to support their model?
- (3) What are some problems researchers face when they try to model deforestation processes?
- (4) What is the relationship between law and deforestation? Between civil society and deforestation? Which is more likely to contribute to sustainable forest management?
- (5) What is meant by the term *biodiversity*? Why is biodiversity important?
- (6) In what ways is biodiversity threatened? Is this a serious problem?
- (7) What are the criteria for listing a species as *endangered*? As *threatened*? How big a problem are endangered species at the federal and state level?
- (8) What is a biodiversity *hotspot*? Why was this concept created? What are some problems with this approach to biodiversity protection?