Chapter 5 Introduction

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Up to this point in the book, we have examined how human activities affect forests and biodiversity, and as a result, how the ecological services of the forests have changed. In this chapter, we analyze various institutions and schools of thought on the sustainable uses of forests and biodiversity.

In section 5.1, two papers examine institutions at the local community level. Ichikawa discusses the local institutions of the Iban, who are indigenous to Sarawak, focusing on land and natural resource tenure. Although their tenure system has changed as the socioeconomic conditions surrounding them have changed, it still contains mechanisms for maintaining sustainable resource uses. Momose discusses how the Iban use natural resources. He argues that, if local residents have abundant knowledge of their natural resources in a region with a high level of biodiversity, they will not cause resource degradation because they have a greater understanding of the various options to utilize them. Unfortunately, after accomplishing so many great things, Dr. Momose passed away in 2007 due to illness. All of the project members admire his achievement and pray for this prominent scholar.

In section 5.2, there are four papers on national and international institutions. In the first, Baba examines the changes in forest management policies on Yaku Island as they relate to natural, social, and economic factors from the 1920s until today. In the second, Morishita looks at commercial logging in Sarawak and explains the relationship between a Chinese log trader and a politician. In the third paper, Fujita explains the changes of forest policy in Sarawak, which have been affected by European NGOs fighting against commercial logging in the 1980s. Fujita also describes the background for the introduction of forest certification in Malaysia. Looking at CITES, Onuma examines how a trade ban can successfully help conserve biodiversity.

In section 5.3, the theoretical framework and methods of evaluating biodiversity are examined from an economic perspective. Akao et al. try to identify the conditions under which finite-time exhaustion of renewable resources would be optimal. In the second paper, Akao discusses methods of evaluating intangible and unpriced values and measuring the achievement of biodiversity conservation. Hasegawa then examines methods of economic evaluation for forest values, using Kinabalu Mountain as a case study. In the final paper, Moreno indicates the strong relationship between people's awareness and forest conservation.

We obtained, from the results of this project, abundant and broad-based information on local, national, and international institutions. The results described in this chapter provided valuable data for examining institutions for sustainable forest and biodiversity uses in Chapter 6.