Agenda > Southeast Asia

Stability of the Rainforest Margins

29 September – 3 October 2002
Bogor, Indonesia

Southeast Asia constitutes one of the world's most extensive rainforest regions. It is characterized by a high degree of biodiversity and contains a large variety of endemic species. However, various forms of encroachment, mostly those consisting of human interventions, seriously threaten the very existence of rainforests in this area.

The international symposium on 'Land use, nature conservation, and the stability of rainforest margins in Southeast Asia' wants to bring together recognized scientists of various disciplines who are involved in research on the depletion and preservation of rainforest resources, with special reference to Southeast Asia. It is expected that they can contribute to the identification of such factors and processes that have either stabilizing or destabilizing effects. At the same time, researchers within the large-scale research programme on the 'Stability of Rainforest Margins in Indonesia' (STORMA) will get the opportunity to share insights and findings with researchers from related projects in the tropics. STORMA is jointly conducted by those universities mentioned below and financed by the German Research Association (DFG), Using an holistic approach ever since July 2000, STORMA has been focusing particularly on the margin areas of Lore Lindu National Park in Central Sulawesi.

The symposium offers a forum for presentations of the 'state of art' of current research, for discipline specific and cross-disciplinary perspectives of the complex issue of rainforest conservation, and for joint research efforts by disclosing gaps of knowledge.

Referring to the main themes of STORMA, the research symposium will focus on five interrelated areas of research and integrate relevant experience with special reference to Southeast Asia: 'Social and economic development and change' reflects the role of human beings in the use, conservation and management of natural resources, including the topics cultural landscape, migration, social organization, socio-economic security, legal aspects of land ownership and land use, governmental and non-governmental organizations, access to markets, rural development policies, behaviour of farm households, and econometric and linear programming models.

'Biodiversity and conservation' emphasizes issues of land-use in rain forest margins and its influence on biodiversity, ecological functions, plant-animal interactions, bio indication, habitat (fragmentation, destruction, and management), species richness, ecological guilds, and conservation.

'Water and nutrient cycles' focuses on the effects of land-use systems on water and nutrient cycles, by comparing water and nutrient fluxes in rainforests and agro systems. Interactions between rainforest and land-use sites and the impact of land-use on water and nutrient fluxes will be discussed as well as watershed monitoring and modelling.

'Land-use systems in agriculture and forestry' deals with the comparison of the different land-use systems of tropical rain forest margins like forest gardens, annual crops in slash-and-burn and agro-forestry systems as well as intensive cultivation in the valleys. Topics as soil fertility, slope stabilization, mobilizing and balancing nutrients, pests and diseases, weeds, and participatory research will be discussed in this panel.

'The integrated modelling of land-use change' is to discuss the integrated modelling of the STORMA project that consists of two components, a Land-Use Model and an Ecosystem Model, representing interactions of socio-economic and biophysical processes. The basic idea of the Land-Use Model is to estimate the potential use for land as a function of driving forces such as pop-

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