

Hunter Ch. 4 – Ecosystem Diversity – Study Questions
Conservation Biology
Spring 2009

Be sure to know the following definitions:

community	ecosystem	ecotone	superorganism
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1. What is the purpose of classifying ecosystems? What are the general characteristics used in ecosystem classification?
2. Be sure you are familiar with the idea of ecosystems as being tightly co-evolved superorganism vs. assemblages of competing species. We will take the middle ground on this one, as does your text.
3. Please read over the various values of ecosystems as presented by the authors and think about them critically. Which matter the most to you? Why are these values important in conservation biology?
4. What is the relationship between level of disturbance and species diversity in ecosystems?
5. Please read over the mangrove swamps example carefully and be familiar with it.
6. Please think about the end of the chapter questions #s 4 and 5. We will discuss these in class.