

Chapter 1 Section 2 Notes

“The Tragedy of the Commons”

- Hardin’s essay addressed the conflicts associated with protecting shared resources (“commons”).
- Conflicts between short-term interests of individuals and long-term welfare of society
- Individuals tend to have the idea “if I don’t use it, someone else will.”

The Law of Supply and Demand

- relationship between the availability and the worth of resources
- helps determine a product’s worth.
 - As demand goes up, supply goes down, and the value increases.
 - As demand goes down, supply increases (or stays the same), and the value decreases.

Cost-Benefit analysis

- balances the cost of the action against the benefits one expects from it.
- list both the merits and expenses involved
 - Often used to determine how much to spend to control an environmental issue.

Developed countries have higher incomes, slower population growth, high life expectancy, diverse industrial economies, high levels of consumption, and stronger social support. (ex. USA, Canada, France)

- Make up about 20% of the world’s population but consume about 75% of it’s resources.

Developing countries have extreme poverty, simple agriculture-based communities, shorter life span, and rapid population growth. (ex. Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda)

Ecological footprints are calculations that show the amount of land and ocean needed to support one person

Sustainability where human needs are met in so that a human population can survive indefinitely

- Sustainability depends on:
 - Responsible consumption by developed countries
 - Cooperation between governments, industry, and citizens.