

CHAPTER 3

Description of Study Region



Farming near Aking-Osomba on the edge of the Oban Hills, near boundary of Cross River National Park, Nigeria.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Our study region covers approximately 109,000 km². Its western boundary, at 5°16'E, is where the western major branch of the Niger—the Forcados River—reaches the Gulf of Guinea, and its eastern boundary lies where the Sanaga River leaves the moist lowland forest zone, at about 12°E. The most northerly extension of the moist lowland forest zone in this region is just south of the towns of Obudu and Ogoja in Nigeria, at about 6°40'N (White 1983), and the southern limit of the region is the southeastern corner of Bioko Island (Punta Santiago) at 3°12'N. Parts of the montane flora and fauna of the region extend at least as far north as 7°00'N in the northern extensions of the Cameroon Highlands along the Cameroon-Nigeria border.