

Such an arrangement, based on the allocation of a line item is of course the preferred approach. If expediency does not permit this however, a second possibility could be a pooling of funds of agency contributors which could be assigned to a central office (probably NSF). The central office would then grant the money to research projects on the specific advice and recommendations of the U.S. National Committee.

It should be noted that the present pool of monies is for housekeeping and planning activities of the National Committee.

If we can provide any additional information, I hope you will not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,

S. DILLON RIPLEY, *Secretary.*

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SUMMARY OF RESEARCH AT SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION RELEVANT TO THE INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAM

Most, if not all of the biological research that goes on in the Smithsonian is relevant to the IBP as defined by the U.S. National Committee. The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, the Radiation Biology Laboratory, the Museum of Natural History, the Office of Ecology, and the Office of Limnology and Oceanography all contribute to the program within their special scientific domains. Several members of the staff are serving either on the National Committee or on various of the national subcommittees for planning and development of the Program. One of our ecologists actually serves half-time for the International IBP in an area of very considerable concern to the Institution generally, that of the scientific bases for halting or at least slowing the appalling rate at which environments of the world are being modified or destroyed by man. Some Smithsonian projects have already been approved as a part of the U.S. program, and others are moving in this direction.

In the Museum of Natural History zoologists and botanists are concerned with biological variation in place and time. Biogeographic studies of community distributions, variation within populations and genetic success are investigated in relation to the macro and micro environments in which plants and animals live. Short-term temporal changes (diurnal, seasonal) and evolution provide another dimension for the development of a valid exploration of the constantly changing balance of nature.

Specific examples of this research include checklists and analyses of the flora of North America, flora of the Neotropics, Reptilian and Amphibian fauna of Latin America, electron microscope studies of the structure of living and fossil Foraminifera in relation to systematics and biogeography, study of mollusks with respect to salinity, temperature, substrate and associated vegetation, serological and ectoparasite survey of North American migratory birds.

This department also administers two IBP-approved handbooks—one a preliminary manual for the identification of mammals in Africa and the second for the identification of reptiles and amphibians in Latin America.

With respect to insect research, a large number of projects are being carried on or anticipated in many parts of the world: Dominica, Southeast Asia, Philippines, and in most parts of Latin America. Some of these are essentially basic inventories of insect faunas, but in most cases are strongly related to ecology and behavior.

Anthropologists at the Smithsonian are working on aspects of human adaptability, one of the principal areas of concern to IBP. The relationship in ancient man between disease and skeletal modifications as it relates to human evolution is a long-time study. Correlations of the form of nose and form and size of face with the level and range of temperature, as well as other climatic factors, over the total range of monogoloid and American Indian racial stocks is also under study.

These are only a few examples of the many concerns of Smithsonian scientists which are currently related to IBP objectives. Many, such as the Floras and Faunas, are concerned with developing baseline information on the kinds of organisms present in various environments and their characteristics. The undergirding nature of this sort of biological investigation was emphasized by the creation of a unique subcommittee in the U.S. National IBP Committee—that concerned with systematics and biogeography.