

and adequate arrangements for data handling are needed for a better appraisal of its productivity.

Field research in appropriate environments by scientists of different biological disciplines will be an essential aspect of the program. This will be most effective if different kinds of research can be undertaken in the same areas; thus a few carefully selected and well-described international research sites would prove highly beneficial. Only a relatively small number of biologists are skilled in the use of modern methods of field research or in studying the interactions among organisms in large ecological systems. The training of young scientists, particularly those from less developed countries, must be a basic component of the entire program.

Each of the subcommittees of the U.S. National Committee will sponsor investigations and other projects within its field of interest. But experience has already shown that each of these subcommittees will interact in many ways with the others. Thus the program as it develops will, we believe, have a growing unity. This will be true also for the relationships between U.S. scientists and the international sections of the Special Committee for the International Biological Program.

The U.S. National Committee and its counterpart within the Federal Government, the Interagency Coordinating Committee, can have only minor roles in this great enterprise. If the United States is to play its part, U.S. biologists, working as individuals or in groups, must assume most of the responsibility. Many U.S. scientists are already engaged in research projects that would be appropriate components of the IBP, especially if the scope and significance of their work could be increased by international cooperation. We hope to stimulate and facilitate such cooperation wherever possible. Other scientists may find opportunities to initiate new research projects that will benefit from or contribute to the IBP. The chief purpose of this report is to outline some of the opportunities and to encourage U.S. biologists to think of others.

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