

SUPPLEMENT TO THE PF-PT PROGRAM STATEMENTA request for nominations of IBP study areas
for analysis of ecological systems

The Subcommittees on Productivity of Terrestrial Communities and Productivity of Freshwater Communities have proposed the study of whole ecological systems, such as drainage basins and landscapes. Emphasis is to be placed on interrelations among all components of such systems. Wherever possible, the interactions of aquatic and terrestrial systems are to be included. Immediate goals include the analysis of such aspects of ecosystems as energy flow, nutrient cycling, trophic structure, spatial patterns, interspecies relations, and species diversity. Further goals include the understanding of these ecosystem processes, in the sense of analyzing the mechanisms by which observed characteristics of flow, cycling, density, diversity, etc., are achieved and maintained. The ultimate goal is to enable man to more wisely manage his environment. Each intensive analysis will combine research projects from many disciplines, and will require an extensive development of research facilities and monitoring devices.

For these reasons, each area selected for intensive study must have, or must be provided with, services and facilities adequate for a variety of collaborative, concurrent projects. A frank appeal for team effort among ecologists will succeed only if the advantages of participation are both apparent and considerable.

Contributory studies, though smaller in scope, must achieve sufficient quality of investigation to make the results useful in comparison with those of major studies.

Once study areas are selected, the PT and PF Subcommittees will work toward the design and development of research programs in the areas. Later, they will coordinate the programs.

NOMINATING STUDY AREAS

Individuals, institutions, or agencies wishing to sponsor study areas are asked to submit nominations to Professor Frederick E. Smith, School of Natural Resources, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104. Each nomination should cover all of the points listed below that are relevant to the proposed study area, and any additional material that is deemed suitable by the sponsor.