environment. Such decisions lie outside the province of an organization of biologists; they are in the realm of national policy. There is much, however, that biologists can offer toward understanding of how man's relation to his environment can be rendered stable, non-destructive, and rewarding.

We propose American participation in an intensive international study of man's relation to environment. The concept of ecosystems should be central to this study. Management of environment is best approached through study of productivity, cycling of nutrients, and successional processes within ecosystems. Pollution results from the processes of transfer, chemical transformation, and biological concentration of materials in ecosystems. Man himself is a part of most ecosystems, and thus exerts a considerable influence upon their dynamics. Present ecological understanding has developed from study of particular, limited communities and ecosystems. Cooperative studies of larger-scale ecosystems are needed before existing theory can be applied to their management.

One purpose of the IBP is to develop a more profound understanding of ecosystems and by this means clarify the possibilities of wise long-term utilization. Thus, biologists may effectively contribute to the broader policy decisions on man's future.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The PF and PT subcommittees jointly propose the study and comparison of large systems such as drainage basins and landscapes through team effort. Foreign scientists will be urged to participate in these American studies where possible.

The program will consist chiefly of intensive studies on the various components of a few selected areas but will be broadened by contributory work