

should include the following: The Project Coordinator, an animal ecologist, a plant ecologist, a limnologist, a geologist, a hydrologist, a meteorologist. The task force will consider potential cooperation of research centers, training centers, information centers, and non-U. S. collaborators; the inherent ecological interest of each area; and ownership and management problems of each area.

Contributing Studies

The vital need for understanding of ecosystems is such that any ecological study addressed to IBP objectives is encouraged. Two types of studies are complementary to the intensive investigations under IBP sponsorship at selected locations or centers: first, those paralleling special parts of center-based programs; second, geographically extensive studies yielding synoptic data for broad geographic comparisons.

Studies which parallel parts of center-based programs will be pursued by collaborators at many locations and can contribute much to the overall objectives. Such studies may deal with variants of the ecosystem components found in the intensive study areas or they may be concerned with the responses of ecosystem components similar to those of the major study areas but existing under different environmental conditions. These studies will contribute greatly, provided that methods used are comparable and that the data can be used in systems analysis.

The value of certain aspects of ecosystem analysis, particularly seasonal and successional change and productivity, is greatly increased by a wide geographic coverage that includes international cooperation. Studies of this type will involve many independent observers and must follow standards (to be specified in manuals) so that data obtained are strictly comparable. Examples of desirable studies are: