

In accordance with this resolution, a special organization, the International Biological Program (IBP), was founded in 1964 at a meeting which was also the Program's first General Assembly. This Assembly, in which biologists representing more than 40 countries took part, adopted statutes and set the course for IBP activity.

The scientists of various countries who participate in the IBP will, as their basic task, conduct simultaneous research from 1967 to 1972 in accordance with generally agreed plans and with the use of standard and comparable methods. The subject of study will be the biological productivity of the plant and animal world on solid ground, in the sea and in fresh water (lakes and rivers) with the goal of establishing the basic laws of distribution, growth, yearly accretion, and renewal (reproduction) of organic material. Research will be conducted on the productivity of cultivated as well as natural communities for the purpose of clarifying conditioning factors and the possibility of increasing productivity to the maximum in the interest of man.

In accordance with the IBP research program the sectional committees were created in the international center and in the IBP member countries. They are productivity of terrestrial communities, production processes, conservation of terrestrial communities, productivity of fresh water communities, productivity of oceans and seas, human adaptability, use and management of biological resources.

The problem of studying biological productivity is many-faceted and must be attacked at various levels: the cellular (the processes of photosynthesis, synthesis and resynthesis of living matter, the selective assimilation of nutritional elements and so forth); the organic (the productivity of a species); the coenotic (productivity of the plant community and biogeocoenosis - ecosystems - as a whole).

The final task of studying biological productivity is to determine the balance of materials and energy, the laws of the biological circulation of matter and energy in cultivated as well as natural communities, and the scientific bases of increasing their productivity, reproduction and rational use.

Soviet scientists are taking an active part in IBP efforts.

On March 19, 1965, the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR created a Soviet national committee for the International Biological Program, the membership of which comprises 32