for a program of studies extending indefinitely into the future. The objectives of the Center must be viewed within the larger context of the overall program of the Smithsonian Office of Ecology, a central concern of which is to advance scientific understanding of the functional design and processes of ecosystems as a basis for predicting the ecological consequences of man's alterations of natural systems. The research objectives at the Center are: (1) to develop a baseline of knowledge about the composition and structure of terrestrial and estuarine ecosystems at Chesapeake Bay, (2) to conduct specific research relevant to the functioning of ecosystems, and (3) to conduct biosocial studies. In addition to the research objectives, the Center is concerned with the education of young scientists and technicians to meet the critical shortage of manpower required to cope with problems concerning the quality of man's environment. A third goal of the Center is to make information from scientists and other authorities available to the public, particularly on environmental conservation and on social issues as they apply to environmental quality.

A Center for the Study of Short-lived Natural Phenomena was established in response to the recognition that most scientists, including those at the Smithsonian, were missing opportunities for studying the critical early stages of important geological, biological, and meteorological events. The Center, utilizing the excellent facilities and procedures established by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory for the worldwide exchange of information about astrophysical occurrences, has expanded on the SAO system to include events of interest to the other sciences. During the first 2½ months of its existence, the Center has been extremely active in mobilizing activity on such events as the Tonga Island Volcano, the Desception Island Volcano, and oil spillage from damaged tankers. It is anticipated that as soon as funding can be provided, the Center will operate on a larger scale.

The Smithsonian's interests in environmental studies are international as well as national. Representative of our international program are the following projects.

The Island of Dominica in the West Indies has been the site of a program of field studies, based on a rotation of scientists from various disciplines, since January 1964. To date at least 55 investigators, including systematic biologists and anthropologists from universities, as well as from the Smithsonian, have participated in the study. Floristic studies are being published in the *Contributions from the United States National Herbarium* and faunistic studies are being published in the *Proceedings of the United States National Museum.* It is intended that intensive ecological studies be undertaken, based on the data that have been accumulated throughout the survey.

At Belem, Brazil, the Smithsonian is engaged in a cooperative venture in studies of tropical biology at the Guama Ecological Area (APEG). The objective is to bring together in one place the special research talents of a variety of persons and institutions to the end that a comprehensive program of study will emerge, leading to a better understanding of the ecology of the Amazon rainforest and the biology of some of its more important component species. An integrated study of a specific area of equatorial rain forest has never been attempted before on the scale proposed for APEG.