

The International Biological Program (IBP)

1963-1974

Following the success of the International Geophysical Year of 1957-1958, Sir Rudolph Peters, President of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and Giuseppe Montalenti, President of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), in 1959 began discussing possibilities for an international program of biological studies focusing on the productivity of biological resources, human adaptability to environmental change, and environmental change itself. As a result of these discussions, ICSU at its Ninth General Assembly in 1961 established a Planning Committee on the proposed International Biological Program, with Montalenti as chairman. The committee recommended that the IBP focus on the effect on biological communities of changes in the natural environment, and on the conservation and growth of natural resources for human benefit. Accordingly, during a General Assembly held in Paris on 23-25 July 1964 and attended by some 150 participants from scientific academies worldwide, ICSU established a Special Committee for the IBP (SCIBP), which was charged with directing the program.

The IBP's research structure was established at the Paris meeting as well. Seven program areas, each represented by a SCIBP subcommittee, were identified as providing the focus of the IBP's scientific activity. These seven were:

- Conservation of Terrestrial Communities (CT)
- Human Adaptability (HA)
- Productivity of Freshwater Communities (PF)
- Productivity of Marine Communities (PM)
- Production Processes (PM)
- Productivity of Terrestrial Communities (PT)
- Use and Management of Biological Resources (UM)

In the United States, participation in the IBP was facilitated by the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council. In late 1963, the Academy had organized an Ad hoc US National Committee on the IBP (USNC/IBP), which surveyed American biologists in order to determine the level of interest in and support for the idea of an IBP. In spring 1964 the ad hoc USNC recommended participation in planning for the IBP. Acting on this recommendation, the Academy sent a delegation to the July 1964 IBP organizing assembly, and that delegation recommended that a US National Committee for the IBP (USNC/IBP) be set up under the NAS. In September 1964 the NAS-NRC Governing Board approved the recommendation, and the USNC/IBP was established to oversee US IBP activities.

As with SCIBP, the program component of the USNC/IBP was structured in a series of subcommittees. Originally numbering seven in May 1965, the subcommittees eventually grew to nine:

- Conservation of Terrestrial Communities (CT)
- Environmental Physiology (EP)
- Human Adaptability (HA)
- Productivity of Freshwater Communities (PF)
- Productivity of Marine Communities (PM)
- Production Processes (PM)

- Productivity of Terrestrial Communities (PT)
- Systematics & Biogeography (SB)
- Use and Management of Biological Resources (UM)

With the completion of the IBP's planning phase (1964 through June 1967), the operational phase began. Originally intended to last the five-year period of 1967-1972, it was ultimately extended to June 1974, at which time a synthesis of results from all participants was to be accomplished.

The National Academy of Sciences' IBP collection consists mainly of correspondence and meeting minutes pertaining to the activities and administration of the USNC/IBP, as well as program-related newsletters and other published items kept in the USNC/IBP library. The collection also includes some materials pertaining to SCIBP and other IBP participants. The size of the collection is approximately 7 linear feet, spanning the dates of 1961-1977 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1963-1974.

Provenance: The papers making up the IBP Records Group were part of an undifferentiated cache of records originating from the Executive Offices of the NRC Division of Biology & Agriculture and Division of Medicine, and the NAS Office of the Foreign Secretary.

SERIES 1: USNC/IBP: AD HOC

- Beginning of Program: 1962-1963
- Funding: Requests: 1963
- Letter to Societies Affiliated with Division of B&A re Interest in IBP
 - Responses: 1964
 - American Society of Parasitologists: 1964
 - Ecological Society of America: 1964
- Letter to Societies Affiliated with Division of Medical Sciences re Interest in IBP
 - Responses: 1964
- Liaisons
 - American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS): 1964
 - Government Agencies: 1963-1964
 - International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) (Stebbins G L): 1962-1964
 - NAS-NRC: NAS Office of Foreign Secretary: 1962-1964
 - NAS-NRC: General: 1964
- Meetings
 - 16-17 May 1964
 - 13-14 Mar 1964: Report
 - General
 - 1-2 Feb 1964: Minutes
 - General
 - 3-4 Dec 1963: Report
 - General
- Membership
 - 1963-1964
 - Cantlon J E: Survey of Biologists re Interest in IBP: 1964
 - Chairman: Cain S A: Survey of Biologists re Interest in IBP: 1964
 - Davis G K: Survey of Biologists re Interest in IBP: 1964

- Frey D G: Survey of Biologists re Interest in IBP: 1964
- Ketchum B H: Survey of Biologists re Interest in IBP: 1964
- Kramer P J: Survey of Biologists re Interest in IBP: 1964
- Laughlin W S: Survey of Biologists re Interest in IBP: 1964
- Robinson S: Survey of Biologists re Interest in IBP: 1964
- Program Planning: 1963-1964
- Projects Proposed to Committee
 - Mammalian Productivity: Calhoun J B: 1964
- Publicity: 1964
- Reports
 - Evaluation of Proposed IBP: 1964
 - General: 1964
- Task Forces
 - 1964
 - Use & Management of Biological Resources: 1963-1964
- General: 1962-1964

SERIES 2: USNC/IBP

- Ad hoc Editing Committee: Meetings: Minutes: 18 Sep 1973
- Annual Reports: 1968-1972
- Descriptive Summaries: 1966-1973
- Meetings
 - 26 Jul 1973
 - Minutes: 16-17 Oct 1972
 - Minutes: 29-30 Jun 1972
 - Minutes: 17-21 Jan 1972
 - Joint with International Environmental Programs Committee (IEPC)
 - Minutes: 3 Dec 1971
 - Joint Task Force with International Environmental Programs Committee (IEPC)
 - Minutes: 5 Nov 1971
 - Minutes: 4-5 Nov 1971
 - Background Materials: 25-26 Sept 1969
 - Minutes: 25-26 Sept 1969
 - Minutes: 11 Dec 1968
 - Agenda: 20-21 Jan 1968
 - Minutes: 20-21 Jan 1968
 - Minutes: 28-29 Oct 1967
 - General: 28-29 Oct 1967
 - Minutes: 17-18 Jun 1967
 - Agenda: 25-26 Feb 1967
 - Minutes: 25-26 Feb 1967
 - 28-31 Oct 1966
 - Agenda: 18-19 Jun 1966
 - Proceedings: 18 Jun 1966
 - 19-20 Mar 1966
 - Minutes: 22-23 Jan 1966

- Minutes: 29-30 May 1965
- Minutes: 6-7 Mar 1965
- Membership
 - 1964-1968
 - Nominations: 1964-1965
- NRC Governing Board Items: 1964-1969
- Proposals for Support of USNC/IBP: 1966-1970
- Restructuring: 1968
- Structure: Proposed: 1964
- Task Forces
 - Global Network for Environmental Monitoring (GNEM): Ad hoc
 - Meetings: Minutes: 14-15 May 1970
 - Report: 1970
 - General: 1970
 - Post-IBP Apparatus: 1973
- General: 1964-1970

SERIES 3: USNC/IBP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Meetings
 - Minutes: 29 Mar 1974
 - Agenda: 21-22 Feb 1974
 - Minutes: 21-22 Feb 1974
 - Minutes: 9 Nov 1973
 - Joint with Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC)
 - Minutes: 26 July 1973
 - Agenda: 28-29 Jun 1973
 - Minutes: 28-29 Jun 1973
 - Agenda: 30 Apr-1 May 1973
 - Minutes: 30 Apr-1 May 1973
 - Agenda: 15-16 Feb 1973
 - Minutes: 15-16 Feb 1973
 - 28-29 Nov 1972
 - Agenda: 20-21 Apr 1972
 - Minutes: 20-21 Apr 1972
 - Minutes: 15-16 Jul 1971
 - 12-13 May 1971
 - Agenda: 4 Mar 1971
 - Minutes: 4 Mar 1971
 - Agenda: 28-29 Jan 1971
 - Agenda: Supplement: 28-29 Jan 1971
 - Minutes: 28-29 Jan 1971
 - Agenda: 9-10 Dec 1970
 - Minutes: 9-10 Dec 1970
 - Minutes: 15-16 Oct 1970
 - Joint with Program Committee: 17-18 Aug 1970
 - Joint with International Environmental Programs Committee (IEPC)

- Minutes: 2 Jul 1970
 - Agenda: 18-19 Jun 1970
 - Minutes: 18-19 Jun 1970
 - Agenda: 21-22 May 1970
 - Minutes: 21-22 May 1970
 - Agenda: 18-19 Mar 1970
 - Minutes: 18-19 Mar 1970
 - Minutes: 18 Feb 1970
 - Agenda: 11-12 Dec 1969
 - Minutes: 11-12 Dec 1969
 - Agenda: 24-25 Jul 1969
 - Minutes: 24-25 Jul 1969
 - Agenda: 22-23 May 1969
 - Minutes: 22-23 May 1969
 - Minutes: 17 Apr 1969
 - Agenda: 20-21 Feb 1969
 - Minutes: 20-21 Feb 1969
 - Minutes: 25-26 Nov 1968
 - Minutes: 26-27 Sep 1968
 - Minutes: 8-9 Aug 1968
 - Minutes: 11-12 Jul 1968
 - Agenda: 30 Apr-1 May 1968
 - Background Materials: 30 Apr-1 May 1968
 - Minutes: 30 Apr-1 May 1968
 - Agenda: 22-23 Mar 1968
 - Minutes: 22-23 Mar 1968
 - Agenda: 4 Feb 1968
 - Minutes: 4 Feb 1968
 - Meeting With Agricultural Scientists: 26 Jun 1966
 - Minutes: 6 Nov 1965
- Membership: 1968-1970
- Proposal
 - International Man & Biosphere Program (MAB): 1969
- General: 1965

SERIES 4: USNC/IBP PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Committees
 - Migrant & Urban Populations: Ad hoc: 1969
 - Phenology: Report: 1972
- Conferences
 - Environment: Quest for Quality: Joint with Public Affairs Council: 1970
- Coordinating Offices
 - Environmental Management
 - Annual Report: First: 1971
 - Human Adaptability (HA)
 - Conferences: Man in Ecosystem: Proceedings: Oct 1973

- Proposal for Support of Integrated & Coordinated Research Programs: 1973
 - Workshops: Energy Flow in Human Communities: Proceedings: 1974
- Integrated Research Programs
 - Aerobiology: 1970-1971
 - Grassland Biome: 1969
 - Phenology: 1967
 - Press Release: 1967
 - Tropical Forest Biome: 1970-1971
- Panels
 - Aerobiology: 1967
 - Biometeorology: 1966-1967
- Program Coordinating Committee
 - Membership: 1970-1971
- Program Directors
 - Environmental: Meeting: 27 Nov 1972
 - Human Adaptability: Meeting: 27 Nov 1972
- Projects Proposed
 - Study of Coelacanth: 1967
- Standing Committee on Publications
 - Meeting: Minutes: 2 Nov 1973
- Subcommittees
 - Conservation of Ecosystems
 - Program Statement: Jan 1967
 - General: 1967
 - Conservation of Terrestrial Communities (CT): 1966
 - Environmental Physiology (EP)
 - Meetings: First: 18 Feb 1966
 - Membership: 1966-1967
 - Program Statement: Jan 1967
 - Human Adaptability (HA)
 - Membership: 1966-1967
 - Program Statement: Jan 1967
 - General: 1965-1968
 - Production Processes (PP): 1966-1968
 - Productivity of Freshwater Communities (PF): 1966-1967
 - Program Statement: Dec 1966
 - Productivity of Marine Communities (PM): 1966-1968
 - Productivity of Terrestrial Communities (PT): 1966-1967
 - Program Statement: Dec 1966
 - Systematics & Biogeography (SB): 1966-1968
 - Program Statement: Jan 1967
 - Use & Management of Biological Resources (UM)
 - Program Statement: Jan 1967
 - General: 1966-1967
- Task Forces
 - Biological Control: 1966-1967
 - Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems: 1966-1967

SERIES 5: INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAM (IBP)

- Beginning of Program
 - Background Material: 1960-1964
 - International Planning: 1961-1964
- B&A (Division of Biology & Agriculture)
 - Chairman's Letters Discussing: 1962-1964
 - Executive Committee Discussions re: 1960-1966
- Canadian Participation: 1964
- Circular Letters: 1964-1965
- Duration: 1969
- Finances: 1962-1970
- General Assemblies
 - First: Organizing Assembly
 - NAS-NRC Delegation
 - Informal Reports: 1964
 - Membership: 1964
 - Report: Interim: 1964
 - Report: Interim: General: 1964
 - Delegation: General: 1964
 - Numbered Documents: 1964
 - General: 1964
 - Second: 1966
 - Third: 1968
 - Fourth: 1970
 - Fifth
 - Agenda: 1972
 - Briefing Notations for NAS-NRC Delegation: 1972
 - Financing: 1971-1972
 - Observations: 1972
 - Working Group on Fifth General Assembly: 1971
- National Programs: 1966-1969
- National Reports
 - Australia: 1964
 - Canada: 1964
 - Czechoslovakia: 1964
 - Federal Republic of Germany: 1964
 - Netherlands: 1964
 - Poland: 1964
 - United Kingdom (UK): 1964
 - General: 1964
- Planning Committee
 - 1963
 - Report: Nov 1963
 - Report: Comments: 1963-1964
 - General: 1962

- Publicity: 1961-1967
- Sections
 - CT (Conservation of Terrestrial Biological Communities): 1963-1967
 - HA (Human Adaptability): 1963-1967
 - Projects: Circumpolar Peoples: 1966-1968
 - Symposium: Biology of Populations of Anthropological Importance: 1963-1964
 - Working Party on Assessment of Heat Tolerance: 1963-1964
 - PF (Productivity of Freshwater Communities): 1963-1965
 - PM (Productivity of Marine Communities): 1963-1968
 - PP (Processes of Production of Terrestrial Communities): 1963-1969
 - PT (Productivity of Terrestrial Communities): 1963-1965
 - UM (Use & Management of Biological Resources): 1964-1968
- United Kingdom (UK) Participation: 1963-1965
- General: 1968

SERIES 6: INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS (ICSU)

- General Assemblies
 - Tenth: 1963
 - Ninth: Draft Resolution on IBP: 1961
- International Union
 - Biological Sciences (IUBS): USNC: 1960-1963
 - Physiological Sciences (IUPS): 1963
- Special Committees
 - Antarctic Research (SCAR) 1964
 - IBP (SCIBP): 1964
 - Bureau: 1964-1969
 - Constitution: Proposed: 1964-1965
 - Finance Committee: 1964
 - Meetings: Fourth: 1967
 - Meetings: Sixth: 1969
 - Membership: 1964-1969
 - Termination: 1974

SERIES 7: ORGANIZATION & INDIVIDUALS

- International Congress of Zoology
 - XVI: 1962-1964
- Royal Society of London: 1963-1964
- UNESCO: 1964-1966
- World Health Organization (WHO)
 - Scientific Group on Research in Population Genetics of Primitive Groups: 1962-1964
- General: 1962-1964

SERIES 8: GOVERNMENT

- Congress

- Subcommittee on Health
 - Hearings: Statement of USNC/IBP Chairman: 9 Feb 1970
- Subcommittee on Science Research & Development
 - Counsel: Information on IBP Prepared by NAS: 15 Aug 1967
 - Hearings: Statement of USNC/IBP Chairman: 18 Feb 1970
 - Information on IBP Prepared by NAS-IBP Staff: 30 Aug 1967
- General: 1967
- Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC)
 - Meetings
 - Joint with USNC/IBP Executive Committee: 26 Jul 1973
 - 28 Jun 1972
 - 8 Dec 1971
 - 10 Dec 1970
 - 10 Feb 1970
 - 4 Nov 1968
 - 14 May 1968
 - 6 Feb 1967
 - 10 Jan 1967
 - 9 May 1966
 - General: 1966-1968
- National Science Foundation (NSF): 1963-1967

SERIES 9: IBP LIBRARY

- Bibliography of US IBP Research: 1971-1972
- Coniferous Forest Biome
 - Program Report: 1973
- Directory of National Participation in IBP: Sep 1969
- Evaluation of Three Biome Programs
 - Mitchell R et al: 1976
- Grassland/Tundra International Modelling-Synthesis Workshop Summary of Output Workbook:
 - Natural Resources Ecology Lab: 1972
- IBP News
 - 1-25: 1964-1974
- IBP Review: 1969-1970
- Newsletters
 - Coniferous Forest Biome: 1968-1973
 - Eastern Deciduous Forest Biome: 1969-1974
 - Integrated Pest Management: 1973-1974
 - Origin & Structure of Ecosystems: 1971-1974
 - Phenology: 1968-1972
 - Tundra Biome: 1969-1973
- US IBP
 - Directories: 1970-1974
 - Ecosystem Analysis Studies
 - Abstracts: Vol IV # 4: 1977
 - Abstracts: Vol IV # 3: 1975