



NC 6/68

INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAMME

SECTION PCT

Working Group Section CT - Conservation

A meeting of the Working Group was held in the Council Room of the Australian Academy of Science at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday 15 November 1967.

Present: Professor R.L. Specht (Convener) (Q.)
Mr. C.W. Bonython (S.A.)
Dr. A.B. Costin (N.S.W.)
Mrs. R. Frankenberg (VIC.)
Professor W.D. Jackson (TAS.)
Dr. D.N. McVean (N.G.)
Mr. R.A. Perry (N.T.)
Dr. W.D.L. Ride (W.A.)

Miss E.J. Carroll (N.S.W.), Professor B.J. Grieve (W.A.) and Dr. J.G. Mosely were present by invitation.

Apologies were received from Dr. M.F. Day and Mr. F.N. Ratcliffe (Australian Conservation Foundation).

1. Lists of major plant communities occurring in Australia

Tables showing (1) Structural Forms and Sub-Forms in Australia
(2) Major Alliances in the following States

(a) Western Australia (d) Tasmania
(b) South Australia (e) Queensland
(c) Victoria (f) N. Territory

were distributed before the meeting.

It was decided that for IBP purposes only essentially natural vegetation would be considered. The level of classification to be used for the IBP Survey would be the "alliance", although more detailed classification may well be desirable when dealing with State authorities.

It was decided that Regional Working Groups should be formed to revise each State community list in the light of the day's discussion and of their knowledge of the State's flora. Revised lists should be returned to Professor Specht by March 1968.

List of major plant communities occurring in New South Wales and New Guinea will be prepared by Regional Working Groups under the convener'ship of Dr. A.B. Costin and Dr. D.N. McVean respectively.

2. Size of Reserves

The size of proposed reserves was discussed briefly. It was agreed that large areas are preferable to small areas as regards management, fire protection, enclosing community mosaics and habitat diversity. Plant communities should be preserved in as many areas as possible in order to provide habitats for a greater range of fauna.

3. List of "Secure" Reserves in Australia

Dr. J.G. Mosely presented a list of "secure" reserves in Australia. This list is to act as the basis for areas to be included in the IBP Survey.

Not all areas on this list are of value as nature reserves and these need not be surveyed. Areas about to be designated as National Parks or similar reserves should also be considered. These areas should take priority in survey and listing over other types of reserves but other reserves may be included if the Regional Working Group feels that this is desirable.

A final list of areas to be surveyed in each State should be forwarded to Professor Specht by March 1968.

4. IBP Check-Sheets

Copies of the IBP Check-Sheets were circulated before the meeting. It is expected that the Check-Sheets should be completed for each National Park and Reserve in Australia and New Guinea in 12-18 months.

It was resolved that an approach should be made, in the form of a letter from the Academy, to the various state premiers advising them of the IBP Survey and enlisting the aid of appropriate government departments.

5. Publications

It was proposed that reports of this Survey should be published for each State of Australia and New Guinea (see Specht and Cleland, Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Aust. 85:177-196, 1961) as sections of an integrated report for the whole continent and for New Guinea.

6. Fauna Survey

At this stage fauna are not being considered in the Survey owing to the general lack of knowledge of faunal ecology in Australia. Miscellaneous information on fauna will be included in the Check-Sheets if it is available.

Detailed surveys of the fauna of reserves in Australia should form the next stage of the IBP Survey.