HSBC Quarterly Reporting Template (13 Oct 2009)

(1) **Highlights and Lowlights** *(Photos would be great.)*

***A sentence or two describing the most significant successes during the reporting period. They should not be technical, but rather clear headline-like statements about the significance and implications of the successes. Report only issues that threaten to derail the project.***

* We completed mapping and ID checks on the remaining 8 ha of the plot, to finalize the initial census of the 25 ha (photo included).
* We continued biweekly litterfall collection, drying and processing from our 200 litterfall traps installed on the plot.
* We completed installation of dendrometer bands and now have 250 trees banded on the plot.
* We submitted a total of 126 leaf samples from the 2009 field season, many of which were for herbaceous species occurring on the plot, to John Kress and Dave Erickson at NMNH for use in the ongoing DNA barcoding project.
* We updated the new meteorological station with a flash card module for data storage and transfer, and a new 23.1 kOhm resistor (recommended by the manufacturer MetOne) for the circuit that reads the air temperature, to make our station match the others in the network.

(2) **Media Coverage** (photos)

***Note big events and high-profile stories.***

* The CRC SIGEO plot was a featured research program in the Ecology programs booth at the CRC’s annual Autumn Conservation Festival (ACF) held Oct. 3-4th. Approximately 4,000 people attended this year’s ACF.
* STRI Director Biff Bermingham and members of the Fundacion Smithsonian were given a tour of the SIGEO plot and CRC on Oct. 14th. Drs. Bill McShea, Norm Bourg, and Bermingham talked to the group about the goals of the SIGEO initiative in the temperate zone and its relationship with the HSBC Climate Partnership, and the specifics of the CRC SIGEO plot along with its overlap with the research objectives of NEON in terms of the CRC candidate core site and the Mid-Atlantic Domain.
* Participants in a Shenandoah Valley Land-Use History workshop held at CRC, including representatives from the USGS, James Madison University and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, were given a similar tour of the SIGEO plot on Oct. 16th (photo included).
* Friends of the National Zoo board members were given a similar tour of the CRC SIGEO plot on Oct. 17th.
* Members of the UVA Biology Society were given a similar tour of the SIGEO plot on Oct. 28th.
* Rick Munro, Regional Construction Supervisor for NEON Inc.’s Facilities and Civil Construction Department, was given a similar tour on Nov. 2nd.
* SI Secretary Wayne Clough and his delegation were given a similar tour on Nov. 6th.
* Dr. Kyle Haynes, a new Research Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia’s Blandy Experimental Farm, was given a similar tour on Nov. 10th.
* Drs. Alan Griffith and Andrew Dolby from the University of Mary Washington Biology Department were given a similar tour on Dec. 15th.
* Bill McShea and Norm Bourg were featured in a Dec. 29th Virginia public radio story about the CRC SIGEO large forest dynamics plot and its link to the broader SIGEO plot network (mp3 file included). Link: <http://www.wvtf.org/news_and_notes/audio/200912301402290.treetrackers.mp3>

(3) **Key Communicable Achievements** (photos)

***What achievements should now be communicated by STRI or HSBC?***

(4) **Case Studies**

***This is* THE *slide HSBC cares most about. A photo with someone’s positive comments about some aspect of your project or HCP in general makes a big impact.***

(5) **Looking Ahead**

***Highlight any interesting opportunities anticipated during the period ahead. Highlight significant challenges or risks—something that truly jeopardizes some aspect of your project—ahead and how you plan to address them.***

* During the 1st Quarter 2010, we will finish data entry for the plot in preparation for the upcoming CTFS – SIGEO database workshop to be held at Bradley University Feb. 15-19. We will begin standard CTFS analyses of our census data to get baseline descriptors of forest structure, composition, and diversity. We also want to reconcile the historical data available from the third SI-MAB 1ha plot that is contained within the SIGEO plot, integrate this with a complimentary tree core dataset that we will attempt to expand, and then analyze all the historical data along with our 2008 census data to examine differences in forest composition/structure/diversity and carbon sequestration in the context of long-term deer exclusion vs. high deer density areas. We hope to use this analysis for a manuscript to be published in 2010.
* We will prepare for the HSBC Climate Partnerhsip Mid-term Review Conference to be held March 1-5 at STRI.
* We will prepare the study design and supplies for the initiation of a new survey of mycorhizal fungi biomass variation on the plot in collaboration with Alison Hale, a Ph.D. student in Dr. Sue Kalisz’s lab at the U. of Pittsburgh. In 2nd Q 2010, approximately 500 growth dishes will be placed across the plot to assess fungal growth.
* We also hope to be able to work more with post-doc Sean McMahon on additional analyses of the above data and other historical data we have from long-term deer exclusion plots.
* We anticipate being able to start to work on data analyses with Forest Carbon Research Initiative staff to establish baseline carbon pools and dynamics for our plot.

(6) **Relationships with HSBC**

***Note any communication you have had with HSBC and describe its frequency, the individual’s responsiveness, and collaborative readiness.***

(7) **Collaboration**

***Detail any joint working arrangements with HSBC, Earthwatch, WWF, or The Climate Group.***

(8) **Leverage**

***List any support (financial or in-kind) STRI has received from other sources as a consequence of HSBC’s funding.***

(9) **Organization Report**

***Describe changes in key personnel and their impacts, planned partnerships, publication of organizational reports, how HCP has helped CTFS-STRI develop, and news not recorded under previous headings.***

* Three of our SIGEO interns completed their 3-month internships in December. We will hire 3 new interns in January 2010.