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 another ~8 ha of the plot, for a total of 17 ha mapped and checked.
* We continued biweekly litterfall collection, drying and processing from our 200 litterfall traps installed on the plot.
* We completed installation of dendrometer bands on all trees > 5cm dbh in another eleven 40x40m subplots, for a total of 33 40x40m subplots and 242 trees banded.
* We collected an additional 44 DNA barcode leaf samples and 43 herbarium vouchers.
* We added 3 new species to the plot list - *Viburnum recognitum*, *Corylus americana*, and *Prunus persica*.
* Continuing our work with CTFS Global Forest Carbon Research Initiative (GFCRI) staff and Dr. Bill Munger from Harvard, we installed the first meteorological station supplied to plots participating in the GFCRI. The station began operating on September 3rd.
* Using the historical data reconciled during the previous quarter from two of the SI-MAB 1ha plots (one deer-excluded, 1 natural control) contained within the CRC SIGEO plot, along with our 2008 census data for those areas, we were able to conduct a preliminary analysis that indicated that trees > 4cm dbh have been growing significantly more in the plot subjected to historically high deer densities yet virtually no trees are recruiting into the > 4cm dbh class there, while recruitment into this class is high in the long-term deer exclusion plot. This was presented as the following poster at the 2009 Ecological Society of America annual meeting:

Bourg, N.A., N. Gilbert, F. Dallmeier, W.J. McShea, and A. Alonso. Recent effects of white-tailed deer on growth and recruitment in a temperate deciduous forest: insights from long-term forest dynamics plots and the SIGEO network. Poster presentation, 94th annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Albuquerque, NM, 2-7 August, 2009.

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

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

* A visiting delegation of Congressional staffers from the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming toured the CRC SIGEO plot on Sept. 3rd. Drs. Bill McShea, Norm Bourg, and Chuck Lydeard talked to the group about the history of CTFS, the goals of the SIGEO initiative 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.
* Patty Bartlett, Executive Assistant to Secretary Clough, and John Lapiana, Executive Assistant to the SI Board of Regents, were given a similar tour of the CRC SIGEO plot on Sept. 4th.
* A delegation of Chinese scientists led by Dr. Diqiang Li, Director of the Natural Reserve Division of the Chinese Academy of Forestry, was given a similar tour on Sept. 10th.
* A professor and 2 graduate students from the Dumbarton Oaks Landscape Design program of Harvard University were given a similar tour on July 9th.

(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 4th Quarter, we plan to complete mapping and ID checks on the remainder of the plot, and then begin standard CTFS analyses of our inventory 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 and then analyze all the historical data along with our 2008 census data to examine differences in forest composition/structure/diversity 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 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.***

* Shawn Behling, our forest ecology technician, ended her tenure with us at the end of August to enter a PhD program at the University of Washington. We have hired one of our experienced, reliable and hard-working interns, Ms. Sumana Serchan, as a partial replacement for her.