

**SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
MEDIA ADVISORY**

**LIVE WEBCAST: HSBC CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP RESEARCH  
TODAY, MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010  
STARTING AT 9AM US EST,  
[www.stri.org](http://www.stri.org)**

Leading researchers from around the world will meet in March at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) in Panama to discuss the first outputs from a global research program supported by the HSBC Climate Partnership to determine the impact of climate change on the world's forests.

The conference, 'Taking Stock', co-hosted by STRI and the Earthwatch Institute, marks the mid-point of a five-year partnership which employs a unique participatory 'citizen science' model: HSBC employees are working alongside scientists to collect data from five distinct forest sites around the world (US, UK, Brazil, China, India).

Researchers will describe findings that will directly contribute to the global understanding of forest ecosystems and the management of watersheds based on research protocols that have been in place for more than 30 years and the latest analytical and technological advances.

**WHEN:** Media Day on March 1

**WHO:** Speakers from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Earthwatch Institute, HSBC, Oxford University and more – for full event programme visit <http://www.stri.org/>

**WHERE:** The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute's Earl S. Tupper Research and Conference Center, Panama City, Panama

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Link to a live webcast of the conference starting 1 March from <http://www.stri.org>
- Debut of a new film from STRI highlighting this unique NGO-corporate partnership
- Q and A Panel discussion and opportunity for one to one interviews with researchers

Since the launch of the HSBC Climate Partnership in 2007, over 900 HSBC 'climate champions' have worked alongside experts from Earthwatch, STRI and local research partners, at forest plots around the world. This contribution is equivalent to 30 years of a scientist's time in the field. By the end of the partnership, over 2000 HSBC employees will have gone through the climate champion programme, helping to advance scientific knowledge.

Dr. Dan Bebber, Head of Climate Change Research at Earthwatch says, "We are engaging thousands of HSBC employees in hands-on data collection alongside scientists from leading research institutes, to provide decision-makers with the information they

need to manage our natural resources in the face of climate change.”

STRI’s Center for Tropical Forest Science, coordinates research efforts at more than 30 independent forest dynamics research plots worldwide. Director, Stuart Davies says, “To understand how global forests respond to climate change requires enormous datasets from on-the-ground measurements and observations from forests around the world. Aided by the enthusiasm of HSBC climate champions, our global network of forest-research plots generates the crucial scientific data needed to predict forest response to climate change.”

Francis Sullivan, Adviser on the Environment for HSBC Holdings plc says: “Through the HSBC Climate Partnership, we have deepened our understanding of the impacts of climate change across the world and have begun to address our own business response whilst working with our customers to realise the opportunities of the new green economy.”

**For a full schedule of events, visit <http://www.stri.org/>**

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