The Woods Hole Research Center Annual Report 2009

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A Letter from the Director

The year 2009 was a busy and productive one for the Woods Hole Research Center. The year began with the appointment of our director, John P. Holdren, as the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy for the then newly-elected Barack Obama. We are concluding the year with the arrival of our new director in sight. In October, our Board of Directors appointed William Y. Brown to that position. He will begin his tenure on February 1, 2010.

But there is much to be said for what happened between those two markers. As Acting Director, it has been my pleasure to shepherd this institution along its path, and as I end my term, I reflect back on the past year with enormous appreciation for this fine institution, its staff, Board, and friends. While I have been a scientist at the Center for over 22 years, serving in this role has given me a perspective beyond the science of biogeochemistry and climate. I am impressed and proud that the Center is a world leader in defining the interactions among ecosystems, water and climate, the effect of humans on those interactions, and the types of management and behavior that will foster a healthy, productive environment.

We continue to do our part in reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and providing information that leads to policies that will reduce emissions elsewhere, most especially from reducing deforestation and degradation in developing nations. As the pages of this annual report and the 2010 calendar illustrate, we continue to focus on field studies in the Amazon, Central Africa, Alaska, New England and the great rivers of the north. We investigate the effect of the world's ecosystems on climate and the effect of climate on the world's ecosystems. Carbon, nitrogen, and water cycles are major topics of interest. The overall theme is to understand the biophysical functioning of the earth, document the changes in that functioning that result from human activities, and distinguish those types of activities that foster the sustainable functioning of the earth from those that run it down. Climatic disruption poses the major threat for the planet, and uses of land contribute to, and have the potential to help solve, the disruption underway.

In the course of the year, we added ten new staff, including one senior scientist, three assistant scientists, three post-doctoral fellows, two research assistants, and a development associate. Of particular note was the return of Dan Nepstad, back from the foundation world, who is beginning a new program here, one that will develop and refine a conceptual and scientific framework for reconciling the many competing demands upon the world's land, including food, fuel, feed, and fresh water. The work will engage many of the Center's scientists interested in these topics,

and will focus initially on the remarkable opportunities to lower deforestation rates in the Amazon region and the prospects of a Brazilian nation-wide low-emission land-use plan.

And because all of those new researchers must have desks at which to work, we have retained the firm of South Mountain to design and build/renovate our newly acquired 6000-square foot adjacent building, the Carriage House, to provide 20 more offices in the same fossil-fuel-free character as the George M. Woodwell Building. Deconstruction began in October. As the year ends we are midway through renovation and expect to occupy the newly refurbished building by May or June of 2010.

Also on our Gilman Ordway Campus, the Center succeeded in adding a wind turbine to our array of renewable energies. Completed in August and on line in October, our 100 kw machine is generating power. We continue to partner with the manufacturer to make certain that the machine operates as well and as efficiently as we envisioned. Overall, the installation of the wind turbine has enabled the Center to reduce its emissions, not by 5 percent as the U.S. was to have done if it had agreed to the Kyoto Protocol, but by 100 percent. We burn nothing on site, and on an annual basis, we expect to generate all of the energy we need from the combination of photovoltaics on the roof and wind turbine, even running the meter backwards on breezy days.

The coming year marks the 25th anniversary of the Woods Hole Research Center. The vision of our founder, George M. Woodwell, is still appropriate and still needed. The results of our research feed the policy and education activities of the Center. The interaction between science and policy is productive, and by its very nature, includes a healthy tension. Some at the Center believe that our message is a vision of a healthy and productive environment, and the types of activities and behaviors appropriate and inappropriate for living within the limitations of biophysical laws. Others counter that demands for the ideal are counterproductive, that perhaps the best way to save the world is to negotiate for more environmentally friendly ways of farming and forest management. These discussions and dialogues bode for another busy and productive year ahead.

I thank you for your support and look forward to your continuing interest in our work.

R. G. Houghton



Photo courtesy of Diane Quaid.

Members of the Center's staff and board as well as neighbors and friends gathered on August 5 to watch the "flying of the rotor" for the Center's new 100 kw wind turbine (featured on the cover).

The Woods Hole Research Center is known for the rigor of our environmental science and the integration of that research with policy and educational outreach. At sites around the world, including the Amazon, the Arctic, Africa, New England, and the Mid-Atlantic – as well as through global-scale projects – we are working with local communities, regional and national governments and organizations, and the interna-

tional community to provide information and solutions to the environmental challenges before us.

In addition to the standard facts and figures inherent in an annual report, this publication also serves as a 2010 calendar. Each month touches on an aspect of our work, so that by year's end, we have provided an introduction to several of the on-going projects here at the Center.

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Lily Rice Hsia Hamilton, Massachusetts Mather & Hsia Consultants

Casey Lambert Princeton, New Jersey Environmentalist and political activist

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Staff

This reflects those on staff between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009. Please visit www.whrc.org for a current roster of staff. Acting Director (December 2008-present) Richard A. Houghton, Ph.D.

President and Director (until December 2008) John P. Holdren, Ph.D.

Science and Policy Staff

Alessandro Baccini, Ph.D. Adam Bausch, M.E.M. Pieter Beck, Ph. D. Jesse Bishop, M.S. Maria S. Bowman, M.S. I. Foster Brown, Ph.D. Ekaterina Bulygina, M.S. Leandro Castello, Ph.D. Andrea Cattaneo, Ph.D. Michael T. Coe, Ph.D. Tina A. Cormier, M.S. Eric A. Davidson, Ph.D. Gregory J. Fiske, M.S. Scott Goetz, Ph.D. Nora Greenglass, M.E.M. Joseph L. Hackler, M.A. Robert Max Holmes, Ph.D. Holly Hughes, B.S. Tracy Johns, M.S. Josef M. Kellndorfer, Ph.D. Wendy Kingerlee, B.S. Katie Kirsch, B.A. Danielle Knight, B.A. Nadine T. Laporte, Ph.D. Paul A. Lefebvre, M.A. Michael M. Loranty, Ph.D. Frank D. Merry, Ph.D. David G. McGrath, Ph.D. Paulo Moutinho, Ph.D. Virginie Palmeri, Ph.D. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Ph.D. (on leave) Frederico Rosario

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Adjunct Senior Scientist Richard S. Williams, Ph.D.

Visiting Scholars

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Andrea Azevedo, M.S. (Brazil) Ane Alencar, M.S. (Brazil) Paulo Brando, M.S. (Brazil)

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Energy Systems Volunteer

Francis C. Lowell Jr., E.E.

Interns

Abigail Clarke Stephan Englmaier Anna Frankel, B.S. Alexis Ukiah Han Holdren Ujwala Ramakrishna Lydia Russell-Roy Shannon Siart Megan Starr Anya Suslova Chad Wagoner

At the Center ...



Dr. William Y. Brown

"I am thrilled that the Woods Hole Research Center has asked me to be its next Director. The Center is positioned at the cutting edge of ecological research, addressing key issues fundamental to the advancement of global environmental quality. It is a world leader in understanding the circulation of carbon, nitrogen and water in the global environment and in the use of remote sensing combined with investigation on the ground to assess and monitor large-scale landscape change. These activities combined have put the Center at the forefront of science and policy concerning ecology and climate change. I greatly look forward to helping the Center's research staff advance their work. I also look forward to drawing from my own background in science and law in securing science-based policies for a world whose environment sustains and enhances the lives of our species and the others who live here with us."

The Woods Hole Research Center Board of Directors has selected Dr. William Y. Brown as its next President and Director. Brown will begin his appointment at the Center on February 1, 2010.

Dr. Brown is currently the President and CEO of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, the nation's oldest natural history museum. His previous positions include service as President and CEO of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Science Advisor to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt during the Clinton Administration.

Brown was born in Artesia, California. He graduated from high school in Brazil at the Escola Americana do Recife. He later graduated from the University of Virginia (BA, Biology, with highest distinction), Johns Hopkins University (MAT), the University of Hawaii where he was an NSF Graduate Fellow (PhD, Zoology), and Harvard Law School (JD). Brown is a member of several honorary societies and the District of Columbia Bar. He is a member of the Division on Earth and Life Studies advisory committee of the National Academies. He is Chairman of the Global Heritage Fund, President of the Natural Science Collections Alliance, a director of the Wistar Institute, and a trustee of the Academy of Natural Sciences. He is a former Chairman of the Ocean Conservancy, and a former director of various boards, including the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Environmental Law Institute, U.S. Environmental Training Institute, and the U.S. Committee for the United Nations Environment Programme. Dr. Brown is married to Mary E. McLeod, who is the Legal Advisor to the United States Mission to the United Nations. They have two daughters, Julia and Emma Brown.

Sponsored Programs

United States Agencies

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: Integration of Land Use, Fire and Carbon Flux in Critical Amazon Landscapes: the Xingu River Headwaters and the BR163 Highway Corridor, Michael T. Coe

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: Synthesis of Nutrient Interactions in Secondary Vegetation in Amazonia, Eric A. Davidson

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: Interactions of Edaphic and Land Use Factors on Water Budgets in the Cerrado Region of Brazil, Eric A. Davidson

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: A Proposal for LBA-ECO Project Scientist, 2008-2009, Eric A. Davidson

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: Urban Growth Impacts on Surface Hydrology in Mid-Atlantic and New England Watersheds, Scott J. Goetz

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: Quantifying Changes in Northern High Latitude Ecosystems and Associated Feedbacks to the Climate System, Scott J. Goetz

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: Carbon Management in the Northeastern US: Assistance to RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative), R.A. Houghton

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: Quantifying Effects of Land Use Change on Terrestrial Carbon Budgets in the Black Sea Region and China, R.A. Houghton

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: Sources and Sinks of Carbon from Land-Use Change, Management, and Disturbance in the U.S.: Steps Toward a Synthesis, R.A. Houghton

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: National Biomass and Carbon Dataset 2000: A High Resolution Baseline to Reduce Uncertainty in Carbon Accounting and Flux Modeling, Josef M. Kellndorfer

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: Ecosystem Structure Measurements from DESDynI: Studies of technological options and data fusion using IceSAT/GLAS, Airborne Lidar and LOS/PALSAR Datasets over Central Chile, Josef M. Kellndorfer

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: Integrating Earth Science Enterprise Results into Protected Areas Decision Support for the Albertine Rift (Protected Area Watch in the Albertine Rift (PAWAR), Nadine T. Laporte National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: Carbon Implications of Ecosystem Responses to North American Climate Change, Scott J. Goetz

National Science Foundation: BE/CNH: Feedbacks among Forestry, Agriculture, and Fire in Amazonia, Michael T. Coe

National Science Foundation: Collaborative Research: Influence of Land Use on Watershed Hydrology and Biogeochemistry at the Amazon Agricultural Frontier, Eric A. Davidson

National Science Foundation: Collaborative Research. IPY: Observation and Modeling of Tundra Ecosystem Responses to Climate Change, Scott J. Goetz

National Science Foundation: Collaborative Research: Shifting seasonality of northern forest response to arctic environmental change, Scott J. Goetz

National Science Foundation: Collaborative Research. IPY: The Polaris Project: Rising Stars in the Arctic, Robert M. Holmes

National Science Foundation: Student-PARTNERS: A Pan-Arctic Science and Education Collaboration, Robert M. Holmes

National Science Foundation: Collaborative Research: IPY: Arctic Great Rivers Observatory (Arctic-GRO), Robert M. Holmes

National Science Foundation: Collaborative Research: ETBC: Controls on the Flux, Age and Composition of Terrestrial Organic Carbon Exported by Rivers to the Ocean, **Robert M. Holmes**

National Science Foundation: Collaborative Research: The Northeastern Carbon Sink: Enhanced Growth, Regrowth, or Both? R.A. Houghton

National Science Foundation: OPUS: Human Modification of the Terrestrial Carbon Balance, R.A. Houghton

National Science Foundation: The Role of Natural Resources in Mitigating Political, Environmental, and Health Shocks to Extremely Poor Households in Southeastern Africa, Nadine T. Laporte

National Science Foundation: Collaborative Research: Effects of Tropical Watershed Deforestation on Mangrove Ecosystem Function and Services, Thomas A. Stone

Sponsored Programs cont'd

Foundations

U.S. Agency for International Development: Experiments in Environmental Governance in the MAP Region: Madre de Dios, Peru - Acre, Brazil - Pando, Bolivia, **I. Foster Brown**

U.S. Agency for International Development: Strengthening Environmental Management in the Brazilian Southwestern Amazon, **I. Foster Brown**

U.S. Department of Agriculture: Using Model Analyses and Surface-Atmosphere Exchange Measurements from the Howland Ameriflux Supersite in Maine, USA, to Improve Understanding of Forest Ecosystem Cycling, **Eric A. Davidson**

U.S. Department of Agriculture: Towards Spatially Explicit Quantifications of Carbon Flux (2000-2007) in Northeastern U.S. Forests Linking Remote Sensing with Forest Inventory Data, **Josef M. Kellndorfer**

U.S. Department of Energy: Economically Viable Forest Harvesting Practices That Increase Carbon Sequestration, **Eric A. Davidson**

U.S. Department of Energy / Penn State: Decadal-Scale Measurements of Decadal-Cycling Forest Soil Carbon, Eric A. Davidson

U.S. Department of Energy / Penn State: Reducing carbon emissions from the Brazilian Amazon: Technical support for governmental programs to slow deforestation and expansion of the Registry of Socio-environmental Responsibility, **Eric A. Davidson**

Abelow Family Foundation: Competing Human Uses for Land, Soils, and Vegetation in a Climate-Challenged World, John P. Holdren, Richard A. Houghton

Abelow Family Foundation /Jewish Communal Fund: Amazon Program, Daniel C. Nepstad, Michael T. Coe

Barakat Foundation: Educational Trail at the Gilman Ordway Campus, Eric A. Davidson

Blue Moon Fund: Harnessing Globalization for Amazon Conservation, Michael T. Coe

Cape Cod Five Foundation: Mapping Cape Cod's Agricultural Heritage, Thomas A. Stone

Gregory C. Carr Foundation: Revitalization of Gorongosa National Park: Economic Effects and Implications for Surrounding Communities, **Frank Merry, Nadine Laporte**

Davis Conservation Trust: Mapping Rapid Land Cover Change in Southern Maine, Thomas A. Stone

Armand G. Erpf Fund: Lecture Series, Richard A. Houghton

Armand G. Erpf Fund: Library Collection, Richard A. Houghton

Goldman, Sachs & Co: Valuation and Marketing of the Sustainable Uses of Forests, Richard A. Houghton

Google Foundation: Pan-Tropical Mapping of Forest Cover and Associated Above-Ground Carbon Stock, **Josef M. Kellndorfer**

Island Foundation: Mapping Rapid Land Cover Change in Southern Maine, Thomas A. Stone

The Linden Trust for Conservation, Joseph H. Gleberman, and Summit Fund of Washington: Reducing Carbon Emissions and Conserving Tropical Forests, Richard A. Houghton

Henry Luce Foundation: Competing Human Uses for Land, Soils, and Vegetation in a Climate-Challenged World, John P. Holdren, Richard A. Houghton

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation: US-Brazil Workshop: Interactions Between Climate, Forests, and Land Use in the Amazon Basin: Modeling and Mitigating Large-Scale Savannization, **Michael T. Coe** Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation: Fire, Land Use, and the Savannization of Seasonally-Dry Amazon Forests, Michael T. Coe

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation: Workshop on the Establishment of REDD Projects: Lessons Learned from Amazonas and the JUMA Project, Tracy Johns

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation: Pan-Tropical Mapping of Forest Cover and Associated Above-Ground Carbon Stock, Josef M. Kellndorfer

National Environmental Education Foundation: Earth Gauge: Connecting Weather and the Environment, Eric A. Davidson

Orchard Foundation: Mapping Rapid Land Cover Change in Southern Maine, Thomas A. Stone

Overbrook Foundation: Caboclo Workshops of the Tapajós: Consolidating a Promising Strategy for Improving Community Livelihoods and Conserving Forest Biodiversity in the Brazilian Amazon, **David G. McGrath**

David and Lucille Packard Foundation: Reducing Carbon Emissions from the Brazilian Amazon: Technical Support for Governmental Programs to Slow Deforestation and Expansion of the Registry of Socio-environmental Responsibility, **Michael T. Coe**

David and Lucille Packard Foundation: An integrated science, people, and policy approach to supporting REDD across Scales: Brazil and the Forum on Readiness for REDD, **David McGrath**

David and Lucille Packard Foundation: Pan-Tropical Mapping of Forest Cover and Associated Above-Ground Carbon Stock, Josef M. Kellndorfer

Adelard A. and Valeda Lea Roy Foundation: Mapping Rapid Land Cover Change in Southern Maine, Thomas A. Stone

Sheehan Family Foundation: Mapping Cape Cod's Agricultural Heritage, Thomas A. Stone

Tinker Foundation: Policy and Institutional Frameworks for Smallholder Forestry in the Brazilian Amazon, **David McGrath**

Trust for Mutual Understanding: Russian Visiting Scholars Program, Thomas A. Stone

Winslow Foundation: Competing Human Uses in a Climate-Challenged World, John P. Holdren, Richard A. Houghton

Other

Colorado State University: African Carbon Exchange II: A Systems Approach for Diagnosis & Prediction of Carbon, Vegetation, and Disturbance, **Nadine T. Laporte**

Cornell University: Near-Source Atmospheric Deposition from Vehicle Exhaust as a Nitrogen Source to Coastal Lagoons, **Eric A. Davidson**

Harvard University: Interactions between Climate, Forests, and Land Use in the Amazon Basin: Modeling and Mitigating Large-scale Savannization, Michael T. Coe

Montana State University: Ecological Condition of US National Parks: Enhancing Decision Support through Monitoring, Analysis, and Forecasting, Scott J. Goetz

Rutgers University: Denitrification - Integrating Landscapes and Waterscapes, Eric A. Davidson

Sanborn Map Company: SRTM Derived Height/Biomass Dataset, Josef M. Kellndorfer

Union of Concerned Scientists: Evaluating the Opportunities for Enhanced Sequestration of GHG Emissions by Forests and Agriculture in the United States, R. A. Houghton

University of Maryland: Integrating Vegetation 3D Structure and Ecological Modeling for Continental Scale Assessments of Biodiversity, Biomass and Disturbance, **Scott J. Goetz**

University of Wisconsin: Against the Grain: The Effects of Widespread, Intensifying Agriculture on the Biosphere and Climate System, **Michael T. Coe**

World Bank: Emissions of Carbon from Land Management, R. A. Houghton

In the field ...



The Polaris Project, a month-long field course held in July 2009 in the Siberian Arctic, offered future leaders in arctic research and education first-hand insights into the impacts of climate change.

Dr. R. Max Holmes, a senior scientist at the Woods Hole Research Center and director of the Polaris Project, says, "The Arctic is central to the global climate change issue, and Russia has by far the largest share of the Arctic. Yet few western scientists, much less students, ever get the chance to work in the Siberian Arctic. This research experience is a unique collaboration among students, educators, and scientists from distinct cultures working together to address a critically important scientific challenge."

Holmes adds, "The education and outreach aspects of this project are essential goals given the rapid and profound transformations underway in the Arctic in response to global warming."

This was the second year of the Polaris Project field course. The focus of the students' and scientists' work was on the transport and transformations of carbon and nutrients as they move with water from terrestrial uplands to the Arctic Ocean, with an emphasis on the linkages among the different ecosystems, and how processes occurring in one component influence the others.

In addition to the field course, The Polaris Project includes research experience for undergraduate students in the Siberian Arctic, several new arctic-focused undergraduate courses taught by project co-primary investigators (PIs) at their home institutions, the opportunity for those co-PIs to initiate research programs in the Siberian Arctic, and a wide range of outreach activities.

Participating institutions include The Woods Hole Research Center, Carleton College, Clark University, Holy Cross College, St. Olaf College, University of Nevada – Reno, Western Washington University, and Yakustk State University. The project is supported by a grant from NSF.

Above: Overlooking the Polaris Project barge and the Kolyma River, Cherskiy, Siberia.

Photo © Chris Linder.

Staff Publications * indicates publication is in Portuguese ** indicates publication is in French

*Almeida, O. T., **D. McGrath**, S. Rivero and K. Lorenzen. 2008. Impacto del co-manejo pesquero sobre la pesca en la Amazonia brasileña: caracterización, análisis multiagentes e interacciones. In *El Manejo de las Pesquerías en Ríos Tropicales de Sudamérica El Manejo de las Pesquerías en Ríos Tropicales de Sudamérica*, ed. D. Pinedo and C. Soria, 323-333. Instituto del Bien Común and IDRC, Lima, Peru.

Baccini, A., N. Laporte, S.J. Goetz, M. Sun, and H. Dong. 2008. A first map of tropical Africa's above-ground biomass derived from satellite imagery. *Environmental Research Letters* (3)045011, doi: 10.101088/1748-9326/3/4/045011.

Balch, J.K., D.C. Nepstad, P.M. Brando, L.C. Curran, O. Portela, O. de Carvalho Jr., and P. Lefebvre. 2008. Negative fire feedback in a transitional forest of Southeastern Amazonia. *Global Change Biology* 14(10):2276-2287.

- Barra Martínez, F.P., A. Centellas Quezada, P. Zuidema, and I.F. Brown. 2009. Detection of Brazil nut trees (Bertholletia excelsa) in the Bolivian Amazon via satellite imagery. Anais XIV Simpósio Brasileiro de Sensoriamento Remoto, Natal, Brasil, 25-30 April. INPE. 2547-2554.
- **Beck, P.S.A.**, T.J. Wang, A.K. Skidmore, and X.H. Liu. 2008. Displaying remotely sensed vegetation dynamics along natural gradients for ecological studies. *International Journal of Remote Sensing* 29(14):4277-4283.

Brown, I.F., R. Salizar, and E. Borges. 2008. Human Rights and Climate Change. *A Gazeta* 10 December, 2.

Brown, I.F., M. Silveira, and E. Mendoza. 2009. REDD, Climate and the Vulnerable Forests of Southwestern Amazonia. Op-Ed. *A Gazeta* Rio Branco. 28 May:C1-2.

Canadell, J.G., M.R. Raupach, and **R.A. Houghton**. 2009. Anthropogenic CO₂ emissions in Africa. *Biogeosciences* 6:463-468.

Cattaneo, A. 2008. Regional Comparative Advantage, Location of Agriculture, and Deforestation in Brazil. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry* 27(1-2):25-42.

Coe, M.T., M.H. Costa, and B.S. Soares-Filho. 2009. The Influence of Historical and Potential Future Deforestation on the Stream Flow of the Amazon River -- Land Surface Processes and Atmospheric Feedbacks. *Journal of Hydrology* 369:165-174. Cooper, L.W., J.W. McClelland, R.M. Holmes, P.A. Raymond, J.J. Gibson, C.K. Guay, and B.J. Peterson. 2008. Flow-weighted values of runoff tracers (d18O, DOC, Ba, alkalinity) from the six largest arctic rivers. *Geophysical Research Letters* L18606, doi: 10.1029/2008GL035007.

- **Davidson, E.A.**, G.P. Asner, **T.A. Stone**, C. Neill, and R.O. Figueiredo. 2008. Objective indicators of pasture degradation from spectral mixture analysis of Landsat imagery. *Journal of Geophysical Research* 113: G00B03.
- Davidson, E.A., B.D. Dail, and J. Chorover. 2008. Iron interference in the quantification of nitrate in soil extracts and its effect on hypothesized abiotic immobilization of nitrate. *Biogeochemistry* 90:65–73.
- **Davidson, E.A., D.C. Nepstad**, F.Y. Ishida, and P.M. Brando. 2008. Effects of an experimental drought and recovery on soil emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and nitric oxide in a moist tropical forest. *Global Change Biology* 14: 2582–2590.
- DeFries, R.S., D.C. Morton, G.R. van der Werf, L. Giglio, G.J. Collatz, J.T. Randerson, R.A. Houghton, P.K. Kasibhatla, and Y. Shimabukuro. 2008. Fire-related carbon emissions from land use transitions in southern Amazonia. *Geophysical Research Letters* 35. L22705, doi: 10.1029/2008GL035689.
- Fonseca, P.A.M., I.F. Brown, H.L. Fuentes Ney, N. Dantas, E. Raez Luna, A.W. Flores de Melo, and F. Quental. 2009. Monitoring hot pixels, fire risk, rainfall and weather forecasting in southwestern Amazonia: the experience of daily bulletins for the MAP Region (Madre de Dios-Peru, Acre-Brazil, Pando-Bolívia). Anais XIV Simpósio Brasileiro de Sensoriamento Remoto, Natal, Brasil, 25-30 April. INPE. 5227-5233.
- Goetz, S., and G. Fiske. 2008. Linking the diversity and abundance of stream biota to landscapes in the mid-Atlantic USA. *Remote Sensing of Environment* 112:4075–4085.
- Goetz, S.J., N. Gardiner, and J.H. Viers. 2008. Monitoring freshwater, estuarine and nearshore benthic ecosystems with multi-sensor remote sensing: An introduction to the special issue. *Remote Sensing of Environment* 112:3993–3995.
- Goetz, S., J. Kellndorfer, and T. Johns. 2008. Getting over the satellite blues. *Trading Carbon* December.
- Goetz, S., A. Baccini, N. Laporte, T. Johns, W. Walker, J. Kellndorfer, and R.A.
 Houghton. 2008. Mapping and monitoring carbon stocks with satellite observations: an update. A Report for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Conference of the Parties (COP), Fourteenth Session, 1-12 December 2008, Poznan, Poland. Woods Hole Research Center, Falmouth, MA. November.

Staff Publications cont'd

* indicates publication is in Portuguese ** indicates publication is in French

- Goetz, S.J., A. Baccini, N.T. Laporte, T. Johns, W. Walker, J. Kellndorfer, R.A. Houghton, and M. Sun. 2009. Mapping and monitoring carbon stocks with satellite observations: a comparison of methods. *Carbon Balance and Management* 4:2.
- Goetz, S.J., P. Jantz, and C.A. Jantz. 2009. Connectivity of core habitat in the Northeastern United States: Parks and protected areas in a landscape context. *Remote Sensing of Environment* 113:1421–1429.
- Gross, J.E., **S.J. Goetz**, and J. Cihlar. 2009. Application of remote sensing to parks and protected area monitoring: Introduction to the special issue. *Remote Sensing of Environment* 113:1343–1345.
- Hajkowicz, S., K. Collins, and **A. Cattaneo**. 2008. Review of Agri-Environment Indexes and Stewardship Payments. *Environmental Management* July.
- Holdren, J.P. 2008. Convincing the climate-change skeptics. The Boston Globe 4 August.
- Holdren, J.P. 2008. Convincing the skeptics. International Herald Tribune 4 August.
- Holdren, J.P. 2008. Foreword. In *Turning Numbers Into Knowledge: Mastering the Art of Problem Solving, Second Edition,* Jonathan Koomey. Analytics Press, Oakland, CA.
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In the Field ...



Above:

Holly Hughes and Kathleen Savage monitor carbon isotope (¹³C) data being collected from a Picarro Carbon Isotope Analyzer at Howland Forest, Maine. Monitoring carbon isotopes provides us with information on the physical, ecological and biogeochemical processes of the carbon cycle within the forest.

Photo courtesy of Tad Ryan.

In the Field ...



The Woods Hole Research Center has initiated a three-year project focused on pan-tropical mapping of forest cover and associated carbon stocks stored in above-ground biomass. This is accomplished through the generation of pan-tropical consistent data sets of year 2007 high-resolution, cloud-free radar imagery from the Japanese ALOS sensor, a forest cover map derived from radar imagery as a baseline for subsequent change monitoring, and a medium-resolution, pantropical biomass/carbon map based on the fusion of optical (MODIS), radar, and lidar (GLAS) data. The maps will be an invaluable reference against which changes in forest cover and carbon stock can be measured.

The spatial data sets generated by this project will provide forest cover distribution throughout the tropics in 2007 from cloud-free satellite radar circa 15 meter resolution, as well as the first pan-tropical map of above-ground biomass (at 500m resolution) derived from remote sensing and field surveys. Field surveys are being conducted in close collaboration with tropical forest nations through several capacity building initiatives. Through workshops, a visiting scholars program, and other related activities, new maps are being produced, assessed, disseminated and discussed with various stakeholders within these countries – including rep-

resentatives from government, civil society, indigenous and traditional forest communities, and the private sector. An integral part of the project is to transfer knowledge and skills of forest and carbon mapping to those countries that are increasingly engaged in international efforts to slow deforestation and enable these countries to evaluate alternative options for management of their forest resources.

Support for this project is from The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, and Google.org. Key project partners include Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), JAXA Kyoto and Carbon Inititiative, Alaska Satellite Facility (ASF), NASA, SARMAP, and Boston University.

Top: Assistant Scientist Wayne Walker leads a field study at a workshop in Bolivia, October 2009. Photo courtesy of Tina Cormier.

At left: At 15-meter resolution, this image acquired by the ALOS satellite shows detailed patterns of deforestation in Rondonia, Brazil.

Financial Report

Statement of Activities

for the year ended June 30, 2009 (in thousands of dollars)

Ten-Year Financial Trends





	Unr	restricted	Ten Res	porarily tricted	Perr Rest	nanently tricted	2009	2008
SUPPORT AND REVENUE								
Government	\$	-	\$	4,078	\$	-	\$ 4,078	\$ 3,540
Foundations & international ag	gencies	-		14,011		21	14,032	2,963
Individual contributions		848		_		-	848	1,232
Investment income (Loss)		(610)		(389)		(34)	(1,033)	(236)
Other income		295		-		-	295	91
Net assets released		8,558		(8,558)		-	-	-
Total support and revenue		9,091		9,142		(13)	18,220	 7,590
EXPENSES								
Research programs		6,869		-		-	6,869	5,420
General and administrative		2,442		-		-	2,442	2,241
Development and fundraising		381		-		-	381	501
Total expenses		9,692		-		-	9,692	8,162
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		(601)		9,142		(13)	8,528	(572)
NET ASSETS								
Beginning of year		7,816		2,579		3,648	14,043	14,615
End of year	\$	7,215	\$	11,721	\$	3,635	\$ 22,571	\$ 14,043

Statement of Financial Position for the years ended June 30, 2009 and 2008

Ten-Year Financial Trends cont'd





Assets	2009	2008
Current Assets	¢ 5 70 ((02	¢ 2 070 040
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,/94,403	\$ 2,9/0,868
Temporary investments	-	1,062,428
Contributions receivable, current portion	5,589,766	1,246,609
Prepaid expenses and other receivables	292,529	190,348
Total current assets	11,676,698	5,470,253
Property and Equipment (at cost)	7,765,383	6,926,138
Other Assets		
Endowment investments	3,992,987	4,008,001
Beneficial interest in real estate trust assets	212,651	212,651
Bond proceeds held in trust for debt retirement	19,277	20,152
Contributions receivable, net of current portion	1.765.721	66.611
Security deposits	-	-
Total assets	\$25,432,717	\$16,703,806
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 276,326	\$ 220,687
Accrued expenses	546,783	301,407
Liability under charitable gift annuity	8,830	8,774
Mortgage payable, current portion	86,741	86,741
Refundable advances	25,717	34,754
Tenant security deposits	2,700	2,700
Total current liabilities	947,097	655,063
Long-Term Debt		
Liability under charitable gift annuity, net of current portion	73,976	77,160
Notes and loans payable, net of current portion	1,840,845	1,928,461
Total liabilities	2,861,918	2,660,684
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		
Operating	998,135	2,848,108
Board designated for quasi-endowment	360,000	360,000
Net investment in property and equipment	5,857,074	4,931,088
Total unrestricted	7,215,209	8,139,196
Temporarily restricted	11,721,058	2,255,925
Permanently restricted	3,634,532	3,648,001
Total net assets	22,570,799	14,043,122
Total liabilities and net assets	\$25,432,717	\$16,703,806

This report recognizes gifts and grants made during the Center's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009.

For individuals, the roster is listed by membership in the Center's giving clubs, which is based on annual contributions.

A listing of foundation, corporate and other support follows.

Members of the George Perkins Marsh Society are those who have made provisions for planned gifts.

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George Perkins Marsh Society

Born in 1801, George Perkins Marsh was the first to draw attention to the notion that the natural menace to nature was humans themselves. He published his ideas in a book called Man and Nature in 1864, to wide acclaim. Still in print, it continues to influence our vision of the natural world.

The Society, named in his honor, recognizes friends who have elected to partner in the Center's future by supporting the Center through a life income gift, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or bequest. Please let the Development Office know that you have included the Center in your estate plans by calling Kristin Powell at 508 540 9900, ext 121 or by sending an email to kpowell@whrc.org.

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Please note:

This report was prepared with great care, but if errors have occurred, please contact:

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Little Harbor Foundation





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Much of the discussion surrounding REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) has focused on establishing an effective mechanism for compensating forest peoples for their role in conserving forests. To a large extent, differences in opinion regarding the impact of REDD policies for forest peoples are related to concerns about the security of rights to traditional lands and forests. Building on the successes created in the management strategies for fisheries, Associate Scientist David McGrath and his colleagues are partnering with communities, organizations, and government agencies in the Brazilian Amazon to address central structural issues including secure land tenure, effective forest governance, and availability of viable economic alternatives, all of which are crucial to helping REDD succeed.

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Predicted Aboveground Live Dry Biomass

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Under the direction of Associate Scientist Josef Kellndorfer, scientists at the Woods Hole Research Center have completed the production of the "National Biomass and Carbon Dataset for the Year 2000" (NBCD2000), the first ever spatially explicit inventory at high-resolution scale (30 m). The dataset provides a year-2000 estimate of basal area-weighted canopy height, aboveground live dry biomass, and standing carbon stock for the conterminous United States. NBCD 2000 was produced in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program, and funded under NASA's Terrestrial Ecology Program with additional support from the Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools Project (LANDFIRE).

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The Woods Hole Research Center *whrc.org*

> Above: Map produced by Josef Kellndorfer, Wayne Walker, Katie Kirsch, Jesse Bishop, Greg Fiske, and Liz LaPointe.





Central Africa has the second largest unfragmented block of tropical rain forest remaining in the world, making it one of the largest reservoirs for carbon and biodiversity. These forest stocks are threatened by deforestation and degradation, pressures that are due in large part to logging practices that are not well-managed or sustainable. In combination with population growth and economic needs of developing nations, the region is poised to undergo extensive land use change. Center scientists are using remote sensing technologies coupled with on-the-ground fieldwork to map and monitor habitat alteration, support biodiversity conservation, and promote better land use planning and forest management in this crucial region of the world.

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Above: Emergent canopy tree, Budongo Forest Reserve, Uganda. Photo courtesy of Wayne Walker.





Center scientists and researchers working in the Brazilian Amazon are addressing one of the world's greatest conservation challenges. This vast equatorial ecosystem is home to nearly one fifth of the planet's plant and animal species, more than 200 indigenous cultures, and 30 million people in search of sustenance and wealth. Carbon stocks equivalent to more than a decade of global fossil fuel emissions are stored in the wood of its trees. The forest also releases enough water to the atmosphere via evapotranspiration and to the ocean via river outflow to influence world climate and ocean circulation systems; and in doing so it also sustains the regional climate on which it depends. Through studies on riparian restoration, drought, flood, deforestation and savannization trends, sustainable livelihoods, and other areas, a broad and thorough understanding of this key system how this key ecosystem functions and how it is being modified by human action.

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An integral component of the work underway at the Woods Hole Research Center is the transfer of knowledge and skills to representatives of tropical nations, equipping them to engage more fully in international efforts to slow deforestation and enabling them to better evaluate alternative forest management options. Through capacity building initiatives as part of the pantropical mapping project and through the Center's work with the Forum on Readiness for REDD, a series of workshops in locations throughout South America, Africa, and Asia are bringing together stakeholders. The first of these were held in 2009 and will continue into 2011. In addition, workshops and seminars will be held at the Center to share information on both field and remote sensing techniques.

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Deforestation in Brazil, driven in part by increased global and regional demand for food crops and bio-fuels, leads to many ecological consequences. Tropical forests, with deep roots and dense dark green canopies, capture a large amount of incoming sunlight for photosynthesis and, in the process, evaporate water. The large amount of water vapor that is pumped into the atmosphere provides one-third to one-half of the water that returns to the ground as rainfall. Replacing that forest with grasses and crops greatly reduces the amount of water cycled between land and atmosphere and has complex impacts for regional climate and stream flow, potentially altering the pattern of where and how much rain falls over the Amazon. Center projects led by Associate Scientist Michael T. Coe are addressing the complex way in which deforestation affects the water balance of even large river systems, thus providing a more comprehensive understanding of how human activities are altering these key ecosystems.

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In the Arctic, vast amounts of carbon are locked up in permafrost ("permanently" frozen soil). Though plant growth rates are low, frigid temperatures result in even slower decomposition rates, leading to massive accumulations of organic carbon that is thousands of years old. As the earth warms due to increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, permafrost is beginning to thaw, and the ancient carbon it contains is beginning to rot. This rotting, or decompostion, produces carbon dioxide and methane, both powerful greenhouse gases that lead to more warming. Senior Scientist R. Max Holmes is investigating this positive feedback - warming causes permafrost thaw, which produces more greenhouse gases, which causes more warming, and so on - illustrating why it is essential to keep the carbon in the ground.

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The ability to estimate the distribution and total amount of carbon stored in woody biomass across the tropics is key to compensation mechanisms for REDD. Because systematic surveys are sparse, plot-level measurements of biomass density (thus carbon) are extended to large areas using a variety of methods including classification of land cover types, calculation of biomass density from regressions based on gridded environmental variables such as mean annual temperature and precipitation, and determination of relationships between in situ biomass density and remote sensing characteristics that can be consistently mapped over large regions. Maps derived using the latter approach are a substantial departure from the other more traditional methods, and have the advantage of providing robust, spatially consistent and continuous values of the magnitude (amount) of carbon stock at any given location. Assistant Scientist Alessandro Baccini and others at the Center are developing these products, thereby also providing a basis for monitoring stock changes through time.

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The Woods Hole Research Center whrc.org

Above: From the first pantropical map of forest carbon derived from satellite (GLAS and MODIS) data sets, combined with coordinated field measurements, an image focused on the western Amazon Basin. Deforestation (herringbone road pattern) is visible in the map.





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22 29 A new initiative at the Woods Hole Research Center will characterize the sources, pathways and timescales of riverine export of carbon from land to the ocean. The project, known as the Global Rivers Project, will conduct studies on the Congo, Yangtze, Brahmaputra, Ganges, Lena, Kolyma, and Frazer Rivers. Such a holistic approach to river basin studies is urgently needed to assess the surficial organic carbon subcycle that connects – via rivers - terrestrial primary productivity with long-term carbon sinks in the ocean. In collaboration with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and colleagues around the world, this study will yield a unique dataset, and serve as a benchmark for future studies aimed at tracking the impact of environmental change on carbon transport from land to the oceans.

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19 26 Few things better illustrate the changes that have occurred in rural New England over the last three centuries than a stonewall in the forest. One hundred and seventy years ago, almost all of New England, except Maine, was cleared to provide farmland, pasture, and fuel wood to homes. Because the region's better soils had been largely scraped off during the last glaciation, an abundance of rocks and boulders were left to be piled to the side by farmers. When railroads and the opening of the Midwest in the middle of the 19th century led to large-scale abandonment of fields and farms, the ensuing recovery of the forest began. Senior Research Associate Thomas Stone and others at the Center study land use and land use change as a means to understanding ecosystems and ecosystem services. Recently, forest loss has resumed in New England, due to widespread residential and commercial development.

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As a result of human activities during the last 150 years, the amount of nitrogen that is made usable for living creatures each year has nearly doubled. Two positive outcomes are made possible by this increase: food and energy production. While positive outcomes of increased nitrogen include a high capacity for food production enabled by the use of fertilizers that support expanded agriculture, many regions of the world are now grappling with the significant problems of nitrogen excesses. In coastal regions, these problems often include coast eutrophication, or algal blooms, which can destroy healthy eel grass habitat and cause fish die-off. At the same time, other regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa, still have access to too little affordable nitrogen fertilizer, resulting in the inability for local agriculture to adequately provide for human nutrition. Senior Scientist Eric Davidson and others at the Center are leading studies of the nitrogen cycle and its many impacts.

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Above: An eelgrass bed that is susceptible to pollution of excess nitrogen, Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Image courtesy of Thomas Stone.

DECEMBER 2010

High latitudes have experienced systematically greater warming in the last decades than the rest of our planet. Senior Scientist Scott Goetz and his team are addressing how this affects and interacts with terrestrial ecosystems, both in the arctic tundra, which is characterized by an absence of trees, and in the boreal forest, which is the largest forest biome in the world. A legacy of low temperatures have built both in the arctic tundra and the boreal forest; stocks of soil carbon in permafrost and peatland are increasingly volatilizing in the form of greenhouse gasses as a warmer climate promotes soil microbial activity. Simultaneously, the change in climate promotes shifts in vegetation composition, by relieving temperature limitations on productivity in the coldest areas of the arctic and by introducing drought-stress in the warmer areas of the arctic. The biome-wide adaptation to an altered climate comes in addition to a marked intensification of the disturbance regime, with the frequency and extent of both fire and insect attacks on the rise. All of these changes impact wildlife, such as caribou, and subsequently the native people who rely on them.

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A special thanks to Connie Johnson, Kristin Powell, and Allison White for their eagle-eye proofreading abilities and to Diane Quaid for her keen photographic skills.

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Cover Image

View of the Woods Hole Research Center's Gilman Ordway Campus, including the George M. Woodwell Building and the new 100 kw wind turbine.

Photo by

Diane Quaid Manager, System Administration

The Woods Hole Research Center uses recycled paper and vegetable-based inks.

A true thing of beauty

As I pedal home along the path before night I look to the left and see with delight Three blades spinning freely atop a sleek mount A true thing of beauty by my account This sight brings me hope that our world can change May its beauty have a far-reaching range Encouraging others to do what they can For we all have a role and must act on our plan Three cheers to the Center* for doing their bit Collectively we can make the world fit.

*Woods Hole Research Center

S. E. Wigley Falmouth October 2009