

Earthwatch and the HSBC Climate Partnership



HSBC
Climate
Partnership



EARTHWATCH®
INSTITUTE

'It's great to meet colleagues from HSBC who share the same enthusiasm about environmental issues, and realise the urgency of acting, not just thinking and worrying.'

Yolanda Podniesinski, HSBC Switzerland

'It wasn't until I had the chance to take part in the HSBC Climate Partnership programme that I realised just how much damage we are doing to the planet. The experience has helped me to better understand the huge challenge presented by climate change.'

Sarah Aoun, HSBC United Arab Emirates

Find out more:

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Earthwatch is an international environmental organisation which engages people worldwide in scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment. Earthwatch Institute (Europe) is the working name for Conservation Education & Research Trust (CERT), a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (number: 4373313) and a registered charity (number: 1094467) whose registered office is Mayfield House, 256 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7DE, UK.

What is Earthwatch's role in the HSBC Climate Partnership?

Forest research

Billions of people rely on forests for food, shelter, fuel, clean air and fresh water. The role of forests in capturing and storing carbon is also vital in tackling climate change.

Earthwatch is undertaking a five-year global programme of forest research in an effort to determine how temperate and tropical forests are being affected by changes in climate.

Regional Climate Centres have been opened in **China, India, Brazil, USA and UK**, where scientists, supported by local community members and HSBC employees, will carry out field work to establish forest health and resilience.

Results from this programme will help conservationists and local communities to understand how forests are responding and how they can be better managed for the benefit of the people, plants and animals that depend on them.

Involving people

Earthwatch is working with HSBC to help their employees learn more about climate change, what it means to the business and what they can do to combat it.

A variety of resources and opportunities have been developed to help build employee understanding, including an online programme on climate change with activities and social networking. Employees also have the opportunity to volunteer on environmental projects in their workplace and community to gain practical experience of tackling climate change locally.

During the five-year programme, 2,000 employees from across the business will be selected to spend two weeks at a Regional Climate Centre. Here, they will work with scientists and take part in discussion and action planning sessions to further their understanding of climate change. When they return to work, they will develop projects that further HSBC's commitment to sustainability.

This ambitious and innovative programme aims to motivate more than 100,000 people to take action.



Crispin Zeeman/Earthwatch



North America **Regional Climate Centre**

In **Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, USA**, scientists are studying the impact of human activities on forest ecosystems, and how they are likely to be affected by climate change.

Latin America **Regional Climate Centre**

The **Rio Cachoeira reserve** is part of Brazil's threatened Atlantic Forest – one of the most species-rich environments on Earth. Research here is focussed on the responses of trees and animals to climate change in fragmented tropical forests.

Europe **Regional Climate Centre**

In **Wytham Woods, Oxfordshire, UK**, research into the effects of climate change on this temperate forest will inform management plans and policy decisions in similar habitats worldwide.

India
Regional Climate Centre
India's **Western Ghats mountain range** is a highly biodiverse environment. Scientists here are studying the forest ecosystems that provide food, fuel, shelter and medicines for local communities.

China **Regional Climate Centre**

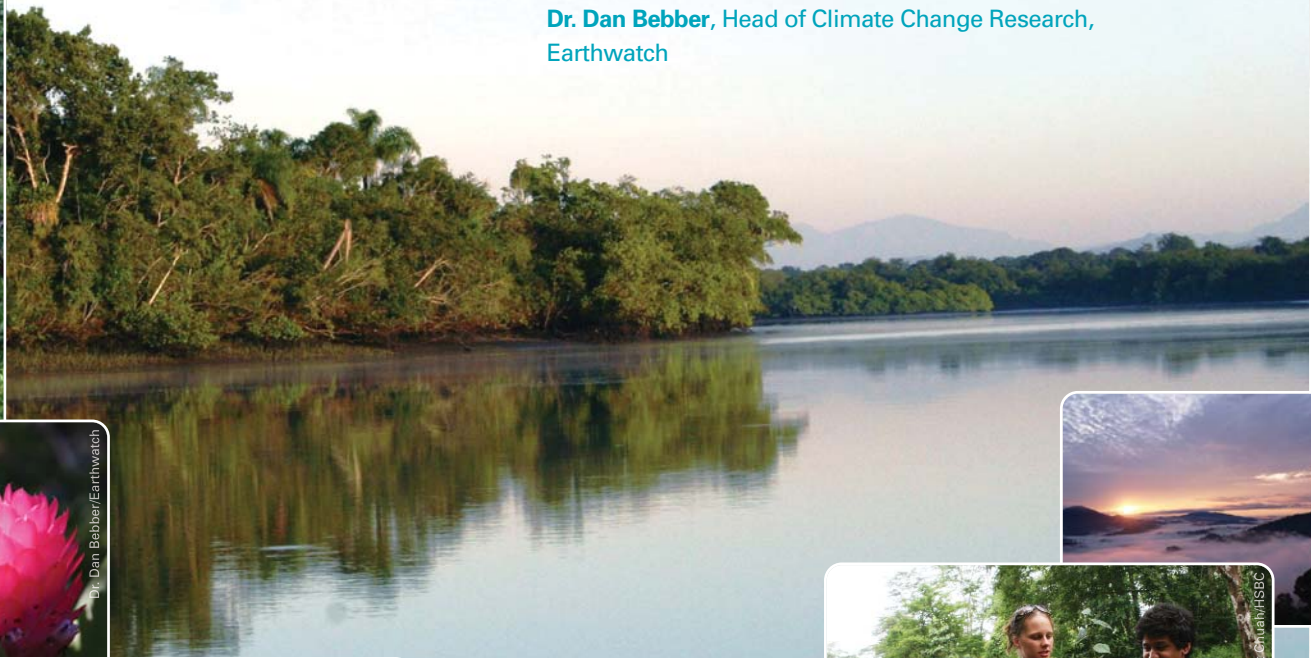
In recent years reforestation efforts have increased dramatically. Scientists working at **Gutianshan National Nature Reserve** are comparing biodiversity and carbon storage in both new and old forests.



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'For too long forests have been considered a disposable source of timber or an obstacle in the way of development, but careful management of the world's forests is essential if we are to meet the challenges posed by climate change.'

Dr. Dan Bebber, Head of Climate Change Research,
Earthwatch



Dr. Dan Bebber/Earthwatch



SEARRP



Rowan Byrne/Earthwatch



Dr. Dan Bebber/Earthwatch



Gilbert Chuah/HSBC

The HSBC Climate Partnership

The HSBC Climate Partnership is a five-year programme about climate change to inspire action by individuals, businesses and governments.

In 2007, the five partners, **HSBC**, **Earthwatch**, **The Climate Group**, **The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute** and **WWF**, agreed to work together to:

- Create cleaner, greener cities in London, New York, Mumbai, Hong Kong and Shanghai, which will be promoted as models for the world
- Conduct the largest ever field experiment on the long-term effects of climate change and how it will affect the world's forests
- Protect some of the world's major rivers and the livelihoods of people who rely on them
- Create 'Climate Champions' worldwide who will undertake research and bring back valuable knowledge and experience to their workplace and communities



for a living planet®

THE °CLIMATE GROUP



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute