

Overview

This SOP is modeled after CUPN SOP 15 *Deviations and Summary of Major Changes* Version 1.0 (White et al. 2011) and documents any deviations or major changes to methodologies for the *South Florida/Caribbean Network Forest Vegetation Monitoring: Protocol Implementation Plan* (Whelan et al. 2020) over time.

Known deviations from established methods: Deviations are situations where data were collected in a manner that is substantially different from the methods documented in the SOPs used during a particular field season.

Major changes in the protocol: Major changes are fundamental shifts in the way data are collected that cannot easily be rectified with earlier data. Major changes are not deviations, provided that the changes are documented in the SOPs. Ideally, any time there is a major change in methods the network will use both methods long enough to determine whether the results from the different methods are sufficiently correlated to allow old data to be corrected. In some cases (especially early in the use of the protocol), the small amount of data lost by the protocol change will not be worth the cost of overlapping methods.

Known Deviations and Major Changes

This portion of the SOP documents the major changes over time in the procedures, so that changes that may impact data analyses are all summarized in one place. This portion of the SOP also documents situations where procedures were not followed in the field as specified in the SOPs that were current at the time of data collection. As the South Florida/Caribbean Network has not yet implemented monitoring, no changes are documented at this time. Future sub-headings for this SOP will include:

- Overall Protocol Changes
- Data/Analysis Issues
- SOP-specific Changes

Literature Cited

- Whelan, K. R. T., R. B. Shamblin, M. Prats, J. M. Patterson, M. Londoño, and R. Muxo 2020. South Florida/Caribbean Network forest vegetation monitoring: Protocol implementation plan. Natural Resource Report NPS/SFCN/NRR—2020/2064. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado. Available at: <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2271719> (last accessed February 2020).
- White, R., C. Nordman, L. Smart, T. Leibfreid, B. Moore, R. Smyth, and T. Govus. 2011. Vegetation monitoring protocol for the Cumberland Piedmont Network, Version 1. Natural Resource Report NPS/CUPN/NRR—2011/XXX. National Park Service. Fort Collins, Colorado. Available at: <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2192468> (last accessed December 2019).