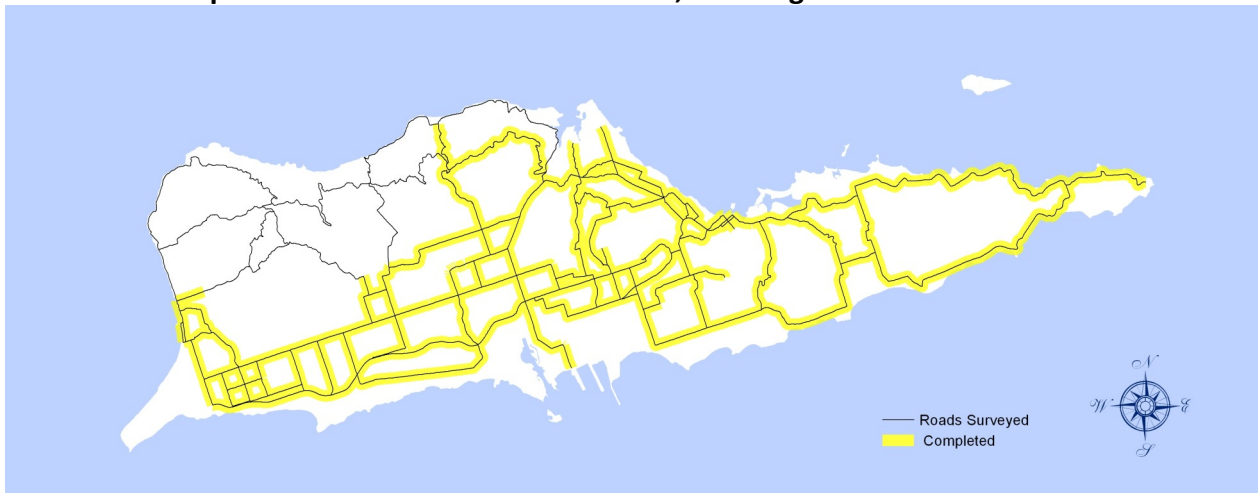




# St. Croix Hazard Tree Assessment Progress Report - June 2011

## Completed Assessment Areas : St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands



Roadsides Assessed	# Trees Assessed	Poles Mapped	Culverts	% of Project Complete
416 km	4,778	2,347	160	75%

In May, Geographic Consulting completed mapping the roadside trees of the Queen Mary Highway (Centerline Road) assessing the health of 1180 trees . Centerline Road is dominated by three tree species; mahogany (Swietenia mahogani) (Swietenia macrophylla) (Swietenia xxx), genip (Melicoccus bijugatus) and tibit. (Albizia lebeck) Figure 1 compares the trees of Centerline Road with all other major roads on St. Croix. Mahogany (three species combined) accounts for 60% of all trees on Centerline (dark blue) while trees on all other roads (grey) have are approximately 22% mahogany and 24% genip. Such dominance by one species is considered undesirable by tree care professionals because low diversity populations are susceptible to a single disease.

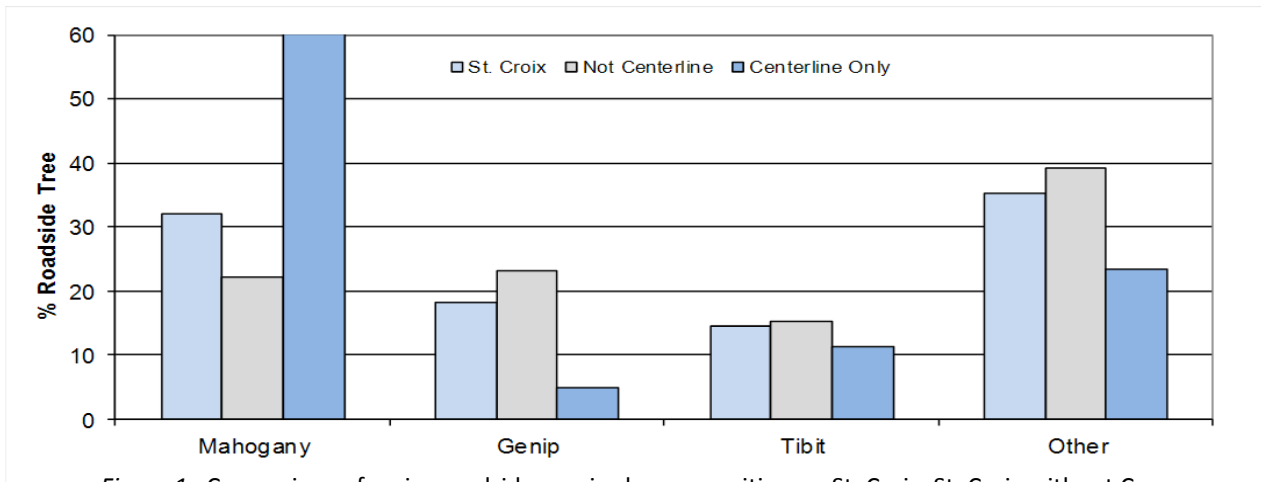
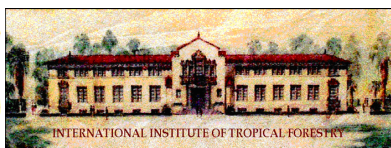


Figure 1. Comparison of major roadside species by composition on St. Croix, St. Croix without Centerline Road data, and Centerline Road only.



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Mahogany is the traditional roadside tree of St. Croix. They are long-lived, provide cool shade, withstand hurricanes and grow well in challenging roadside conditions. Nonetheless, a small percentage of them die each year and the survivors grow taller and larger with age. Healthy, diverse tree populations have many smaller/younger trees to replace those that die.

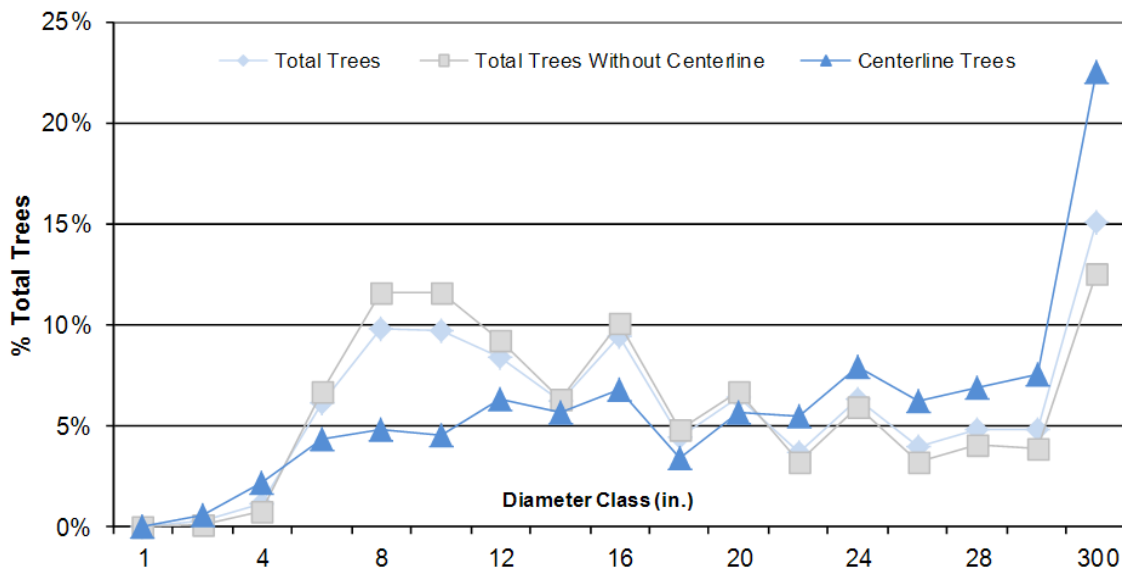
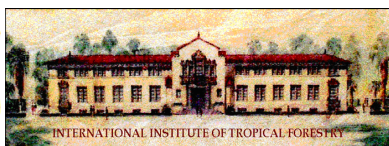


Figure 2. Diameter class distribution of all tree species for St. Croix, St. Croix without Centerline Road and for Centerline Road only.

Figure 2 charts the percentage of trees on St. Croix by the diameter of the tree stems and large diameters usually mean older trees. The graph demonstrates Centerline Road (dark blue) has a much higher percentage of larger, older trees than the rest of St. Croix and that there are very few young/small roadside trees. We interpret this to mean that many years ago there was a large scale tree planting effort on roadsides, especially Centerline. Today young trees for the future are rarely planted, as evidenced by low numbers on the left side of the graph. Will St. Croix's roads be lined with majestic shade trees in the future? Only if we begin planting the right trees in the right place!



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