Assessing Urban Forest Effects and Values After Hurricane Impacts in Louisiana

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ABSTRACT

Louisiana urban forests have been significantly impacted by recent hurricanes. We have monitored and assessed the impact of hurricanes on the urban forest effects and values for several S.E. Louisiana Cities (including Baton Rouge, Baker, Zachary, and Mandeville). i-Tree Eco Model has been utilized to quantify structures, functions and values of the Impacted urban forests. The results of these assessments will be presented along with the lessens learned from the hurricane impacts on the urban forests.

BIOGRAPHY

Kamran K. Abdollahi is a National Fellow of the Society of American Foresters and Professor & Program Leader for the Urban Forestry and Natural Resources at SU in Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Abdollahi has been instrumental in the establishment of the first urban forestry B.S. degree granting program in the nation that is now under the SAF accreditation. He led the program to achieve M.S. and Ph.D. Degree granting status and provided leadership for establishment of the first Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Department in the Nation. He has served as an advisor to the United States Secretary of Agriculture on the National Urban Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC). He served for 10 years as an executive board member of the National Association of University Forestry and Natural Resources Programs (NAUFRP) , served as President of the Arboriculture Research and Education Academy of ISA, the Editorial Board members for the Journal of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry. He has received a Certificate of Achievement from the Oxford University in England for his contribution to the Climate Change Roundtable. Dr. Kamran has provided leadership in Urban Forestry for the Society of American foresters (SAF) by serving as Chair-elect and Chair for more than 6 years. He is serving as the SAF Louisiana State Chair. He has served as co-director for the Gulf Coast Regional Climate Change Assessment Program and co-edited several books on the subject. Dr. Kamran's research focus on urban forest tree species contribution to air, water and soil quality. He has directed more than 20 research projects including 10 national and 5 regional research projects. He has published and presented more than 100 scientific papers. Currently, Dr. Kamran is leading the Bioenergy and Biochar Research at SU and is involved in quantifying tree species contribution to urban areas. Dr. Kamran has an Agricultural Engineering degree (1983) from The Pennsylvania State University, M.S. in Soil Sciences, and Ph.D. in Forest Ecophysiology from the Arthur Temple College of Forestry at S.F. Austin State University (1991). In addition he has been trained as an urban forester through the University of Florida Urban Forestry Institute, the ISA, Davey Tree Institute, and the Arbor Master, Inc. Dr. Abdollahi has received numerous awards at the local, state, national and international levels for excellence in teaching, research, and service.