

InVEST Training Vigo, Spain May 27-31

NatCap is holding an InVEST training next month at the University of Vigo in Spain. Join us and learn about how mapping and modeling ecosystem services can help uncover hidden costs and benefits of different resource management options, and gain hands-on experience with our InVEST toolkit.

[More information](#)

Software tools:



[InVEST](#) is a free and open-source software suite developed by the Natural Capital Project. [InVEST 3.0.0](#) was released on March 24th, 2014.



RIOS is a software tool that helps design cost-effective investments in watershed services. [RIOS 1.0.0b8](#) was released on November 6, 2013.

For help using InVEST and RIOS, visit the [NatCap Forums](#), our

Greetings!

Most simply, NatCap aims to improve outcomes for people and the environment. Arguably, it is in the world's poorest regions, where human wellbeing is most directly tied to natural capital, that this work is most critical. With help from the WWF/CARE Alliance, Mozambique recently established a very large, multiple-use, "environmental protection area" in the Primeiras e Segundas archipelago, with dual goals for sustainability of natural resources and the communities that depend upon them. The new protected area is the first of its kind in Mozambique. NatCap is working with our partners at WWF to help government agencies create a management plan that uses ecosystem service thinking and practice to deliver on the promise of long-term natural resource management that benefits hundreds of thousands of people living in the region. We'll be using the latest approaches and tools to do this, including InVEST 3.0.0, a major milestone for our software. We unveiled InVEST 3.0.0—our first standalone software platform with significantly enhanced capabilities—at our Annual Meeting & Training at Stanford University the last week of March.

Protecting Ocean Habitats for Biodiversity and People in Mozambique

IN THE PRIMEIRAS E SEGUNDAS REGION

NatCap has partnered with the World Wildlife Fund/Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere ([WWF/ CARE](#)) Alliance and Mozambique's [Ministry of Tourism](#), lending its technical and science support to create a management plan for the newly-designated [Primeiras e Segundas Environmental Protection Area](#).



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The Primeiras e Segundas Environmental Protection Area covers over 4,000 square miles and all 10 of the islands in the Primeiras and Segundas archipelago. Habitats within the protected area include seagrass beds, coral reefs, mangroves, and estuaries—home to or nesting habitat for vulnerable species such as dugongs, green sea turtles, and numerous seabirds. The Primeiras e Segundas is a multi-use area, explicitly designed to protect natural resources and the people who depend upon them. More than 340,000 people live within the Primeiras e Segundas region, most of them dependent directly on the land and ocean for their livelihoods.

NatCap is supporting WWF/CARE and the Ministry of Tourism to design a plan for the managed and sustainable use of coastal resources by working with managers and consultants to help to frame the work, assemble the best available data, and use InVEST and other tools to better understand provisioning of services across the land and seascape. The management plan will inform the government of Mozambique and management entities on how to allow for multiple uses in the Primeiras e Segundas region without degrading the ecosystem functions and services upon which local people depend. A first draft of the plan is scheduled to be completed this summer.

NatCap also is working with WWF's Mozambique Country Office and Coastal East Africa (CEA) Initiative to support the Mozambican government in the implementation of their Green Economy Action Plan, approved last October by the Council of Ministers. This high-level action demonstrates commitment of the Mozambique government to grow Mozambique's economy while protecting the long-term sustainability of its natural resources.

online user community.

[Visit NatCap's website to learn more about the work we are doing in Mozambique.](#)

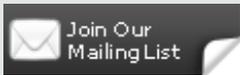
Work with NatCap!

NatCap is looking for a few good software engineers. If you're a friendly, self-directed programmer who is passionate about working on collaborative software projects for the social good, one of these positions may be for you. [Check our website for more information and to apply.](#)

Newsletter Archive

Check out NatCap's previous newsletters in our [Newsletter Archive](#).

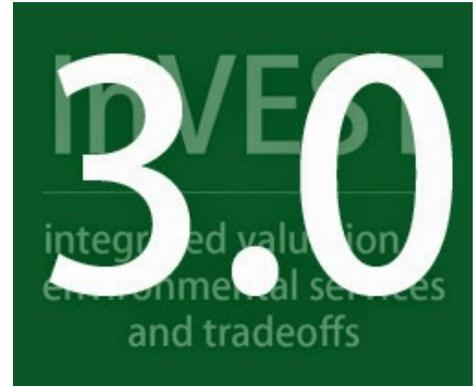
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InVEST 3.0.0

MAJOR MILESTONE RELEASE

On Monday, March 24, NatCap launched [InVEST 3.0.0](#), the first version of InVEST with standalone versions for all but one of our [16 ecosystem service models and analysis tools](#). This major milestone lowers a number of critical barriers to using InVEST: costly ArcGIS software is no longer necessary, our tools run more quickly, and are infinitely more flexible. The standalone tools contain major performance updates, some science updates, and a host of additional usability features not found in the old ArcGIS based versions of InVEST. Only one remaining model, Coastal Protection, requires ArcGIS. It is scheduled for development into a standalone tool for a future release. All InVEST 3.0.0 inputs and outputs are compatible with a diversity of GIS desktop tools, including the free and open-source QGIS, in addition to ArcGIS.



Accompanying the model set, InVEST 3.0.0 now includes a number of accessory tools to make ecosystem service analyses easier. For example, the creation of scenarios, or alternate management futures, has often been a sticking point in applications of InVEST. InVEST 3.0.0 now includes a tool for scenario generation that will help users get started comparing the ecosystem service outcomes of possible futures. InVEST 3.0.0 also includes a tool for hydrological routing that is faster and easier to use than routing in ArcGIS, and a Python scripting toolset, which makes it easier for programmers to modify InVEST models to suit their needs.

We are really excited about the release of InVEST 3.0.0 and would like to acknowledge the hard work of our software team and science teams for getting us across this particular finish line! Stay tuned for all of the great things we are scheming for InVEST 4.0!

NatCap Annual Meeting 2014

STANFORD UNIVERSITY - MARCH 26-28

Last month, 200 people came to Stanford's campus to attend NatCap's [Annual Meeting & Training](#). Participants from 30 countries and 22 US states came to learn about NatCap's approach to supporting decisions through ecosystem service mapping, modeling, and valuation, and to share stories of partners' work in the field. Topics covered ranged from making the business case for natural capital to step-by-step guidance on how to apply ecosystem service information in decisions. The Annual Meeting also included hands-on sessions and training on NatCap's InVEST and RIOS software. The Annual Meeting & Training was a great opportunity to showcase InVEST 3.0.0, to get feedback from others on our approach and tools, and to continue building a community of practice. We expect to hold next year's meeting the week of March 23rd, 2015. Consider joining us at Stanford next year to learn more about us, to teach us about how these approaches and tools can be more helpful to you, and to continue the conversation about how we can together mainstream ecosystem services into decision-making.



Recent Press and Publications

[Feeding 9 Billion: A five step plan to feed the world](#)

National Geographic Magazine April 2014

by Jon Foley. Photographs by George Steinmetz and Jim Richardson.

[Stanford researchers rethink 'natural' habitat for wildlife](#)

Stanford News April 16, 2014
by Rob Jordan

[Networking Nature: How Technology Is Transforming Conservation](#)
Foreign Affairs March/April 2014
by Jon Hoekstra

[A Leading Analyst of Global Food Solutions Gets a Deserved Honor](#)
The New York Times Dot Earth Blog February 25, 2014
by Andrew C. Revkin

[Mapping Nature's Value: How do Belize's coastal ecosystems touch human lives?](#)
World Wildlife Magazine Spring 2014

[Predicting biodiversity change and averting collapse in agricultural landscapes](#)
Mendenhall, Chase D.; Daniel S. Karp; Christoph F. J. Meyer; Elizabeth A. Hadly;
Gretchen C. Daily
Nature. April 2014. doi:10.1038/nature13139

[The optimal management of renewable resources under the risk of potential regime shift](#)
Ren, Bijie; Stephen Polasky
Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control. March 2014, Vol. 40, pp 195-212.

[Ecosystem Services and River Basin Management](#)
Brauman, K. A.; S. Meulen; J. Brils
*In J. Brils, W. Brack, D. Müller-Grabherr, P. Négrel and J. E. Vermaat (Eds.)
Risk-Informed Management of European River Basins. Springer Berlin Heidelberg
(2014), pp 265-294.*

[Coastal Capital: Ecosystem Valuation for Decision Making in the Caribbean](#)
Waite, Richard; Laretta Burke; Erin Gray; Pieter van Beukering; Luke Brander; Emily
McKenzie; Linwood Pendleton; Peter Schuhmann; Emma Tompkins
Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. February 2014.

A full list of [news stories](#) and [publications](#) are available on our website. Access to full articles may require library access.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Natural Capital Project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at invest@naturalcapitalproject.org.

