

About Us

The Natural Capital Project (NatCap) is a partnership among Stanford University, The Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund, and the University of Minnesota that works to develop and provide practical ecosystem service approaches and tools, apply them in select areas around the world, and engage influential leaders to advance change in policy and practice through mainstreaming the approaches.

InVEST



Integrated Valuation of Environmental Services and Tradeoffs ([InVEST](#)) is a free and open-source software suite developed by the Natural Capital Project. It maps and values the goods and services from nature that contribute to sustaining and fulfilling human well being.

[Sign up](#) to receive the

NatCap & InVEST Trainings

Greetings!

NatCap offers several trainings throughout the year that cover our approach and tools for ecosystem service valuation. We recently completed trainings in Europe, Latin America, and Asia, and will be holding our Annual Meeting & InVEST training at Stanford in March - we hope that you can make it!

The training will cover our approach to incorporating ecosystem services into decisions that affect Earth's natural resources and how to use the Integrated Valuation of Environmental Services and Tradeoffs (InVEST) software suite to estimate the true value of the goods and services provided by nature in a spatially explicit manner. We hope that this event will enable us to train a growing user community and will provide a platform for people from all over the world to exchange stories about how an ecosystem services approach and tools are being used to quantify and value ecosystem services.

NatCap Annual Meeting & Training

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
March 13-15, 2013

The Natural Capital Project will hold our 2nd annual meeting & training at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California from March 13th-15th, 2013. The meeting will provide an opportunity for InVEST users and others interested in ecosystem services mapping and valuation to learn more about the science and practice of using ecosystem services approaches and tools in real-world decision contexts. Attendees will gain hands-on experience using our tools and approach, and network and share stories about their work. The training will cover how to use our Integrated Valuation of Environmental Services and Tradeoffs (InVEST) software suite, from data inputs to processing outputs. It will also include presentations on how our tools and approaches are being used around the world.

Over 100 people participated in our inaugural annual meeting and InVEST training last year, and we anticipate an even greater turnout in 2013. There is a small fee to attend the training, with discounts available to our partner institutions, and scholarships available for those in need of financial assistance.

If you are interested in attending the NatCap Annual Meeting & InVEST Training, [registration is now open](#) and [more information](#) is available on our website.

Recent NatCap & InVEST Trainings



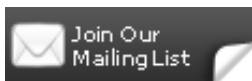
latest information on InVEST and participate in our online user community.

InVEST Trainings

Stanford - Annual Meeting & Training Week of March 11th
[More information](#)
[Register](#)

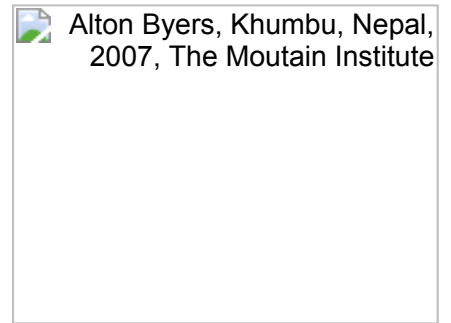
[Sign up to receive more information about our upcoming trainings.](#)

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PORTUGAL, MEXICO, BHUTAN, & NEPAL

NatCap is conducting an InVEST training and workshop in Nepal this week, hosted by the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics ([SANDEE](#)). The workshop is focusing on the impact of land-use land-cover changes in watersheds of the Himalayas and integrating ecosystem service values into management plans for conservation, particularly payment for ecosystem service (PES) programs. The workshop was organized by Steve Polasky at the University of Minnesota's Institute for the Environment ([IonE](#)), and is led by Dr. Nirmal Bhagabati, conservation scientist at [WWF-US](#). Dr. Bhagabati also organized and led a training and workshop in Bhutan last week for government officials, scientists, and environmentalists, in which they explored how InVEST can be used to support sustainable land-use planning initiatives and promote green economies in Southeast Asia. Hosted by [WWF-Bhutan](#), the workshop also provided an opportunity for NatCap to collaborate with stakeholders and glaciologists to help us incorporate glacial melt into InVEST's hydrology models.



We also recently held trainings in Belize, Mexico City, Portugal, and Quito, Ecuador:

- The [Instituto Superior Tecnico](#) generously hosted the Lisbon training, which was part of a short university course entitled "Evaluating ecosystem services for decision-making." The course taught ecosystem services assessment, modeling, and valuation methods, and included hands-on training in InVEST as well as introductions to other innovative software tools used to model and map ecosystem services.
- The Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas ([CONANP](#)) hosted NatCap for an InVEST training in Mexico City that emphasized the valuation of ecosystem services relating to freshwater issues and coastal protection.
- In [Belize](#), we included an InVEST training into a workshop hosted by our partners the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute ([CZMAI](#)) on climate adaptation and coastal zone management planning for colleagues from throughout the Caribbean.
- The last week of November, NatCap held a workshop and training in Quito, Ecuador for the [Latin American Water Funds Partnership](#), in order to provide feedback on our upcoming Resource Investment Optimization System (RIOS) water funds software tool.

Upcoming NatCap Trainings

AROUND THE WORLD

Next year the Natural Capital Project is planning to offer large trainings on our approach and tools to be held in the United States, Europe, Latin America, and Asia, as well as a number of other smaller InVEST trainings around the world. Exact locations and dates have not been set yet, but likely candidates for NatCap trainings include London, Washington DC, New England, Cambodia, Vancouver Island, and Gabon. Visit our [website](#) or [sign up](#) to receive more information about future trainings as it becomes available.



Recent Publications

[Ecosystem services research in Latin America: The state of the art](#)

Patricia Balvanera, María Uriarte, Lucía Almeida-Leñero, Alice Altesor, Fabrice DeClerck, Toby Gardner, Jefferson Hall, Antonio Lara, Pedro Laterra, Marielos Peña-Claros, Dalva M. Silva Matos, Luz Piedad Romero-Duque, Adrian L. Vogl, Luis Felipe Arreola, Ángela Piedad Caro-Borrero, Federico Gallego, Meha Jain, Christian Little, Rafael de Oliveira Xavier, José M. Paruelo, Jesús Emilio Peinado, Lourens Poorter, Nataly Ascarrunz, Francisco Correa, Marcela B. Cunha-Santino, Amabel Paula Hernández-Sánchez, María Vallejos

Ecosystem Services. In Press - Available Online November 6, 2012

[More than a meal... integrating non-feeding interactions into food webs](#)

Sonia Kefi Eric L. Berlow, Evie A. Wieters, Sergio A. Navarrete, Owen L. Petchey, Spencer A. Wood, Alice Boit, Lucas N. Joppa, Kevin D. Lafferty, Richard J. Williams, Neo D. Martinez, Bruce A. Menge, Carol A. Blanchette, Alison C. Iles, and Ulrich Brose¹

Ecology Letters, (2012) 15: 291-300

[Health, poverty, and place in Accra, Ghana: mapping neighborhoods](#)

Gregory M. Verutes, Magdalena B. Fiocco, John R. Weeks & Lloyd L. Coulter

Journal of Maps, November 2012

[A Global System for Monitoring Ecosystem Service Change](#)

Heather Tallis, Hal Mooney, Sandy Andelman, Patricia Balvanera, Wolfgang Cramer, Danny Karp, Stephen Polasky, Belinda Reyers, Taylor Ricketts, Steve Running, Kirsten Thonicke, Britta Tietjen, and Ariane Walz

BioScience, 16 November 2012

[The Role of Eelgrass in Marine Community Interactions and Ecosystem Services: Results from Ecosystem-Scale Food Web Models](#)

Mark L. Plummer, Chris J. Harvey, Leif E. Anderson, Anne D. Guerry and Mary H. Ruckelshaus

Ecosystems, 7 November 2012

[Catching the Right Wave: Evaluating Wave Energy Resources and Potential Compatibility with Existing Marine and Coastal Uses](#)

Choong-Ki Kim, Jodie E. Toft, Michael Papenfus, Gregory Verutes, Anne D. Guerry, Marry H. Ruckelshaus, Katie K. Arkema, Gregory Guannel, Spencer A. Wood, Joanna R. Bernhardt, Heather Tallis, Mark L. Plummer, Benjamin S. Halpern, Malin L. Pinsky, Michael W. Beck, Francis Chan, Kai M. A. Chan, Phil S. Levin, Stephen Polasky

PLoS ONE 7(11), 2012

[Linking water quality and well-being for improved assessment and valuation of ecosystem services](#)

Bonnie L. Keeler, Stephen Polasky, Kate A. Brauman, Kris A. Johnson, Jacques C. Finlay, Ann O'Neill, Kent Kovacs, and Brent Dalzell

PNAS November 6, 2012 vol. 109 no. 45 18619-18624

[Pest control experiments show benefits of complexity at landscape and local scales](#)

Rebecca Chaplin-Kramer and Claire Kremen

Ecological Applications, October 2012, Volume 22, Issue 7, 1936-1948

*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.



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