

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

InVEST

Integrated valuation of
environmental services
and tradeoffs

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. Version 2.4.5 was released on January 31, 2013 and contains both ArcGIS dependent and standalone tools. Check out [our website](#) to see which models are available in which platform.

Coastal and Ocean Planning in BC

Greetings!

The Natural Capital Project (NatCap) is working with communities in British Columbia to devise a plan so they can continue to reap multiple benefits from their treasured marine environment. Our partner is the [West Coast Aquatic Management Board \(WCA\)](#), a public-private partnership among government agencies, First Nations, recreational wildlife viewing and aquaculture businesses and other local stakeholders, to support their creation of marine plans for the West Coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada. NatCap is collaborating with WCA to iteratively map and analyze a broad range of services and explore how they are likely to change under different management schemes. The collaborative process of coastal and marine spatial planning on the west coast of Vancouver Island illustrates how NatCap's approach and tools can be used to shape dialogue around shared goals, inform decisions in marine contexts, and engage multiple voices at the decision-making table.

West Coast Vancouver Island, BC

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO COASTAL AND MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

NatCap is collaborating with the West Coast Aquatic Management Board (WCA), to model, map and value ecosystem services in Barkley and Clayoquot Sounds on the West Coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia. To inform marine planning in the region, we are using our ecosystem service accounting tools to explore how alternative management scenarios will affect shared goals articulated by WCA after extensive stakeholder engagement. WCA is working to balance commercial interests (e.g., shipping, mining, logging and aquaculture), tourism and recreation sectors, investments in renewable energy generation, and a cultural desire to sustain the tranquil beauty and quality of life on the west coast of Vancouver Island.



Together with our partners we have produced maps of current and future ecosystem service provision they can use to stimulate discussion about how to balance certain uses and activities without losing benefits. We have published a [peer-reviewed paper](#) presenting new applications of InVEST for marine environments which features our work in Lemmens Inlet on Vancouver Island, BC. Our approach and tools have supported an open planning dialogue among government, coastal communities, First Nations, private entities, and business interests on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, and has informed a coastal and marine spatial planning process that is scientifically based and participatory—and thus has broad support within the community. This project is increasingly being looked to as a model for other marine planning processes in BC and beyond. As this engagement draws to a close, WCA has the capacity to run all relevant InVEST models and can now use them to inform future iterations of marine plans at local and regional scales.

We have now developed and applied several [new InVEST models](#) for broader use in marine environments including: [Food from Fisheries and Aquaculture](#), [Coastal Protection](#), [Renewable Energy](#), [Aesthetic Quality](#), Recreation, "Blue" Carbon Storage and Sequestration, [Marine Water Quality](#), and [Habitat Risk Assessment](#). Most of these models are currently available for download as part of InVEST, but a few are operational but not available on-line yet.

[Sign up](#) to receive the latest information on InVEST and participate in our online user community.

InVEST Trainings

Stanford - Annual Meeting & Training
March 13-15

[More information](#)
[Register](#)

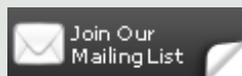
Vermont - NatCap & InVEST Training

June 12-14

[More information](#)
[Register](#)

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

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Scaling Up: Teaching Marine Spatial Planners Our Tools & Approach

VANCOUVER InVEST TRAINING



NatCap held a workshop in Vancouver, BC, on February 4-6, to teach participants how to use the InVEST software and ways to apply approaches and tools for ecosystem service valuation in decision-making. The workshop focused heavily on coastal and marine spatial planning, our work on the west coast of Vancouver Island, and the needs of the newly formed [Marine Planning Partnership](#), a larger-scale effort to develop marine plans for the entire coast of BC. This workshop brought together planners and technical specialists who sought hands-on training using an ecosystem services approach and InVEST in a marine context. Topics included data preparation, InVEST modeling, and the interpretation and presentation of model results. Our goal was for attendees to walk away with the knowledge and confidence to apply the tools and approach in their own work.

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. We expect over 150 people this year, and there are still a few spots left, so if you would like to join us, [sign up today](#).

Recent Publications

[Securing ocean benefits for society in the face of climate change](#)

M. Ruckelshaus, S.C. Doney, H.M. Galindo, J.P. Barry, F. Chan, J.E. Duffy, C.A. English, S.D. Gaines, J.M. Grebmeier, A.B. Hollowed, N. Knowlton, J. Polovina, N.N. Rabalais, W.J. Sydeman, L.D. Talley
Marine Policy 40 (2013), pp. 154-159.

[Ecosystem Services](#)

In: Encyclopedia of Biodiversity (Second Edition)
Heather Tallis, Anne Guerry, Gretchen C. Daily
Academic Press, Waltham, 2013, pp. Pages 96-104.

[Modeling Marine Ecosystem Services](#)

In: Encyclopedia of Biodiversity (Second Edition)
Anne D. Guerry, Mary H. Ruckelshaus, Mark L. Plummer, Dan Holland
Academic Press, Waltham, 2013, Volume 5, pp. 329-346.

[Modeling Terrestrial Ecosystem Services](#)

In: Encyclopedia of Biodiversity (Second Edition)
Erik Nelson, Nirmal Bhagabati, Driss Ennaanay, Eric Lonsdorf, Derric Pennington, Manu Sharma
Academic Press, Waltham, 2013, Pages 347-361.

[Characterizing coastal foodwebs with qualitative links to bridge the gap between the theory and the practice of ecosystem-based management](#)

Michael P. Carey, Phillip S. Levin, Howard Townsend, Thomas J. Minello, Glen R.

Sutton, Tessa B. Francis, Chris J. Harvey, Jodie E. Toft, Katie K. Arkema, Jennifer L. Burke, Choong-Ki Kim, Anne D. Guerry, Mark Plummer, Georgi Spiridonov, and Mary Ruckelshaus

ICES Journal of Marine Science (2013) doi: 10.1093/icesjms/fst012

[Recent patterns of crop yield growth and stagnation](#)

Deepak K. Ray, Navin Ramankutty, Nathaniel D. Mueller, Paul C. West & Jonathan A. Foley

Nature Communications 3, Article number: 1293, December 18, 2012

[Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity, Ecosystems, and Ecosystem Services](#)

Michelle D. Staudinger, Nancy B. Grimm, Amanda Staudt, Shawn L. Carter, F. Stuart Chapin III, Peter Kareiva, Mary Ruckelshaus, Bruce A. Stein.

Cooperative Report to the 2013 National Climate Assessment (2012). 296 p.

[Investing in Natural Capital](#)

Gretchen Daily, Heather Tallis and Anne Guerry

In: J. Murray, G. Cawthorne, C. Dey and C. Andrew, C. (Eds). *Enough For All Forever* Common Ground Publishing LLC, Champaign, Illinois (2012). pp. 105-119

[Ecosystem Services](#)

Fio Micheli and Anne Guerry

In: A. Hastings and L. Gross, eds. *Encyclopedia of Theoretical Ecology* University of California Press (2012). pp 235-241.

[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, Mary H. Ruckelshaus

Ecosystems. November, 2012

[Decision scaling: Linking bottom-up vulnerability analysis with climate projections in the water sector](#)

Casey Brown, Yonas Ghile, Mikaela Laverty, Ke Li

Water Resources Research: Volume 48, Issue 9, September 2012

*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.

