

InVEST



InVEST is a free and open-source software suite developed by the Natural Capital Project. Version 2.5.4 was released on June 7, 2013. [Click here](#) to download the latest version.

For help using InVEST, check out [NatCap Forums](#), our growing online user community.

InVEST Trainings

Bali - InVEST and Sub-Global Assessment (SGA) Network Training Workshop
Aug. 30 - Sep. 1st
[More information](#)
[Register](#)

UK- InVEST Training
October 14-18
Wallingford, England
[More information](#)
[Register](#)

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

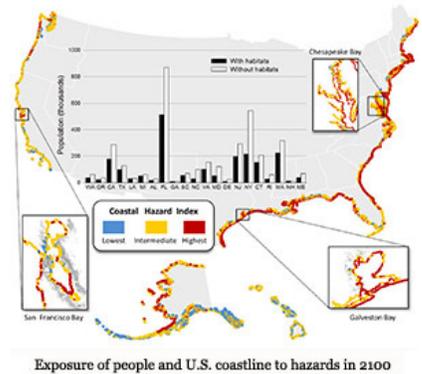
Upcoming Events

Investing in Nature
San Francisco, CA
August 15th
Using the power of open-source software to transform how leaders around the world include the value of natural capital in decisions.

Coastal Habitats Shield People and Property from Sea-level Rise & Storms

Greetings!

Natural habitats such as dunes and reefs are critical to protecting millions of U.S. residents and billions of dollars in property from coastal storms, according to a new NatCap study published online this month in the journal *Nature Climate Change*. The study, [Coastal habitats shield people and property from sea-level rise and storms](#), offers the first comprehensive [map](#) of the entire U.S. coastline that shows where and how much protection communities get from natural habitats such as sand dunes, coral reefs, sea grasses and mangroves.



Mother Nature's Defense against Coastal Storms

A NEW PAPER IN NATURE CLIMATE CHANGE

In our changing climate, extreme weather, sea-level rise, and degraded coastal ecosystems are placing people and property at greater risk of damage from coastal hazards. The likelihood and magnitude of losses can be reduced by intact ecosystems near vulnerable coastal communities.



"The natural environment plays a key role in protecting our nation's coasts," said study lead author Katie Arkema, a marine ecologist with NatCap. "If we lose these defenses, we will either need massive investments in engineered defenses or risk greater damage to millions of people and billions in property."

With the release of the Obama administration's [Climate Action Plan](#) on June 25, there is renewed interest in coastal resilience and climate adaptation planning, as well as in finding natural ways to protect America's coastline. Billions of dollars will soon be spent on restoration activities in the Gulf of Mexico and the Eastern Seaboard affected by Hurricane Sandy. Investors and policy leaders can make decisions now to factor natural capital into decisions that could have long-term benefits.

"As a nation, we should be investing in nature to protect our coastal communities," said Mary Ruckelshaus, managing director of the Natural Capital Project and Stanford consulting professor. "According to our analysis, the number of people, poor families, elderly and total value of residential property that are most exposed to hazards can be reduced by half if existing coastal habitats remain fully intact."

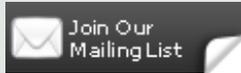
At a moment when many coastal planners are considering their options for dealing with the impacts of sea level rise, [the study](#) provides both a national and a localized look at coastal areas where restoration and conservation of natural habitats could make the biggest difference.

[More information](#)
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"Hardening our shorelines with sea walls and other costly engineering shouldn't be the default solution," said Peter Kareiva, chief scientist at The Nature Conservancy and co-author of the study. "This study helps us identify those places and opportunities we have to keep nature protecting our coastal communities - and giving us all the other benefits it can provide, such as recreation, fish nurseries, water filtration and erosion control."

For a detailed view of how habitats protect the US coastline, check out our [interactive coastal hazards map](#), which will allow you to zoom in to any section of the coast and see how the risk to coastal populations changes when protection provided by coastal habitat is lost.

Integrated Spatial Modeling of Ecosystem Services

A NATURAL CAPITAL TRAINING IN THE UK

If you are in Europe (or would like to be) and have ever been interested in learning more about NatCap's approaches and tools for ecosystem service modeling and valuation, this is your chance. NatCap has partnered with the [NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology \(CEH\)](#) to bring our training to the UK, kindly sponsored by the [NERC BESS programme directorate](#). The course will be held in Wallingford, Oxfordshire the week of October 14th. The training will start with a one-day 'Introduction to InVEST' workshop for researchers, practitioners, and managers, who wish to gain a basic working knowledge of ecosystem service approaches and tools including NatCap's InVEST software suite. People seeking an in-depth understanding of the InVEST models are encouraged to stay for an intensive training course that will run through October 18th. [Click here](#) for more information on the course, and registration.

Recent Press and Publications

[Coastal habitats shield people and property from sea-level rise and storms](#)

Katie K. Arkema, Greg Guannel, Gregory Verutes, Spencer A. Wood, Anne Guerry, Mary Ruckelshaus, Peter Kareiva, Martin Lacayo, Jessica M. Silver
Nature Climate Change, online publication date: July 14th, 2013

[Dunes, reefs protect U.S. coasts from climate change](#)

USA TODAY - July 14, 2013 - by Wendy Koch

[An Eco-Friendly Solution to Coastal Hazards](#)

TIME - July 15, 2013 - by Eliana Dockterman

[New Map Shows Where Nature Protects US Coast](#)

National Geographic - July 14, 2013 - by Brian Handwek

[Natural defenses can sharply limit coastal damage](#)

NATURE News - July 14, 2013 - by Virginia Gewin

[New Study: Coastal Nature Reduces Risk for Storm Impacts for 1.3 Million US Residents](#)

TNC Cool Green Science - July 15, 2013 - by Evan Lehmann

[Mapping the Margin: Comparing Marginal Values of Tropical Forest Remnants for Pollination Services](#)

Taylor H. Ricketts, and Eric V. Lonsdorf
Ecological Applications, 23(5), 2013, pp. 1113-1123

[Yield Trends Are Insufficient to Double Global Crop Production by 2050](#)

Deepak K. Ray, Nathaniel D. Mueller, Paul C. West, and Jonathan A. Foley
PLoS ONE 8(6): e66428

[Managing Wild Resources: Institutional Choice and the Recovery of Resource](#)

[Rent in Southwest China](#)

Robinson BE, Provencher B, Lewis DJ

World Development 48:120-132

A full list of [news stories](#) and [publications](#) 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.

