Registration for the Natural Capital Symposium is now open! The event will take place from March 23-25 on Stanford Campus.

There will be multiple tracks during our three-day event, focusing on our approach, our science and tools, and the challenges ecosystem services practitioners face in engaging with decision-makers, stakeholders, and the public at large.

**Calls for Proposals**

**Deadlines**

*Poster Session: check appropriate box during registration and submit poster proposal by February 28, 2015*

**Sessions, Panels, Talks, and Exchange Workshops:** proposals must be submitted by January 15, 2015

*Proposals will be considered on a rolling basis, and spots are limited, so participants are encouraged to submit abstracts as soon as they are ready, before the deadline.*

**Poster Session**

All attendees are invited to submit proposals for posters for the Natural Capital Symposium’s open poster session. Posters are limited to 48” x 48” in size. Wide-ranging topics in natural capital and ecosystem services are welcomed. Select posters will also be chosen for Poster Review sessions held in the Symposium’s Learning

**NatCappers Get The Word Out In Nature**

**BIG RESPONSES FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

The recent *Nature* commentary by Heather Tallis and 239 other signatories - including more than a dozen Nat Cappers - took a big step toward mainstreaming the ideas that drive the Natural Capital Project's approach. By linking vehement pockets of resistance to the nature-for-people approach to a dearth of diverse voices in conservation, the essay generated widespread attention.

Calling it "an extraordinary letter" *The Guardian* neatly articulates a question central to Nat Cap's work: "Why should people care about nature?"

An engaging article in ClimateWire, re-published on Scientific American's website, promotes the idea that focusing on nature's value to humans represents a "New Conservation" movement, and recounts several case studies underway, including Tallis' efforts to correlate students' standardized test scores with the presence of nature, using satellite data.

The Nature Conservancy's Cool Green Science blog highlights one of NatCap's three pillars, or pursuits: "We also need to focus more on building the evidence base for conservation," Tallis says, "so we can move away from these abstract debates toward knowledge of what really solves problems and creates change on the ground."

The letters' messages were also picked up and reiterated on various college campuses, from the Indiana Daily Student, to Washington State University to the University of California, Santa Cruz newsletter, which summarizes the main points: to raise "the voices of women and men from around the world in support of a unified and diverse conservation ethic that recognizes and accepts all values of nature from intrinsic to instrumental."

Since the essay came out, Tallis has been inundated with emails from people she's never met, thanking her for writing. "The reactions that I've gotten directly have been really positive," Tallis says. She next envisions creating a forum at http://diverseconservation.org where people from around the world could submit self-made videos about why nature and conservation are important to them. "So we can get faces from Indonesia, faces from Argentina, faces from Pakistan--so that we can give more people access [to the conversation]."

A thoughtful interview with co-author Jane Lubchenco posted to Yale
Environmental Solutions: Informing Coastal Zone Management in Belize

A WIN-WIN FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Natural Capital Project was featured earlier this month at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment's 10th anniversary symposium as a model of "next generation environmental solutions." NatCap Managing Director Mary Ruckelshaus was joined by Belize Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI) Director Chantalle Clarke-Samuels and others in a roundtable discussion to talk about their collaboration with CZMAI to inform coastal zone management in Belize.

We began our work with CZMAI and the World Wildlife Fund in Belize in 2010, with the aim of creating an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZMP) to help guide future coastal zoning and permitting along the Belizean coast. Natural habitats such as mangroves and coral reefs along the Belizean coast. Natural habitats such as mangroves and coral reefs
If you are interested in participating in a panel discussion or presenting your work, please email a short (<1 page) abstract of your proposed contribution to training@naturalcapitalproject.org with Pathways to Impact and the decision context in the subject line by January 15, 2015.

Learning Exchange
The Learning Exchange will offer a variety of opportunities to work in small focus groups with NatCappers as well as practitioners from other organizations, including model-specific small-group workshops, poster sessions, focused discussion groups, panel discussions, and more. This will be a great opportunity to seek out new collaborations with NatCap and many other organizations and individuals who will also be in attendance. During the Learning Exchange, there will be many opportunities to discuss your work with NatCappers, as well as representatives from many of our partner organizations. Sign-up sheets will be available during registration to participate in "sandbox sessions" during which participants will be able to do hands-on work with specific models and their own questions with NatCap researchers, analysts, and software engineers. We are also looking for technical workshops on other software modeling tools. If you have a proposal for a Learning Exchange proposal, please email a <1 page abstract to training@naturalcapitalproject.org before January 15, 2015.

Register today!

Software Tools

InVEST
Integrated valuation of environmental services and tradeoffs

InVEST is a free and open-source software suite developed by the Natural Capital Project. InVEST 3.10 was released on November 20, 2014.

RIOS
A software tool that helps design cost-effective investments

A new study from NatCap, CZMAI, and WWF, resulting from our work in Belize, was published in the journal Environmental Research Letters on November 18th. The study shares new science and software that were developed to calculate risk of habitat degradation in marine and coastal ecosystems, and were used to design Belize’s first national ICZMP. Results from the study suggest that the plan will reduce the area of marine habitat at high risk from damaging activities by 20%, while tripling the area available for coastal development, doubling space for marine aquaculture, and reducing controversial oil exploration and dredging. NatCap’s Habitat Risk Assessment Model was used during the process and is available in our InVEST software. It is free and open source and can be used by coastal planners anywhere to help inform marine and coastal management.

Please CLICK HERE to learn more about the study!

Free Online Course From Stockholm Resilience Centre Open Now!
"PLANETARY BOUNDARIES AND HUMAN OPPORTUNITIES"

Our good friends at the Stockholm Resilience Centre have partnered with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network to launch a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). The course, "Planetary Boundaries and Human Opportunities: The Quest for Safe and Just Development on a Resilient Planet," explores a number of sustainability concepts including the Anthropocene, the social-ecological systems approach, and resilience thinking.

The course runs from November 17, 2014 to January 12, 2015. New course materials will be released each Monday and will remain available for the duration of the course. Please CLICK HERE to learn more about the course and to enroll today!

Recently, we launched our first MOOC NCP-101: An Introduction to the Natural Capital Approach, and we are proud to say that we have almost 1500 enrollees, representing a total of 116 countries. This self-guided course, which is divided into four modules and takes about 4 hours to complete, introduces concepts of the natural capital approach with real world examples from our work in Belize and Colombia, highlighting key methods and tools used during implementation. Our course also provides an in-depth introduction to our InVEST software and offers insight on how to effectively summarize model outputs and communicate those outputs to decision-makers and stakeholders.

To register for NCP-101: An Introduction to the Natural Capital Approach, visit ncp101.class.stanford.edu.
For help using InVEST and RIOS, visit the NatCap Forums, our online user community.

Newsletter Archive
Check out NatCap’s previous newsletters in our Newsletter Archive.

Recent Press and Publications

Assessing habitat risk from human activities to inform coastal and marine spatial planning: a demonstration in Belize article
Arkema, Katie K.; Gregory Verutes; Joanna R. Bernhardt; Chantalle Clarke; Samir Rosado; Maritza Canto; Spencer A. Wood; Mary Ruckelshaus; Amy Rosenthal; Melanie McField; Joann de Zegher, Environmental Research Letters. November 18, 2014, Vol. 9(11), 114016. doi:10.1088/1748-9326/9/11/114016

Risk and Results in Belize
WWF Science Driven Blog, November 19, 2014, by Katie Arkema & Amy Rosenthal

Working together: A call for inclusive conservation

Celebrating 10 years of environmental solutions at Stanford

Open letter to Nature calls out polarized debate in conservation
Indiana Student Daily, November 9, 2014

Leading Conservationists call for a “unified and diverse conservation ethic”
UC Stanta Cruz NewsCenter, November 5, 2014, by Tim Stephens

Sensitivity analysis of a sediment dynamics model applied in a Mediterranean river basin: Global Change and management implications

Exploring Scenarios of light pollution from coastal development reaching sea turtle nesting beaches near Cabo Pulmo, Mexico

Private Incentives for the emergence of co-production of offshore wind energy and mussel aquaculture

Process matters: a framework for conducting decision-relevant assessments of ecosystem services
Rosenthal, Amy; Gregory Verutes; Emily McKenzie; Katie K. Arkema; Nimal Bhagabati; Leah L. Bremer; Nassar Olero; Adriane L. Vogl. International Journal of Biodiversity Science, Ecosystem Services & Management. Published online November 5, 2014. doi:10.1080/21513732.2014.966149

Why Conservation Should Embrace a Diversity of People & Values
Cool Green Science, November 5, 2014, by Heather Tallis

Pandas and agricultural best practices at IonE

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 interested in the Natural Capital Project. Please feel
free to contact us at invest@naturalcapitalproject.org. For comments or questions about the newsletter, please contact Stacey Solie at slsolie@stanford.edu.