

TOOL TYPE & AVAILABILITY

Ecosystem services assessment, valuation and mapping tool available online for download.

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION & DEVELOPERS

InVEST was developed by the [Natural Capital Project](#) (NatCap), a partnership between [Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment](#), [The Nature Conservancy](#), [World Wildlife Fund](#), and [Institute on the Environment–University of Minnesota](#).

WEBSITE & CONTACT INFORMATION

The tool is available at <http://www.naturalcapitalproject.org/InVEST.html>; for additional information, email invest@naturalcapitalproject.org

TARGET USERS

Governments, companies, non-profits, and multilateral development institutions that manage natural resources

RELEASE YEAR & UPDATES

The tool was released in 2008, and the most recent version, InVEST 3.2.0, was released on June 1, 2015.

COST

No cost.

Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs (InVEST)

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

- InVEST was designed to provide users with a tool to evaluate the ecosystem services provided by various scenarios, to reduce risk and increase opportunities to maximize those benefits.
- In addition to various tools to facilitate the analysis (such as scenario generation and overlap analysis), InVEST includes 17 models to analyze services in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems, including [Blue Carbon](#); [Coastal Protection](#); [Coastal Vulnerability](#); [Crop Pollination](#); [Habitat Quality](#); [Managed Timber Production](#); [Marine Fish Aquaculture](#); [Marine Water Quality](#); [Offshore Wind Energy](#); [Recreation](#); [Scenic Quality](#); [Sediment Retention](#); [Water Purification](#); and [Wave Energy](#).

SOFTWARE AND DATA INPUT REQUIRED

- InVEST models can be run independently, or as script tools in the ArcGIS ArcToolBox environment. GIS mapping software is required to view results.
- Each model requires specific data inputs (see “Data Needs” in the [InVEST User’s Guide](#)). It is also useful to consult local experts and peer-reviewed publications to gather required data inputs.

INFORMATION GENERATED

- Each InVEST model provides different data outputs. For example, Habitat Risk Assessment evaluates anthropogenic risk factors to marine and terrestrial environment, whereas Marine Fish Aquaculture provides an estimate of harvest weight of farmed salmon and the value.

EXPERTISE & TIME INVESTMENT REQUIRED

- Basic to intermediate skills in GIS.
- Varies by scope and scale of project.

EXAMPLES OF COMPANY USERS

- Case studies available at: http://www.naturalcapitalproject.org/pubs/Natural_Capital_Use_Case_Briefs.pdf.
 - The Stanford team at NatCap has been working with Unilever, innovating using the models in the InVEST platform to address global supply chain questions.
 - The Coca-Cola Company, alongside The World Wildlife Fund and University of Minnesota NatCap team, is conducting ecosystem service assessments that build off the InVEST models to inform decisions about best management practices for corn production.

