Introduction to the Natural Capital Project Approach, InVEST, & RIOS

2 – 5 July, 2015
University of Geneva – Geneva, Switzerland
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Venue: Uni Carl Vogt, 66 Bd Carl Vogt, CH-1205 Geneva

Description:
This 3 ½ day training will include an overview of ecosystem services approaches, followed by two days of technical training on two of the Natural Capital Project's software tools, InVEST and RIOS. This course is organized jointly by the Natural Capital Project (NatCap) and the Institute for Environmental Science, University of Geneva.

Workshop Goals

1. Introduce participants to the InVEST ecosystem service mapping and valuation tool, including how it works and its capabilities and limitations. After the training, participants will have basic familiarity with InVEST, including how to run select models, troubleshoot, and interpret and communicate results.

2. Introduce participants to the RIOS (Resource Investment Optimization System) tool for supporting the design of cost-effective investments in watershed services.

3. Provide hands-on exercises during days 2 and 3, in which participants will practice applying the Natural Capital Approach via case studies on RIOS and several InVEST models. The models that this course will focus on are: Sediment Retention, Nutrient Retention, Water Yield, and Crop Pollination.

DRAFT Agenda

Thursday, July 2nd

Day #1 – Introduction to Ecosystem Services

09:00-09:30	Welcome, goals, and expectations
09:30-10:00	Introduction to ecosystem services and their local importance
10:00-10:30	Introduction to the Natural Capital Project and its approach
10:30-11:00	Group discussion
11:00-11:15	Refreshment break
11:15-12:15	Keynote talks
12:15-12:30	Q&A
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:30	Icebreaker game: Tradeoff! Agriculture Edition
14:30-15:00	Short introduction to RIOS and InVEST (non-technical)
15:00-15:15	Refreshment break
15:15-15:45	Scoping your project: the first step of an ecosystem service assessment
15:45-16:15	Stakeholder engagement, data collection, and developing scenarios

16:15-16:45	Synthesizing and communicating results
16:45-17:15	Q&A and Discussion
17:15-17:30	Closing remarks and feedback surveys

Friday, July 3rd

Day #2 – InVEST/RIOS Technical Training

09:00-09:15	Welcome and Technical Training Overview
09:15-10:15	InVEST Model Firehose Introductions
	1) Water Yield
	2) Nutrient and Sediment Retention
	3) Carbon Storage & Sequestration
	4) Crop Pollination
10:15-10:45	Uncertainty in InVEST
10:45-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-12:30	Hands-on: InVEST Water Yield, Sediment Retention, and Nutrient Retention models
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:00	Introduction to RIOS
14:00-15:00	Hands-on: Using RIOS to generate scenarios
15:00-15:15	Refreshment break
15:15-16:30	Hands-on: RIOS continued
16:30-17:00	Report back and discussion of hands-on exercise
17:00-17:30	Getting the word out: Synthesizing and communicating results
17:30	Close

Saturday, July 4th

Day #3 – InVEST/RIOS Technical Training

09:00-09:15	Day Two Recap
09:15-10:30	Hands-on: Using InVEST models to evaluate the impacts of RIOS portfolios
10:30-11:00	Report back and discussion of hands-on exercise
11:00-11:15	Refreshment Break
11:15-12:30	In-Depth: Data Processing for InVEST
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	In-Depth: InVEST (one model chosen based on pre-course surveys)
15:00-15:15	Refreshment break
15:15-16:45	In-Depth: InVEST (one model chosen based on Day Two feedback)
16:45-17:15	Q&A and Discussion
17:15-17:30	Closing remarks and feedback surveys