

Co\$ting Nature



Quick Facts

Inputs

Global data (GIS, remote sensing) is provided by the tool. Users can also provide their own datasets

Outputs

Summary raster maps that represent aggregated ecosystem service indices

Scale

Local, regional, national, global and multi scale

Context

A range of land uses

Cost

Open access for non-commercial use

Software required

The web (Firefox works best)

Skills Required

Basic internet use skills

Developer

Kings College London, AmbioTEK and United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

Description

Co\$ting Nature is a web based policy-support tool for natural capital accounting and analysis of ecosystem services provided by natural environments. It identifies the beneficiaries of these ecosystem services and assesses the impacts of human interventions.

Ecosystem services included

Four ecosystem services across provisioning, regulating and cultural categories.

Habitats

Semi-natural grasslands, woodland, enclosed farmland, freshwater, wetlands and floodplains, mountains, moors and heaths, and urban.

How does it work?

It incorporates global datasets, spatial models for biophysical and socioeconomic processes and scenarios for climate and land use. It calculates the ecosystem service baseline and allows interventions to understand the impact on ecosystem service delivery. The focus is on costing nature (i.e. understanding the resource - land area and opportunity cost of protecting nature to produce ecosystem services) as opposed to valuing nature (i.e. how much someone is willing to pay for it). It calculates the distribution of ecosystem services for water, carbon, hazard mitigation and tourism and combines these with maps of conservation priority, threatened biodiversity and endemism to understand the spatial distribution of critical ecosystems. These data are combined with threats to determine conservation priorities.

Case studies in the UK

The tool has been used to examine biodiversity, ecosystem services, pressures and threats, and conservation priorities in the UK. It determined areas of greatest carbon value, greatest water value, and highest ecosystem service benefits.

Where can I get it?

<http://www.policysupport.org/costingnature>

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