InVEST

**Description**

InVEST is a suite of open-source software models for mapping and valuing ecosystem services provided by land and seascapes. It uses data about the environment to explore how changes in ecosystems are likely to affect the flow of benefits to people. It is designed to inform decisions about natural resource management.

**Ecosystem services included**

18 ecosystem services across provisioning, regulating and cultural categories.

**Habitats**

Mountains, moors and heaths; semi-natural grasslands; enclosed farmland; woodland; freshwater, wetlands and floodplains; urban, marine, Coastal margins.

**How does it work?**

InVEST consists of 18 software models for mapping and valuing ecosystem services. Models can be applied at multiple scales. Most models use a ‘production function’ approach, which means that the output (a map of ecosystem services) is derived from information about the environment’s condition and it’s processes.

The final map result is expressed in either biophysical terms (i.e. a quantity) or economic terms (monetary value). InVEST is suitable for users who wish to look at multiple services or have multiple objectives for their area of interest.

**Case studies in the UK**

Urban-BESS in Milton Keynes modelled carbon storage, soil erosion and pollination to test model outputs against spatial resolution of input data. Wessex-BESS also used it for pollination modelling. In Scotland, the James Hutton Institute and Aberdeenshire Council used it for water and pollination modelling.

**Where can I get it?**


Development of the Tool Assessor database and information sheets was funded by JNCC.