



WWF

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

July  
2015

This project is  
co-funded by  
the EU and  
USAID



## USING THE InVEST TOOL

# FOR A SUSTAINABLE SPATIAL PLANNING



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*Participants from various organizations and bodies involved during the workshop.*

**Aided by the European Union *Sustaining biodiversity, environmental and social benefits in the EPL project* and by the USAID *Supporting Forests and Biodiversity* project, WWF-Cambodia organised the first InVEST workshop presenting findings from the Mondulkiri Province on 30 and 31 July 2015.**

Human welfare has always been dependent on environmental services provided by our ecosystems. This ongoing phenomenon keeps human survival possible. Without understanding the value of environmental services, humanity's fate is on the line. The InVEST tool enables the mapping and economic valuation of those ecosystem services and can provide national and regional governments with valuable information and scenarios for economic and land use decision-making for the benefit of mankind.

With the financial support of the European Union (EU) and USAID, the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), WWF-Cambodia and the Provincial Government of Mondulakiri co-organised a workshop in Sen Monorom to present the first findings of the InVEST (Integrated Valuation of Environmental Services and Trade-offs) project and to explore concrete application of this work through the development of spatial planning in the Mondulakiri Province.

At the opening of the workshop, Country Director for WWF-Cambodia Mr. Chhith Sam Ath reminded the audience that "Cambodia needs development, but choices can be made with regards to social and environmental trade-off. If properly managed, ecosystems yield a flow of services vital to people. InVEST will help balancing development and natural resources conservation."



*The opening ceremony of the InVEST workshop.*

After the InVEST workshop, RUPP and WWF-Cambodia’s team presented the first InVEST findings and scenario, and a team from the Provincial Government of Battambang joined the workshop to share their positive experience of developing and implementing spatial planning in their region.

H.E Svay Sam Eang, deputy provincial governor of Monduliri Province concluded the workshop by confirming that “valuing and mapping ecosystem services will help all stakeholders, relevant ministries at national and sub national level, civil society, academia and private sector to be aware about the opportunity in receiving economic and non-economic benefits in the sustainable manner from natural resources and ecosystem services in Monduliri Province”.

	<p><b>Why we are here</b> To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.</p> <p>panda.org</p>
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