BioSpace25 - Biodiversity insight from Space
10 - 14 February 2025 | ESA-ESRIN | Frascati - Italy

Grassland and savannah biodiversity

12 February 2025 15:00-18:30 CET

EU Grassland Watch

European Commission

WWF

zalf

Overview

Aim

Discuss the challenges and opportunities for monitoring grassland and savannah conservation at global and continental scales

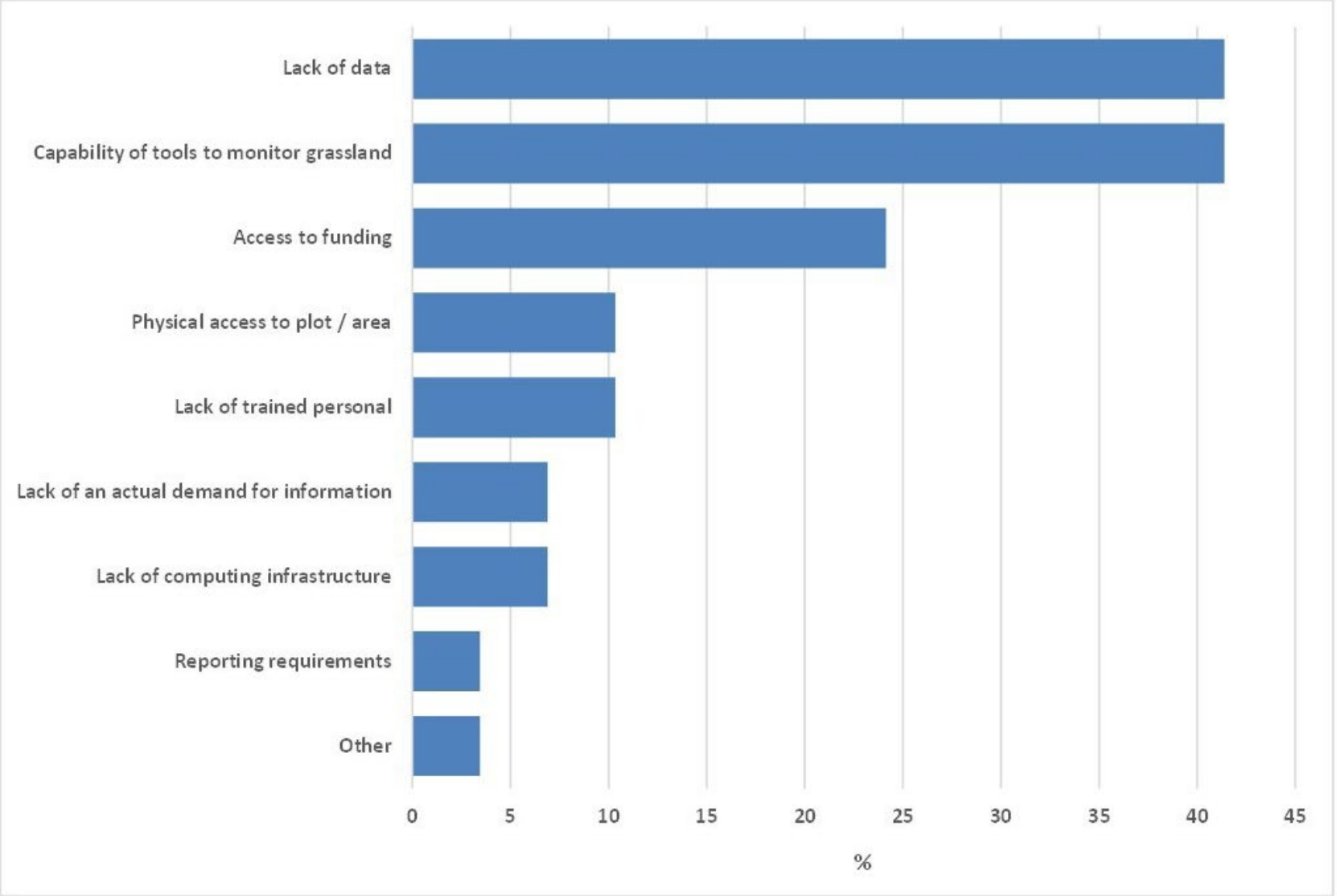
Format

Mix of presentations and group discussions supported by WooClap

Attendance

In room:	35 - 40 people
Online:	up to 17 sign-ins
WooClap:	45 users

What is the main challenges or pain points you face when monitoring grassland?



What is missing to really achieve operational grassland monitoring?

Consensus / Coordination

Unified approaches and definitions. Common nomenclature & indicators. Monitoring protocols. Clear metrics for grassland health / biodiversity. Translation to political terms

In-situ data

Quality. Representativeness. Historical. Biological monitoring.

Products

Accurate. Physically-based. Hyperspectral.

Services

Validated models. Unified databases. Consolidation in a platform.

Take home messages

General conclusions:

Classification versus the inherent natural heterogeneity including seasonal dynamics remain a major challenge in grassland assessment.

Global conservation / reporting obligations may fall behind local priorities.

Citizen science is considered a valuable asset in grassland assessment.

Recommendations to ESA:

Enable access to and promote platforms for the distribution of in-situ data as key to improving EO-based modelling and assessment.

Push for increased spatial and temporal resolution of sensors to improve their capability, both in terms of spatial and thematic accuracy.