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

Workshop: Co-design of EO-solutions for ecosystem conservation

Session objectives

- Provide Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) active in ecosystems conservation the opportunity to share their perspectives on current practices and needs related to EO data and tools
- Gather experiences in best practices (and potential pitfalls) in co-design
- Conceptualize and co-develop EO-supported tools to be further elaborated during ESA's PEOPLE-ECCO project
- Identify needs and priorities for EO capacity development

Main messages

- Identified obstacles related to
  - Lack of methods to derive actionable insights
  - Lack of user-friendly platforms to process and inspect data
  - Lack of EO capacity with NGOs/CSOs <u>and</u> lack of conservation capacity with EO experts
- Co-design Do's & Don'ts:
  - ✓ Iterative, openness (to new ideas, but also to criticism), expectation management
  - ✗ Arrogance ("scientist knows it all"), over-promise, rushing, assumptions
- EO Capacity Development focus:
  - For NGOs/CSOs: not only on 'technicalities', also train NGOs/CSOs i**n planning for EO-work**: how to budget EO items? How to plan for EO activities? What way of working is needed? Develop capacity in making EO-tools part of practitioner workflows!
  - For EO experts: conservation is complex
- Open communication about **feasibility and relevance** from the NGO/CSOs as well as EO experts

Main conclusions and recommendations

- NGOs/CSOs need to have perspective; longevity of tools, data and approaches is key.
  - The SEF initiative is useful. Communication of concrete actions is very welcome - in the project proposal and execution phase
- Call for tenders that require strong partnerships are useful tools for bringing the conservation and EO-communities together.
  - Keep making sure that user-community can get sufficient budget.
  - Framework for linking more NGOs/CSOs/local stakeholders to consortiums to avoid "the usual suspects" of users.
- Continued focus on well-known barriers
  - Capacity building, as most GIS/RS resources are reserved for landcover and not topics like biodiversity
  - Engage with NGOs/CSOs leadership to ensure buy-in
  - Ensuring data quality and accuracy at local scales