

# Access to scientific literature by the conservation community



## BACKGROUND

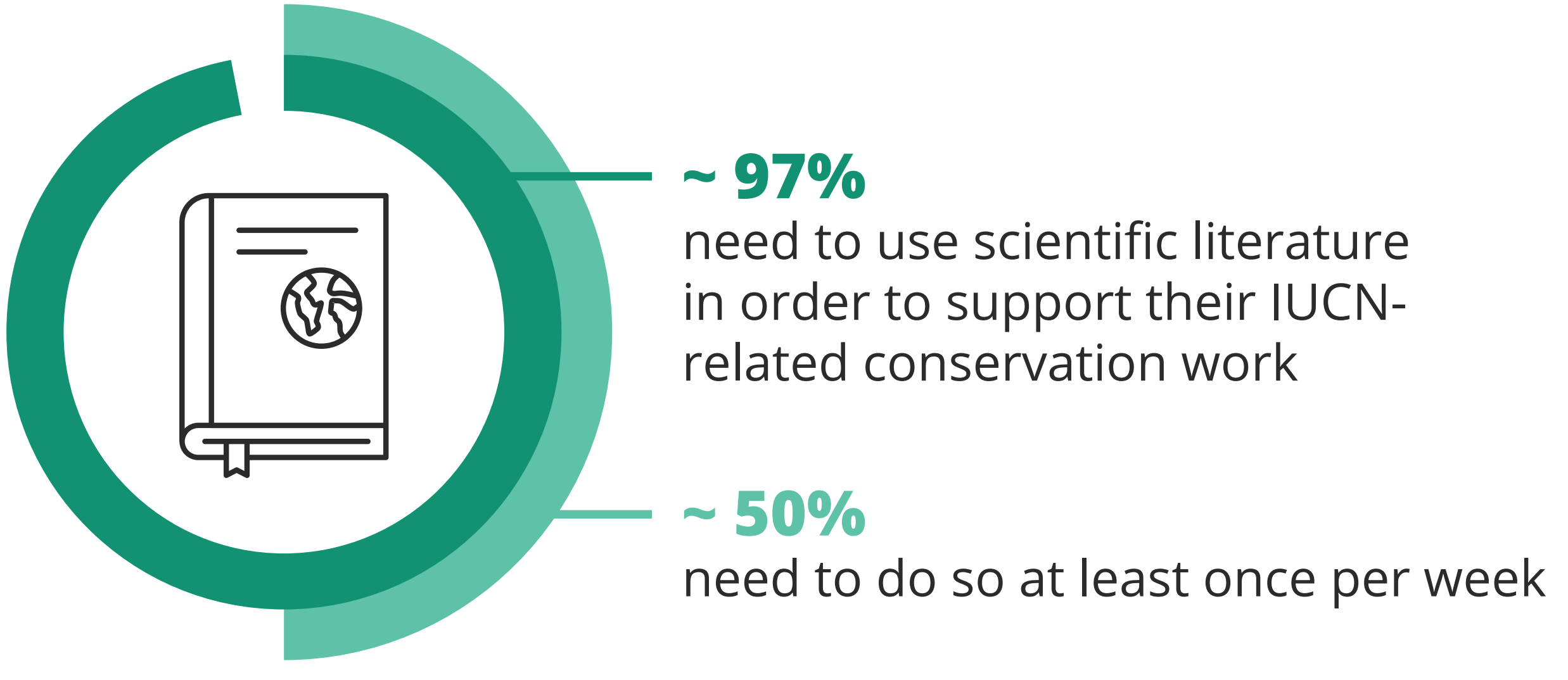
Access to the scientific literature is perceived to be a challenge to the biodiversity conservation community, but **the actual level of access to literature relative to need has never been assessed globally.**

## THE SURVEY

We examined this question by **surveying the constituency of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a proxy for the conservation community.**

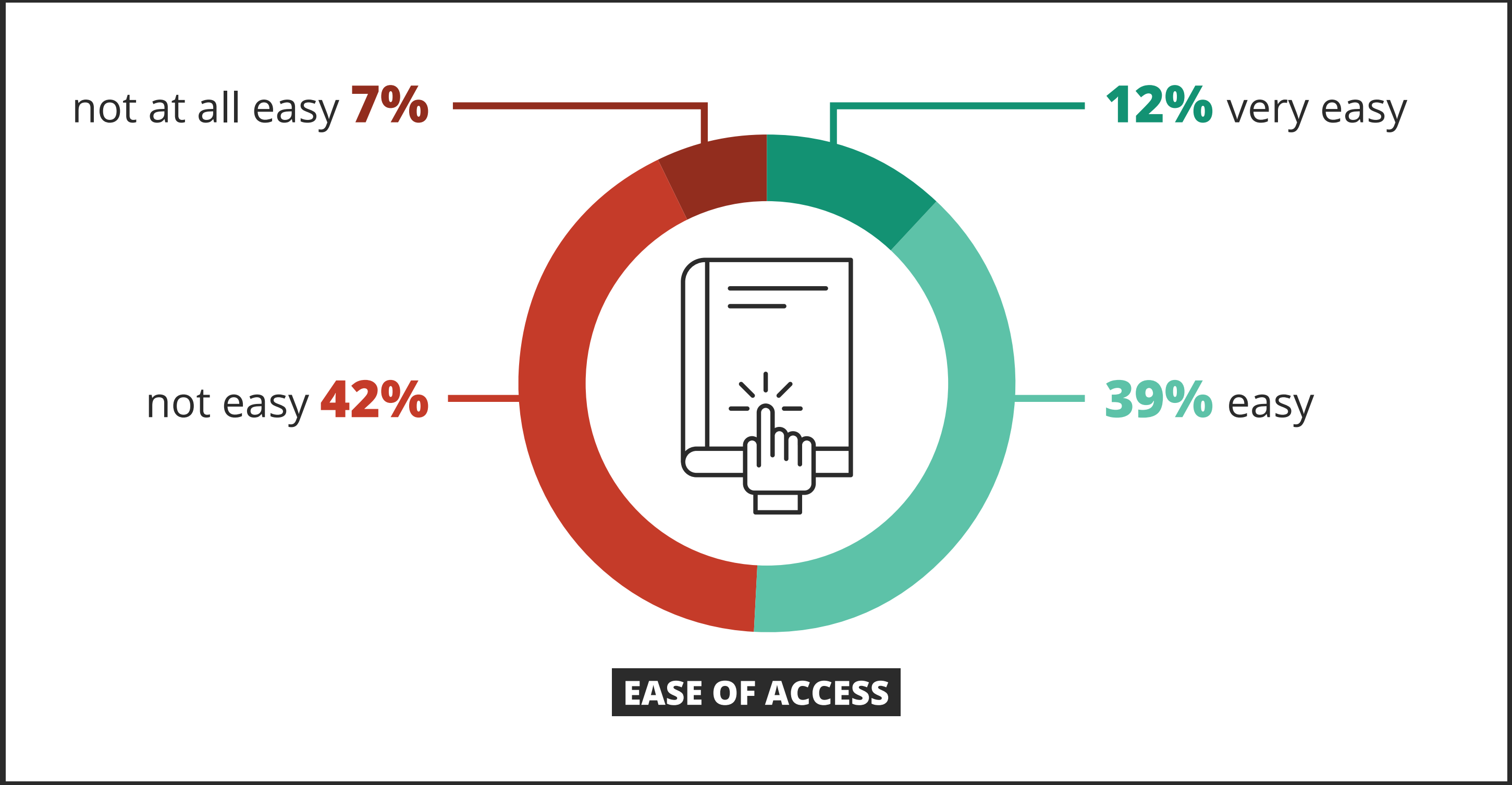


The survey generated **2,285 responses**



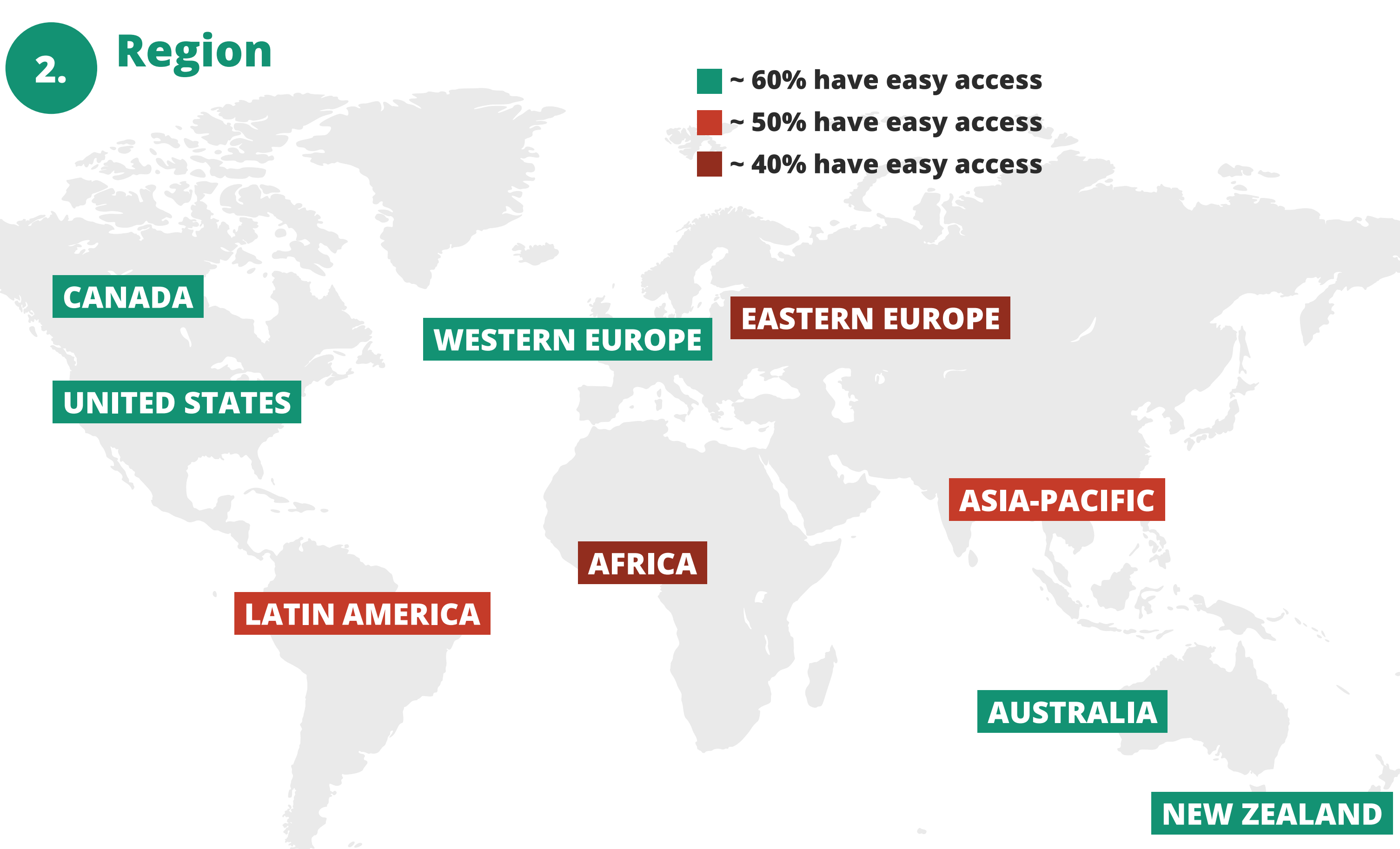
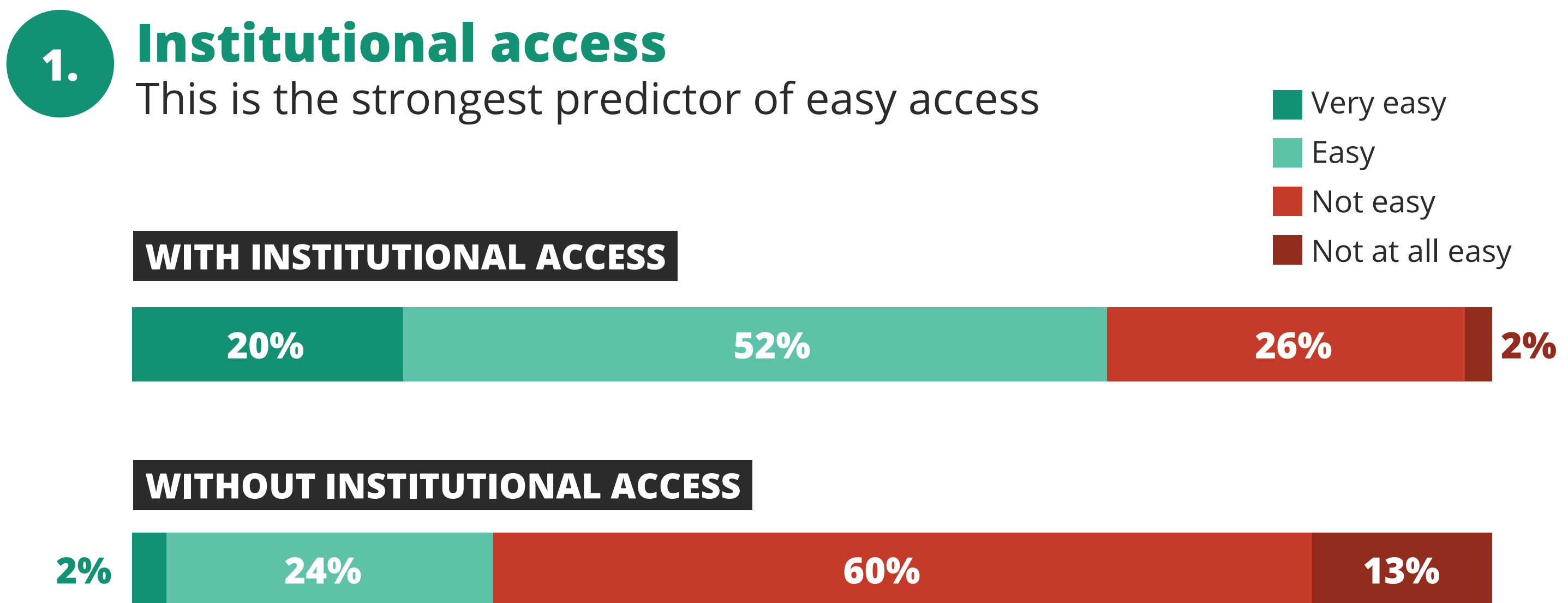
## FACTORS

The crux of the survey revolved around the question, "How easy is it for you currently to obtain the scientific literature you need to carry out your IUCN-related work?" The results revealed that **roughly half (49%) of the respondents find it "not easy" or "not at all easy" to access scientific literature.**



## PREDICTORS

We fitted a logistic regression model to explore factors predicting ease of literature access. The following are significant predictors:



## FREE MATERIALS

Accessing free online material is a popular means of accessing literature for both those with and without institutional access.



## CONCLUSION

Overall, it is apparent that **access to the literature is a challenge facing roughly half of the conservation community worldwide.**

Conservation organisations, policy makers, and donors should **invest in institutional libraries and knowledge management** to help facilitate access to literature.

**Open access initiatives can also play an important role** in facilitating access to literature.