

Soil organic carbon stocks in grasslands

Mineral grasslands

- Vast store of soil organic carbon (SOC) – 1800 million tons of CO₂
- Important to protect and store more SOC in grasslands to fulfil our climate commitments

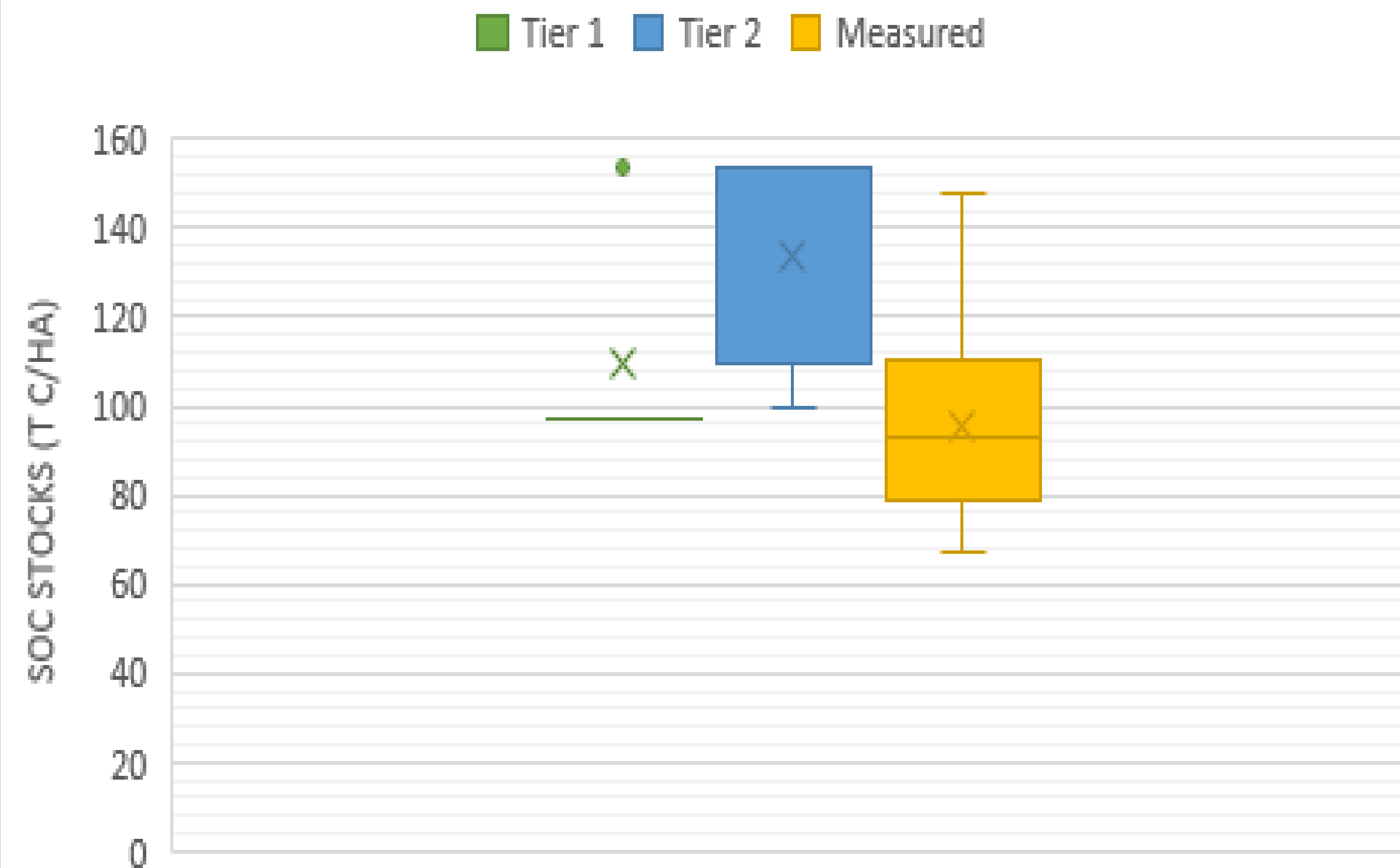
Methodology

- Irish grassland SOC is computed using 'models'
- Two basic modelling methods: IPCC Tier 1 & 2

Issues

- Not representative
- Not adapted to local conditions
- Not reflective of management practices

Comparison of grassland mineral SOC estimates



Take home messages

- Current models for estimating SOC in mineral grasslands are inaccurate at field level
- Need to develop better models for SOC in grassland

