

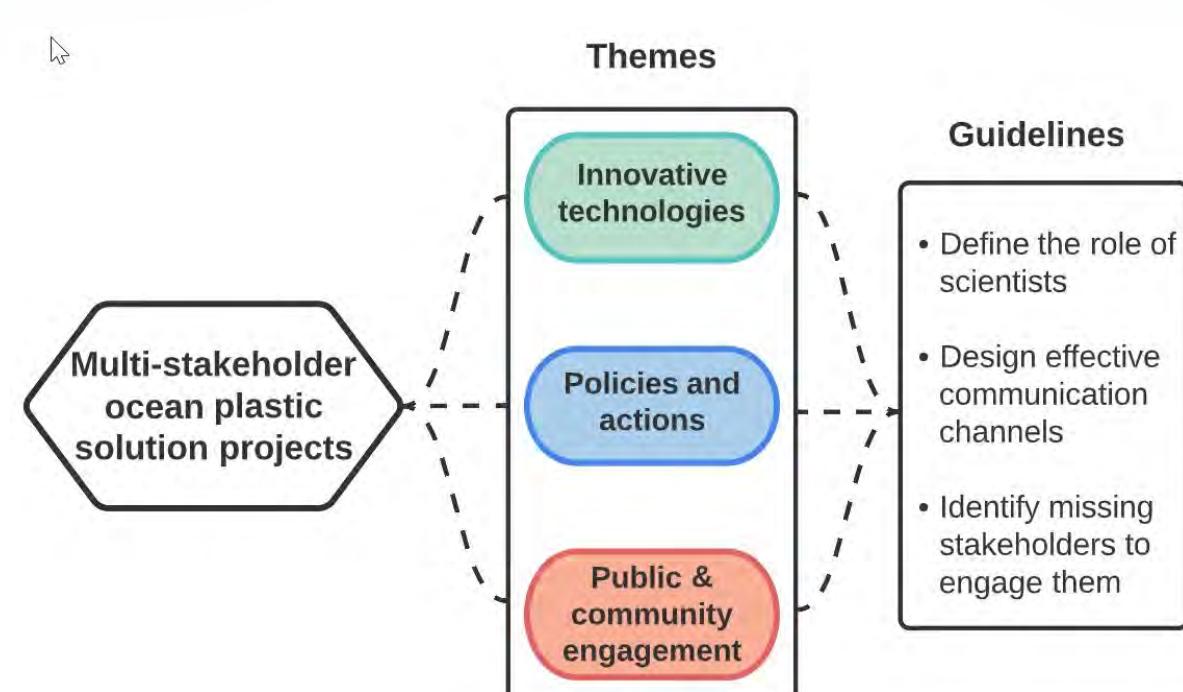
THE FUTURE OF OCEAN PLASTICS:

Designing Diverse Collaboration Frameworks

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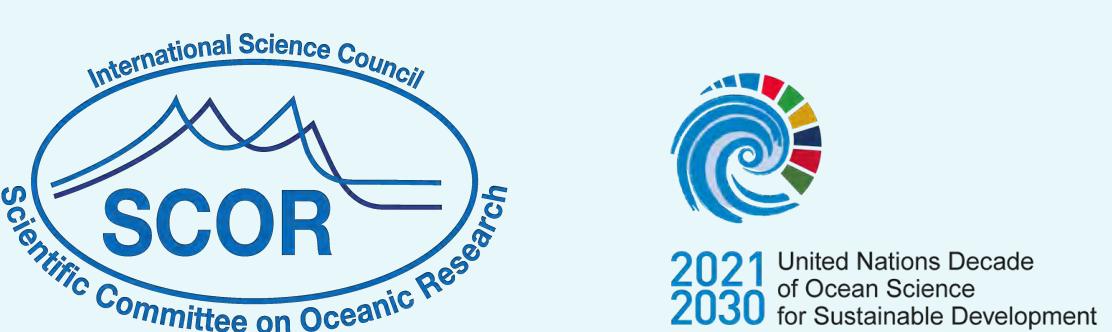
Background & Aims

This workshop, designed by a team of Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs), aimed to facilitate knowledge exchange and co-creation of science between ECOPs, experienced ocean professionals, and a diverse array of stakeholders who are working on aspects of ocean plastic pollution. The outcome of the workshop was to define frameworks on which future multi-stakeholder collaborations tackling ocean plastics can be based.



Stakeholders & Collaborators

This event was supported by the SCOR Working Group 153: Floating Litter and its Oceanic TranSport Analysis and Modelling (FLOTSAM) and was registered as a UN Ocean Decade event.



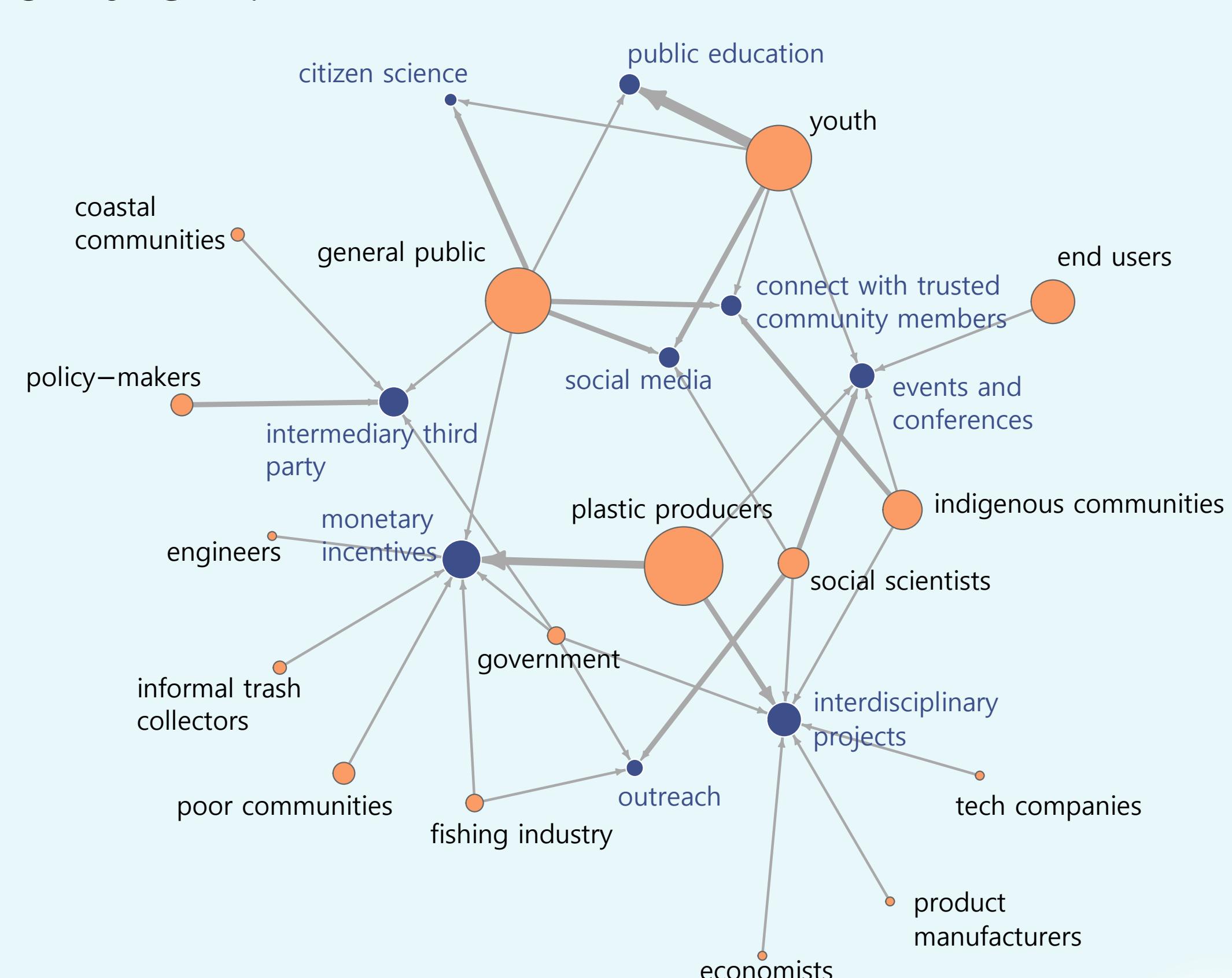
11 ECOPs from three global regions (Americas, EU-Africa, Asia-Oceania) hosted panel discussions with local experts in ocean plastic pollution. Interactive Miro boards were used during discussions to facilitate questions from workshop participants, and for the participants themselves to answer the key questions discussed by the panel.

The Focus

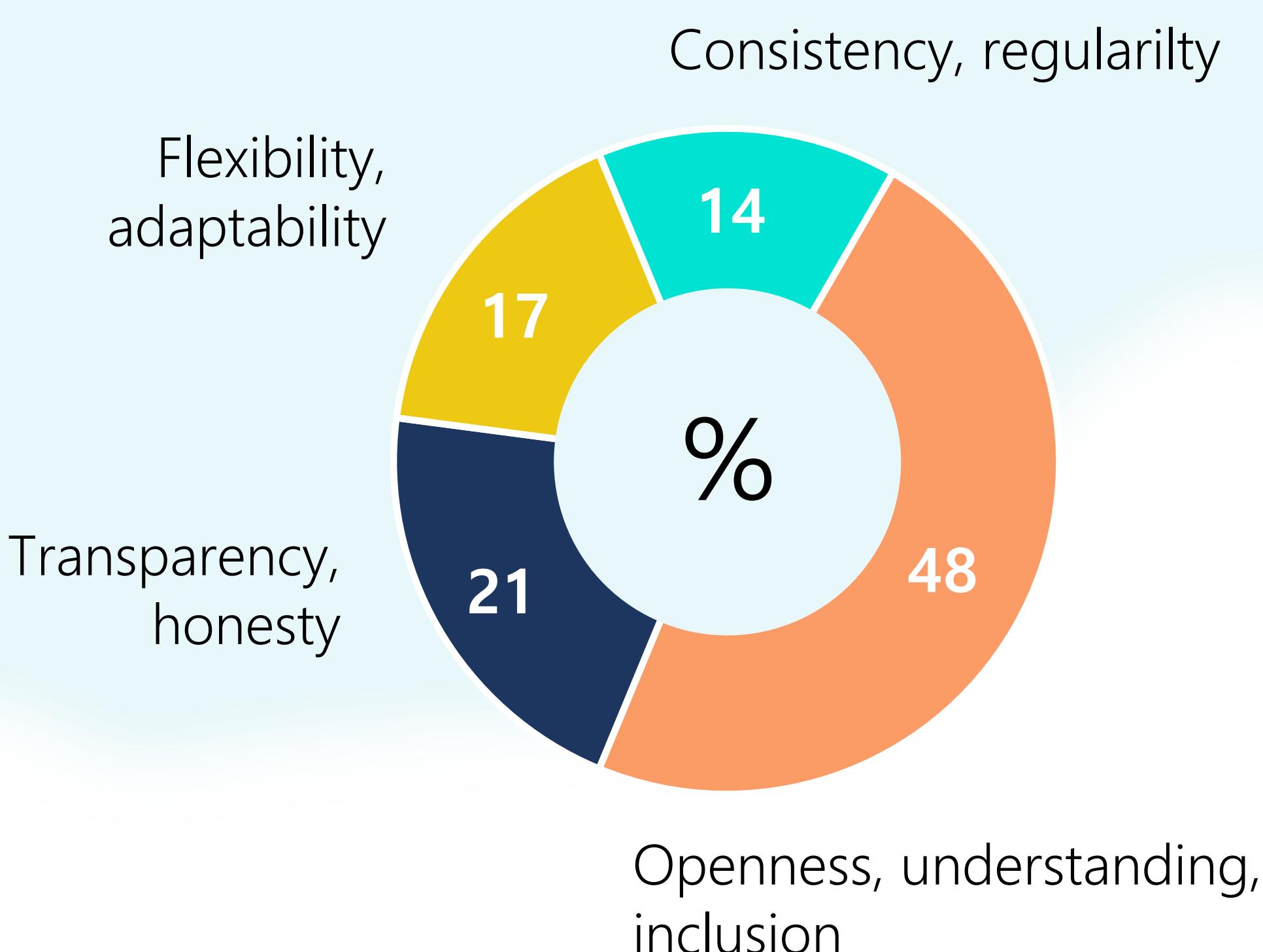
We invited panelists to share their perspectives on stakeholder diversity, good communication strategies and the role of the scientist in the context of three key themes:

- Innovative technology to monitor and mitigate ocean plastics
- Policies and actions for a plastic-free ocean
- Public and community engagement related to ocean plastics

I What stakeholders are missing and how can we reach them?



II What are the most important elements of communication?



III How should scientists contribute?

- 1 Provide unbiased background information, identify knowledge gaps
- 2 Make information understandable to stakeholders, actively listen, communicate from a place of interest and humility
- 3 Contribute with resources: funding, network, infrastructure
- 4 Define research questions and plan together with stakeholders, critically assess what is possible and pragmatic, assist in prioritization
- 5 Determine data to collect and methods to use. Collect and analyze data, interpret and communicate results
- 6 Collaborate with communication professionals to disseminate information
- 7 Participate in public outreach

Bubble size indicates the number of times each step was suggested by a participant across all workshops.

Lessons Learned

The key suggestions for successful stakeholder engagement projects are:

- Missing stakeholders, such as ECOPs, people from the Global South, finance-bodies, and policy-makers, must be invited from the start and engaged throughout the project duration.
- The communication between stakeholders is critical and depends on suitably designed communication channels that encourage openness, respect, and trust, after setting expectations.
- Scientists should take the role of knowledge brokers who provide credible, transparent, jargon-free information

