

Oceans of Opportunities, Rivers of Ideas



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Wrap Up U-Residence VUB - December 9th, 2018



Oceans of Opportunities,
Rivers of Ideas

A close-up photograph of a mangrove branch heavily infested with reddish-brown Oecophylla weaver ants. The ants are seen crawling across several large, green, oval-shaped leaves. In the center-right of the image, a cluster of ants is actively building a nest, which appears as a white, fibrous, cup-like structure. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a dense mangrove environment.

Oecophylla weavers in the mangrove

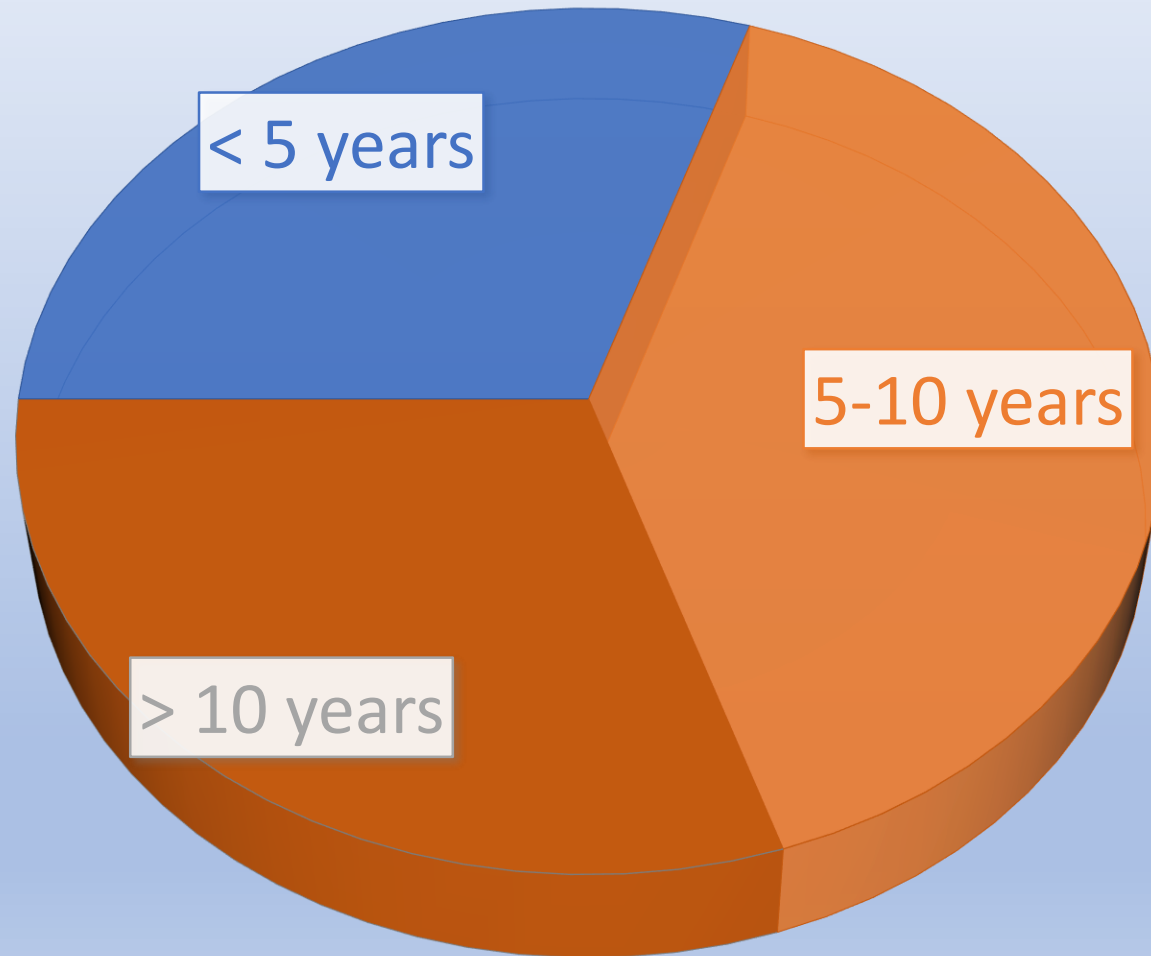
Wrapping up (together)

Oceans of Opportunities, Rivers of Ideas

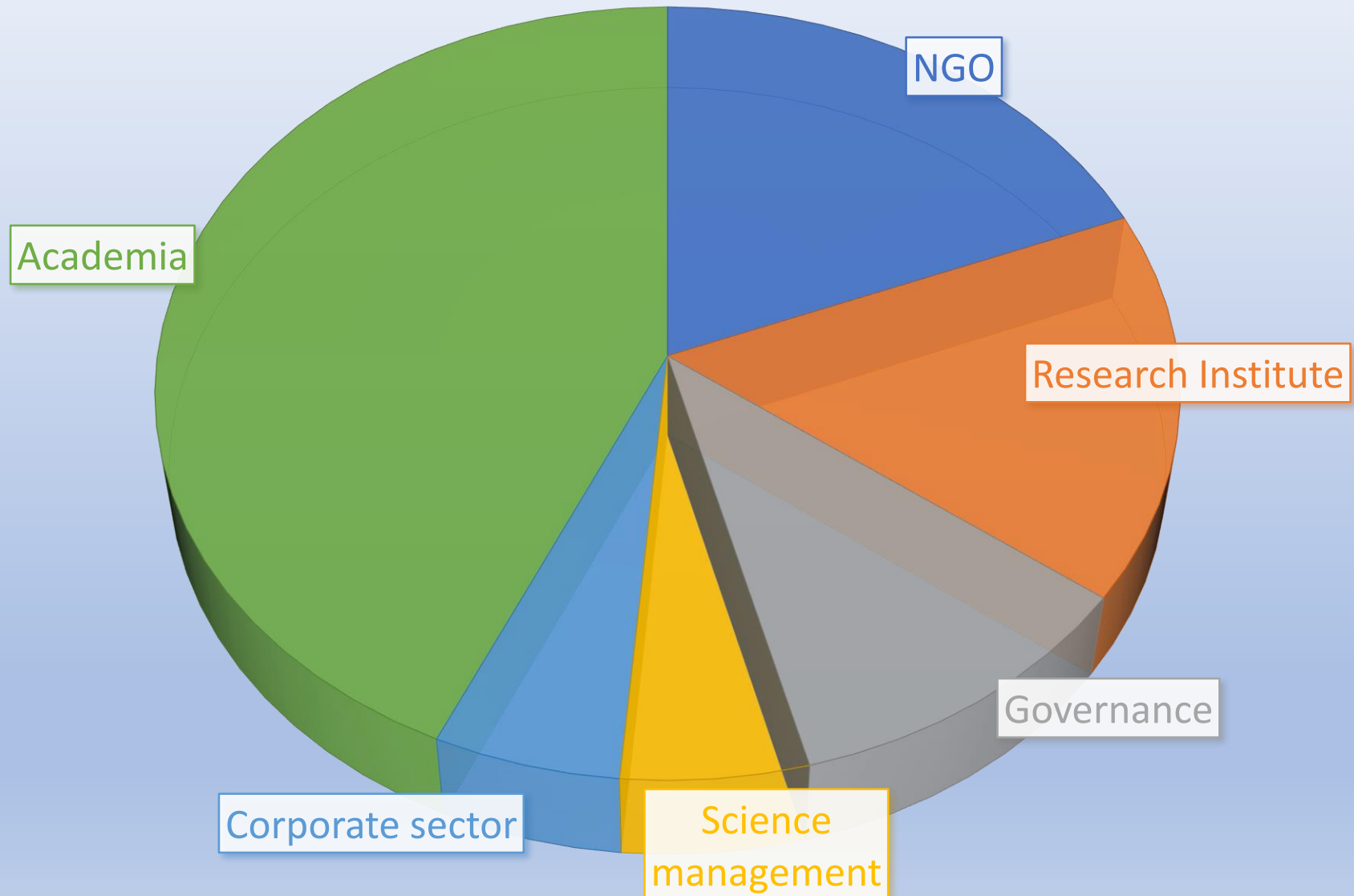


Participant (speaker) background:
who were the speakers (alumni) ?

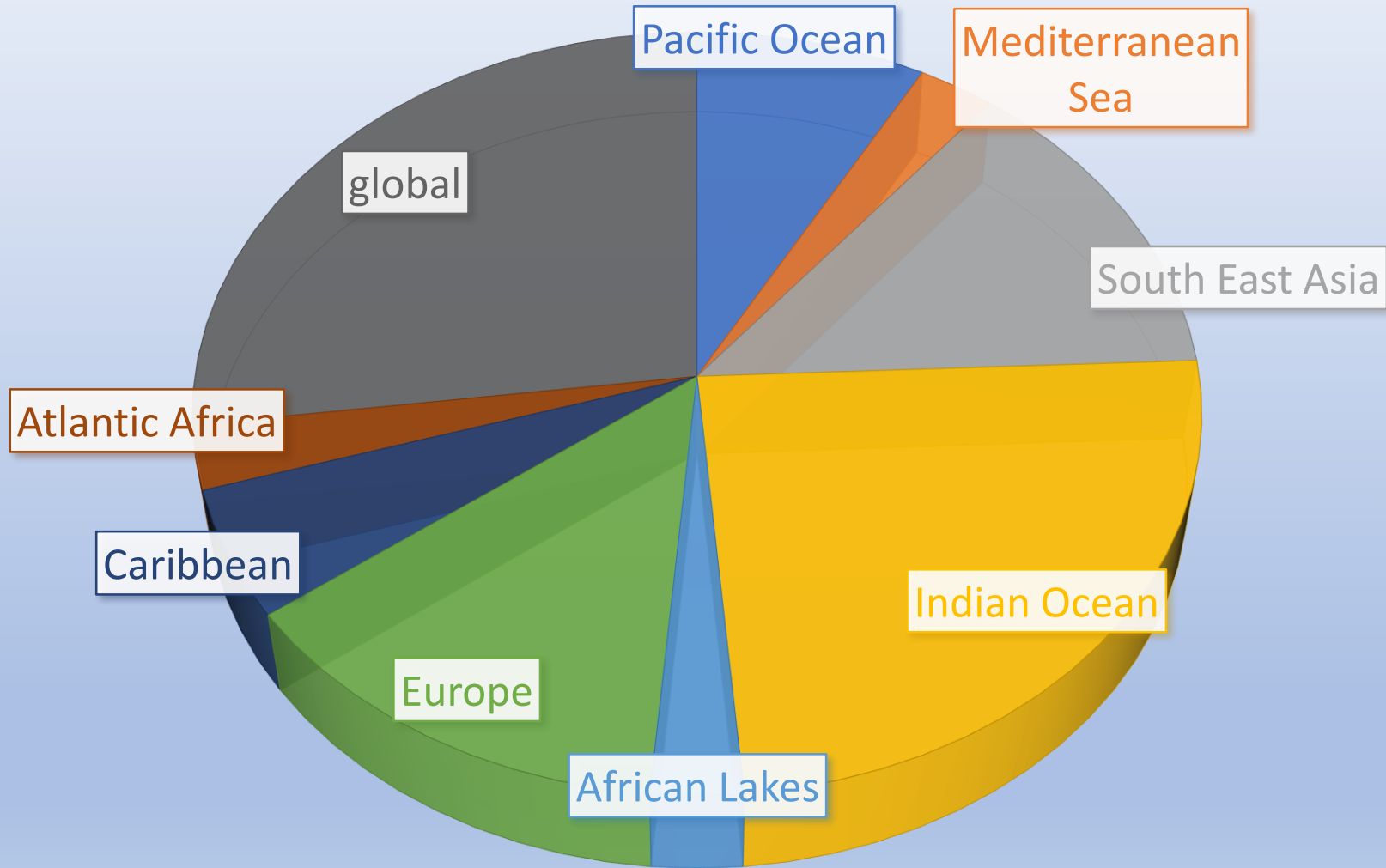
YEARS AFTER MSc GRADUATION



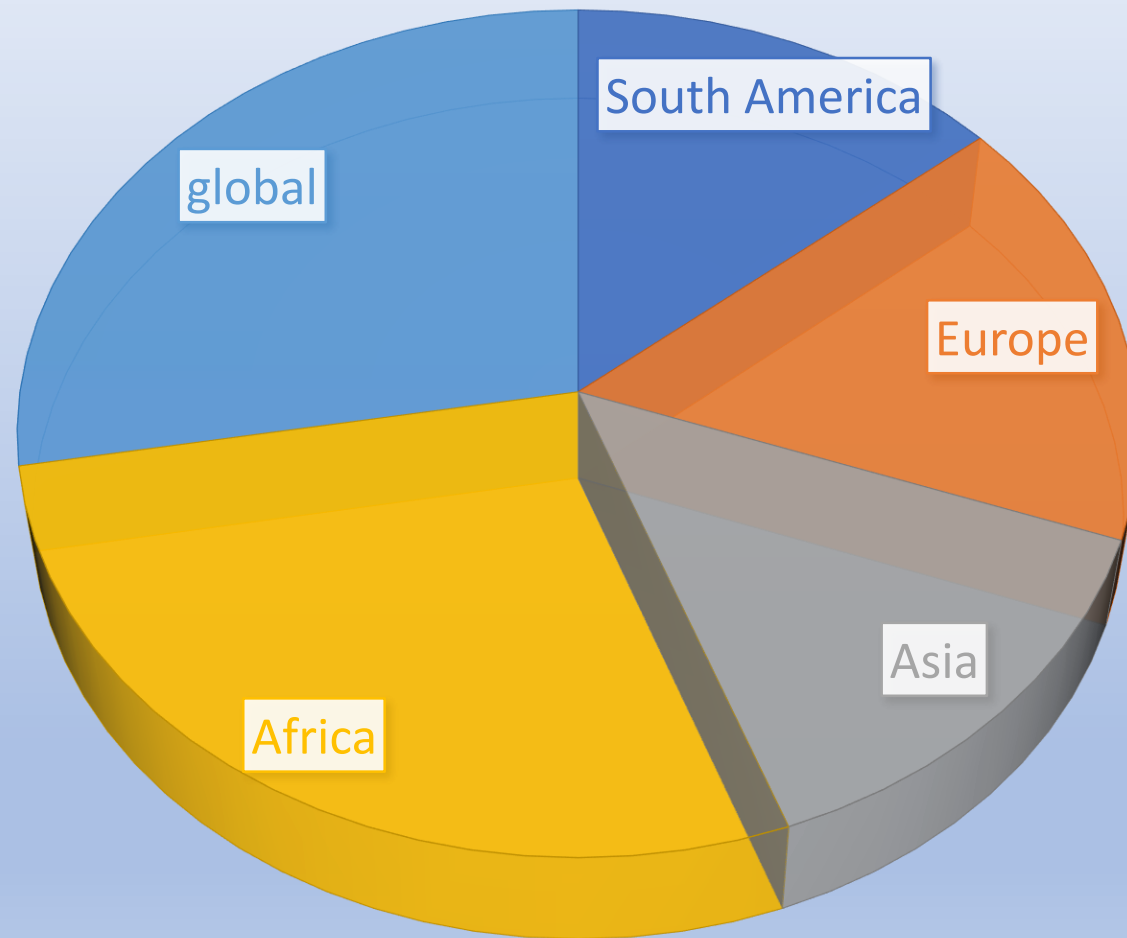
OCCUPATION / ORGANISATION



WATER BODY



REPORTED WORKING AREA



Participants' contributions

Participants' (professional) thoughts:

what have we been saying and thinking ?



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/peixesloucos/3060354859>

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Change agent mechanisms
and its implications in aquatic sciences

How can aquatic scientists make a change?

Are we sufficiently heard?

Are we participating enough?

Are we clear in our communication?

5 slides of ideas and keywords !

Recommendations

- An authority to take the decisions is essential for management
- Legal basis is not a requirement but helpful (marine spatial planning)
- Do not wait for comprehensive scientific data, you will never have enough data
- Try to understand background of your audience; look for common ground; make a human connection
- Same content but different context according to audience
- Build multidisciplinary team; more cooperation; involve policymakers in your project
- Make your project visible
- Make a personal brand to spread the message; look for powerful message
- Inspire, educate and entertain
- Leadership is important; we need to lead beyond authority
- Teachers as role models being open and respectful; speaking from own experience; choose a mentor
- Move away from supervisory; training while working together
- Ensure a safe space (everybody can speak in the room despite hierarchy, whether 'boss' present or not)
- Industry is not the enemy (collaboration is possible)
- Work from inside: we are all consumers (we are part of the problem)
- Dialogue is most important
- Possibility-thinking and not deficit-thinking
- Self-reflect and get out of your comfort zone
- Move away from the norm; dare to do things not done before
- There should be more acknowledgements for non-academic outreach in an academic career
- Be patient but at the end strong involvement of community, policy, industry is possible



Mechanisms – Tools

- Community-based initiatives
- Inclusion and awareness of locals
- Training of locals for monitoring own resources
- Integrate traditional knowledge in policy
- Positive deviance approach = community-owned solutions
- Control of the process; self reliant communities (does not fall apart when funding stops)
- Mikoko Pamoja project of carbon credits: success through involvement of community
- Regional networks
- Apps to inform people
- Use of ICT; record and share local solutions
- Habitat and bathymetric maps; maps bring many stakeholders together to understand
- Exhibitions and book; policy briefs
- Education is foundation of what you say
- Industry-funded research
- Private sector involved
- Citizen science
- Identify strategic partners
- Open source software
- Sharing is caring; collect data once use it many times
- The use of art in science communication- graphical abstracts
- Payment for ecosystem processes
- Conceptual framework and project portfolio for credibility



Skills – capacity

- Capacity building = capacity development (think about “capacity building”)
- Capacity = ability of human systems to perform, sustain and self-renew
- To act and self-organise
- To achieve coherence
- Importance of education
- Self-reflection
- Accept uncertainty
- Prioritize
- Be flexible and openminded
- Enjoy yourself and be passionate
- Identify your personal talents



Barriers – hurdles - threats

- Systems sometimes hard to see; we only see parts
- Complexity of stakeholder group ; too many stakeholders?
- Scientist = consumer = NGO or policymaker (different profiles in same process)
- Problems: inequality and corruption; hidden agenda's
- Ethnocentrism as a barrier
- Resistance to change by beneficiaries
- Planning fetishism
- Sins of research: to collect data and disappear
- Nature is not a user in MSP
- Difficult to translate unstraightforward complex research results to policy makers
- Long funding delay
- Lack of transparency
- SDG14 ranked lowest by in priority by world leaders whereas it impacts all other SDG's
- Putting price on nature will not always protect her (focus on high value nature only limits conservation)
- Policy process so complex that it may shift away from scientific results
- Ant *versus* elephant syndrome
- Resistance against change



Challenges and opportunities

- We have to innovate
- From thinking out of the box, to **acting** out of the box
- Are we ready to work together with different stakeholders?
- Lobbying; influence policy makers, make partnerships
- Oceans and human health as new discipline
- Fair trading in sustainable artisanal fisheries
- Importance of organizational capacity
- Communicate as a person not as a scientist
- Oceans as an economic opportunity for sustainable growth (underexploited compared to land resources)
- Only 1 Earth, 1 history, and 1 chance to record it (to collect data)
- Data can only create knowledge, if they can be found, accessed and used
- Continuity for basic oceanographic research is essential
- Use of common language and common standard in data collection (metadata is crucial)
- Opening of industry data
- Extending network and knowledge dissemination beyond academic circles
- Small changes together make a big change
- Community knows much more than we think
- Rethink values (not only economic)
- We are all developing countries in terms of more sustainability



Participant (audience) background: who was in the dialogue?

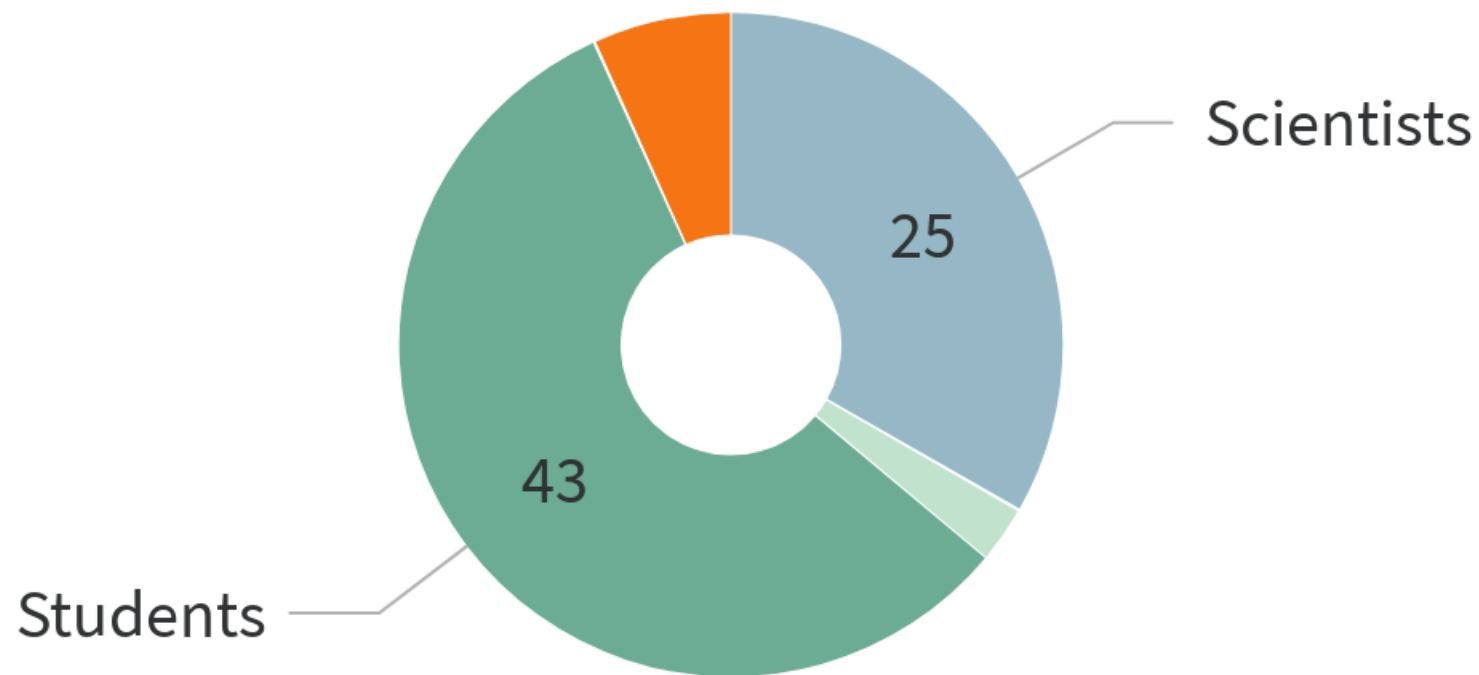


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Which group do you belong to?

When poll is active, respond at Pollev.com/jeanhuge927 📱 Text **JEANHUGE927** to **22333** once to join

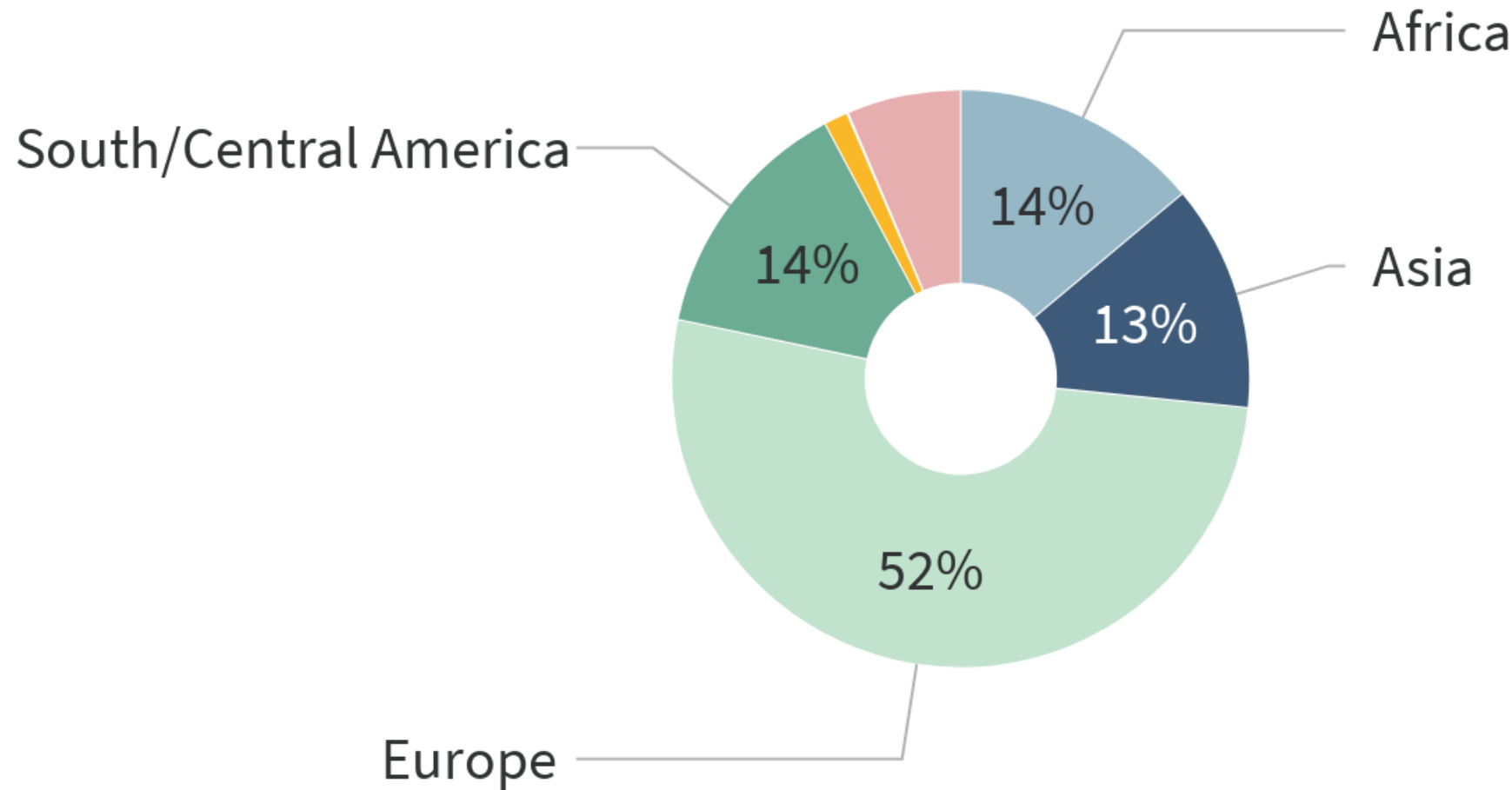
■ Scientists **A** ■ Policy-makers **B** ■ NGOs **C** ■ Students **D** ■ Business **E** ■ Other **F**



In which area are you professionally most active?

Respond at [PollEv.com/jeanhuge927](https://www.poll-ev.com/jeanhuge927) Text **JEANHUGE927** to **22333** once to join, then **A, B, C, D, E...**

Africa **A** Asia **B** Europe **C** South/Central America **D** North America **E** Oceania **F** Polar regions **G**




Which words come up in your mind when you think about science and policy?

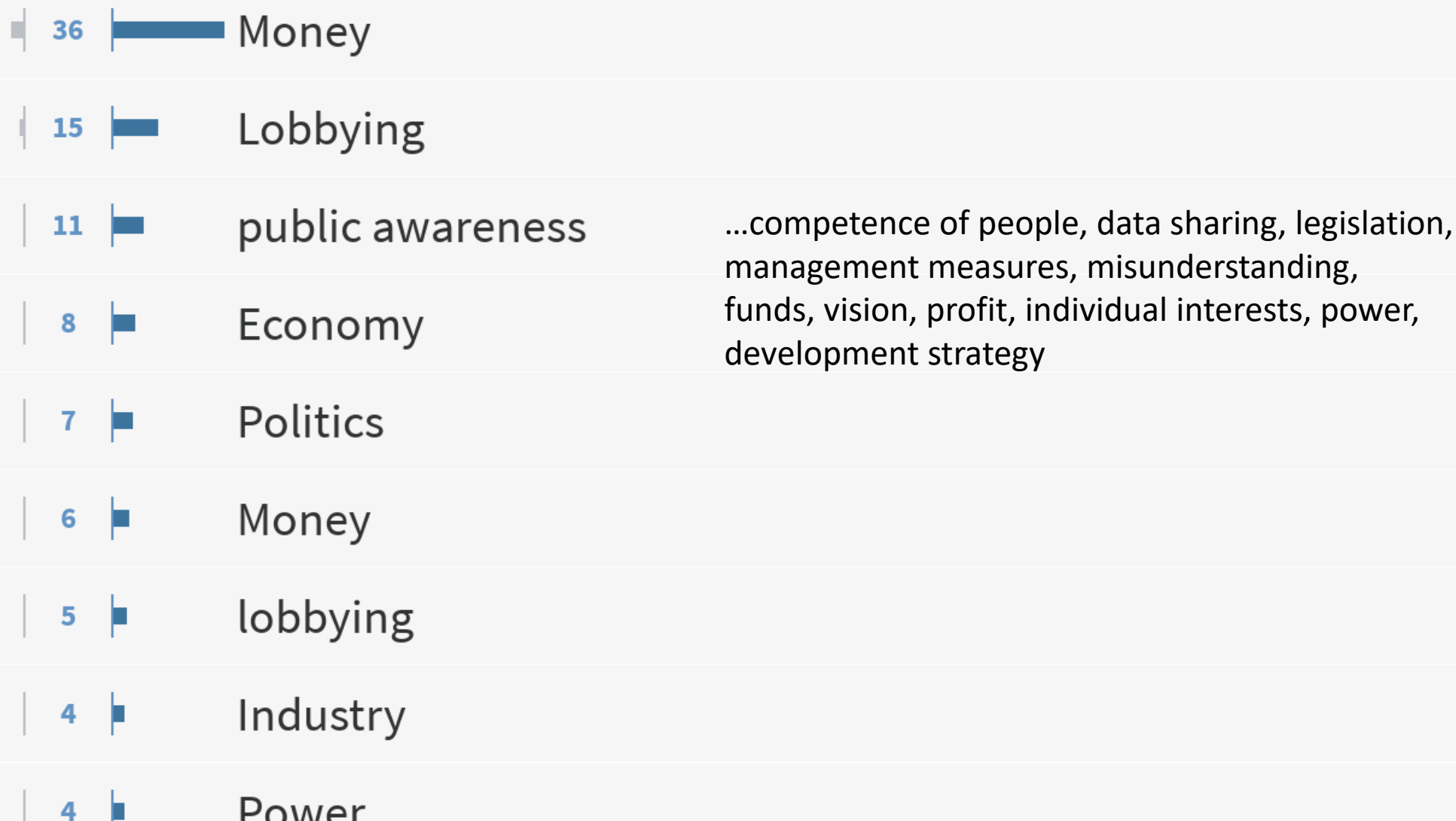
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According to you, what are the main factors influencing policy-making?

 When poll is active, respond at PollEv.com/jeanhuge927

Top



Based on your personal experience, what are the context-specific challenges you encountered in the interactions between scientists and policy-makers? (think of the specific geographic, ecological, social, political context of your core area) ?


 When poll is active, respond at PollEv.com/jeanhuge927

Top


17 |  Different mindset


14 |  Short-term decision making by government

13 |  Education

9 |  Background


9 |  Communication

8 |  Funding

8 |  Ignorance

...different priorities, unawareness, language, misunderstanding,
Lack of connection, difference in strategy, mismatch expertise,
bureaucracy,...

How can we overcome these challenges?

 When poll is active, respond at Pollev.com/jeanhuge927


Top


19  Interdisciplinary work

16  Education

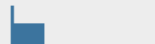
15  Post normal science

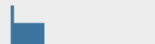
12  Communication

9  networking

7  Communication

5  Science communication

4  Common language

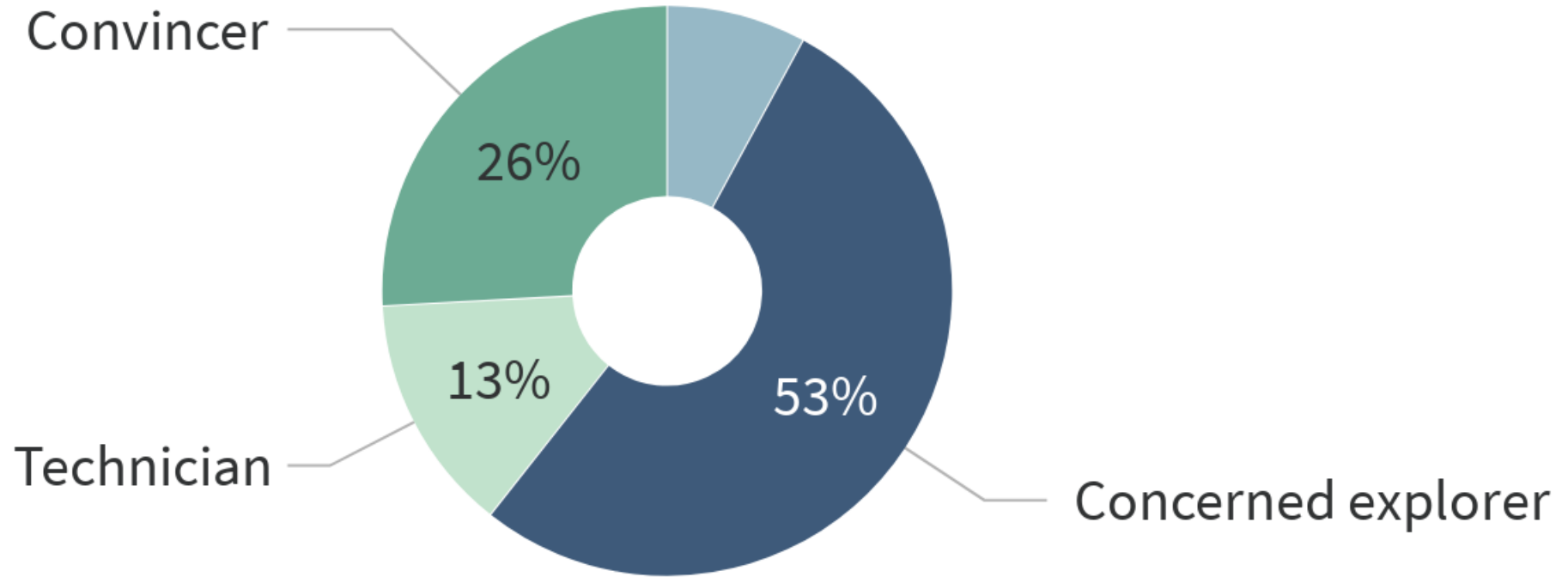
4  Making compromises

Collaboration, dialogue, teamwork, better
Dissemination of results, public awareness,
joint workshops, policy briefs

What kind of change agent do you think you are?

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Mediator **A** Concerned explorer **B** Technician **C** Convincer **D**



Panel 'Doom or hope'

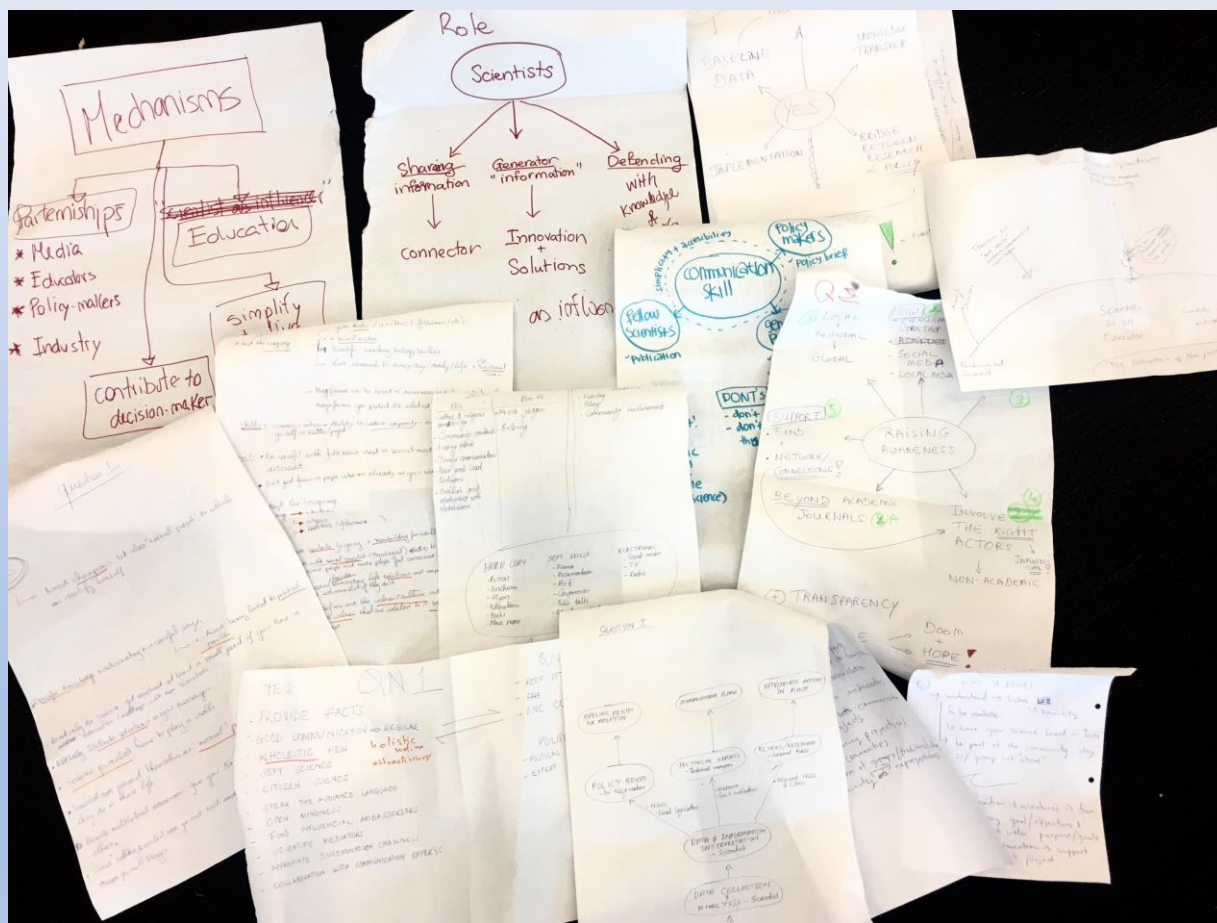
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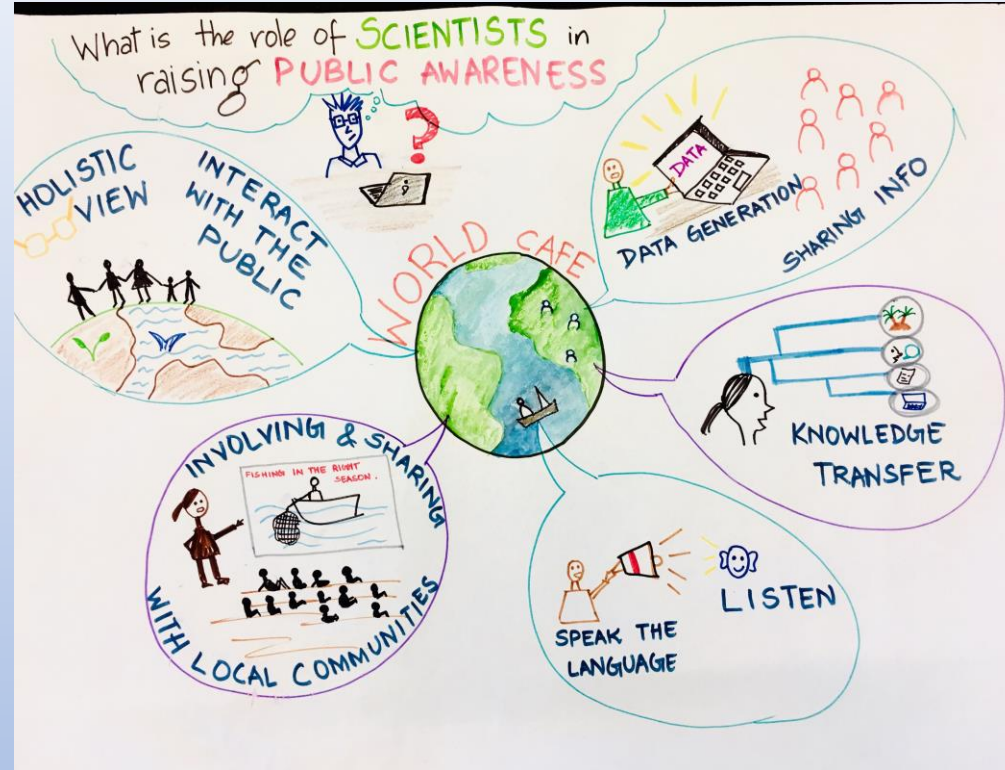
top-down-approach

give-people-solutions

multiple-levels
move-out-of-the-green-bubble
open-days adjust-strategy-to-size
penalties show-beauty-of-nature social-media
nature-based-solutions
scale-issues(global&local)
trust
alternatives good-practices attention-span-is-short
repetition lobbying
too-late-for-incremental-change
personal-relations community

World Cafe





Visual synthesis by Meenakshi Poti

World Cafe: "What is the role of scientists in raising public awareness?"

When poll is active, respond at [PollEv.com/jeanhuge927](https://www.poll-ev.com/jeanhuge927) Text **JEANHUGE927** to **22333** once to join



World Cafe: "What are the mechanisms in raising public awareness?"

Respond at [PollEv.com/jeanhuge927](https://www.poll-ev.com/jeanhuge927) Text **JEANHUGE927** to **22333** once to join, then text your message



A wide, flat beach at sunset or sunrise, with the ocean in the background and a few people walking on the shore. The sky is a mix of dark grey and orange, and the water is calm. The beach is very wide and flat, with some people walking in the distance. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

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developed together