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## CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

### 5.1 SCOR Committee on Capacity Building

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#### Terms of Reference

The primary purpose of the SCOR Committee on Capacity Building is to oversee all of SCOR's capacity-building activities and to help the SCOR Secretariat manage these activities, specifically to

- Provide direction for all of SCOR's existing capacity-building activities: participation of scientists from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in SCOR activities, POGO-SCOR Fellowship Program, travel grants, and provision of reports to libraries in developing countries.
- Guide and assist SCOR Executive Director in development of new capacity-building activities, particularly the Regional Graduate Schools of Oceanography activity.
- Assist SCOR-sponsored projects in developing their capacity-building activities.
- Help SCOR arrange funding for existing and new capacity-building activities.
- Assist SCOR in interacting with regional and international groups related to capacity building in ocean sciences, such as the ICSU regional centers, START, IOC regional programs, etc.

#### **Chair:**

Claudia Benitez-Nelson (USA)

**Other Members:** Mary (Missy) Feeley (UK), Vanessa Hatje (Brazil), Venu Ittekkot (Germany), Prasanna Kumar (India), Margareth Kyewalyanga (Tanzania), Sun Song (China-Beijing), Jennifer Verduin (Australia)

**Liaisons:** Hal Batchelder (PICES), Jim Costopulos (Global Oceans), Julius Francis (WIOMSA), Peter Pissierssens/Claudia Delgado (IODE/IOC), Eric Raes (IIOE-2 Early Career Scientists Network), and Sophie Seeyave (POGO)

In the past year, the committee reviewed one set of requests for travel support to scientific meetings and also reviewed the 2020 SCOR Visiting Scholar applications. The committee helped compile information on examples of capacity-building activities carried out by SCOR working groups (see <https://scor-int.org/work/groups/capacity-dev-examples/>).

The committee is also discussing potential new sources of funding for SCOR capacity-building activities.

### 5.2 SCOR Visiting Scholars

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SCOR began a program in 2009 to enlist the services of ocean scientists from the SCOR community, from both developed countries and developing countries, both recently retired and

active, to teach short courses and to provide more extended on-site education and mentorship at developing country institutions. Some countries and/or individual institutions have requirements for their scientists to retire at a given age, sometimes as early as 60 years of age. Many retired ocean scientists are still interested in teaching and mentoring, and because they are supported by pensions after their retirement, do not need salary support. Some active scientists can also use some of their already-supported work time to work in a developing country.

Hosting visiting scientists, whether retired or active, can have many benefits to host institutions also, such as inspiring, motivating, and informing students and faculty, and leading to future collaborations between the visiting scientist and the host institution.

The program is a partnership, with the host institution providing local accommodation and SCOR finding resources to pay for airfares and other local expenses, as necessary. The participating scientists donate their time. SCOR Visiting Scholars might be onsite for as little as two weeks to as long as visa requirements would allow. Applicants may already have selected a host institution or SCOR will help identify hosts. Information about the program is available at <https://scor-int.org/work/capacity/visiting-scholars/>.

#### **In 2019, SCOR supported 5 Visiting Scholars:**

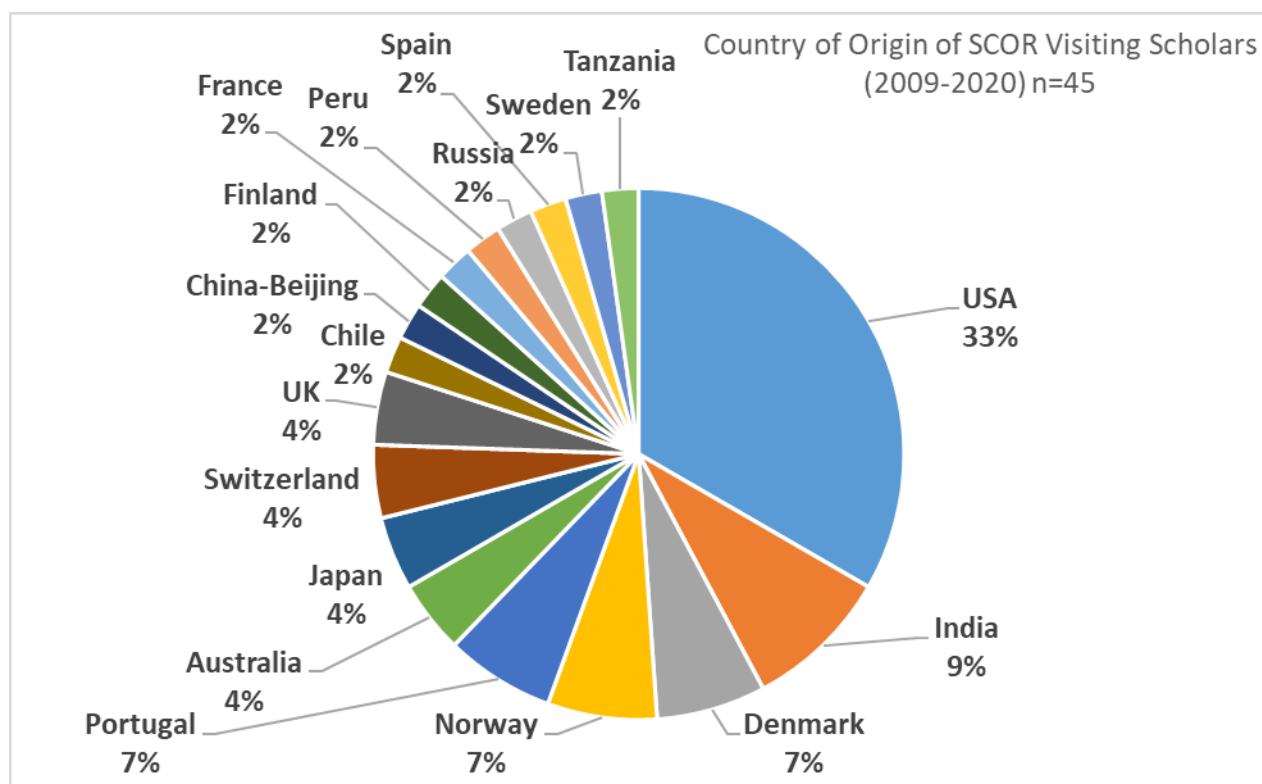
- Teresa Cerveria Borges from the University of Algarve in Portugal visited the Academia de Pescas e Ciências do Mar do Namibe – APCMN (Academy of Fisheries & Marine Sciences of Namibe, near-future University of Namibe), Angola, from 29th May to 12th June 2019, and contributed to both a workshop and a full course.
- Pere Masqué from the Edith Cowan University in Australia visited the Universidade Federal da Bahia in Brazil from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2019, and taught a course on applications of radioisotopes in Marine Sciences and made professional contact for future research collaborations.
- Jorma Kuparinen, professor Emeritus from the University of Helsinki visited the Instituto Oceanografico de la Armada (INOCAR), Guayaquil, Ecuador in October 2019. He worked on developing two project proposals, the first in the Development for scientific collaboration in Marine Biodiversity on the Ecuadorian coast, and the second in human impacts on the biodiversity along the Ecuadorian coast.
- Mridula Srinivasan from the NMFS Office of Science and Technology (NOAA) in the USA visited the University of Mauritius between the 20<sup>th</sup> of October and the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2019, and conducted lectures, theme-based workshops, field trips related to marine science.
- Brian Helmuth from the Northeastern University in the USA visited the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales in Buenos Aires and the Centro Nacional Patagónico in Puerto Madryn, Argentina from the 25<sup>th</sup> of November to the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2019. He lectured on intertidal biophysics and physiological ecology, directed a workshop on how to work with stakeholders on climate issues (strategies for dealing with four different climate hazards - sea level rise, extreme precipitation, extreme heat, and drought), and showed the use of the Gigapan and Kodak 360 in the field to produce stories.

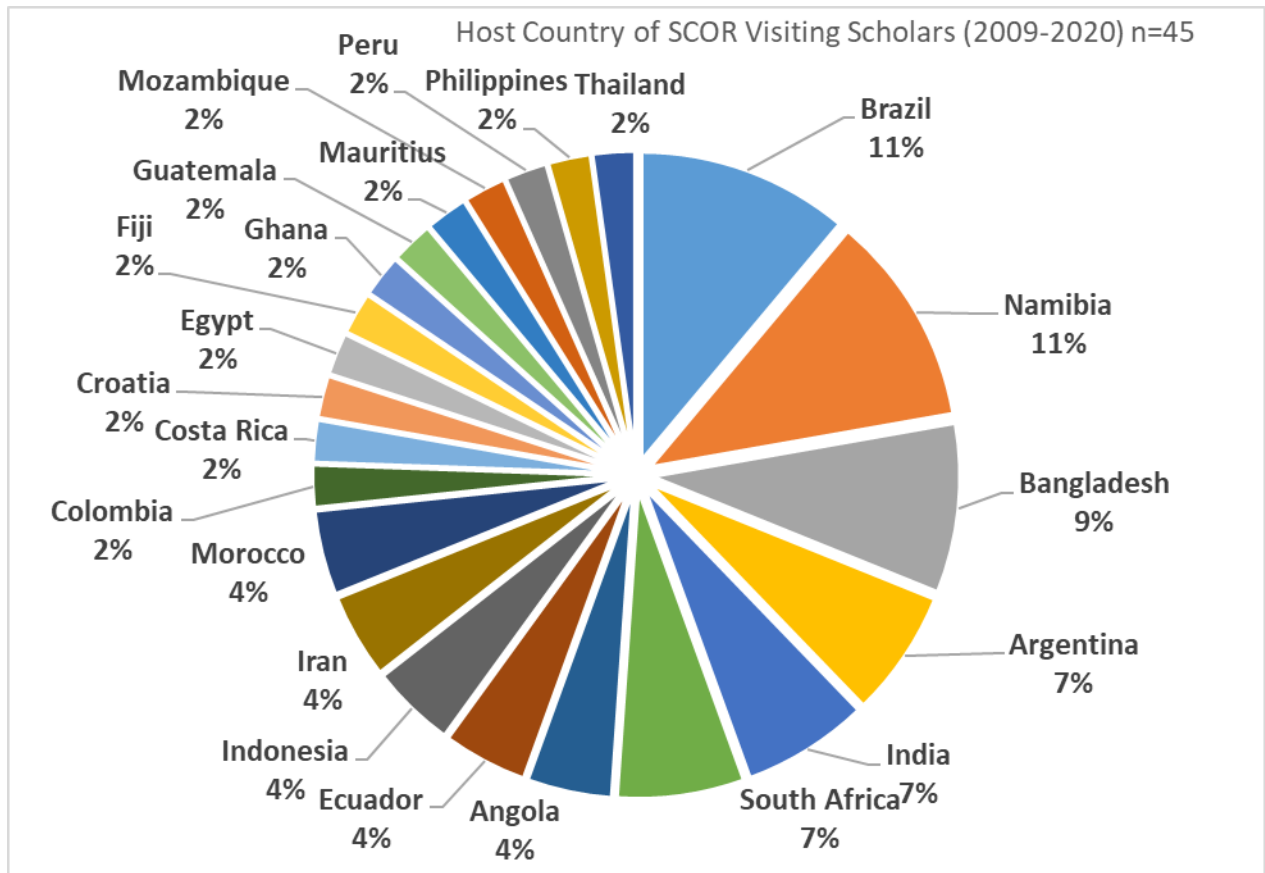
The annual number of Visiting Scholars approved each year has increased from 1 in 2009 to 6 in 2020. The SCOR Visiting Scholars who were approved in 2020 are shown below. The dates of the visits are now unknown because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Later in the year, it will be necessary to decide whether to issue a call for 2021 Fellows or to wait until 2022. James Ditty (see last row below) was approved without a host identified. We had begun to identify a host just prior to the onset of the pandemic, but it has been difficult to complete this process because of the uncertainties faced.

### **SCOR Visiting Scholars Approved in 2020**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Scholar Country</b>	<b>Host Country</b>	<b>Dates of Visit</b>	<b>Topic of Training</b>
Lisa Levin	USA	Fiji		The nexus of climate change, biodiversity and resource extraction in deep waters.
Teresa Cerveira Borges	Portugal	Angola		Marine resources
James Moffett	USA	India		The relationship between the geochemistry of metals such as copper and iron, and the carbon, nitrogen and sulfur cycles
Hailong Liu	China-Beijing	Philippines		Fundamental knowledge of physical oceanography and its applications in polar and tropical regions
Hidenori Kumagai	Japan	India		Marine geology and volcanology including geophysical and geochemical aspects
James Ditty	USA	TBD		identification of early life stages of marine fishes

The 6 SCOR Visiting Scholars approved in 2020 will be supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation and national SCOR committees. This is the first year that SCOR Visiting Scholars will be sent to Fiji and the Philippines, and the first time a Visiting Scholar from China-Beijing has been selected. None of the 2020 Visiting Scholars has been able to do any travel in 2020 due to the COVID19 situation.





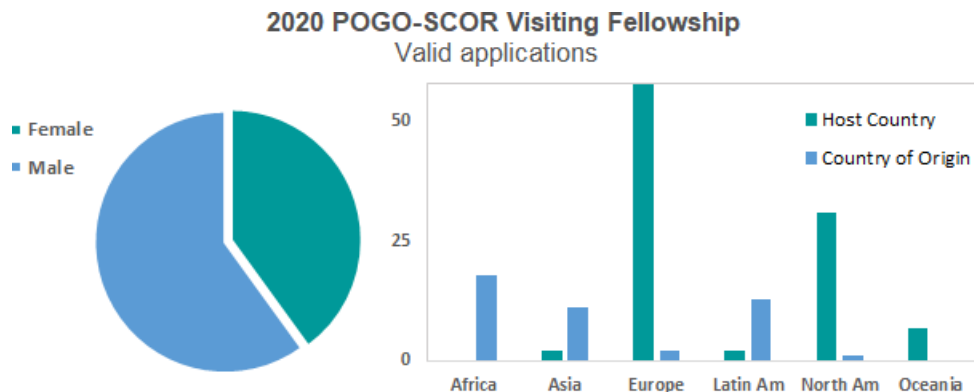
Ed Urban and Sophie Seeyave (POGO Executive Director) submitted an article on the SCOR Visiting Scholar Program and POGO Visiting Professor Program for to *Oceanography* magazine and are now working on revisions to the article.

### 5.3 POGO-SCOR Visiting Fellowships for Oceanographic Observations Miloslavich

#### 2020 Program

This year the twentieth fellowship programme has been launched, jointly supported by POGO and SCOR. As the POGO Members had to be consulted on this year's budget expenditure at the POGO annual meeting at the end of January 2020, the announcement was posted on the 17 February 2020, with a closing date of 31 March 2020, subsequently extended to 30 April 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which may have impacted prospective host institution's ability to provide acceptance letters and to commit to receiving a foreign visitor.

A total of 45 valid applications were received this year (16 more than last year), 40% of which were from female candidates. Applications were received from 24 countries in all continents, except Oceania. Most of the candidates selected host institutes located in at Europe, followed by North America.



With the combined available budget from POGO and SCOR, 5 candidates were selected from: India, Venezuela, Argentina, Colombia and Morocco.

The applications were screened independently by a committee of six, with equal representation from SCOR and POGO. In making their selection, the committee considered the following factors:

- quality of the application;
- relevance of the application to the priority areas identified in the fellowship announcement;
- evidence that the training will lead to improved sustained observations in the region, or improved applications of such data;
- evidence that the training would lead to capacity-building with potential lasting impact on regional observations; and
- the need to maximise regional distribution of the awards.

POGO and SCOR commend the efforts from all the supervisors and colleagues at the various host institutions who agreed to devote time and energy required for the training. The programme would not have been viable without such efforts from prominent scientists and their teams.

### **Demography of Fellowships for 2020**

#### **Parent Institutions:**

India	Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)
Venezuela	Universidad Simón Bolívar (USB)
Argentina	Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA/CONICET)
Colombia	Universidad del Norte
Morocco	Hassan II University

## Host Institutions:

UK	University of East Anglia
USA	University of South Florida
Belgium	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)
UK	Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)
Spain	Institute of Marine Sciences (ICM/CSIC)

## Gender distribution

Male: 3

Female: 2

The report of the performance of the 2019 Fellowships can be accessed at: [https://scor-int.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SCOR-POGO-Fellowship\\_report\\_2020-including-2019-Fellows.pdf](https://scor-int.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SCOR-POGO-Fellowship_report_2020-including-2019-Fellows.pdf)

## 5.4 NSF Travel Support for Developing Country Scientists

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SCOR has received support from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) since 1984 to provide funding for SCOR capacity building activities. Most of the funds are used for travel grants for scientific meetings, although a portion are used for SCOR's contribution to the POGO-SCOR Fellowship Program and the SCOR Visiting Scholars program. Travel grants are awarded to ocean students and scientists to enable them to attend international scientific meetings (see [https://scor-int.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Eligible\\_Countries-1April2020.pdf](https://scor-int.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Eligible_Countries-1April2020.pdf) for list of eligible countries).

The current NSF grant that SCOR uses to support these activities has been extended to expire on 31 August 2021, because of the delays in meetings due to COVID-19. So far during the current three-year grant, 181 individuals from 49 countries have received support to assist them in attending a total of 49 different scientific meetings and longer-term training activities. The NSF grant was renewed to start on 1 August 2020 and end on 31 July 2023, and so will overlap with the current grant by one year. The total funding available from each grant is US\$225,000.

Over the three-year grant, about 77% of the grant funds are devoted to supporting the travel of scientists from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to ocean science meetings. The SCOR Committee on Capacity Building typically evaluates requests from meeting organizers for such support several times each year. After a meeting is approved, the organizers run a selection process and propose individual recipients for support. The SCOR Executive Director checks the names of proposed recipients to ensure they are from eligible countries and have not received similar support from SCOR for the past two years. Priority is given to applicants who are presenting a paper or poster at the meeting or to those who have some special expertise or regional knowledge to bring to a workshop or working group. Preference is also given to younger scientists. In general, care is taken to ensure that the recipients of SCOR/NSF funds are *active* scientists, and that they have not received similar support from SCOR in the



previous two years. All travel grant recipients are informed that their support comes from SCOR and that it is made possible through NSF funding.

Requests come in throughout the year and the SCOR Committee on Capacity Building considers new requests between meetings.

The following requests were approved since the 2019 SCOR Annual Meeting:

<b>Name of Event</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Suggested Amount</b>
5th World Conference on Marine Biodiversity (WCMB 2020)	13-16 December 2020	Auckland, New Zealand	\$5000
COSPAR Assembly	28 Jan.-4 Feb. 2021	Sydney, Australia	\$3000
15th Pan Ocean Remote Sensing Conference (PORSEC) and Capacity Building Tutorial	2021	Johor Bahru, Malaysia	\$3000
WG 150 Summer School	Before April 2021	South Africa	\$5000
14th International Conference on Copepoda	6-12 June 2021	Kruger National Park, South Africa	\$3000
IMBeR CLIMECO 7	9-13 August 2021	Vancouver, B.C., Canada	\$7500
International Conference on Harmful Algae	Fall 2021	La Paz, Mexico	\$5000
Gordon Research Conference and Seminar on Ocean Global Change Biology	2021 or 2022	Waterville Valley, USA	\$3000
		Total requested	\$34,500
		Total available	\$47,911

The next review of requests will be conducted by the SCOR Committee on Capacity Building after the SCOR Annual Meeting.

### **5.5 Research Camps at University of Namibia**

**Miloslavich**

The 2020 Research Camp was postponed from April to December 2020, and then to 2021 because of the pandemic. For now, it appears that the camp will have access to the Namibian government research vessel at that time, which has become an integral part of the program. This program is supported through grants from the Agouron Institute and the Simons Foundation.