

Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO) Report to SCOR Annual General Meeting 2023

1. Introduction

POGO was established in 1999 by a group of directors of marine research institutions who met to discuss ways in which they could work together more effectively in support of global oceanography, and in particular ocean observations. Members value POGO as a forum in which they can meet their peer-directors at least annually, in well-attended meetings, to discuss matters of common interest. Currently, POGO has [55 members](#) in 30 countries.

[POGO's vision](#) is to have by 2030, world-wide cooperation for a sustainable, state-of-the-art global ocean observing system that serves the needs of science and society.

POGO's mission is to:

1. Lead innovation and development of the crucial components of the ocean observing system.
2. Identify and contribute to the development of the key skills, capabilities and capacities needed to achieve the vision.
3. Work with governments, foundations and industry, to articulate the benefits to society and required funding to build and sustain the system.

More information on POGO can be found at www.pogo-ocean.org.

2. Collaboration with SCOR

SCOR is the leading international organisation in the marine science arena, and POGO has always enjoyed good relations with it. Examples of joint activities include the following:

- POGO runs jointly with SCOR a Visiting Fellowship programme that enables early-career scientists from developing countries to study for up to three months in a major oceanographic institution of their choice. The programme is now in its 23rd year, and a total of 195 fellowships have been awarded to date (see section 2.1).
- SCOR also runs a Visiting Professorship modelled on the POGO one, and on several occasions the two programmes have complemented one another (for example, in Southern Africa).
- POGO and SCOR have collaborated in assessing capacity development in marine sciences at the global level and coordinate their respective capacity-development programmes. This was conducted initially through a series of workshops convened and funded by SCOR and, since 2015, SCOR and POGO Secretariats have worked on impact evaluation questionnaires sent to past trainees and trainers of their respective and joint programmes. They have analysed the data obtained and published the results in a [joint article in *Oceanography*](#) on the SCOR and POGO visiting scientist programmes. In 2022, SCOR along with POGO, the International Oceanographic Data Exchange (IODE) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, and

the International Science Council (ISC) organised a UN Ocean Conference virtual side event on [Developing the capacity we need for the ocean we want](#).

- Both POGO and SCOR have supported the Global Alliance of Continuous Plankton Recorder Surveys (GACS). In 2019, POGO provided support for a Workshop on “eDNA Tools for the CPR Survey” and also for training 2 scientists (from South Africa and Brazil) on “Continuous Plankton Recorder silk analysis methods, from cutting the silk to statistical data analysis and interpretation”. Both events were held in Australia in Dec 2019.
- POGO contributed to the establishment, and continues to support the development of the SCOR-SCAR Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS). POGO provided funding to past ([OASIIS workshop](#), held in Germany in 2017) and recent initiatives, such as the first SOOS Symposium, held this past August in Australia. POGO (and SCOR) sponsorship was applied to support participation of early career researchers from developing countries at the Symposium (see [here](#)).
- SCOR established, jointly with POGO, the International Quiet Ocean Experiment (IQOE), a programme aimed at the acoustic background in the ocean, including its anthropogenic and natural components. POGO funded a Working Group to support the IQOE, which was instrumental in getting an Acoustic Essential Ocean Variable (EOV) accepted by GOOS, and encouraged its members to hosting an International Project Office for the programme, which led to the Alfred Wegener Institute recruiting 2 data managers to support IQOE and its Data Working Group in 2019/20. IQOE has promoted several initiatives such as virtual workshops, a Working Group on Data Management and Access, a Task Team on low-cost acoustic recorders for citizen science/educational purposes. In addition, IQOE supports the Global Library of Underwater Biological Sounds (GLUBS) and gathers publications and metadata for a Global Hydrophone Network. The final Ocean Sound EOV Implementation Plan is being finalised and soon will be published. More information on IQOE can be found at <https://www.iqoe.org/>.

2.1. POGO-SCOR Visiting Fellowship

This programme, co-funded by POGO and SCOR and administered by the POGO Secretariat, is designed to promote training and capacity development leading towards a global observation scheme for the ocean. The Programme has been a success for 23 years, with nearly 200 fellowships awarded since 2001 (Figure 1).

The fellowship programme is open to scientists, technicians, postgraduate students (preferably of PhD level) and post-doctoral fellows of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and involved in oceanographic work. The main purpose of the programme is to advance sustained ocean observations and their applications by supporting training in oceanographic observations. Selected fellows are offered the opportunity to visit another oceanographic centre for a short period (1 to 3 months) for training on any aspect of oceanographic observations, analyses, and interpretation.

The POGO-SCOR Visiting Fellowship receives an average of 45 applications every year. The Selection Committee, consisting of 1-2 members of the Secretariat, 1-2 representatives of the SCOR Secretariat and Capacity Development Committee, and 1-2 additional/independent reviewers (usually former host supervisors), evaluates all valid applications considering the quality of the application and applicant CV, relevance of the application to the POGO & SCOR priority areas, and evidence that the training will lead to capacity-building with potential lasting impact on regional observations. The highest-scored applicants are selected according to the budget available, with consideration given to gender and geographical balance,

as well as occasionally other factors such as whether the candidate has received POGO or SCOR funding previously.

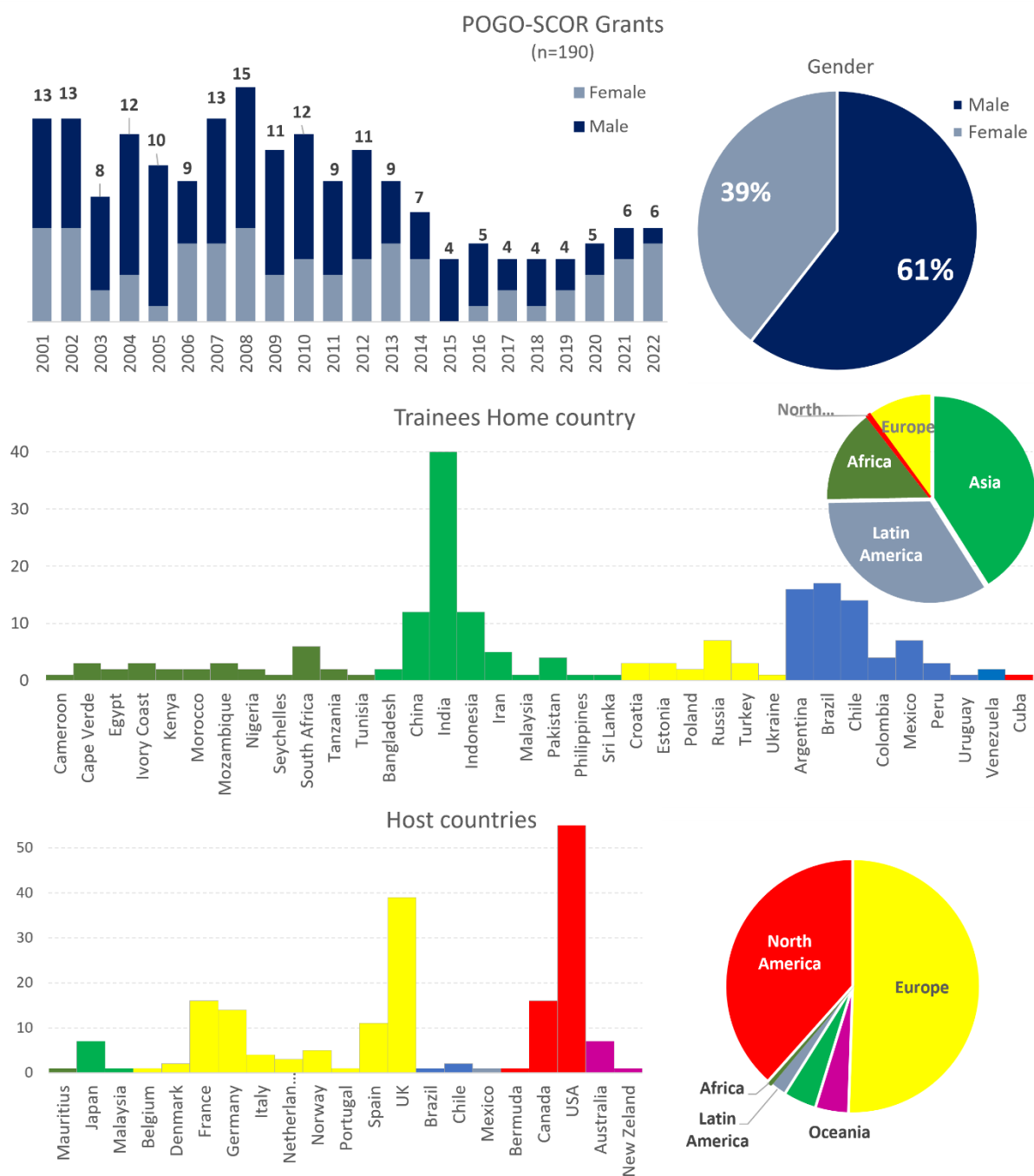


Fig. 1. Statistics for POGO-SCOR Visiting Fellowships grants between 2001 and 2022.

In 2023, 46 valid applications (55% female and 45% male) were received from Asian (50%), Latin American (33%) and African (17%) candidates (Fig.2). Applicants proposed trainings of one, two or three months in oceanographic centres in Europe (61%), North America (17%), Asia (13%), Oceania (7%) and Latin America (2%).

The selected 5 candidates for the 2023 Fellowship Programme (Table 1) have been offered and accepted the grant and will start their training between September 2023 and January 2024.

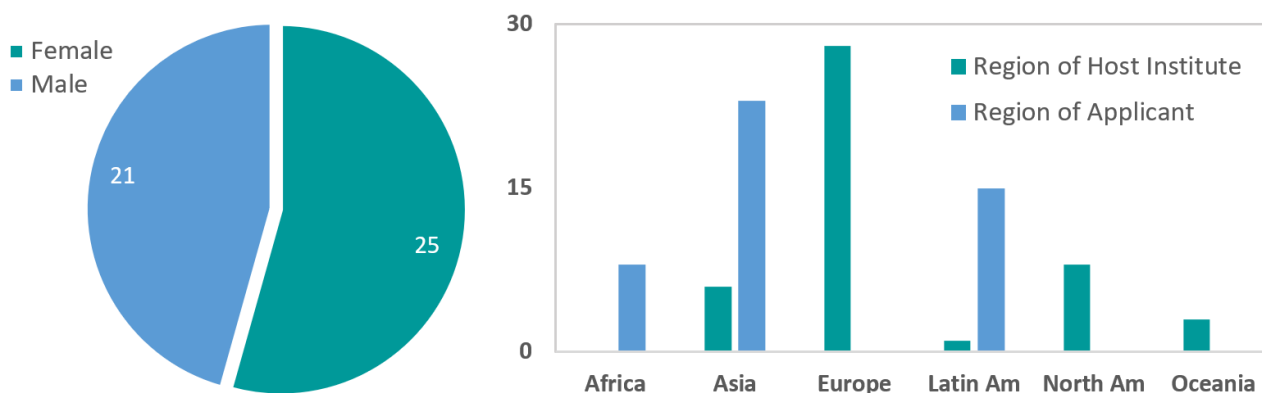


Fig. 3. Demography of 2023 POGO-SCOR Visiting Fellowships applicants.

2.1.1 Appointed POGO-SCOR trainees for 2023

| Trainee | Parent institute | Host institute | Training period |
|---------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Daniel Felipe Bernal Glen | Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia | LOCEAN, France | Oct-Dec 2023 |
| Kranthikumar Chanda | Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology, India | CSIRO, Australia | Jan-Mar 2024 |
| Tobias S. Rodrigues | University of São Paulo, Brazil | LOV, France | Nov-Dec 2023 |
| Roma Varghese | Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, India | JAMSTEC, Japan | Sep-Nov 2023 |
| Toufik Zegloul | National Research Center for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Algeria | ZMT, Germany | Jan-Mar 2024 |