

**SCOR CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES 2023**  
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SCOR capacity development activities include a visiting scholar program, the POGO-SCOR fellowships, travel support to scientists from developing countries to attend meetings and conferences, and the Regional Graduate Networks in Oceanography. Additional capacity development activities are carried out by the SCOR projects through Summer Schools.

SCOR also builds capacity through the encouragement of early-career and developing country scientists in SCOR Working Groups and projects.

**SCOR Committee on Capacity Development (CD Committee)**

The primary purpose of the SCOR Committee on Capacity Development (CD) is to oversee all SCOR’s capacity-development activities and to help the SCOR Secretariat manage these activities. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the CD committee are to:

1. Provide direction for all SCOR’s existing capacity-development 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.
2. Guide and assist SCOR Executive Director in development of new capacity-development activities, particularly the Regional Graduate Schools of Oceanography activity.
3. Assist SCOR-sponsored projects in developing their capacity-development activities.
4. Help SCOR arrange funding for existing and new capacity-development activities.
5. Assist SCOR in interacting with regional and international groups related to capacity development in ocean sciences, such as the ICSU regional centers, START, IOC regional programs, etc.
6. Members of the SCOR Committee on Capacity Development will be appointed for three years, with one additional renewal for a total period of service of 6 years.

<b>Members</b>	<b>Liaisons</b>
Rebecca Zitoun, Chair (Germany)* Sanae Chiba (Canada/PICES) Mauro Cirano (Brazil) Ntahondi Nyandwi (Tanzania) Viena Puigcorbé (Spain) Moagabo Ragoasha (South Africa) Rui Seabra (Portugal)* Paula Sierra (Colombia) Jennifer Verduin (Australia) Sun Xiaoxia (China-Beijing)	Jim Costopulos (Global Oceans) Julius Francis (WIOMSA) Peter Pissierssens/Ana Carolina Mazzuco (IODE/IOC) Eric Raes (IIOE-2 Early Career Scientists Network) Sophie Seeyave (POGO)

The Capacity Development Committee met in September 2023. The committee discussed revisions to the travel grant website in order to provide clarity in criteria and to revise procedures for travel grant

applications. Revisions to procedure include the establishment of set deadlines for meeting organizers to submit applications (March 31, June 30, September 30, December 31) and defining early career scientists to be those who are students or 10 years or less post-PhD. These updates were live on the SCOR website on 2 October 2023.

### SCOR Visiting Scholars

Since 2009, SCOR has enlisted the services of ocean scientists 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 host institutions and aiming to establish future collaborations between the visiting scientist and the host institution.

Starting in 2021, the SCOR CD committee recommended that Visiting Scholar applications have identified a host and developed a joint plan. The SCOR Visiting Scholars Program is a *partnership* between SCOR and local hosts. SCOR provides up to \$2,500 for airfare and local expenses for each fellow; local hosts often provide local accommodation and may support some other local expenses. Local support from host institutions demonstrates institutional commitment to the visit. Information about the program is available at <https://scor-int.org/work/capacity/visiting-scholars/>.

Five new visiting scholars were selected in 2023, two of whom have completed their visits. Additionally, the remaining scholars who were selected while COVID-19 travel restrictions were in effect completed their travel in late 2022 or 2023.

### 2023 Visiting Scholars

Name	Scholar Country	Host Country	Visit Date	Topic
Kaylee Smit	South Africa	Seychelles	4-31 May 2023	Use of BRUVs (baited remote underwater stereo-video systems) to assess biodiversity
Ramaiah Nagappa	India	Bangladesh	12 July 11 August 2023	Biological Oceanography, Marine Ecology and Biology, Molecular Biology and Marine Biotechnology
Maryam Ghaemi	Iran	China	7-22 October 2023	Carbonate chemistry in mangrove and seagrass ecosystems
Olusegun Dada	Nigeria	Cameroon	1 November – 15 December 2023	Coastal Processes and Geomorphology, Marine Resources, and Integrated Coastal Zone Management
Wolfgang Schneider	Chile	Ecuador	TBD (November/ December)	Atmospheric and oceanic general settings and ENSO dynamics and the impact of climatic modes

**Visiting Scholars from prior years who conducted their travel since the last SCOR Meeting:**

Name	Scholar Country	Host Country	Visit Date	Topic
Hidenori Kumaga (Selected in 2020)	Japan	India	23 August – 1 September 2022	Deep sea exploration and technology
Teresa Cerveira Borges (Selected in 2020)	Portugal	Angola	21 November-5 December 2022	Marine resources and ocean sustainability
Hailong Liu (Selected 2020)	China	Brazil	14-25 August 2023	Air-sea interactions and climate: applications to the Tropical Atlantic and the Arctic
Julia Sigwart (Selected in 2021)	Germany	Malaysia	13 February – 3 March 2023	Role of taxonomy in ocean sciences, biodiversity resources, museum collections resources for ocean sciences
Louise Firth and Antony Knights (Selected in 2021)	UK	South Africa	18-29 July 2022	Eco-engineering of the marine built environment
Elva Escobar-Briones (Selected in 2022)	Mexico	Costa Rica	28 February – 9 March 2023	Development of regional program on deep sea topics including deep-sea conservation

SCOR Visiting Scholars are supported by grants from the U.S. National Science Foundation (currently OCE-2027831) and SCOR Funds.

**2022 “Exceptional Call”**

In 2022, a total of eight SCOR scientists were approved to carry out a collaborative scientific activity within a WG or project's goals. Selected scientists either attended training opportunities (similar to SCOR's travel grant) or provided the training (similar to SCOR's visiting scholars). This program was described in the 2022 SCOR Capacity Development report. Seven of the recipients have now traveled in 2023.

Travel for the beneficiaries of the exceptional call is supported by grants from the U.S. National Science Foundation (currently OCE-2027831) and SCOR Funds.

**POGO-SCOR Fellowship**

The POGO-SCOR Fellowship program is jointly funded by POGO (Partnership for Observations of the Global Ocean) and is designed to promote training and capacity building leading towards a global observation scheme for the oceans. The program has awarded 190 fellowships since 2001.

In 2023, five recipients were selected for the fellowship. The 2023 fellows who were recently selected are from India (2 recipients), Colombia, Algeria, and Brazil. More information about the program can be found on the program website (<https://pogo-ocean.org/capacity-development/pogo-scor-fellowship-programme/>) and in the report from POGO to the SCOR annual meeting ([https://scor-int.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/POGO-SCOR-Fellowships\\_2022\\_Report.pdf](https://scor-int.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/POGO-SCOR-Fellowships_2022_Report.pdf)).

SCOR's contribution to the POGO-SCOR Fellowship program is supported by grants from the U.S. National Science Foundation (currently OCE-2027831).

### **NSF Travel Support for Developing Country Scientists**

SCOR has received support from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) since 1984 to provide funding for SCOR capacity development activities. Most of the funds are used for travel grants for scientific meetings, although a portion is used for SCOR's contribution to the POGO-SCOR Fellowships and the SCOR Visiting Scholars program as described above. The current grant, OCE-2027831, has been extended 1 year to July 31, 2024, which will be used to fund travel for visiting scholar and travel grant recipients who have already been identified for events through early 2024. A proposal has been submitted for a new 3-year award to start in early 2024.

The following 2023 meetings were approved for support by the Capacity Development Committee:

<b>2023 Meetings</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Funded Amount</b>	<b>Number of Recipients</b>
International Indian Ocean Science Conference 2023	6-9 February 2023	Australia	\$8,000	3
Gordon Research Conference and Seminar on Polar Marine Science 2023 / GRC and GRS	4-10 March 2023	USA	\$3,500	1
Effects of Climate Change on the World's Ocean 5 / PICES	17-21 April 2023	Norway	\$5,000	4
Planning Workshop for Global Library of Underwater Biological Sounds (GLUBS)	28-29 April 2023	USA	\$2,500	1
Latin America and Caribbean Fisheries Congress	15-18 May 2023	Mexico	\$3,500	4
Training course in Mesopelagic Respiration research and techniques	21-28 May 2023	Spain	\$5,500	2
International Nutrient Inter-Comparison Voyage (INIV) and Ocean Nutrients Symposium	31 May to 20 June 2023	Australia	\$3,000	1
2023 SOLAS International Summer School	5-16 June 2023	Cape Verde	\$10,000	11
IMBeR ClimEco8 Summer School: Sustaining the Ocean We Need for the Future We Want	19-23 June 2023	Slovenia	\$7,500	4
6th World Conference on Marine Biodiversity	2-5 July 2023	Malaysia	\$5,000	9

Gordon Research Conference (GRC) in Chemical Oceanography: “Tracers in the Sea”	16-21 July 2023	USA	\$3,500	1
Trevor Platt Science Foundation (TPSF) Symposium	7-8 August 2023	UK	\$3,500	1
SOOS Symposium 2023 “Southern Ocean in a Changing World”	14-18 August 2023	Australia	\$8,000	4
EMB (European Marine Board) ECOP Network Forum	8-9 October 2023	Spain	\$3,500	2
WCRP Open Science Conference 2023: Advancing Climate Science for a Sustainable Future	23-27 October 2023	Rwanda	\$5,000	2
20th International Conference on Harmful Algae (ICHA)	5-10 November 2023	Japan	\$5,000	5
International Summer School GOOD-OARS-CLAP-COPAS SS2023	6-12 November 2023	Chile	\$5,000	2
<b>Total:</b>	<b>17 Events</b>	<b>12 different countries</b>	<b>\$87,000</b>	<b>57</b>

### **Research Discovery Camps at the University of Namibia - Regional Graduate Network in Oceanography (RGNO)**

The A-RGNO began in 2014, building upon the foundation developed by Prof. Kurt Hanselman (Switzerland) during two SCOR visiting scholar fellowships, and with financial support from the Agouron Institute and the Simons Foundation (since 2017). The A-RGNO offers annual Research Discovery Camps in Oceanography at the Sam Nujoma Campus (SANUMARC), the University of Namibia (UNAM), in collaboration with the National Marine Information and Research Center (NatMIRC) of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) of Namibia.

The focus of these camps is to provide courses and hands-on training in the chemical, physical, and biological aspects of oceanography to students with a particular emphasis on the Benguela Current ecosystem.

After two years of operating as an online series of “Discovery Seminars”, the Discovery Research Camp in Namibia was again held onsite in April-May 2022. However, in 2023, the discovery camp was unable to be run due to technical problems with the R/V *Welwitschia Mirabilis*.

An MOU between SCOR and University of Namibia was signed in 2022 with a duration of one year, with renewal conditioned by implementation of the recommendations of the SCOR Committee on Capacity Development after reviewing the program. The SCOR Capacity Development Committee conducted a

review of the RGNO in 2022. It recommended (1) Increase the number of students from Namibia and other African countries and (2) Institutionalization and engagement of local and regional faculty in A-RGNO. A response to the review evaluation and recommendations has not been received.