

SCOR's Capacity Development Activities 2025



SCOR 2025 Annual Meeting,
29-31 October, Santa Marta

SCOR'S PORTFOLIO



Objectives:

- Strengthen core skills and competencies in developing countries*
- Network and build relationships
- Promote involvement in SCOR's activities

**Developing countries are: Low-Income, Lower-Middle-Income, and Upper-Middle-Income economies defined by the World Bank. SCOR also includes some Small Island Developing States for eligibility.*

Visiting Scholar Program

Since 2009
64 Scholars
from 27 countries
in 30 host countries

POGO-SCOR Fellowships

Since 2001
~200 fellows awarded

Travel Support

Since 1984
~300 Meetings*
>1400 Scientists*

*Tracked since 1999

Regional Graduate Networks

Research Discovery Camp at
University of Namibia since 2014

**Involvement of Early Career and
Developing Country Scientists in
SCOR's Working Groups and
Projects**

Summer Schools

GEOTRACES
SOLAS
IMBeR
IOCCP

Members as of October 2025:

- Rebecca Zitoun, Chair (Australia)
- Sanae Chiba (Canada/PICES)
- Mauro Cirano (Brazil) *outgoing*
- Ebenezer Nyadjro (USA)
- Nubi Olubunmi Ayoola (Nigeria)
- Viena Puigcorbé (Spain)
- Sazlina Salleh (Malaysia)
- Moagabo Ragoasha (South Africa)
- Paula Sierra (Colombia)
- Dale Webber (Jamaica)
- Sun Xiaoxia (China-Beijing)

The Capacity Development Committee provides advice to SCOR about capacity development activities. This includes review and selection of applications for SCOR's capacity development programs.

SCOR VISITING SCHOLARS

Completed



Babette Tchonang

Naval Research Laboratory,
USA

Host: University of Dschang,
Cameroon

Oceanography challenges
and opportunities in the Gulf
of Guinea region

Brit Finucci

NIWA, **New Zealand**

Host: Miyaru – Shark Programme,
Maldives

Deep-sea shark biology, fisheries
collaboration, and conservation
strategies



Upcoming



Deepak Mishra

University of Georgia, **USA**
Host: Berhampur University,
India

Integrated Training in Remote
Sensing of Coastal and Marine
Environments



Yohan Louis

NYU Abu Dhabi, **UAE**
Host: **Papua New Guinea**

University of Natural
Resources and
Environment

Coral molecular research

17 APPLICATIONS: 9 FEMALE, 8 MALE. 5 AWARDED (1 canceled).

NEW CALL: Due 15 December 2025



Applications now available!

2026 SCOR Visiting Scholars

Apply for funding to teach short courses and provide on-site education and mentorship in ocean sciences at developing country institutions.

Applications due 15 December 2025



Highlights from 2025 Scholar Visits

TRAVEL GRANT - SUPPORT 2025



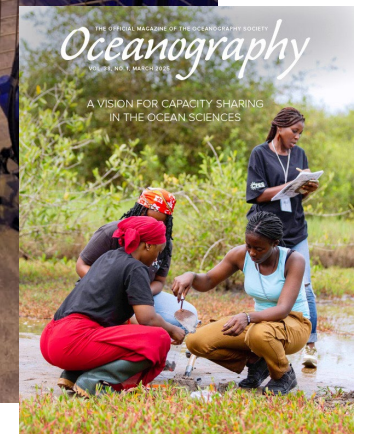
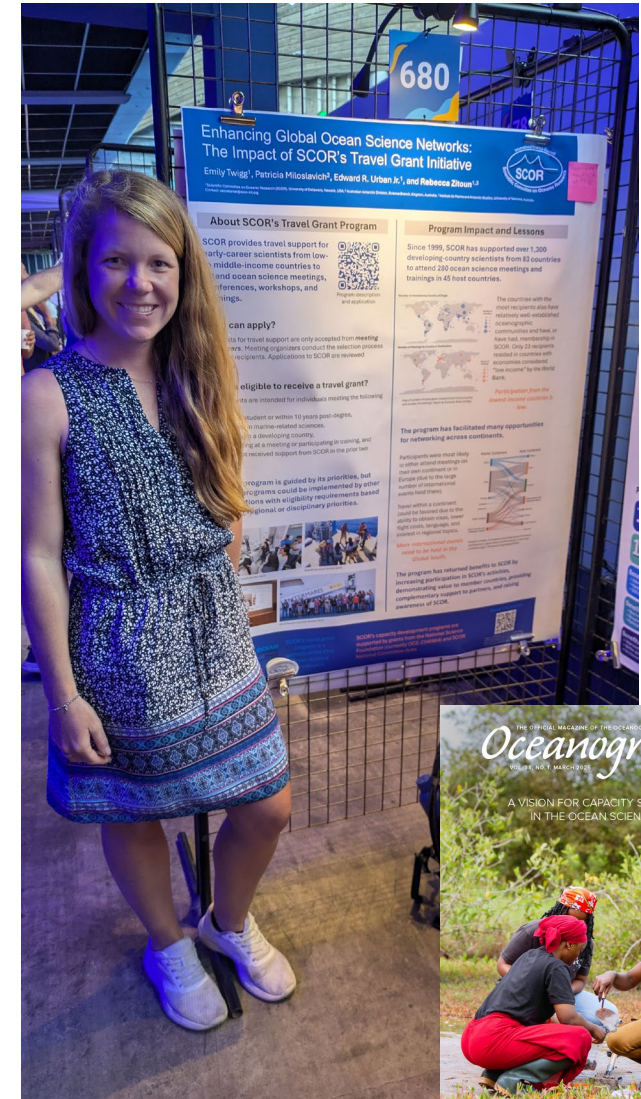
19 events in 2025 were awarded a total of \$69k USD to fully or partially support 59 early-career, developing-country scientists from 26 countries.

- Austral Summer Institute XXII, 6-17 January, Concepción, **Chile**
- 9th edition of Ramon Margalef Colloquia, 16-21 March, Barcelona, **Spain**
- Integrated Indian Ocean Science Committee Meeting (IIOE-2), 5-9 May, Port Louis, **Mauritius**
- IMBeR Future Oceans 3, 13-16 May, Shanghai, **China**
- One Ocean Science Congress, 3-6 June, Nice, **France**
- International Workshop on Mid-latitude Atmosphere-Ocean-Ecosystem Interactions: Processes, Predictability, and Habitability, 16-18 July, Fukuoka, **Japan**
- Gordon Research Seminar/Conference on Chemical Oceanography, 19-25 July, Manchester, NH, **USA**
- World Congress of Malacology, 4-7 August, Sao Paulo, **Brazil**
- 5th Annual International Workshop of the US–West Africa Coastal Research and Resilience Consortium, 18-21 August, Accra, **Ghana**
- Gulf of Guinea Ocean Sciences Summer School, 25-29 August, Dschang, **Cameroon**
- International Conference for YOUNG Marine Researchers - ICYMARE 2025, 8-12 September, Bremerhaven, **Germany**
- 12th World Sponge Conference , 9-13 September, Vila do Conde, **Portugal**
- The 7th International Conference on Ocean Engineering, 14-18 September, Chennai, **India**
- SAME18: Symposium on Aquatic Microbial Ecology, 28 Sep-3 October, Barcelona, **Spain**
- Unraveling the Impact of Deoxygenation and Coastal Acidification in the Latin American Region, 20-24 October, Puerto Ángel, **Mexico**
- 21st International Conference on Harmful Algae, 19-24 October, Punta Arenas, **Chile**
- 2025 GEOTRACES Summer School , 17-21 November, Cape Town, **South Africa**
- International Indian Ocean Science Conference (IIOE-2), 1-5 December, Hyderabad, **India**
- Past Ocean Oxygen Workshop: Notable Hypoxic Events of the Geologic Past, 10-12 December, Raleigh, NC, **USA**

TRAVEL GRANTS – IMPACT

From 1999-2023, over 1300 recipients from 83 countries attended about 280 meetings in 45 countries as a result of the travel grant program.

- The program has facilitated many opportunities for networking across continents.
 - More international events need to be held in the Global South to increase participation.
 - Participation from the lowest income countries is low.
- Tracking the career outcomes and perspectives of the grant recipients through follow-up surveys will be initiated to provide further insights on perceived value by the recipients.



TRAVEL GRANTS – IMPACT



Lokman Norazmi • 3rd+
Aquaculture Scientist & Educator – Dedicated to advancing sustaina...
2mo • Edited

+ Follow

Japan Trip (Episode 2)

Following my visit to JAMSTEC Yokohama, I then travelled to the south of Japan to attend the International Workshop/Conference on Mid-latitude Atmosphere-Ocean-Ecosystem Interactions: Processes, Predictability, and Habitability hosted by Habitable Japan at Shiiki Hall, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan.

The event kicked off on 15 July 2025 with a memorable networking session... watching a baseball match between Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks vs Chiba Lotte Marines at Fukuoka PayPay Dome (the home team won!). Great game, great food, even better company.

The workshop/conference brought together experts in oceanography, climate science, and ecosystems. I was probably the only aquaculturist in the room and that made the conversations even more exciting! My presentation, "Aquaculture Under Climate Stress" used a Ghibli-inspired theme in honour of Japan's creative legacy. To my surprise, after my presentation, many attendees were keen to learn about the intersection of climate change and aquatic food security. During the coffee break session, we had a good discussion on the topic which hopefully will turn into a fruitful collaboration. I was honoured when the organisers invited me to serve as a jury member for the Student Best Poster Award. Indeed it was a rewarding experience witnessing young researchers present their work with passion and clarity.

Big thanks to the [Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research](#) for the travel grant and to all the brilliant minds I met during this journey.



Bennet Foli, Ph.D. • 2nd
Lecturer and Consultant at the University of Ghana
1mo

ECOP participants sponsored by the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research to the just ended US-Africa Coastal Resilience Research Consortium (CRRC) 2025 workshop at the University of Ghana.



Princessa Mononoke
@Coragem134

I want to thank [@SCOR_Int](#) for the opportunity to be a participant in the World Sponge Conference in Portugal. This is an amazing and super important event, and I'm incredibly thankful!

7:37 AM · Aug 23, 2025 · 18 Views



Post your reply

Reply



Esther Oghenede • 2nd
Research Scientist at NIOMR, POGO-SCOR Fellow 2024
1mo

On stage, sharing science that matters! #Excited to share a proud moment!

From the shores of Ghana to an international audience — presenting my research on Microplastics in coastal waters was a surreal and proud moment. Every slide, every graph, every discussion was a step toward healthier oceans.

I had the honor of presenting my research on "Distribution and Ecological Impacts of Microplastics in Coastal Waters-Ghana Coastal Water As A Case Study" at an international conference (International Medical Geologist Association-Nigeria)—connecting with brilliant minds working to protect our oceans.

Huge thanks to POGO-SCOR, [Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean \(POGO\)](#) and [Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research](#) : for providing me a platform and also for funding this research work, thus, delocalized my research experience.

A heartfelt thank you to my incredible host supervisor [Edem Mahu \(PhD\)](#) for allowing me to gain from her wealth of knowledge; [PROF MAHU BIOGEOCHEMISTRY LAB TEAM](#) and [Mr Kofi](#): for their kind gesture and support all through my stay at the lab and in University of Ghana; [Popoola Samuel Olatunde \(PhD\)](#) for being an outstanding supervisor at my institute (NIOMR) and for his recommendation; NIOMR: for given me a platform and also opportunity to advance my career; [Rod Shelle](#) : for being an amiable head of my dept. (Physical and Chemical Oceanography); [Olubunmi Nubi](#) : for being an inspirational boss to me in this field of oceanography; [Dr Kunbi](#) my amiable senior colleague for his words of encouragement during the POGO-SCOR application process and [Yemi Afolabi](#) for being such a supportive husband in advancing my career. I am also ever grateful to my aunty Mrs Agnes Olatipo for her motherly role and guidance to seeing me become a better me 🙏

Feeling inspired and ready for the next chapter! 🌍 ✨

#Microplastics #MarinePollution #EnvironmentalScience #OceanHealth #ResearchImpact #ConferencePresentation



+2

POGO-SCOR FELLOWSHIPS 2025



Kehinde Oluwasiji
Olorunfemi

Nigeria to Bangladesh

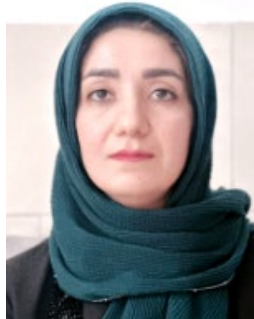
Unlocking ocean insights through modelling, data management and analysis



Mayukhmita Ghose

India to Germany

Uncovering Microbial Carbon Processing Pathways in Mangrove Ecosystems Using Stable Isotope Probing and Omics Approaches



Marzieh Biglari

Iran to UK

Data-Driven Discovery and Forecasting of Ocean Surface Dynamics Using SINDy and PINNs Trained on Observation Data



Matheus Batista

Brazil to Portugal

Phytoplankton Community Composition in Coastal Waters Using Satellite Remote Sensing



Abhijith Raj

India to USA

Advanced training in Eddy Covariance data processing for wind-wave interaction studies and model roughness length improvements.

A full report on the 2024 Fellowship Programme prepared by POGO can be found on the 2025 SCOR Annual Meeting webpage.

59 APPLICATIONS: 29 FEMALE, 30 MALE

POGO-SCOR FELLOWSHIPS IMPACT



Impacts for fellows:

- participation in new research projects
- implementation of new techniques,
- long-term collaborations
- Involvement in international science

Impacts for broader networks:

- Fellowships “train the trainers”

Impacts for host:

- reciprocal exchange visits, joint publications, joint projects

DEVELOPING CAPACITY FOR OCEAN SCIENCE THROUGH VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

By Sophie Seeyave, Lilian A. Krug, Edward Urban Jr., Fiona A. Beckman, Shubha Sathyendranath, and Emily Twigg

ABSTRACT. The Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO) and the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) have been running a Visiting Fellowship program in ocean observations that has trained 200 fellows since its inception in 2001. We report here on the medium- and long-term impacts of the training, as demonstrated by a combination of quantitative results from evaluation questionnaires and qualitative reports from fellows and supervisors. The key findings are that the fellowships have had positive impacts on the fellows themselves (e.g., participation in new research projects, implementation of new techniques, long-term collaborations), as well as “training the trainers,” with most fellows indicating that they had passed on the knowledge gained. Benefits to the host supervisor and institution are also apparent through continued collaborations (e.g., reciprocal exchange visits, joint publications, joint projects). More widespread impacts are evident, where fellows have become key participants in the international scientific community.

INTRODUCTION: WHY A VISITING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM?

Providing grants for visits and exchanges of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to or between research and higher education institutions in different countries has been a popular mechanism for capacity development since the early twentieth century. Many of these programs have been nationally funded and thus are reserved for visits of international students and postdoctoral fellows to a particular country, or conversely, for those from a particular country to travel abroad (e.g., German Academic Exchange Service [DAAD], US Fulbright Program, European Commission “mobility” schemes, and the European Union’s Erasmus and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programs). While these programs generally allow for the completion of a postgraduate term or postdoctoral fellowship, they do not fulfill the need for shorter-term training in a specific topic, method, or technique.

To address this gap in the field of ocean science and observations, the Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO), the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), and the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO came together in 2001 to develop a visiting fellowship program in ocean observations. The program continues to this day as a collaboration between POGO and SCOR (hereafter referred to as POGO-SCOR fellowships; <https://pogo-scor.org/capacity-development/pogo-scor-fellowship-programme/>), with 200 fellows trained to date from 37 countries, and hosted by 21 different countries. A similar visiting fellowship program was put in place by the International Ocean Colour Coordinating Group (IOCCG) in 2002. The IOCCG program has now transformed into the IOCCG Platt Scholarship (<https://ioccg.org/what-we-do/training-and-education/platt-scholarship/>). POGO has also developed other models of fellowship (longer-term,

ship-based), together with other partners, and funded mainly by the Nippon Foundation (Milodavich et al., 2018; Krieger et al., 2025, in this issue; Krug et al., 2025, in this issue). Short-term visiting fellowships that are now a widely used mechanism for developing skills and capacities in both developed and developing countries can very effectively complement the reverse model of facilitating visits of more senior researchers to developing countries for teaching, mentoring, and research collaborations (Urban and Seeyave, 2021).

Visiting fellowships provide valuable opportunities for young scientists to visit other research institutions where they can access expertise and facilities that may not exist at their home institutions. Such visits are also important for broadening their research perspectives and exposing them to new ideas and challenges. For young scientists from developing countries, these fellowships may offer their first opportunities to travel abroad or outside their regions, which has both educational and cultural benefits. Such fellowships do not have to take place in a “South-North” direction—they can, and should, also facilitate “South-South” training and collaboration, as well as “North-South” visits for true “capacity sharing” to occur.

Grants for the one- to three-month POGO-SCOR fellowships include funding for international travel, domestic travel in the host country, and a monthly stipend based on the cost of living in the city being visited and the cost of accommodation. From a pool of around 40–50 applicants each year, five to six are selected

African Regional Graduate Network in Oceanography (A-RGNO)

- RGNO Concept: Regional centers of capacity sharing
- Current program is the Research Discovery Camp in Namibia: Conducted from 2014 to 2022 (online 2020 and 2021). Returned in 2025 after 2 years of the R/V Mirabilis being unavailable.
- Hosted at the University of Namibia with international participation in the lecturers and students.
- Increasing independence by the university in organizing the course; a Master's program is expected to start in fall 2026.
- Initiated by Kurt Hanselmann after a SCOR Visiting Scholarship with support from the Simons and Agouron Foundations.

2025 Course

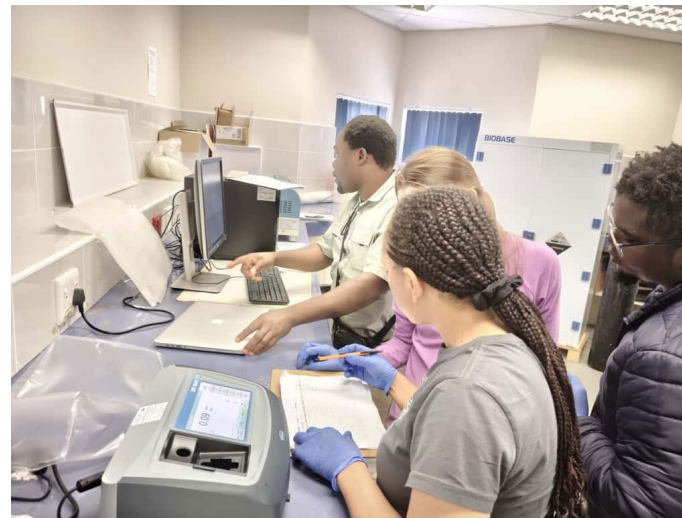
- 29 September – 17 October (no final report ready yet)
- 8 participants: 6 Namibian, 2 international (Argentina, Benin)
- Opening symposium for students and a broader scientific community to share current activities.
- Near-shore sampling, analysis, and presentation of results



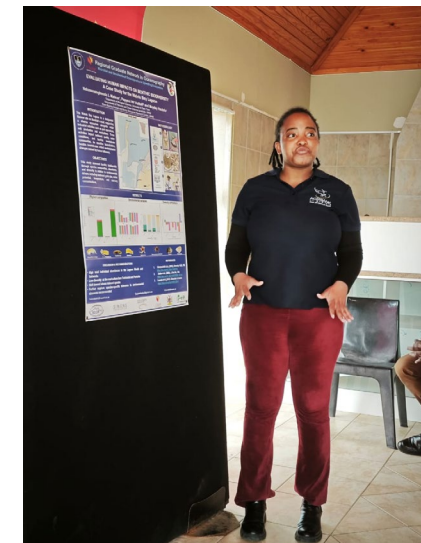
Opening Symposium



Lagoon field sampling

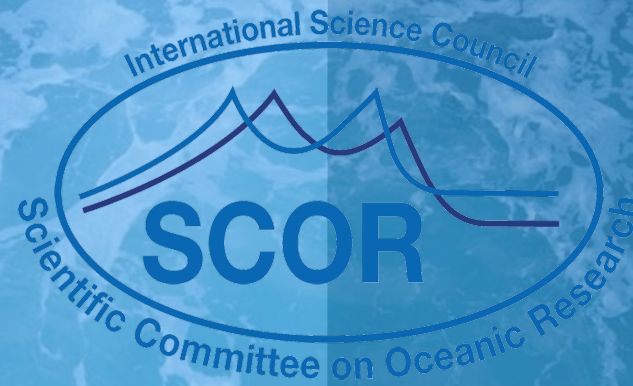


Sample analysis @ NatMIRC



Presentation of results

THANK YOU !



EMAIL: secretariat@scor-int.org