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**International Centre for Capacity
Development, Sustainability and
Societal Change**
under the auspices of UNESCO

Annual Report 2022

July 2023

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GRÓ • International Centre for Capacity Development,
Sustainability and Societal Change

Rauðarárstígur 25 – 105 Reykjavík, Iceland

grocentre.is

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Icelandic Summary – Samantekt á íslensku

GRÓ – Þekkingarmiðstöð þróunarsamvinnu er sjálfstæð miðstöð sem starfar undir merkjum UNESCO, Mennta-, vísinda- og menningarmálastofnun Sameinuðu þjóðanna, og miðar að því að koma íslenskri sérfræðipækkingu á framfæri við þróunarlöndin. GRÓ skólarnir fjórir (Jafnréttisskóli, Jarðhitaskóli, Landgræðsluskóli og Sjávarútvegsskóli) hafa starfað um áratugaskeið og hafa frá upphafi verið ein af meginstöðum alþjóðlegrar þróunarsamvinnu Íslands. Jarðhitaskólinn er hýstur hjá Íslenskum orkurannsóknum (ÍSOR), Sjávarútvegsskólinn hjá Hafrannsóknarstofnun, Landgræðsluskólinn hjá Landbúnaðarháskóla Íslands og Jafnréttisskólinn hjá Háskóla Íslands. Í ársskýrslunni er gerð grein fyrir starfi skólanna fjögurra, sem allir starfa undir GRÓ – Þekkingarmiðstöð þróunarsamvinnu, árið 2022.



Nemendahópur Landgræðsluskóla GRÓ árið 2022 ásamt Ragnheiði Þórarinsdóttur, rektor Landbúnaðarháskóla Íslands og Britu Berglund, starfsmanni Landgræðsluskólans

Til Íslands í þjálfun á vegum GRÓ árið 2022 voru konur, eða 54%. Þá voru 28% nemenda frá tekjulægstu löndunum (LDCs), 52% frá lág- og miðtekjuríkjum (LMICs) og 18% nemenda frá tekjuhæstu þróunarlöndunum (UMICs).

Þrjú útskrifuðust með doktorsgráðu á árinu á skólastyrk frá GRÓ. Kona frá Mongólíu varð fyrsti doktorinn til að útskrifast með styrk frá Landgræðsluskólanum. Þá lauk líberískur karlmaður doktorsprófi með styrk frá Sjávarútvegsskólanum og karlmaður frá Kenía lauk doktorsgráðu með styrk frá Jarðhitaskólanum. Til viðbótar luku fimm nemendur meistaragráðu með styrk frá Jarðhitaskóla GRÓ, þrír karlar og tvær konur. Alls hafði í lok árs 21 doktor útskrifast með skólastyrk frá GRÓ og 101 lokið meistaraprófi. Árið 2022 stunduðu samtals 36 fyrrverandi nemendur sem fengið hafa skólastyrk frá GRÓ framhaldsnám við íslenska háskóla, þar af voru 56% karlar og 44% konur. Meistaranevendur voru alls 19, 63% karlar og 37% konur, og doktorsnemendur voru 17 talsins, 53% konur og karlar 47%. Alls voru 44% framhaldsnemenda frá tekjulægstu löndunum (LDCs), 53% frá lág- og miðtekjuríkjum (LMICs) og 3% frá tekjuhæstu þróunarlöndunum (UMICs). Þá voru 67% frá Afríkulöndum, 19% frá löndum í Asíu og 14% frá latnesku Ameríku.

Alls komu 92 sérfræðingar frá þróunarlöndunum til Íslands í fimm til sex mánaða þjálfun á vegum GRÓ árið 2022. Í lok árs höfðu samanlagt 1.578 einstaklingar útskrifast úr skólunum fjórum frá stofnun þeirra. Sjávarútvegsskólinn útskrifaði í febrúar sinn stærsta hóp frá upphafi en sá hópur taldi 27 sérfræðinga. Í maí útskrifaði Jafnréttisskólinn 23 nemendur og frá Landgræðsluskólanum brautskráðust 19 nemandur í september. Jarðhitaskólinn kvaddi sinn 43. útskriftarhóp, 23 sérfræðinga, í október. Meirihluti þeirra sem komu

GRÓ – Þekkingarmiðstöð þróunarsamvinnu Lykiltölur í lok árs 2022



1.578

nemandur hafa lokið 5-6 mánaða þjálfun á Íslandi



101

nemi hefur lokið meistarnámi



21

nemi hefur lokið doktorsnámi



4.391

nemi hefur lokið styttri námskeiðum

Fjöldmörg styttri námskeið voru haldin á vettvangi á árinu 2022 á vegum GRÓ eða í gegnum fjarfundabúnað. Jarðhitaskólinn hélt tvö netnámskeið fyrir S-Ameríku og Asíu með nálægt 300 þátttakendum. Þá hélt Jarðhitaskólinn vikulangt námskeið í El Salvador með 46 þátttakendum frá 17 löndum og þriggja vikna námskeið í Kenýa þar sem 43 sérfræðingar frá 11 löndum tóku þátt. Bæði námskeiðin voru haldin í samstarfi við þarlend orkufyrirtæki. Einnig studdi Jarðhitaskólinn fimm mánaða diplómanám í El Salvador. Landgræðsluskólinn skipulagði nýtt námskeið í Eþíópíu í samstarfi við þarlenda aðila, þar sem 20 tóku þátt. Sjávarútvegsskólinn studdi fyrrverandi nemendur til þátttöku á alþjóðlegum ráðstefnum og skipulagði einnig fræðsluferðir til Íslands fyrir háttsetta aðila í sjávarútvegi í Indónesíu og Síerra Leóne. Jafnréttisskólinn hleypti af stokkunum nýju netnámskeiði um jafnrétti og kynferðislegt ofbeldi á átakasvæðum. Við lok ársins 2022 höfðu rúmlega 4.000 manns sótt styttri námskeið sem haldin hafa verið á vettvangi í samstarfslöndunum.

GRÓ markaði sér breytingakenningu á árinu (e. Theory of Change) sem unnin er eftir aðferðarfræði UNESCO við árangurstjórnun. Þar er sett fram hvaða langtímaáhrifum GRÓ stefnir að í starfinu og hvernig GRÓ mun markvisst stuðla að þeim breytingum. Einnig setti miðstöðin sér markmið og ákvarðaði áherslur fram til ársins 2027 sem nýtast munu til að mæla árangur af starfi miðstöðvarinnar.



Þátttakendur í vinnustofu um breytingakenningu GRÓ sem haldin var í utanríkisráðuneytinu 6. október 2022.

Eitt af stærstu verkefnum ársins 2022 var þegar GRÓ tók á leigu húsnæði að Grensásvegi 14 til að hýsa nemendur GRÓ skólanna, gestakennara og framhaldsnemendur. Fyrstu nemendurnir fluttu inn í september 2022 en í húsinu er aðstaða fyrir 27 nemendur. Öll 27 herbergin eru með eldhúsaðstöðu og 19 herbergi með sér baðherbergi. Í húsinu eru auk þess þrjú sameiginleg félagsrými og þvottahús. Tilkoma nýja hússins hefur gjörbreytt aðstöðu nemenda og starfsaðstæðum skólanna þegar kemur að húsnæðismálum. Þrjár skólanna nýta húsnæðið fyrir sína nemendur en nemendur Jafnréttisskólans, sem hýstur er í Háskóla Íslands, búa á Stúdentagörðum meðan þau dvelja á Íslandi. Jafnframt hafa með húsinu skapast tækifæri fyrir nemendur til að kynnast þvert á ólík GRÓ prógrömm. Þá hefur GRÓ einnig átt mjög gott samstarf við Félagsstofnun stúdenta sem hefur gert nemendum GRÓ kleift að dvelja á Stúdentagörðum yfir sumarið en það er sá tími sem flestir nemendur eru á landinu.

Fjárveitingar til GRÓ árið 2022 voru 800,6 milljónir króna. Árið 2022 lét utanríkisráðuneytið fyrirtækið Ernst & Young ehf. (EY) gera fjárhagsúttekt á umsýslu GRÓ skólanna með þróunarfé og lágu niðurstöðurnar fyrir í september. Sambærileg úttekt var gerð árin 2018 (Jarðhitaskólinn) og árið 2019 (Jafnréttisskólinn, Landgræðsluskólinn og Sjávarútvegsskólinn), í aðdraganda stofnunar GRÓ. Úttektin árið 2022 staðfesti góða umsýslu hýsisstofnana með fjárveitingum til GRÓ skólanna fjögurra, en setti jafnframt fram tillögur til úrbóta bæði fyrir GRÓ

sem miðstöð og skólana fjóra. Úttektir eru nýttar til að vinna að því að hámarka samlegð og skilvirkni í starfi skólanna og tryggja þannig bestu nýtingu á íslensku þróunarsamvinnufé, sem og leita sóknartækifæra og möguleika á frekari eflingu á starfsemi þeirra sem hlýst með því að reka skólana undir einum hatti.

Utanríkisráðherra skipar stjórn og forstöðumann GRÓ, samkvæmt reglugerð um GRÓ nr. 1260/2019. Forstöðumaður GRÓ er Nína Björk Jónsdóttir og stjórnarformaður Jón Karl Ólafsson. Að auki sitja í stjórn GRÓ – Þekkingarmiðstöðvar þróunarsamvinnu Ragnar Þorgeirsson, tilnefndur af menningar- og viðskiptaráðuneyti, Jean-Yves Le Saux, tilnefndur af aðalframkvæmdastjóra UNESCO, sem hefur falið Ástu Magnúsdóttur, starfsmanni UNESCO að sækja fundi fyrir sína hönd; Sæunn Stefánsdóttir, tilnefnd af íslensku UNESCO nefndinni; og Guðrún Margrét Guðmundsdóttir, tilnefnd af Þróunarsamvinnunefnd, sem fulltrúi óháður stjórnvöldum.

Stjórn hélt sjö stjórnarfundi og tvo aukafundi árið 2022. Þá var þann 6. október haldin vinnustofa um breytingakenningu GRÓ með starfsfólki GRÓ skólanna, stjórn GRÓ, forstöðumanni GRÓ og starfsfólki utanríkisráðuneytisins sem starfar að þróunarsamvinnu. Einnig tók GRÓ þátt í UNESCO deginum þann 1. september 2022 og seinna í sama mánuði í vinnustofu sem utanríkisráðuneytið hélt í samstarfi við Þróunarsamvinnunefnd OECD um nýsköpun í þróunarsamvinnu.

About GRÓ

The GRÓ International Centre for Capacity Development, Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Societal Change was established on January 1st 2020 and operates under the auspices of UNESCO as a Category 2 Centre based in Iceland. It is the first multi-disciplinary Category 2 Centre at UNESCO.

Four training programmes are hosted by GRÓ:

- **Geothermal Training Programme (GRÓ GTP)**, established in 1979 and currently hosted at Iceland Geosurvey (ÍSOR), which concentrates their work on increasing the use of renewable geothermal resources. The director of GRÓ GTP is Dr Guðni Axelsson.
- **Fisheries Training Programme (GRÓ FTP)**, established in 1997 and hosted at the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, working on the protection and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources. In 2022, directors of GRÓ FTP were Mary Frances Davidson and, during Davidson's maternity leave, Julie Ingham.
- **Land Restoration Training Programme (GRÓ LRT)**, established in 2007 and hosted by the Agricultural University of Iceland, working on restoration and sustainable use of land. The director of GRÓ LRT is Dr Sjöfn Vilhelmsdóttir.
- **Gender Studies and Training Programme (GRÓ GEST)**, hosted by the University of Iceland was established in 2009 and works toward increasing gender equality, social justice and peacebuilding. The director of GRÓ GEST is Dr Irma Erlingsdóttir.

The GRÓ Centre operates under its own legal identity and is guided and overseen by a Governing Board, appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, and set up as a unit within the Ministry. Regulation nr. 1260, adopted on 18 December 2019 applies to the operations of GRÓ – Centre for Capacity Development, Sustainability and Societal Change. The Centre operates based on Act No 121/2008 on Iceland's International Development Cooperation, Act no. 115/2011 on the Government Offices of Iceland, the Public Finance Act No 123/2015, Iceland's policy for international development cooperation, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and international obligations.

The four training programmes have been an important part of Iceland's development cooperation portfolio for decades. In addition to the core funding provided by the government of Iceland, external funding is obtained by GRÓ, mainly through counterpart contributions from partner institutions, grants and by participation in international projects.

This report covers the activities of the GRÓ Centre in 2022.

Summary of activities of GRÓ in 2022

In total, 92 fellows participated in the GRÓ 5-6 month post graduate training in 2022. At the end of 2022, a total of 1.578 fellows had finished the 5-6 month training in Iceland. Also, 101 had finished a master 's degree and 21 a PhD at Icelandic universities on a GRÓ scholarship. In addition, the four programmes have held many short courses in their partners countries with more than 4.000 participants.

GRÓ — Centre for Capacity Development, Sustainability and Societal Change
Key figures on December 31st 2022



GRÓ FTP	GRÓ GEST	GRÓ GTP	GRÓ LRT
442 Fellows, 6 month training	195 Fellows, 5 month training	766 Fellows, 6 month training	175 Fellows, 6 month training
19 Master degrees	357 Short course participants	80 Master degrees	2 Master degrees
15 PhD degrees		5 PhD degrees	1 PhD degree
1.263 Short course participants		2.602 Short course participants	169 Short course participants

5-6 month training

The Fisheries Training Programme (GRÓ FTP) graduated its biggest cohort yet, 27 fellows, in February 2022. In May the Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (GRÓ GEST) graduated 23 fellows and the Land Restoration Training Programme (GRÓ LRT) graduated 19 fellows in September. The Geothermal Training Programme (GRÓ GTP) graduated its 43rd cohort, of 23 fellows, in October.



The GRÓ centre started a collaboration in 2022 with the Laugardalur pool, located close to the GRÓ house. Fellows are invited to visit the pool and try this favourite activity of the Icelanders shortly after arrival in Iceland.

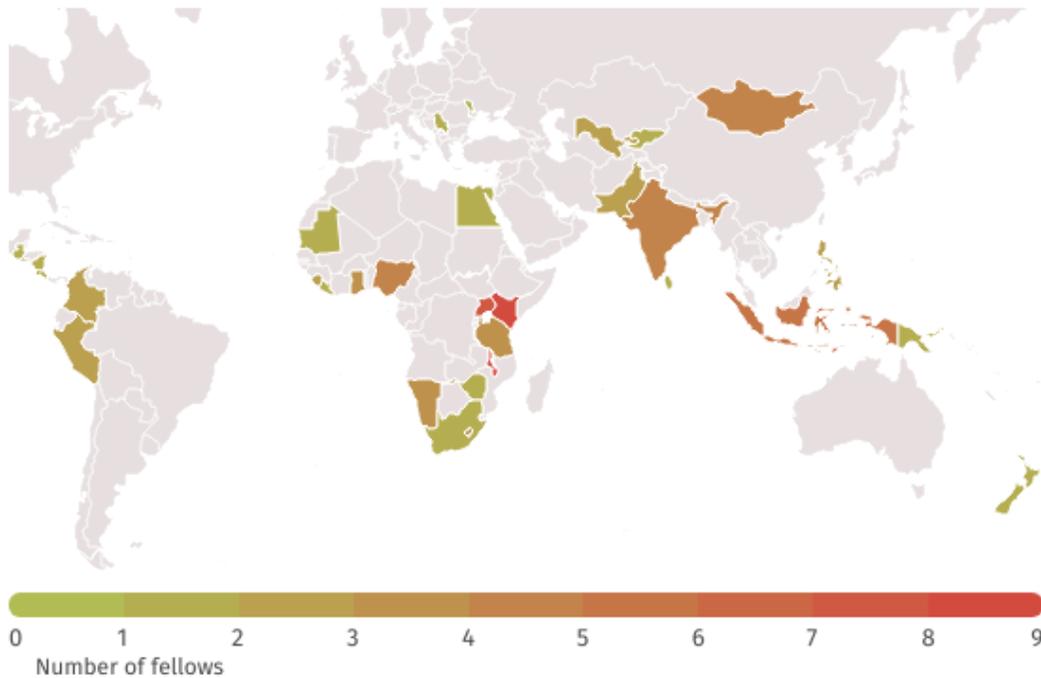
The majority of fellows in 2022 were women, or 54%. About 28% were nationals of least developed countries (LDCs), 52% hailed from Lower Middle-Income Countries and 17% were from Upper Middle-Income Countries¹.

The GRÓ LRT six months training became eligible for ECTS credits in 2022, joining the GRÓ GEST programme that was already eligible for such credits.

¹ DAC List of ODA Recipients, effective for reporting on 2022 and 2023 flows.

GRÓ fellows 2022

	Number of fellows	Female	Male	Least Developed Countries	Lower Middle Income	Upper Middle Income	Africa	Asia	Latin America	Other
GRÓ Fisheries Training Programme	27 (29%)	15 (56%)	12(44%)	12 (44%)	10 (37%)	4 (15%)	19(70%)	2 (7%)	2 (7%)	4 (15%)
GRÓ Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme	23 (25%)	18 (78%)	5 (22%)	3 (13%)	14 (61%)	6 (26%)	11(48%)	8 (35%)	0	4 (17%)
GRÓ Geothermal Training Programme	23 (25%)	10 (43%)	13 (57%)	1 (4%)	15 (65%)	7 (30%)	7 (30%)	4 (17%)	12 (52%)	0
GRÓ Land Restoration Training Programme	19 (21%)	7 (37%)	12(63%)	10 (53%)	9 (47%)	0 (0%)	12(63%)	7 (37%)	0	0
In total	92 (100%)	50 (54%)	42(46%)	26 (28%)	48 (52%)	16 (17%)	49(53%)	21(23%)	14 (15%)	8 (9%)



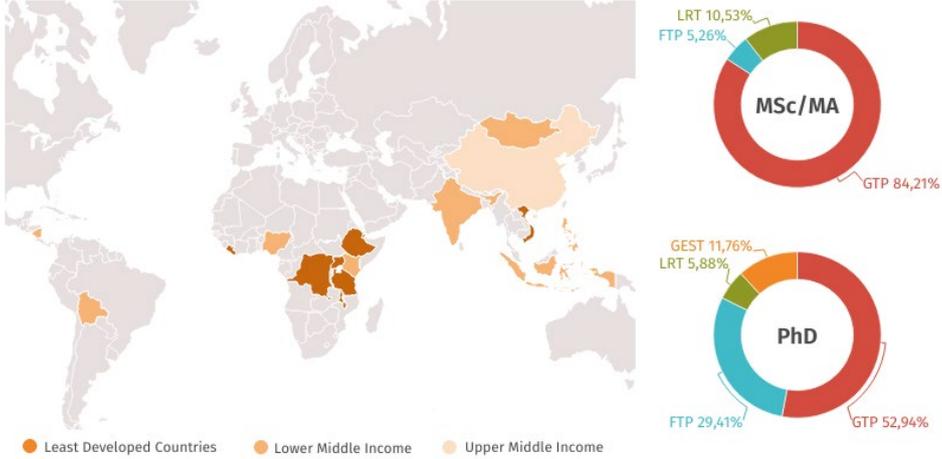
*One indigenous fellow from a High Income Country was externally funded to GRÓ FTP

Postgraduate Scholarships

In 2022 a total of 36 GRÓ scholarship recipients were studying at Icelandic universities (56% men and 44% women). Master’s students were 19 in total (63% male and 37% female) and Doctoral students 17 (53% women and 47% male). In total 44% of scholarship recipients hailed from countries classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), 53% were from Lower Middle-Income Countries and 3% from Upper Middle-Income Countries. The majority, or 67%, of these students were from African countries, 19% from countries in Asia and 14% from Latin America.

GRÓ Scholarship Recipients 2022

	Number of fellows	Female	Male	LDC	LMI	UMI	Africa	Asia	Latin America
MSc/MA	19	7	12	7	12	0	12	3	4
PhD	17	9	8	9	7	1	12	4	1
In Total	36	16	20	16	19	1	24	7	5



Eight GRÓ scholarship recipients graduated in 2022. Three doctors on a GRÓ scholarship finished their PhDs; a female fellow from Mongolia was the first doctor to graduate with a PhD with a GRÓ LRT scholarship, a Liberian man finished a PhD on a scholarship from the GRÓ FTP and a Kenyan man graduated with a PhD with a GRÓ GTP scholarship. In addition, five graduated with a Masters’ Degree from the GRÓ GTP, three men and two women.

2022 GRÓ Scholarship Graduations			
	Number of fellows	Programme	Country income level
Master's degrees			
Kenya	 	GTP	LMI
El Salvador	 	GTP	LMI
Indonesia	 	GTP	LMI
PhDs			
Mongolia	 	LRT	LMI
Liberia	 	FTP	LDC
Kenya	 	GTP	LMI

Short courses in partner countries and online training

Total GRÓ Scholarship Graduations			
	Male	Female	In total
Master's degrees			
FTP	10	9	19
GTP	62	18	80
LRT	1	1	2
In total			101
PhDs			
FTP	10	5	15
GTP	3	2	5
LRT		1	1
In total			21

The four GRÓ programmes held several short courses in 2022, either on-site or remotely, and a new online course was launched. The GRÓ GTP held, in cooperation with local energy companies, two regular short courses (1-3 weeks in length). A total of 43 participants from 11 African countries took part in a course held in Kenya and 46 participants from 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean participated in a short course held in El Salvador. The GRÓ GTP also supported a geothermal diploma course held in El Salvador in cooperation with local partners. The participants were 27 and came from eight countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The GRÓ FTP hosted two study visits from Indonesia and Sierra Leone and supported alumni to attend international

conferences. The GRÓ LRT sponsored, in cooperation with local partners, a five-day training course in Ethiopia, where 20 participated, and was one of the co-organisers of an international conference held in Uzbekistan. GRÓ GEST launched its second Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Gender, Violence and Post-Conflict States on the edX platform in August.

New cooperation between the GRÓ LRT and UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Network of Biosphere Reserves came into effect in 2022. The first two GRÓ sponsored MAB fellows took part in the GRÓ LRT Programme.



The GRÓ GTP held a short course on exploration and development of geothermal resources in cooperation with geothermal energy companies in Kenya where representatives from 11 African countries participated.

GRÓ FTP took the first steps in 2022 in working with the Faroe Islands to explore possible collaboration that would benefit fellows participating in the Sustainable Aquaculture specialist line. After a GRÓ visit to the Faroe Islands in May experts from Fiskaaling in the Faroe Island visited the GRÓ FTP in November to prepare for a visit of the Aquaculture fellows to the Faroe Islands in the beginning of 2023.

The activities of each GRÓ training programme in 2022 are described in detail in Annex 1 (p.16-35) of this report.

The GRÓ Governing Board and Director General

The Director General of GRÓ and the Governing Board of GRÓ are appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Nína Björk Jónsdóttir is the Director General of GRÓ and Jón Karl Ólafsson is the Chairman of the board. Other members in 2022 were: Ragnar Þorgeirsson, representative of the Ministry of Culture and Business Affairs; Jean-Yves Le Saux, Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning at UNESCO, appointed by the Director General of UNESCO, who has entrusted Ásta Magnúsdóttir, at the UNESCO Secretariat, to attend the meetings on his behalf; Sæunn Stefánsdóttir, representative of the Icelandic National Commission to UNESCO and Guðrún Margrét Guðmundsdóttir, a representative of the Development Cooperation Committee.



GRÓ Governing board. From left: Sæunn Stefánsdóttir, Ásta Magnúsdóttir, Jón Karl Ólafsson chairman, Guðrún Margrét Guðmundsdóttir, Ragnar Þorgeirsson and Nína Björk Jónsdóttir, Director General of GRÓ

The GRÓ Governing Board held seven meetings and two extraordinary meetings in 2022, on the following dates: 26 January, 2 March, 6 May, 10 June, 17 August, 20 September (followed by an extraordinary meeting on 6 October) and 12 December (followed by an extraordinary meeting on the 29th of December). A GRÓ Theory of Change workshop took place on the 6th of October, where the Board and Director General met with the staff of the four GRÓ Training Programmes and specialists at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on development cooperation to adopt a Theory of Change and Strategic Priorities for the Centre for the period 2022-2027. GRÓ representatives also attended the UNESCO day on 1 September 2022. Among the biggest issues the board discussed during the year were the rental of a house for GRÓ fellows in Reykjavík, the adoption of the Theory of Change for GRÓ and Strategic Priorities for the period 2022–2027, the financial audit of EY undertaken in the year and its follow-up, ways to increase cooperation with UNESCO, the OECD DAC Peer Review and more.

The Chairman of the board of GRÓ and the Director General met individually with all host institutions in 2022 to discuss the Service Agreements with GRÓ on the hosting of each of the four Programmes.

Theory of Change for GRÓ

In 2022, GRÓ adopted its Theory of Change (TOC) and its strategic priorities for the period 2022-2027. The TOC describes the impact GRÓ aims to achieve and how GRÓ will work to get there, following UNESCO's guidelines for result-based management. The TOC and the Strategic priorities were developed through a collaboration between the GRÓ centre, the four GRÓ training programmes, the GRÓ governing board and development experts from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The TOC was finalised at a workshop held on October 6th where all above parties came together to discuss how GRÓ can achieve the greatest impact and how GRÓ should grow in the future.

The GRÓ House



The GRÓ House at Grensásvegur 14 houses fellows from three of the training programmes. The rooms are on the top two floors of the building.

One of the biggest projects of the GRÓ centre in 2022 was the rental of an apartment hotel at Grensásvegur 14 to house fellows, guest lecturers and post-graduate scholarship recipients.

The house has 27 rental units (all rooms with a kitchenette and 19 of them en-suite), three common rooms, four common bathrooms and showers, and washing facilities. The new house greatly improves the housing situation of the fellows and reliability of housing for fellows, which has been a big challenge.

Three of the training programmes use the house for their fellows, all except GRÓ GEST fellows, which are housed in the university accommodation complex at the University of Iceland where they study.

The GRÓ house has created opportunities for the fellows of different programmes to meet and interact with each other. GRÓ has also enjoyed very good cooperation with Icelandic Student Services (FS) that has helped GRÓ bridge the extra need for rooms for fellows over the summer months, which is when two of the training programmes have fellows staying in the country.



Above: One of three common rooms where fellows can relax together and take a break from their studies.

Left: Typical room at the GRÓ House.

The GRÓ GTP fellows of 2022 were the first fellows to live in the house. About 2/3 of the house became available to GRÓ on the 1st of September and the first fellows moved in four days later. The whole house was delivered to GRÓ on October 1st 2022.



Room occupancy for the four months GRÓ used the house in 2022 can be seen in the table below. The lower figure in September can be explained with the fact that the first four days of September were used to finish equipping the rooms.

GRÓ Library

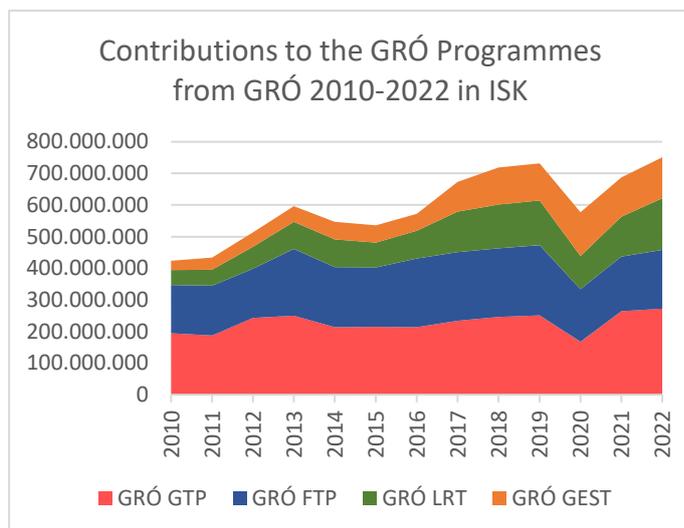
GRÓ has also been working on creating a library for the fellows' leisure at the GRÓ house. The Icelandic Literature Centre donated translated Icelandic literature in different world languages to the house for the fellows to have the opportunity to read Icelandic books and Reykjavík UNESCO City of Literature gave GRÓ a grant in 2022 to purchase translated Icelandic books for GRÓ fellows.



Hrefna Haraldsdóttir, Managing Director of the Icelandic Literature Centre, and Guðrún Baldvinsdóttir, Project Manager, with the translations of Icelandic books donated to GRÓ in December 2022

Financing

Financial contributions to the GRÓ Centre from the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs were 800,6 million ISK in 2022. In addition, the MFA provided 44.5 million ISK funding directly to projects in the GRÓ programmes, through other development cooperation channels. The GRÓ Geothermal Training Programme received 31,5 million ISK funding to support a Diploma Course in El Salvador. The GRÓ Fisheries Training Programme received 13 million ISK to support study visits from Sierra Leone and to prepare bilateral fisheries projects in the country, where Iceland is preparing to open an Embassy.



The Ministry for Foreign Affairs commissioned in 2022 a financial audit of the Centre and the four Training Programmes. The task was undertaken by Ernst & Young that presented its findings in September. Subsequently, meetings were held with each host institution to review the main findings of the audit of each programme. The Audits confirmed the host institutions' sound financial management of the four GRÓ programmes by host institutions.

Audits are used in Iceland's development cooperation to generate

learnings and maximise efficiencies. One of the main purposes of the audit was to follow up on the previous audits undertaken in 2018 and 2019, in the preparations for the creation of GRÓ that launched its work in 2020 and see if further opportunities exist in achieving synergies between the programmes, now that they are all hosted under the same umbrella.

Work continued in 2022 to explore opportunities to maximise synergies and efficiencies in GRÓ's work. The rental of the apartment hotel on Grensásvegur to house fellows is an important step in increasing synergies. The academic cycles of the programmes have been adapted to insure the maximum use of the house.

2022	Budget	Actual cost
GRÓ GTP	272.500.000	272.535.812
GRÓ FTP	240.100.000	186.003.585
GRÓ LRT ²	156.000.000	163.000.000
GRÓ GEST	129.500.000	129.500.000
GRÓ centre	50.000.000	49.514.025
Samtals:	848.100.000	800.553.422
	<i>Deviation from budget</i>	<i>-5,61%</i>

During the year, GRÓ also continued to work with the host institutions on developing budget templates and on harmonizing cost items among all programs. This entailed an in-depth discussion on different budget items, allowing for better comparison between programmes and aligning budgets for all programs. Funds are disbursed for each quarter, in line with the need anchored in a financial report for funds spent in the previous quarter.

Overview for actual cost against the budget in 2022

² The GRÓ centre received an additional 7.000.000 ISK contribution to the LRT Programme to fund two UNESCO MAB fellows in 2022 in addition to the core MFA contribution. Therefore, the actual cost for the GRÓ LRT is higher than what was budgeted.

Website and branding

Work continued on the new website, www.grocentre.is, which was developed for the GRÓ Centre with a specific domain for each of the four training programmes. The website promotes the visibility of the work and projects undertaken by GRÓ and provides a more holistic overview of the work of all four programmes and the impact in GRÓ's partner countries.

In addition, the GRÓ logo was adapted to new guidelines for Category 2 Centre 's use of UNESCO's logo.

In 2022, a total of 120 news items were posted on the GRÓ website in English and a further 9 in Icelandic.

Cooperation with UNESCO

GRÓ is a Category 2 Centre working under the auspices of UNESCO. The following are some of the projects GRÓ and the four training programmes worked on in 2022 in cooperation with UNESCO.

Two online meetings were held in November with the UNESCO Nairobi Regional Office for Eastern Africa to explore possibilities for cooperation. The Nairobi regional office covers thirteen countries in Eastern Africa, where all four GRÓ programmes have been active. Around 30% of GRÓ alumni come from the region covered by the regional office. It was decided the meetings would be followed up by a visit to Nairobi in 2023.

GRÓ, and the work of the GRÓ Gender Equality Studies and Training Program (GRÓ GEST), was presented on 1 May to European National Commissions for UNESCO that were in Reykjavík for the 6th meeting of their Informal Network.



GRÓ presentation about the work of GRÓ and the long history of the training programmes at the UNESCO day.

GRÓ participated in the UNESCO day organised by the Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO on the 1st of September, where all UNESCO associated entities in Iceland gathered to get to know one another, learn about each other's activities and share ideas. The meeting was held at Thingvellir National Park, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

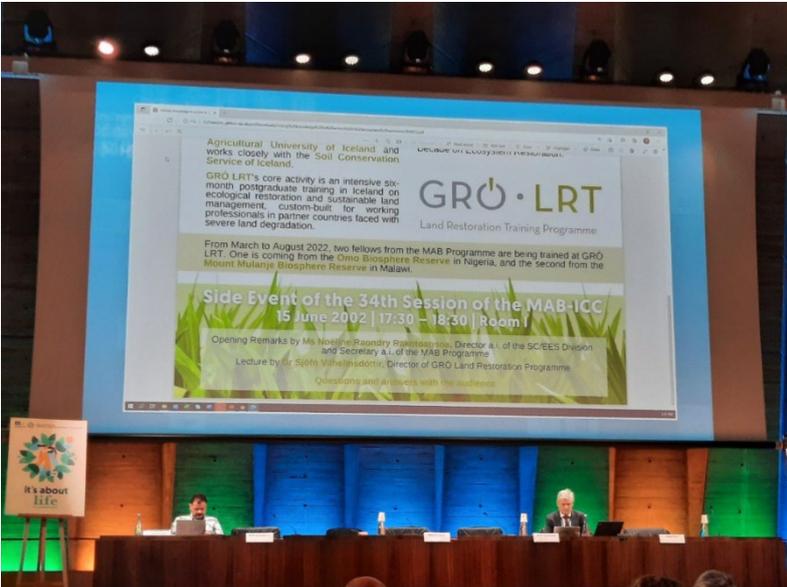
GRÓ Land Restoration Training Programme continued its collaboration with the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme. The GRÓ centre will over five years annually sponsor

GRÓ LRT fellowship for two young professionals working for institutions and organisations that are a part of UNESCO MAB's World Network of Biosphere Reserves and that are faced with drought and land degradation. The project will initially run for five years. The two first fellows that came to the programme in 2022 came from the Omo Biosphere Reserve in Nigeria and the Mount Mulanje Biosphere Reserve in Malawi.

GRÓ LRT and the MAB Secretariat co-hosted a side event at the 34th Session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC), at UNESCO HQ in Paris in June. The event was entitled Linking Knowledge to Action in Ecosystem Restoration: Cooperation between GRÓ LRT and UNSECO-MAB.

GRÓ GEST and UNESCO’s Media, Culture and Education section continued in 2022 their cooperation to create a six-week MOOC (Massive Online Open Course) on Masculinities, Media, Culture and Education. GRÓ GEST also discussed with CI at UNESCO (Communication and Information) on the creation of learning material in teaching gender to youth and to work with CI (Communication and Information) on Gender and Media both with regards to women journalists and on how to use media for teaching and informing about gender issues.

The GRÓ Fisheries Training Programme (GRÓ FTP) organised, during the Aquatic Resources and Blue Economy Conference in Kisumu, Kenya in December an alumni networking event attended by 35 former fellows. The UNESCO IOC Coordinator in Africa, Mika Odido, addressed the alumni event and discussed with the fellows.



GRÓ LRT presented at UNESCO HQ in Paris

In the fall of 2022, the GRÓ GEST Director met with three representatives of UNESCO in Ramallah, Palestine to introduce the GRÓ GEST programme and explore opportunities of further collaboration.

In November 2022 GRÓ GEST representatives visited the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO and met with the Secretary-General Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, and Joan Agyekum Nsowah, a Programme Officer, at the commission’s offices at the Ghanaian Ministry of Education

in Accra. At the meeting, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO’s commitment to support gender equality efforts in Ghana was reaffirmed. The Secretary-General expressed great interest in collaborating with GRÓ GEST in locating excellent junior gender equality professionals for the GRÓ GEST postgraduate diploma programme, as well as supporting GRÓ GEST’s existing Ghanaian alumni network in their future activities.



Annual Report 2022

Annex 1:

Summary of main activities of GRÓ
Training Programmes in 2022

GRÓ FTP Summary Annual Report 2022

GRÓ Fisheries Training Programme

442 fellows 6 month training	1263 short course participants
19 completed MSc	1 MSc ongoing
15 completed PhD	7 PhD ongoing

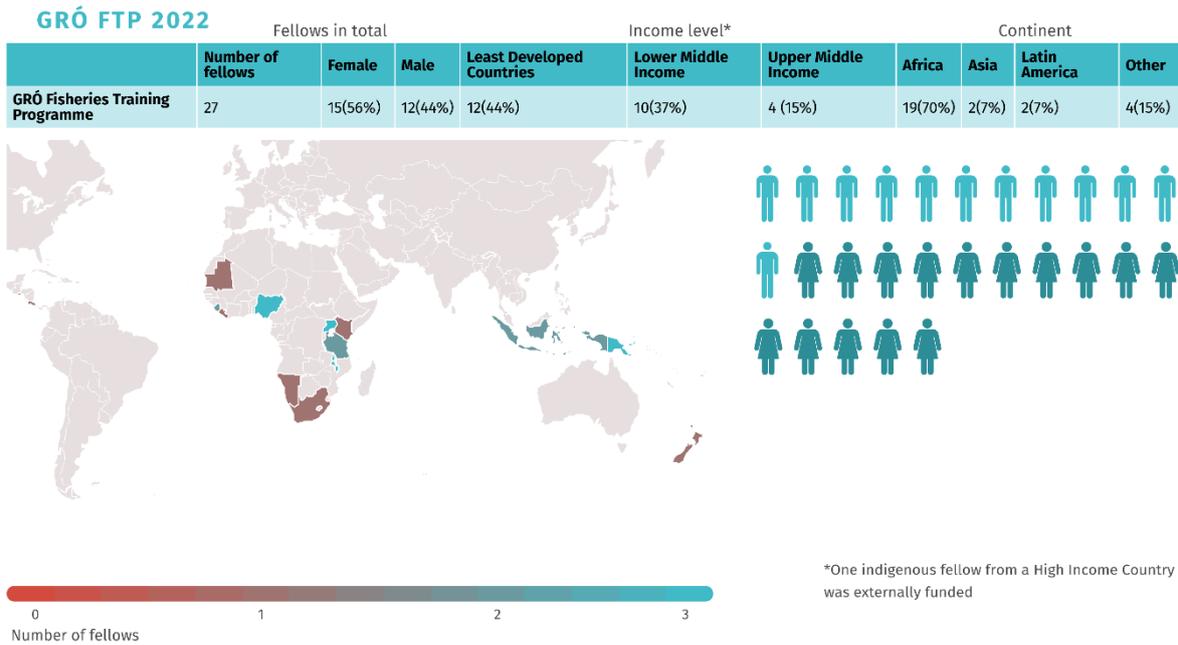
*As of 31.12.2022

1. Post-graduate training

The six-month training in Iceland is the core activity of GRÓ FTP. The 23rd fellowship programme began in September 2021 and was the largest to date. The cohort comprised of invited fellows from the postponed 2020 COVID-19 intake and additional 2021 training commitments with partners. In early March 2022 GRÓ FTP graduated 27 fisheries professionals (15 women and 12 men) from 17 different partner countries. The group included fellows from the African continent, LDCs, and SIDS countries. Distribution across FTP’s four specialist lines were 11 fellows studying Fisheries Policy and Management (University of Akureyri), 6 in Aquatic Resource Assessment and Monitoring (Marine and Freshwater Research Institute), 6 in Quality Management of Food Handling and Processing (Matís), and 4 in Sustainable Aquaculture (Hólar University), bringing the total number of graduated FTP fellows since 1998 to 442 from 66 partner countries.



GRÓ FTP fellows at graduation in March 2022 with Minister of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Svandís Svavarsdóttir.



2. In-country and regional training

FTP’s partner training efforts in 2022 were focused on project managing and hosting visiting groups to Iceland from Indonesia and Sierra Leone. See paragraph on Advisory Services and Knowledge Sharing.

3. Scholarships

At the end of 2021, after twenty-three years of operation, FTP had graduated 19 MSc scholarships and 14 PhDs. At the start of 2022 the number of ongoing PhD scholarships were 7. One PhD scholarship recipient from Liberia completed during the year, graduating from the University of Iceland in August with a focus on Natural Resource Economics. Throughout the year FTP continued to extend support to three on-going PhD recipients from Nigeria, Uganda and Vietnam studying in Iceland, and the remaining three from Cape Verde, Indonesia and Kenya were working in their home countries towards final thesis write-up with expected completion in 2023. Two new scholarships were awarded in 2022, a PhD scholarship to a former fellow from Tanzania and MSc scholarship to a former fellow from Malawi.

4. Workshops and conferences

Sponsoring former fellows to share their research at international conferences has become an important part of FTP’s work since it encourages fisheries research and strengthens the alumni network. In 2022 FTP awarded 11 travel grants to alumni chosen to present their research at the International Institute of Fisheries and Trade Conference (IIFET) in Vigo, Spain in August, and



Former GRÓ FTP fellows at IIFET Conference in August.

22 travel grants to fellows from the African continent to present at ARBEC, the Aquatic Resources and Blue Economy Conference in Kisumu, Kenya in December. During the latter conference, FTP organised an alumni networking event attended by 35 former fellows which was addressed by the UNESCO IOC coordinator in Africa.

In June, three FTP staff members attended the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon and had the opportunity to link up with former fellows and partner organisations and catch up on the latest developments in the progressing dialogue on solutions for a sustainably managed ocean. At the UN Ocean conference, GRÓ FTP renewed its two voluntary commitments, originally made in 2017, to work on development of blue bioeconomy in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) countries, and to work with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa.

FTP staff participation in other international workshops and conferences in 2022 was limited to online participation. In Iceland, staff participated in the OECD DAC innovation workshop organised by the MFA, the UNESCO day held in the Thingvellir National Park in September, and the GRÓ Centre Strategy workshop in October.

5. Networking

In 2022, FTP's communication with alumni, ministries, universities and institutes in partner countries was conducted online from Iceland. Selection of fellows for the 2023-2024 intake was conducted through virtual interviews except for fellows nominated by our institutional partners in Kenya who were interviewed by Dr Tumi Tómasson during his attendance at the ARBEC conference in Kisumu, Kenya in December. It was during this conference visit that FTP reached out to the UNESCO IOC coordinator in Africa to address FTP's alumni networking event. Partner country visits to build institutional networking are long overdue after being put on hold throughout the period of COVID travel restrictions and FTP plans to renew partnership networking as much as possible in 2023.

Networking and outreach from Iceland were on-going throughout the year, for example, a survey of alumni graduated from Icelandic universities on FTP scholarship support was conducted charting current employment and research work, and advisory consultations with Icelandic companies in fisheries who received funding from the Sustainable Development Goals Partnership Fund. In addition, FTP regularly hosts visits from partner countries' ambassadors to Iceland where FTP's work in their respective countries is discussed.

FTP piloted a successful cooperation with the Faroe Islands in 2022 focusing on Sustainable Aquaculture. FTP Director, Mary Frances Davidson, and GRÓ Director General, Nína Björk Jónsdóttir visited the Faroe Islands in May and met with the Faroese Government and representatives of Fiskaaling, a government-owned aquaculture company. It was agreed to launch a pilot cooperation between Fiskaaling and FTP as part of the Faroese government's efforts to implement the SDGs in fisheries. This saw expert representatives from Fiskaaling visiting the six-month training programme and participating in the teaching of the introductory module, followed by the Faroese government hosting a week-long visit for the Sustainable Aquaculture fellows to the Faroe Islands during their specialist line where an organised study tour of aquaculture in the Faroe Islands took place organised by Fiskaaling. The next step in this cooperation is for Fiskaaling's experts to co-supervise research projects of Saq fellows.

6. Research and knowledge creation

Research and knowledge creation is in the form of the annual publication of the six-month fellows' research papers, articles and theses produced by our MSc and PhD fellows and the presentations of former alumni research at international conferences. If selected to present their research, PhD fellows receive support from FTP to attend two international conferences

in their field during their scholarship period. FTP would like to extend acknowledgement to former fellow, Moses Wambua, from Kenya, who was awarded the JIFRS-Yamamoto Best Paper Award at the 2022 IIFET conference for his paper entitled: A Game Theoretic Model and Solution for the Malindi Ungwana Bay Penaeid Conflict.

7. Advisory Services and Knowledge Sharing

FTP contributes actively to an ongoing effort, led by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA), to define a long-term plan for development cooperation between Iceland and Sierra Leone.



Mission from Sierra Leone visiting Þorbjörn in Grindavík.

Through reciprocal visits, stakeholders in both countries met regularly last year, shared views and information and developed initial proposals for concrete projects. In March, FTP participated in a fact-finding mission to Sierra Leone, along with the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, Matís and the Directorate of Fisheries. In September, at the request of the MFA, FTP organised a return study tour of Icelandic fisheries for a high-level delegation from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources in Sierra Leone. FTP's contribution to the long-term plan will, of course, focus on capacity building, such as extending six-month training and research opportunities to key fisheries professionals involved in targeted projects.

In May FTP organised a professional short course in Iceland for a visiting group of officials from Indonesia which was funded by the World Bank. Fifteen guests from government, scientific research institutes and academia participated in an 8-day programme on fisheries management with important contributions from the University of Akureyri, the Directorate of Fisheries, the Marine and Freshwater Institute and the University of Iceland.

Also in 2022, FTP completed its work as part of a team contracted by NIRAS to conduct an evaluation on the EAF Nansen programme. The evaluation explored Norwegian support under the EAF Nansen cooperation in the fisheries sector, and the role the programme plays in its partner countries. The EAF-Nansen project is one of the largest donor contributions to fisheries development in the world and is run as a cooperation between the UN FAO, NORAD (the Norwegian development Agency), and IMR (the Norwegian Marine Research Institute).

Finally, in June, FTP welcomed a delegation from the PRO BLUE trust fund, housed at the World Bank. PRO BLUE is a multi-donor trust fund supporting the development of integrated, sustainable marine and coastal resources. Iceland is a member of PRO BLUE's partnership council, and the guests were keen to hear about GRÓ FTP mission as a capacity building programme.

8. Innovative online content creation

The FTP team took the decision in 2022 to provide online access to as much information as possible for the six-month fellows, both in the run-up to their arrival in Iceland and during the six-month programme. A fellows' gateway was launched on FTP's website containing all the organisational and logistical information fellows might need, and which is updated in real time. So far, evaluation and feedback indicate that this form information delivery with easy access

to programme logistics is proving a hit with the fellows and creates efficiency in the operation of the programme.

FTP found its SDG video series, published online in 2021, extremely useful throughout 2022 in directing alumni and partner institutes towards learning content in the four topic areas of small-scale fisheries, data for sustainable fisheries management, small projects for big impact in fisheries, and preserving the value of fish. In December these videos were used by a key partner KMFRI, the Kenyan Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, during the ARBEC conference organised in Kisumu (see Workshops and Conferences).

9. The FTP Team in 2022



FTP team waiting to welcome the incoming 6-month fellows in October 2022

In the first half of 2022, while GRÓ-FTP's Director Þór Ásgeirsson was on secondment in the Solomon Islands, working with the World Bank in the Pacific region, FTP operations were run by a close-knit team consisting of Mary Frances Davidson, Julie Ingham, Stefán Úlfarsson and Agnes Eydal. Agnes is a fisheries biologist on temporary loan from the Marine and Freshwater Institute during Þór Ásgeirsson's absence. In the autumn the team welcomed new members Zaw Myo Win and Warsha Singh, again temporarily, to cover during the absence of Mary Frances during maternity leave and the gap created by the retirement of Dr Tumi

Tómasson in May, although FTP benefits from his years of invaluable experience when required.

GRÓ GEST Summary Annual Report 2022

GRÓ Gender Studies and Training Programme

195 fellows 5 month/Diploma

357 short course participants

2 PhD ongoing

*As of 31.12.2022

1. Post-graduate Training programme

The Gender Equality Studies and Training programme (GEST) operated its full 30 ECTS post-graduate diploma in 2022. Programme modules were the following: Theories and Concepts of Gender; Gender and Development: Tools and Strategies; Gender, Violence and Security; Gender, Labour and Migration; Gender, Environment and Climate Change; and the Final Assignment.



The GRÓ GEST cohort of 2022 at the graduation

In 2022, the programme began on January 17th and ended on May 20th, with 23 fellows, 18 women and five men, from 15 countries, graduating with a postgraduate diploma in International Gender Studies from the University of Iceland. Pakistan and Zimbabwe were represented for the first time.

GEST teaching staff consists of a diverse group of gender equality experts, lecturers, and supervisors, who represent a large spectrum of fields of study and specializations, from the humanities, social

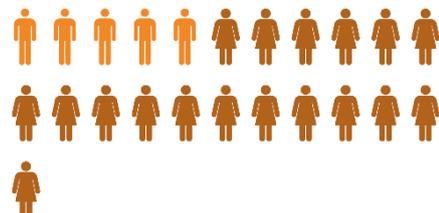
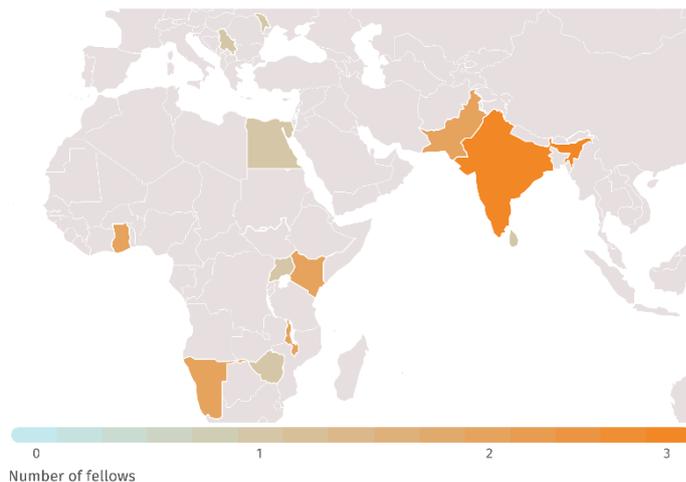
sciences, natural sciences, medicine, business, law, economics, fine arts, and more. The teaching staff is both local and international, representing five continents.

2. In-country and regional training

In 2022, preparations continued for the short course *Teaching Gender to Youth* in Uganda to be implemented as a pilot course in Northern Uganda in early 2023. The short course development was led on behalf of GRÓ GEST by Þórður Kristinsson, long term GEST lecturer and supervisor and María Hjálmtýsdóttir, a gender expert with extensive high school teaching experience, in partnership with Brenda Apeta, 2020 GEST alumna, with the support of the Non-Government Organisation, Pangea. The curriculum of the short course was developed and adjusted to the Northern Ugandan context by building on the short course *Teaching Gender to Youth* implemented in Malawi 2019 and online for participants in St. Lucia.

GRÓ GEST 2022

	Fellows in total			Income level		Continent			
	Number of fellows	Female	Male	Least Developed Countries	Lower Middle Income	Upper Middle Income	Africa	Asia	Other
GRÓ Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme	23	18 (78%)	5 (22%)	3 (13%)	14 (61%)	6 (26%)	11 (48%)	8 (35%)	4 (17%)



3. Scholarships

Two former GEST fellows completed the second year of their PhD scholarship in 2022. Both doctoral fellows' progress was according to schedule.

4. Workshops and conferences / Platforms for knowledge exchange and dialogue

GRÓ GEST/RIKK Lecture Series. For the spring 2022, the GEST RIKK joint public lecture series focused on the *Queer Iceland in the International Context*. The lectures again took place at the National Museum of Iceland in January to May 2022, after having been entirely online in 2021.

IDEAS – Inclusive Educational Anti-Discrimination Alternatives. GRÓ GEST completed its collaboration in a two-year project, funded by the EU through the Erasmus+ programme. The project aim was to record 35 podcasts making feminist knowledge accessible and contributing to the empowerment of multiple marginalised groups, especially women. The first of the IDEAS podcasts became available online on open podcast platforms where GEST's contribution consisted of five episodes on Gender and Climate Change in the format of interviews with GEST affiliated experts.

5. Networking

Alumni. After a couple of years restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the GRÓ GEST staff met with GEST alumni again during Erasmus+ staff exchanges. Alumni meetings, where potential collaborations were discussed and fellows' works presented, were held in Kampala, Uganda in June; Ramallah in Palestine and Accra, Ghana, in November; and Prishtina, Kosovo and Freetown, Sierra Leone, in December.

ERASMUS+. GRÓ GEST is engaged in several inter-institutional agreements under the European Union's Erasmus+ scholarship and exchange programme. This has enabled GRÓ

GEST to expand its connections to strong universities in post conflict Balkan countries, Africa and the Middle East. In 2022, six students participated in the GRÓ GEST programme as joint Erasmus+/GRÓ GEST fellows. The GEST programme received one visiting lecturer supported by ERASMUS+ while GEST staff visited Makerere University in Uganda, University of Ghana, University of Western Cape in South Africa, Birzeit University in Palestine, Lebanese American University in Lebanon and University of Prishtina in Kosovo.



GRÓ GEST alumni meeting in Ramallah, Palestine in November 2022



GRÓ GEST meeting with CEGENSA - Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy at the University of Ghana

Red Cross of Iceland. GRÓ GEST's Memorandum of Understanding with the Red Cross of Iceland (RKÍ), originally signed in 2018, and renewed in early 2021 has provided connections to the Sierra Leonean Red Cross, who have nominated a fellow (with co-funding from RKÍ) for the programme in 2023. Furthermore, the Icelandic Red Cross provided professional Results Based Management training for the 2022 cohort as a part of the diploma programme.

6. Research and knowledge creation

Stella Tereka, GRÓ GEST PhD fellow, submitted the first of her PhD research papers for publication,

Gender perspectives on rural household water governance under changing climate in Uganda, which was furthermore accepted to the 2nd International Conference on Geographical Science for Resilient Communities, Ecosystems and Livelihoods under Global Environmental Change (GORILLA) held in December 2022 in Kampala, Uganda.

March 8 Fund. The March 8 Fund, formerly known as the GEST Alumni Fund, was awarded to Claudia Pamela Chavarría Machado, research and development coordinator with INCIDE in Mexico, to implement a project introducing comprehensive overhaul of Mexico City's response to intimate partner violence by placing survivors at the centre with a community-based response (CBR).

7. Innovative online content creation

MOOCs. GRÓ GEST's second Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) *Gender, Violence and Post-Conflict States* was launched on the edX platform in August. The course is part of GEST's MOOC catalogue on gender and international development on the edX platform. Previously, GEST had launched the course *Gender and Intersectionality* (May 2020). The course *Gender and Development: Critical Theories and Approaches* was finalised at the end of 2022 and will be launched early 2023. The second and third MOOCs were developed in collaboration with experts from the London School of Economics, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), University of Cape Town and the University of Oslo, and funded by ERASMUS+. In 2022 GRÓ GEST furthermore started developing an additional online course on Men, Boys and Masculinities. Throughout the year, GEST affiliated scholars Jeff Hearn, Kopano Ratele, Tamara Shefer and Ann Pheonix worked to finish the manuscript which will be recorded in 2023.

The MOOCs are readily accessible to individuals who have otherwise limited opportunities to further their educations, including professionals in low income and conflict countries. From the launch of the first course in 2020 until the end of year 2022, over 13.000 people from more than 170 countries have enrolled in either of the two courses. Around half of learners are from countries on the DAC list.

8. GRÓ GEST team in 2022

GRÓ GEST continues to operate with a stable core team of experts. Dr Irma Erlingsdóttir has been the director of the programme from its inception (2009) and is supported by Guðrún Eysteinsdóttir, operations manager, Anna Guðrún Aradóttir, project manager, and Védís Ólafsdóttir project manager with daily operations. During Védís' seven months leave in 2022, Ragnhildur Hannesdóttir assisted with administrative tasks. Thomas Brorsen Smidt, project manager and academic coordinator and Giti Chandra research specialists are essential GEST team members, who are also involved in parallel research projects.



Giti Chandra and Thomas Brorsen Smidt at the GRÓ GEST graduation in 2022. It is easy to be overcome by emotions when bidding fellows farewell and wishing them success in their endeavours.

GRÓ GTP Summary Annual Report 2022

GRÓ Geothermal Training Programme	
766 fellows 6 month training	2602 short course participants
80 completed MSc	10 MSc ongoing
5 completed PhD	8 PhD ongoing

*As of 31.12.2022

1. Post-graduate training programmes

The six-month training in Iceland is the core activity of GRÓ GTP and in 2022 this training was offered for the 43rd time during GTP’s 44 years of operation, the first year being 1979. Only in 2020 the six-month training had to be postponed due to COVID-19. In 2022, 23 individuals from 12 countries participated in the program³. Four lines of specialization were on offer this time instead of five as usually is the case. These were 1) chemistry of thermal fluids (4 fellows), 2) environmental science (4 fellows), 3) project management and finances (10 fellows) as well as 4) geothermal utilization (5 fellows). The program opened on April 26th and closed on October 20th. One new country, Peru, was added to GTP’s six-month training roster bringing the number of countries that have benefitted from the six-month training to 65. The gender balance was not as ideal as in 2021, when it was nearly 50%, with 9 women (39%) in the 2022 group of 23 fellows. At the end of 2022, 766 fellows had thus received six-month training at the GRÓ GTP since 1979. Of the 23 six-month fellows trained in 2022, four were financed by their respective employees, i.e. power companies in Kenya (3 fellows) and the Philippines (1 fellow).



The GRÓ GTP fellows got a real volcanic experience when they visited the Geldinaadalir eruption in 2022.

The eight-member studies board of GTP met twice during 2022, to discuss academic aspects of the six-months training, modification of the six-month program, preparation of reading material, selection of MSc- and PhD-scholarship recipients, short courses offered and various other issues. The Director of GTP was additionally in regular contact with different board-members to discuss details of the planned training.

³ 24 fellows were invited to the 2022 six-month program, while the participation of a woman from Djibouti was cancelled at the last moment by her company.

2. In-country and regional training

The most significant in-country and regional training has involved regular short courses (1 – 3 weeks in length) in Kenya (for Africa) and El Salvador (for Latin America and the Caribbean), operated in cooperation with local energy companies involved in geothermal development. After having been cancelled in both 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19, the El Salvador short course was successfully conducted between September 18th and 24th in cooperation with the geothermal energy company LaGeo S.A. de C.V. It was titled “*Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Short Course IV on the Future of Geothermal Energy Utilization in Latin America: Maintaining and Increasing Production and the Role of Geothermal Energy in Sustainable Development*”. This course was attended by 46 participants from 17 countries in the region. Twenty-eight experts from the region, as well as from Iceland and the USA gave lectures at the short course (mostly in-person but also online).

The short course in Kenya only had to be cancelled once due to COVID-19, or in 2020. In 2021 and 2022 it was again successfully conducted through the cooperation of GRÓ GTP with the geothermal companies KenGen and GDC of Kenya. The 2022 course was titled “*Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Short Course VI on Exploration and Development of Geothermal Resources*” and was conducted between November 13th and December 4th, with 43 participants from 11 African countries. Most of the instructors were from Kenya, while 3 Icelandic geoscientists (all female) contributed significantly. Up to the end of 2022, 31 such courses had been held and more than 1600 individuals had benefitted from this type of training (see also item 8. below).



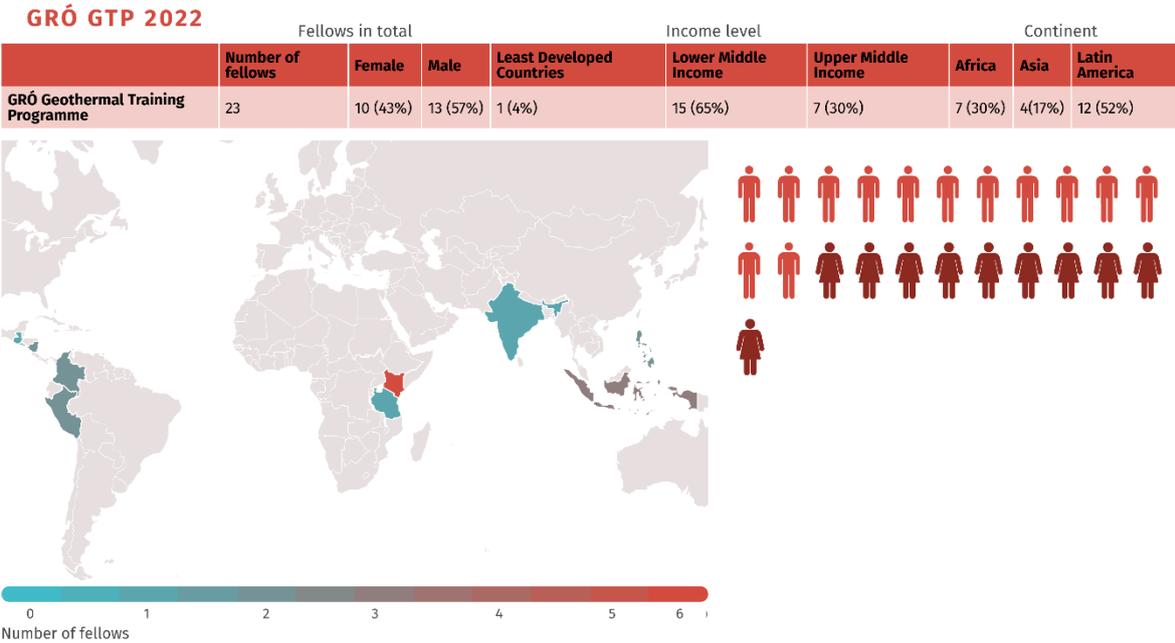
Geology trip to the Olkaria geothermal area during the SDG short course in 2022.

Other significant in-country and regional training, GRÓ GTP is associated with, includes the Geothermal Diploma Course for Latin America and the Caribbean, operated in El Salvador, and other short courses described under item 4. below. Unfortunately, the Diploma Course had to be cancelled in both 2020 and 2021, because of COVID-19 complications, but its operation commenced again in 2022. The Diploma Course is operated under cooperation between LaGeo mentioned above, GRÓ GTP and the University of El Salvador. The course started June 20th and continued for 22 weeks with lectures, practical work, field trips and final project work. The lecturers and project advisor were mainly employees of LaGeo while one senior Icelandic expert spent a week in El Salvador lecturing and advising participants. Twenty-seven students graduated from the program in November 2022. They came from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua, in addition to El Salvador.

In addition, GTP has been involved in an advisory role in a Geothermal Centre of Excellence for Africa being set up in Kenya and a newly formed Sino-Icelandic Geothermal Training Program in China (managed by Sinopec). GRÓ GTP didn't contribute to either activity in 2022 even though some local activity was ongoing in Kenya. No activity was in China in 2022, as far as GTP knows, due to the remnants of the COVID-19 pandemic there.



Participants, lecturers and organisers of the SDG course in El Salvador in 2022.



3. Scholarships

The GTP was able to grant four scholarships for MSc-studies and two for PhD-studies, at universities in Iceland, in 2022. This brought the total number of such scholarships offered since 1999 up to 104. The MSc-scholarship recipients were from El Salvador, Kenya, Nicaragua and Uganda, with half of them being female. The new PhD-students in 2022 are a woman from Tanzania and a man from DR of Congo, the latter had previously finished MSc-studies in Iceland, with GTP support.

In 2022 five fellows (3 men and 2 women) graduated with a MSc-degree, and one successfully defended a PhD-project, bringing the total of graduated scholarship recipients to 85 at the end of 2022. The graduates are from El Salvador (2), Indonesia (2) and Kenya (1 MSc and 1 PhD).

4. Workshops and conferences

The first GRÓ GTP online course was held in April 2021, aimed at Africa. The course was repeated twice in 2022, with minor adjustments. First in March, aimed at Latin America and the Caribbean, and then in September, aimed at Asia and the Pacific. Two days were devoted to the course, about 4 hours each day, with 10-minute contributions from 31 Icelandic experts, GTP staff members as well as former and present GTP fellows, along with fruitful online discussions. About 300 registered participants from approximately 20 countries took part in each of the 2022 online courses.

GRÓ GTP organized a 2-day pre-congress short course, prior to the ARGeo geothermal conference held in Djibouti in early November. It was one of four pre-congress short courses held and was titled “*Short Course 1 on Low- to Medium-Temperature Geothermal Resources and Direct Utilization*”, with the subject reflecting GTP’s increased emphasis on direct geothermal utilization rather than electricity generation alone, which has a vast potential in Africa. Lecturing during the course was in the hands of two female Icelandic experts and two former GTP fellows from Kenya. 19 participants from eight African countries attended the course. This contribution was financed specifically by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Iceland.

Participation of GTP staff in other workshops and conferences in 2022 was limited to online participation and events in Iceland.

5. Networking

The GRÓ GTP along with its former and current fellows; lecturers and supervisors; universities, institutes and companies in Iceland; as well as ministries, agencies, institutes and companies in cooperating countries, constitute an extensive, active and valuable network reaching the world over. There’s extensive communication throughout this network, such as through e-mail, online and face-to-face meetings, through social media like Facebook, Twitter, etc. as well as through direct visits to various countries. In 2022 such direct visits were limited to a visit of GTP’s Deputy Director to El Salvador, in association with the short course described under item 2 above, and a visit by GTP’s Project Manager to Kenya in association with the short course there. Both opportunities were used for discussions with collaborators as well as interviews with prospective future GTP candidates.

6. Research and knowledge creation

The main research conducted, and knowledge created, in the network mentioned above, is represented by the following: (a) research reports of six-month fellows, (b) theses of MSc- and PhD fellows, (c) peer-reviewed papers written by PhD-fellows, (d) international scientific papers published by former GTP-fellows, in various journals as well as for conferences, (e) papers published by GTP in association with short courses (see 4. above), and (f) reading/reference material published specifically by GRÓ GTP.



The 23 reports of the 2022 six-month fellows were all duly submitted, and their editing and publication process has started. Their publication is expected in late 2023. A decision has been made to publish the reports only online, starting with the 2021 reports, for environmental reasons and based on improved internet access worldwide, for downloading the reports. All the six-months fellows of 2022 gave short presentations on two occasions, as is normally the

custom. Firstly, on geothermal research or development in their home countries and, secondly, on their research projects. These were open to the public, but also available online, thus reaching a much larger audience than previously.

In 2022, 5 MSc-theses were published, as well as a few papers associated with GTP-supported PhD projects. Finally, the development of reading/reference material continued in cooperation with the GRÓ GTP Studies Board, pertaining to the main aspects of geothermal research and development presented during the six-months training. This material awaits further work, leading to eventual publication by GRÓ GTP.

7. Advisory services and knowledge sharing

This is firstly of a formal nature, such as solicited by various institutes, governments, etc. worldwide. Examples can be work performed for the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs or various international institutions. This is also of a more informal nature, e.g. through various types of communication, visits and reception of guests (including lectures for groups of variable size and nature visiting Iceland), as well as through participation in conferences and workshops. The latter was more limited during 2022, than in a normal year.

8. Innovative online content creation

Interest in using online possibilities in the training activities of GTP has been increasing in recent years. With the onslaught of COVID-19, this became an immediate possibility and challenge. Plans were, therefore, set up for online short courses planned and conducted by GRÓ GTP, using lecturers from the Icelandic pool of experts as well as former fellows with considerable and relevant knowhow. The first such course was held in April 2021, and two additional courses consequently held in 2022 (see item 4 above). In addition, the online possibility is being increasingly used in GTP's short courses where lecturers not on-site contribute from e.g. Iceland or other parts of the world. This was the case for both of GTP's regular short courses in 2022, in El Salvador and Kenya (see also item 4 above).

9. GRÓ GTP Team in 2022

GRÓ GTP is hosted at ÍSOR, Iceland GeoSurvey. In 2022 GRÓ GTP had a permanent staff of four: Dr Guðni Axelsson, GRÓ GTP Director, Ingimar G. Haraldsson, Deputy Director, Málfríður Ómarsdóttir, Project Manager, and Vigdís Harðardóttir, Operations Manager. In addition, GTP employed temporary part-time staff from ÍSOR according to need.



GRÓ GTP Director with former directors and staff of GTP, ÍSOR and other partners, with the class of 2022.

GRÓ LRT Summary Annual Report 2022

GRÓ Land Restoration Training Programme

175	fellows 6 month training	169	short course participants
2	completed MSc/MA	2	MSc ongoing
1	completed PhD		

*As of 31.12.2022

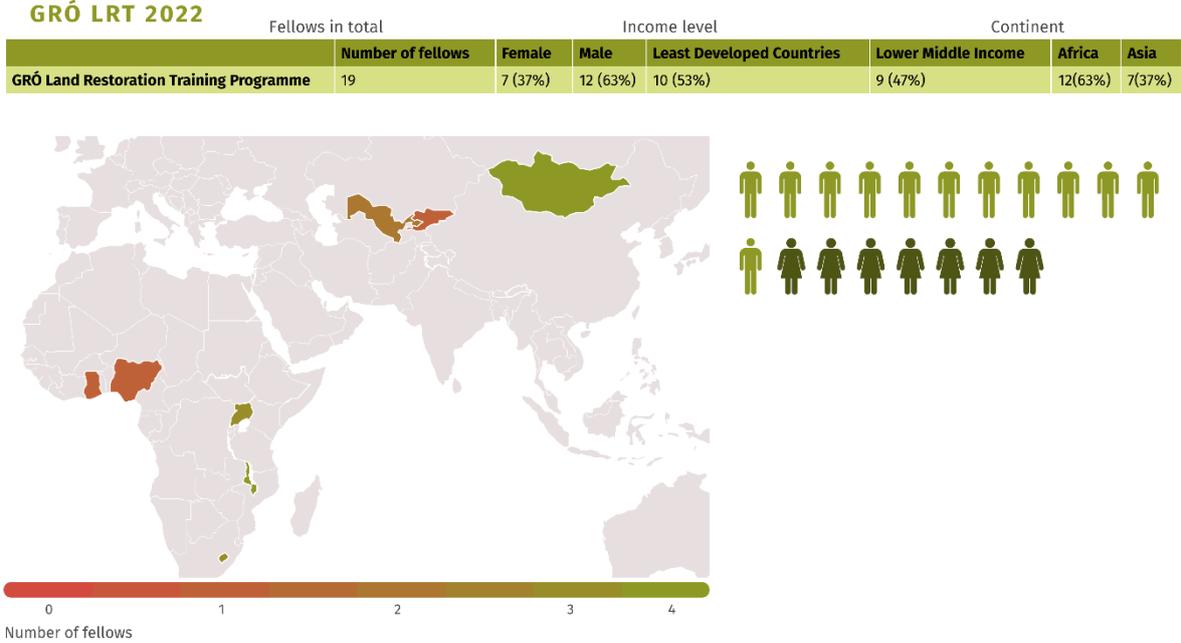
1. Postgraduate training programme

The GRÓ LRT six-month training programme ran from mid-March to mid-September in 2022, closing with a graduation ceremony at Keldnaholt Campus on 14 September. The 2022 cohort of fellows consisted of 19 experts (eight women and eleven men) from eight countries, all working on issues related to ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management in their home countries. Seventeen fellows came from GRÓ LRT’s partner institutions in respective countries, and two participated as representatives of UNESCO MAB’s World Network of Biosphere Reserves, coming from Omo Biosphere Reserve in Nigeria and the Mount Mulanje Biosphere Reserve in Malawi. Their participation is part of a new GRÓ LRT and UNESCO-MAB cooperation, where GRÓ International Centre for Capacity Development sponsors annually, over a period of five years, GRÓ LRT fellowship for two young professionals working for institutions and organisations that are a part of UNESCO MAB’s World Network of Biosphere Reserves.



GRÓ LRT graduates of 2022

The GRÓ LRT six-month training became eligible for ECTS credits in 2022, meaning that fellows completing the training successfully will, in addition to GRÓ LRT Certificate of Completion, also receive a Postgraduate Diploma in Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Land Management (30 ECTS) from the Agricultural University of Iceland. This change did not have much impact on the programme curriculum as the training remains organised in eight training modules and according to a project cycle framework. But with becoming eligible for 30 ECTS credits, the six-month training is now also organised as two academic courses, each 15 ECTS, with the Faculty of Environmental and Forest Sciences at the Agricultural University of Iceland.



The first half of the six-month training was divided into seven modules. The topics covered in the first six modules included: drivers of degradation; basic soil and erosion processes; interaction of climate change and land degradation; restoration of ecological functions; environmental governance and land management planning; evaluation of restoration projects; communication; and conflict management. Module seven focused on the interactions between climate change, ecosystem dynamics and biodiversity loss. GRÓ LRT received two international guest lecturers this year and their training sessions were part of module seven: Dr Richard Thomas, the Scientific Coordinator of the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative, giving a two-day course on the economics of land dynamics; and Dr Gerald Eilu, Associate Professor in the Department of Forestry, Biodiversity and Tourism at Makerere University in Uganda, giving a full-day lecture on biodiversity conservation in the context of ecosystem services and international frameworks. The last training module (module eight) focused on the development and execution of individual research projects on a topic of the fellows’ choice and under supervision of an expert(s). The fellows presented the results of their projects in an open seminar in the last week of training.



Fieldwork at GRÓ LRT

GRÓ LRT has a network of 40 specialists from the Agricultural University of Iceland, the Soil Conservation Services of Iceland, and other universities and government agencies that give lectures and provide project supervision in the GRÓ LRT training courses.

The GRÓ LRT's training programme is academically governed by an Academic Committee. It is chaired by the GRÓ LRT Director and includes two members from the Agricultural University of Iceland, two from the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland, and one from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries. The Academic Committee met once in 2022 in an extended meeting to review GRÓ LRT's training activities of the year and to discuss the academic aspects of the 2023 six-month training. The GRÓ LRT director was also often in contact with different committee members to discuss programme developments and aspects of planned training activities.

2. In-country and regional training

In partnership with the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative and Arba Minch University, GRÓ LRT organised a 5-day training course in Arba Minch, Ethiopia, on integrated approaches for land restoration through sustainable land management. The aim of the training course was to raise awareness on the economic benefits of ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management (SLM), teach the main steps involved in planning SLM and ecosystem restoration projects, and provide an overview on valuation techniques. The target group for the course was district development assistance workers specialized in natural resource management. The course was held on March 28th to April 1st, with 20 participants.

The training course was organised in a hybrid format, combining in-class sessions, field visits and pre-recorded lectures. GRÓ LRT's main contribution was in the form of pre-recorded lectures by three GRÓ LRT lecturers: Dr Þórunn W. Pétursdóttir from the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland, and Prof. Ása L. Aradóttir and Prof. Ólafur Arnalds, both from the Agricultural University of Iceland. Their lectures focused on social-ecological systems, land literacy and degradation processes, and on approaches and principles in restoration of degraded land.

3. Scholarships

Since 2017, GRÓ LRT has offered scholarships for post-graduate studies in Iceland to former fellows of the six-month training. Three graduate students were studying at the Agricultural University of Iceland on a GRÓ LRT scholarship in 2022: a PhD student from Mongolia and two master's students from Ethiopia. In November, Sumjidmaa Sainnemekh defended her PhD dissertation in environmental sciences at the Faculty of Environmental and Forest Sciences of the



Dr Sumjidmaa Sainnemekh, GRÓ LRT fellow of 2014 and GRÓ LRT PhD scholarship recipient 2019-2022 with the GRÓ LRT team

Agricultural University of Iceland. Her thesis is titled *Patterns and drivers of rangeland degradation in Mongolia*. Dr Sainnemekh's graduation marked a significant milestone in the work of GRÓ LRT, as she was the first former six-month training fellow to receive a GRÓ LRT doctoral scholarship.

4. Workshops and conferences

GRÓ LRT was one of the co-organisers of the international conference *Central Asian Rangelands: Global Challenges and Global Opportunities*, held 15-16 November 2022, at Samarkand State University in Uzbekistan. Two GRÓ LRT lecturers gave presentations at the conference about their research on grazing and sustainable land management in Iceland: Dr Bryndís Marteinsdóttir, project manager at the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland, and Dr Isabel Barrio, professor at the Agricultural University of Iceland. Furthermore, several former GRÓ LRT fellows also gave presentations at the conference about rangeland projects in their home countries, including Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, and Uzbekistan

5. Networking

- **UNESCO.** GRÓ LRT continued its collaboration with UNESCO's MAB programme in 2022. During the 34th Session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC), at UNESCO HQ in Paris in June, GRÓ LRT and the MAB secretariat co-hosted a side event titled Linking Knowledge to Action in Ecosystem Restoration: Cooperation between GRÓ LRT and UNSECO-MAB. The event started with opening remarks by Noëline Raondry Rakotoarisoa, Director a.i. of the SC/EES Division and Secretary of the MAB Programme, followed by a GRÓ LRT lecture where the GRÓ LRT Director talked about Iceland's experience of carrying out ecosystem restoration work for more than 100 years and the focus in the GRÓ LRT Programme on linking knowledge to action in land restoration and sustainable land management.
- **Visits to GRÓ LRT's partners in Ghana, Malawi, and Uganda.** Regular visits to partner institutions are key in fostering GRÓ LRT's collaborative partnerships with institutions that play a significant role in land restoration and sustainable land management in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. The GRÓ LRT Deputy Director and Operations Manager visited Ghana, Malawi, and Uganda in 2022. The purpose of the visits was to meet the directors of partner institutions and to interview potential candidates for GRÓ LRT Fellowship to attend the annual six-month training in coming years. As always in GRÓ LRT's visits to partner countries, meetings with GRÓ LRT alumni were organized although it was not possible to meet all 72 specialists from Ghana, Uganda and Malawi that have graduated from GRÓ LRT six-month training in Iceland. Alumni meetings are always enjoyable and important for exchanging new developments and achievements, and to foster collaboration among former fellows.
- **Erasmus+ Programme.** GRÓ LRT is engaged in several inter-institutional agreements under the European Union's Erasmus+ Programme, enabling GRÓ LRT to expand its cooperation with universities in partner countries in Africa and Asia. One of the guest lecturers in the six-month training of 2022 was received with support from the Erasmus+ while GRÓ LRT staff visited Makerere University in Uganda in September. Three GRÓ LRT applications to the Erasmus+ Programme in 2022 were approved, providing funding for further cooperation with Makerere University in Uganda and two universities in Kyrgyzstan, and to start a new partnership with the National University of Lesotho, all mobility projects running from 2022 to 2024.

6. Research and knowledge creation

The main output categories of GRÓ LRT research and knowledge creation are: (a) research reports of fellows in the six-month training, (b) PhD and master's theses of GRÓ LRT scholarship recipients, (c) peer-reviewed papers written by GRÓ LRT scholarship recipients, (d) scientific publications by former GRÓ LRT fellows.

The 19 fellows in the six-month training in 2022, developed and carried out individual research projects tailored to their academic and practical background and the needs of their home institutions. The research work culminated in a written report and an oral presentation. Qualified research reports are published on the GRÓ LRT website.

The GRÓ LRT PhD scholarship recipient from Mongolia defended her PhD thesis in November 2022. The title of her PhD thesis is Patterns and drivers of rangeland degradation in Mongolia and it consists of three research papers, one published in the Journal Agroforestry Systems in 2021, and two manuscripts submitted for publication.

Two former GRÓ LRT fellows wrote a chapter in the book *Building global sustainability through local self-reliance: Lessons from landcare*, which was published by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research in August 2022. Beatrice Dossah from Ghana, a GRÓ LRT fellow of 2017 and GRÓ LRT master's scholarship recipient in 2019-2021, wrote about place-based education for sustainability: a strategy that promotes environmental awareness in Ghana through the arts. Her chapter builds on the research project she conducted as part of her GRÓ LRT six-month training in 2017. Dr Fred Yikii from Uganda, GRÓ LRT fellow of 2009 and assistant lecturer in the Department of Environmental Management at Makerere University, co-authored a chapter on knowledge and progress: building bridges to empower community action.

7. Advisory services and knowledge sharing

Nothing to report in 2022.

8. Innovative online content creation

GRÓ LRT's short course in Arba Minch, Ethiopia, was organised in a hybrid format, combining in-class sessions, field visits and pre-recorded lectures (see item 2 above). GRÓ LRT's main contribution was in the form of pre-recorded lectures by three GRÓ LRT lecturers.

9. GRÓ LRT Team in 2022

GRÓ LRT's offices are at the Agricultural University of Iceland Keldnaholt Campus in Reykjavík, with a permanent staff of four: Dr Sjöfn Vilhelmsdóttir, Director, Berglind Orradóttir, Deputy Director, Halldóra Traustadóttir, Operation's Manager and Brita Berglund, Project Manager.



Annual Report 2022

Annex 2:

Success Stories

Foreword

Following are a few examples of the outcomes of the four GRÓ Programmes from 2022. These success stories are not meant to be exhaustive of the results achieved, but rather a collection of different stories to show some concrete examples of how the GRÓ programmes have through their work contributed to advancing the SDGs in their partner countries. These stories also give examples of how the GRÓ training has given the individuals that have gone through the training new perspectives, tools and knowledge that will help them to tackle the challenges in their respective fields and to work on advancing the SDGs at home, as well as helping the individuals themselves grow and develop.

GRÓ FTP

GRÓ FTP PhD scholarship recipient Dr Alvin Jueseah was asked on his return to Liberia to take on the project of setting up a new department focusing on fisheries and aquaculture sciences within the College of Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change at the University of Liberia (FTP's partner institute in Liberia). He is now heading up the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (DoFAS) as chairman and working with FTP on developing capacity within the department.

Former GRÓ FTP PhD scholarship recipient Dr Chrisphine Nyamweya who works as the assistant director of the Kenyan Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) was appointed the coordinator of the Aquatic Resources and Blue Economy Conference (ARBEC) 2022 held in Kisumu in December. Dr. Nyamweya was instrumental in bringing together 34 FTP alumni from the African continent who were presenting research or research posters during the conference.

Gladys Manyika from Tanzania informed GRÓ FTP in 2022 that she had been promoted by the Tanga City Executive Director to the position of Senior Fisheries Officer. Previously, Gladys has served as a Fisheries Officer at Tanga City Council. In her new position she will have the opportunity to influence policy development in the areas of fisheries and ocean governance.

Former GRÓ FTP fellow, James Banda from Malawi, won a project bid for his institute to collaborate with the University of New England in 2022. James wrote to thank FTP saying: "Thanks to GRO-FTP for the depth and scope of the skills gained from the Project Proposal Design and Proposal Writing Workshop. It continues to guide me as a GRO-FTP Fellow to compete internationally."

GRÓ FTP designed a new teaching module introduced during the 2022-2023 fellowship which aimed to bring a holistic approach to strengthening fellows' Professional Communication skills. The fellows evaluated the module to be a resounding success, communicating their appreciation of the opportunity to gain leadership competency in a range of soft skills: presentation and dissemination of research, academic poster design, project proposal design, academic writing, writing professional goals, team building and conflict resolution, to name but some of the topics. FTP incorporates UNESCO's five pillars of education approach, and the Professional Communication module falls within the scope of the Learning to DO and Learning to LIVE TOGETHER education pillars.

GRÓ GEST

During 2022, Jessica Mandanda from Malawi, GRÓ GEST alumna 2020, joined (virtually) in a discussion in the Civil Society Policy Forum at the IMF Annual meeting in October; was one of 50 Youth Trailblazer awardees at the 2022 International Conference on Family Planning in

Pattaya City in Thailand in November, and with a colleague co-developed and piloted a Media Toolkit on Bodily Autonomy and Integrity for and with the support of for and with support from ARASA (Aids and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa) – among many other accomplishments.

In 2022, Meenakshi Gandotra, GRÓ GEST 2021 alumna from India, started to lead the „She Creates Change Program“ in India with change.org, a gender sensitive platform for petition campaigns. She had worked for the platform in voluntary capacity as a Fellow Changemaker since October 2018.

Hasina Ndeketa GRÓ GEST 2022 alumna from Malawi, presented her research at the National Gender Based Violence research conference in Malawi and submitted an abstract on her analysis of the National Council of Higher Education Gender & Sexual Harassment Policy. Hasina is also leading the development of a gender and development module for a new degree program at Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences, to be launched in 2023.

Jessica Madalitso Mandanda, GRÓ GEST alumna 2020 from Malawi, started a Masters of Art in Public Advocacy and Activism in 2022, at the National University of Ireland, Galway, under the Ireland Fellows Programme, funded by the Irish Government.

GRÓ GTP

After graduating from the GRÓ GTP in 2022, Yenny Casallas from Colombia became the Technical Director of the Geosciences Department. Casallas is therefore in a key position in leading geothermal projects in her institute and to make a difference in developing geothermal resources in her country.

Matilde Urquizo graduated from the GRÓ GTP five years ago and worked as the head of geothermal department in Ecuador. In 2022 she got a position at the Inter-American Development Bank where she is working on geothermal projects in Latin America. In her current role she can make a great difference in the development of her region and support the fast tracking of geothermal for the whole continent.

Angel Monroy from El Salvador graduated on a GRÓ GTP MSc scholarship in 2022, having completed the 6 month training in 2013. He has since obtained a position at the World Bank working to support geothermal projects in Central America and the Caribbean.

Daniel Villaroel from Bolivia, a GRÓ GTP MSc scholarship graduate in Geochemistry, became the head of a pilot power plant at his institute on his return and was in charge of organising its construction on all levels. Villaroel came back to Iceland for his PhD in 2022 on the request of his institute. The previous research performed by the Bolivian fellows during the six months training programme has been well acknowledged, by helping, improving and complementing previous studies as well as providing general knowledge and understanding of the Geothermal System in Laguna Colorada in Bolivia. Currently, the trained GRÓ GTP professionals are key members of the geothermal



PhD fellow Daniel Villaroel from Bolivia measuring gases at Fagradalsfjall.

projects. Villaroel's PhD research is to improve the conceptual model and provide insights into the chemical evolution of the fluid during the exploitation steps for the successful development and utilization of the system. In addition, the aim is to improve studies conducted in other geothermal areas. The recent boost in geothermal development interests and activities in Bolivia, and the Government's plans in utilising renewable energy sources to meet the rising energy demands, has created an urgent requirement of local expertise on a higher level. The completion of the pilot plant in Laguna Colorada and the geothermal project development of the Sol de Mañana field, presents a need for a PhD level expert to deal with the next development phase. An addition of an expert on a PhD level in the institute will significantly accelerate the competence of the research team to develop the area, and future new areas in a sustainable way.

Makoye Didas a GRÓ GTP PhD scholarship recipient is studying the latest technologies in the geothermal sector in Iceland, aiming to have a big impact on the development of his country.

Prior to his research some consulting services had conducted geoscientific studies in one of the geothermal prospects in Tanzania. The studies concluded small geothermal reservoir below the Ngozi caldera as it could not be tested by conversional drilling. However, his PhD study is based on new techniques showing that there is actually a large geothermal reservoir below the Rungwe volcano which is located about 20 SE of the Ngozi volcano. The National Electricity Authority of Tanzania is now analysing the feasibility of that project which could mean several extra MW to



GRÓ GTP fellows by a borehole at Ölkelduháls after a rainy hike.

be added to the national grid. Former GRÓ FTP fellow Moses Wambua, from Kenya, was awarded the JIFRS-Yamamoto Best Paper Award at the 2022 IIFET conference for his paper entitled: A Game Theoretic Model and Solution for the Malindi Ungwana Bay Penaeid Conflict.

GRÓ LRT

On their return to Lesotho after finishing the GRÓ LRT six-months training, Moselantja Rahlao and Mokete Jacob Bereng were promoted, within the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation, to Project Field Officers to coordinate and facilitate the IFAD funded project Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods (ROLL). The core mandate of the ROLL project is to regenerate degraded landscapes and improve livelihoods of rural communities in Lesotho.

Bayartulga Altankhuyag, a GRÓ LRT fellow from Mongolia, received a Chevening Scholarship to study for a master's degree in Climate Change and Environmental Policy at the University of Leeds. He started his studies this autumn, only few weeks after graduating from GRÓ LRT six-month training in 2022.

Excerpts from fellows' evaluation of the six month training and voices of alumni:

"The programme for the six-month course is very professionally designed. Every step and every lecture complement each other, and in the end they give a broad understanding of what a particular subject is for. Each lecture is like a link in a whole chain. That is, if I didn't understand something in one lecture, then the next lecture fully consolidated my understanding of the subject as a whole. I can't say of each lecture individually what was more important to me or not. Taken together, each lecture and each lecturer contributed to my knowledge of land restoration." (GRÓ LRT fellow)

"Using this opportunity, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the wonderful lecturers, educators, and staff members at the GRO-GEST who are empowering and making a difference for emerging gender equality practitioners in developing countries. Thanks to the programme, I was able to advance my career and started working as a consultant for various development cooperation projects in Mongolia. I can't thank the GRO-GEST programme enough for being fertile soil and a safe space where we can grow and be groomed to fight for the social justice cause. Not only I gained hands-on knowledge but also wonderful friends and a network of avengers. Now I am working to make a difference in the lives of female and male miners in both large-scale and artisanal mining in my home country, same as the GRO-GEST program did in my life." (GRÓ GEST alumna).

"I really gained confidence from the integrated approach to presentation of information, critical feedback and academic writing skills follow up." (GRÓ FTP fellow)



GRÓ GTP fellows experiencing snow for the first time.

"The most important take away from Professional Communication module was building my confidence in collaboration, summarising and expressing my knowledge and effective team skills." (GRÓ FTP fellow)

"Overall, excellent! The supervisors, lecturers, and GRÓ staff are all easy to communicate and very appreciative on the fellows work. Hopefully there is Course 2 for another GRÓ GTP 😊." (GRÓ GTP fellow)

"Poster design and the production of a poster to take home to disseminate my research was invaluable." (GRÓ FTP fellow)

"Was a priceless time in our lives. Thanks!" (GRÓ GTP fellow)