

Minute 2

I - Introduction

On the 27th day of March of two thousand and twenty-six, at 10 hours the jury nominated by the CCMAR board of Directors on 18/02/2026, met by video conference, for the second meeting of the call Ref. CCMAR/BINCGAM/02/2026. The meeting was for the hiring of two Research Fellowships for a person with a Master Degree (Bolsa de Investigação não conducente à obtenção de grau académico para mestre), for applicants of any nationality, including stateless candidates, and holders of political refugee status, in the scientific field of **Aquaculture, Biology, Ecology, and other related fields** within the research project number **MPr-2023-7-18319** - named as **AQUADIVERSIFY: “Diversificação e Produção Sustentável em Aquacultura Multitrófica Integrada”** funded by Agência da Inovação. The jury present at the meeting was composed of Doctor Aschwin Engelen, Group Leader, Coordinator of the project and Auxiliary Researcher of CCMAR, Doctor Neusa Martins, Auxiliary Researcher at CCMAR (member); Doctor Tânia Aires Junior Researcher at CCMAR (member of the jury), and had the following agenda items: admission and evaluation of the applications for the fellowship CCMAR/BINCGAM/02/2026.

II - Statement of no conflict of interests

We, the members of this jury, fully understand the confidential nature of the assessment process and agree not to disclose or discuss its materials, nowhere, with no one, knowing the consequences of a misconduct. We further declare that we have no direct or indirect financial, economic or personal interest that could compromise our impartiality and autonomy as members of this Jury. Thus, we declare under word of honor that we will not evaluate candidates with whom we have a conflict of interest, for what we will require our immediate replacement.

III – Candidates

16 applications were received:

1. Leonardo Abraão da Silva Rodrigues
2. Pedro André Magalhães
3. Wanda Afriliani
4. Prakash Bajagain
5. Sujan Dahal
6. MUDASIR HUSSAIN
7. Mohamed El Kilali
8. Benjamim de Oliveira Marques Portugal
9. Orestis Stefani
10. Maria Carolina Melo de Sousa
11. Suneth Gayashan Witharanage

12. Anvita Sreemathi S
13. Aaron Johannes Cordes
14. Lourdes Duque
15. Aaron Johannes Cordes
16. Sergei Danchenko

However, candidate Aaron Johannes Cordes has applied 2 times. For this reason, only the application received last will be considered.

IV - Exclusion of applications

The jury analysed the applications, considering the mandatory documents and on this basis excluded 1 candidate (**Table 1**), for the following reasons:

1. The candidate did not submit a copy of the Master's degree certificate.

Table 1. Candidates excluded of the evaluation and ranking phase.

Benjamim de Oliveira Marques Portugal

The remaining **14 applicants** were admitted for evaluation and ranking (Table 2).

Table 2. Candidates admitted and proposed for the evaluation and ranking phase.

Leonardo Abraão da Silva Rodrigues Pedro André Magalhães Wanda Afriliani Prakash Bajagain Sujan Dahal MUDASIR HUSSAIN Mohamed El Kilali Orestis Stefani Maria Carolina Melo de Sousa Suneth Gayashan Witharanage Anvita Sreemathi S Lourdes Duque Sergei Danchenko Aaron Johannes Cordes

V - Evaluation of applications

The Jury evaluated the application documents of the eligible candidates (**Table 2**) and applied the classification criteria and weighting factors set out in the vacancy announcement as shown in **Table 3** below:

Table 3. Table with the evaluation of applications.

Candidate	Criterion 1	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Final Classification
Leonardo Abraão da Silva Rodrigues	0	0	4	0.8
Pedro André Magalhães	9	3	7	6.2
Wanda Afriliani	5	5	4	4.8
Prakash Bajagain	0	0	7	1.4
Sujan Dahal	0	0	4	0.8
MUDASIR HUSSAIN	0	0	5	1.0
Mohamed El Kilali	5	5	4	4.8
Orestis Stefani	5	0	6	3.2
Maria Carolina Melo de Sousa	5	0	7	3.4
Suneth Gayashan Witharanage	6	3	6	4.8
Anvita Sreemathi S	0	0	4	0.8
Lourdes Duque	0	0	4	0.8
Aaron Johannes Cordes	9	9	4	8.0
Sergei Danchenko	2	0	4	1.6

Evaluation criteria and respective weighting:

1. Proven experience in the field of macroalgae culture maintenance/methodology and sporulation techniques – 40%
2. Proven experience with seaweed farming in hatchery, outdoor tanks, and open sea - 40%
3. Proven experience in the use of Excel, R, and PRIMER software and light microscopy – 20%

Note: The final grades in table 3 represent the average of the individual evaluation performed by each member of the jury, presented on a scale from **0** to **20**, rounded to the nearest tenth.

Table 4 presents the final classification.

Table 4. Overall classification and ranking of the admitted applicants of call CCMAR/BINCGAM/02/2026, indicating the final score.

Candidates	Final Classification	Ranking
Aaron Johannes Cordes	8	1st
Pedro André Magalhães	6.2	2nd
Suneth Gayashan Witharanage	4.8	3rd Ex aequo
Wanda Afriliani	4.8	3rd Ex aequo
Mohamed El Kilali	4.8	3rd Ex aequo
Maria Carolina Melo de Sousa	3.4	4th

Orestis Stefani	3.2	5 th
Sergei Danchenko	1.6	6 th
Prakash Bajagain	1.4	7 th
MUDASIR HUSSAIN	1.0	8 th
Leonardo Abraão da Silva Rodrigues	0.8	9 th Ex aequo
Sujan Dahal	0.8	9 th Ex aequo
Anvita Sreemathi S	0.8	9 th Ex aequo
Lourdes Duque	0.8	9 th Ex aequo

VI - Conclusion

The fellowships will be awarded to the two best ranked applicants. The candidates **Aaron Johannes Cordes** and **Pedro André Magalhães** obtained the highest classifications (**Table 4**) and based on the elements presented in their applications, both meet the conditions for the purposes of eventual selection. Therefore, the Jury proposes the ratification of this decision to the CCMAR Board.

The Jury will proceed to the right of prior hearing, setting a deadline of 10 working days and gives candidates the right of recourse of the announced decision, whether in relation to scientific or procedural matters.

With no other item on the agenda, the meeting of which these minutes were drawn up was closed, with 4 pages, which after being read and approved, were signed by the members of the jury.

Doctor Aschwin Engelen

Doctor Neusa Martins

Doctor Tânia Aires