PROGRESS UPDATE REPORT OCTOBER 2025



International Polar Year 2032-33 (IPY-5)

IPY-5: Cooperation for a Changing World

The 5th International Polar Year (2032-33), or IPY-5 for short, is being organised with unprecedented urgency due to rapid environmental and social changes in the polar regions. There is widespread concern about crossing thresholds that may irreversibly alter life in the Arctic, Antarctic, and around the world. IPY-5 will build on four groundbreaking IPYs since 1881 and millennia of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge production, that together form a long chain of coordinated polar research and credible scientific evidence and knowledge on socio-ecological changes in the polar regions. Most recently, the fourth IPY (2007-2008) drew together evidence from thousands of participants emphasizing that polar changes have global consequences.

IPY-5 will encourage and enable vital cooperation across countries, disciplines, and knowledge systems to coordinate research, observations and monitoring, as well as innovative expeditions in the polar regions to produce urgently needed and actionable knowledge to more deeply understand global processes, support informed decisions and offer effective and implementable solutions.

- Extend observations of accelerating changes, and establish new baselines to guide actions
- Harness new tools and methods developed since IPY-4, across disciplines and knowledge systems
- Advance transdisciplinary research by integrating diverse knowledge systems including from natural sciences, social sciences, humanities research, and Indigenous knowledge;
- and much more

This momentum aligns with international developments such as the 2023 Helsinki Declaration and the 4th International Conference on Arctic Research Planning Process (ICARP IV), and the UN Decades of Ocean Sciences, Cryospheric Sciences, Ecosystem Restoration, and Indigenous Languages.

IPY-5 will work with and alongside these and other initiatives, which together highlight the need for greater international coordination to provide evidence for effective decision-making on urgent global issues.

Organisations involved in the IPY-5 Planning Group











































































Societal Impact and Benefits

IPY-5 will create knowledge for action with direct societal relevance:

- Direct benefits for **local communities**, youth, global public, and Indigenous **Peoples**
- Knowledge that informs decisionmaking at local, regional, and global scales
- Partnerships between scientists, academic institutions, Indigenous Peoples, and local organisations through co-design of research projects 2. Project Phase (2026–33) and co-production of knowledge
- Equitable, inclusive, and diverse capacity-building for youth and early-career researchers
- Education and outreach that raise awareness of the importance of polar regions worldwide

IPY-5 will strengthen international coordination and collaboration toward a **common purpose** for collective benefit, enabling the global polar research community to achieve together what no single nation can achieve alone.

Planning Structure and Timeline

IPY-5 is a multi-year activity with three key phases:

1. Planning Phase (2021–25)

- Conceptual discussions among international organisations
- Refine planning documents
- Co-develop timelines, structures, priorities, visions, and ambitions
- Establish processes to support IPY-5

- Initiation and implementation of IPY-5 initiatives, culminating in 2032-33
- IPY-5 in 2032-33 including intensive polar fieldwork and analysis, modelling efforts and process understanding studies, education and outreach activities
- Connecting communities through key polar research initiatives
- Events including a joint IASC-SCAR conference in 2030
- · Engaging with related regional and global efforts

Principles

IPY-5 will be guided by a broad set of principles, including

- Fostering international collaboration
- Encouraging open data and open science
- Striving for holistic, systemic approaches to research
- Producing actionable knowledge with direct societal relevance
- · Committing to inclusive, diverse, and equitable research practices
- Ensuring balanced involvement from both the Arctic and Antarctic
- Co-designing research and co-producing knowledge across knowledge systems.

3. Legacy Phase (2034+)

- Collected data will continue to be fully utilised and archived
- Analysis and synthesis activities with a focus on knowledge transfer, reporting, and establishment of supporting frameworks for legacy outcomes
- Evaluation of the impact of IPY-5

Organisational Structure

A planning structure has been established for IPY-5 that will be further expanded in the coming years:





IPY-5 International Coordination

IPY-5 Executive Committee

Moves planning efforts forward between IPY-5 Planning Group Meetings and takes overall responsibility for the direction and development of the IPY-5

Members: International Arctic Science Committee (IASC); Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR); World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), International Science Council (ISC)

Interim IPY-5 Secretariat

Interim Secretariat for the IPY-5 planning process until a longer-term funded arrangement is in place.

Operated by the Secretariats of IASC and SCAR with support of the ISC

IPY-5 Planning Group

Composed of representatives of regional and international organisations

Members: More than 30 organisations as of October 2025!

IPY-5 Task Groups

Short-term groups working on addressing specific strategic aspects of the planning process.

Current Task Groups include: Vision and Priorities for the IPY-5; Indigenous Leadership and Involvement Coordination, Country and Funders Involvement; Capacity building and early career coordination; Data.

Is your organisation interested in joining the IPY-5 Planning Group?

More information on the **open-ended call** for international/regional organisations to join the IPY-5 Planning Group is available on the IPY-5 website.

IPY-5 National Coordination

IPY-5 National Representatives **Coordination Committee** (IPY-5 NRCC)

To facilitate communication and cooperation between the various national IPY-5 planning efforts and to connect the national planning efforts with the international coordination of the IPY-5

National **Committees** To coordinate national contributions

to the IPY-5

IPY-5

5th International Polar Year Timeline 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2028 Ramping up of IPY projects From IPY-4 to IPY-5 International Polar Year 2032-2033 4th Internationa th International Polar Year 2032/2033 Consultations and Engaging Polar Stakeholders and Early Discussions and Pre-IPY 2007/2008 Developing Concept about 5th IPY the Research Community Project Phase Legacy Phase From Knowledge to Interim IPY Secretariat **IPY Secretaria** Action Conference 2012, Montreal, Canada 2007/2008 2010 2012 2018 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2034 2035 2031 2032 2033 Joint IASC-SCAR Conference POLAR 2018, IPY Oslo Science Joint IASC-SCAR Joint IASC-SCAR Conference 2010, Conference 2030 Announcement Oslo Norway on 5th IPY Incheon, Republic of Korea Large-scale polar processes Fourth International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP IV) Process (2022-2026) connected to the IPY UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022–2032) Relevant UN Decades International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024–2033) UN Decade of Action for Cryopsheric Sciences (2025–2034) Arctic Pulse (2024-2030) Antarctica InSvnc (2027-2030) Relevant large-scale international activities Arctic Ocean 2050 (2026-2035)

Moving Forward Together

IPY-5 National Committees

National contributions are the backbone of IPY-5, linking national initiatives to international collaboration. Each country can set up an IPY-5 National Committee (or use an existing polar committee) to coordinate their involvement starting from October 2025.

What do National Committees do?

- Mobilise support: secure funding, logistics, and resources
- Coordinate activities: plan, endorse, and deliver national/local projects for
- Coordinate endorsements: coordinate the endorsement processes for national IPY-5 projects

- Share data: ensure availability of nationally collected IPY data
- Engage society: lead in education, outreach, and communication at the national level
- Link internationally: channel information between the IPY-5 Planning Group and the National Committee through involvement in the IPY-5 National Representatives Coordination Committee (NRCC)

How to establish a National Committee?



Find out more information on how to create and register an IPY-5 National Committee on IPY-5 National Committee on the IPY-5 website.

Towards a dedicated IPY-5 International Coordination Office

A strong IPY-5 International Coordination Office will be essential to coordinate the planning, delivery, and legacy of IPY-5. The operational period of this office is expected to be from early 2027 until at least the end of 2035.

A call for bids to host the IPY-5 International Coordination Office was launched in October 2025 with the following deadlines:

• 6 February 2026 at 18:00 GMT: Deadline to submit short Expressions of Interest letters (max. 2 pages) via this form.

• After a review of the expressions of interests, the IPY-5 Executive Committee will contact the shortlisted bids to invite them to submit full bids by no later than 31 May 2026. Detailed instructions for the full bids will be sent to the shortlisted bids by no later than early March 2026.



More detailed information on the Call for Bids can be found on the IPY-5 website.



IPY-5 Project Endorsements

The IPY-5 will include an ambitious and broad range of research, education, outreach and other projects and activities across the globe focused on the polar regions.

A system of project endorsements will highlight and connect initiatives that contribute to IPY-5 from 2026 onwards. Receiving endorsement as an IPY-5 initiative is a way to connect projects to this global polar effort and ensure it contributes to the shared legacy of IPY-5.

How will the endorsement processes be organised?

There will be:

- International Endorsement Processes coordinated by the IPY-5 International Coordination Office and Executive Committee for international projects involving multiple countries.
- **National Endorsement Processes** coordinated by the IPY-5 National Committees for national/localfocused projects involving only one country.

When should the project take place to receive endorsement as an IPY-5 initiative?

Projects can contribute to:

- Ramp-up period to IPY-5 (2026 - 2031), and/or
- IPY-5 (2032–33), and/or
- IPY-5 Legacy period (2034) onwards)

Who can apply for endorsements?

Individuals, institutions, organisations, and communities working in the Arctic, Antarctic, or their global connections will be eligible to apply.

More information will be available starting on the IPY-5 website starting early 2026!

More information:

ipy-secretariat@iasc.info www.ipy5.info