

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.

IPY-5 will:

- **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



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

- 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.

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

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

- 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

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



**IPY-5
National
Committees**
To coordinate
national
contributions
to the IPY-5

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 IPY-5
- **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 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/local-focused 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:

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www.ipy5.info



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