



International Polar Year 2032-2033

From Concept to Action





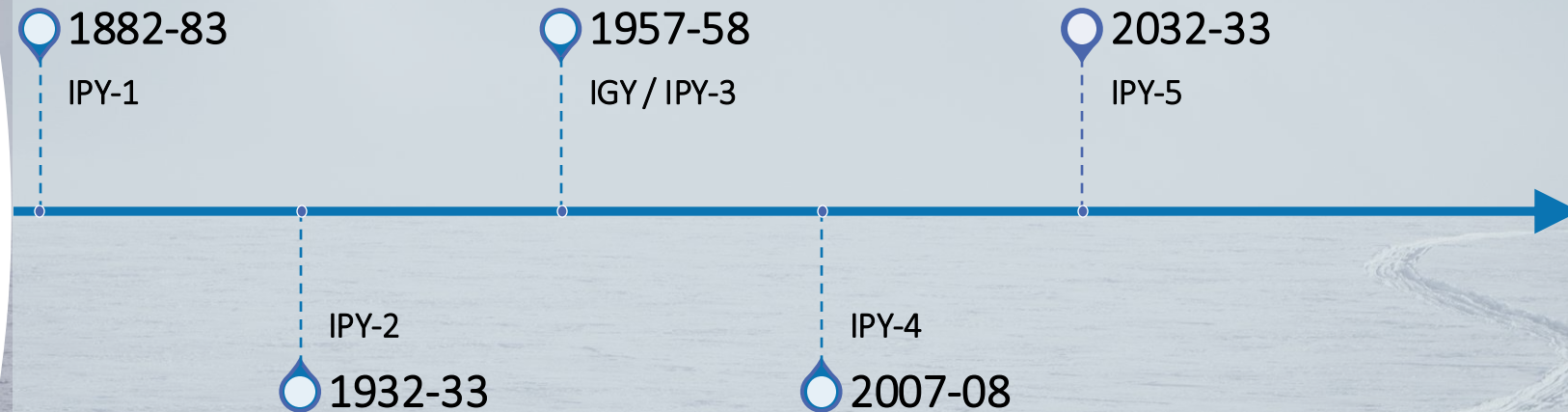
International
Polar Year
2032-2033

IPY-5: A crucial new phase in organising regular IPYs

Building on:

- 4 groundbreaking IPYs convened between 1881 - 2009
- millenia of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge production

→ long chain of coordinated polar research and credible scientific evidence on socio-ecological changes in the polar regions



Initial Planning Phase (2021 – 2025)

- **Early 2021:** Discussions among several International, Arctic and Antarctic organisations started
- **December 2022:** Joint Statement on the 5th IPY from IASC and SCAR in cooperation with WMO, ISC, UArctic, IASSA, APECS and other partners
- **October 2023:** Initial IPY Concept Note published
- **October 2024:** Updated IPY Concept Note published



Updated IPY-5 Concept Note 2024

- Published in October 2024 (updated in March 2025)
- IPY-5 Logo



UPDATED CONCEPT NOTE
MARCH 2025



International Polar Year 2032-33

Why an International Polar Year (IPY) in 2032-33?

Extreme weather, increasing temperatures, sea level rise, and devastating events such as droughts, floods, and wildfires are becoming ever more prevalent and severe across the globe. At the same time, ongoing processes of ocean warming, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and sea-ice change are negatively impacting ecosystems, economies, the rights, and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples, and human wellbeing around the world. Many of these changes are taking shape faster than predicted.



As the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report points out, several of the more serious global consequences are linked to unprecedented changes in the Arctic and Antarctic ('polar regions'). The urgency of understanding the consequences of such rapid changes in the polar regions for global climate, biodiversity, and human societies has never been greater. The transformations in the polar regions (particularly the Arctic) also highlight a need to articulate and elevate the critical status, rights and roles of Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge systems with respect to understanding, addressing and adapting to these changes. Global transdisciplinary coordination focused on the polar regions is therefore essential to achieving the major knowledge breakthroughs that are required to inform and develop effective international, regional, national, and local strategies to mitigate and adapt to the recent unprecedented levels of global change.

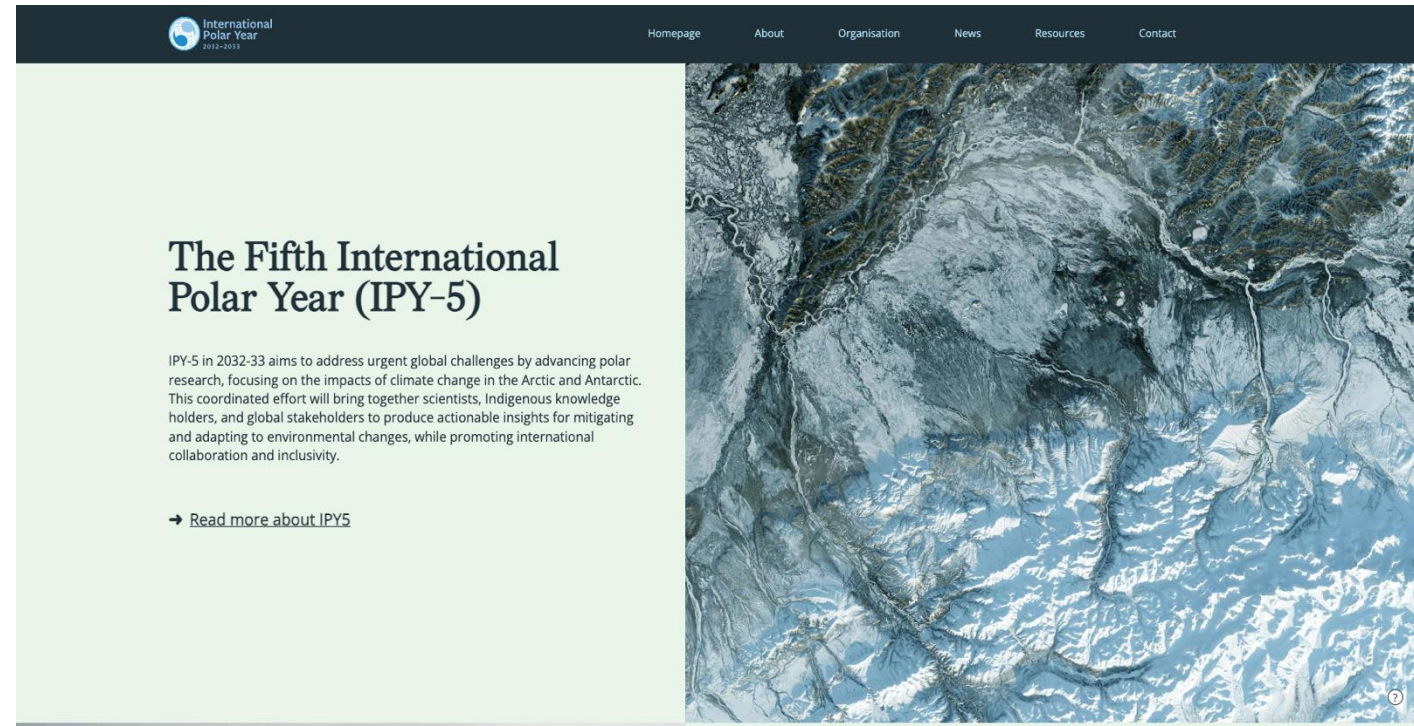
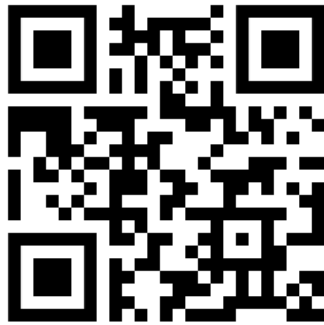
In this context, there is an urgent need to organise a 5th International Polar Year ("IPY-5") in 2032-33.

Organisations involved in the IPY Planning Group



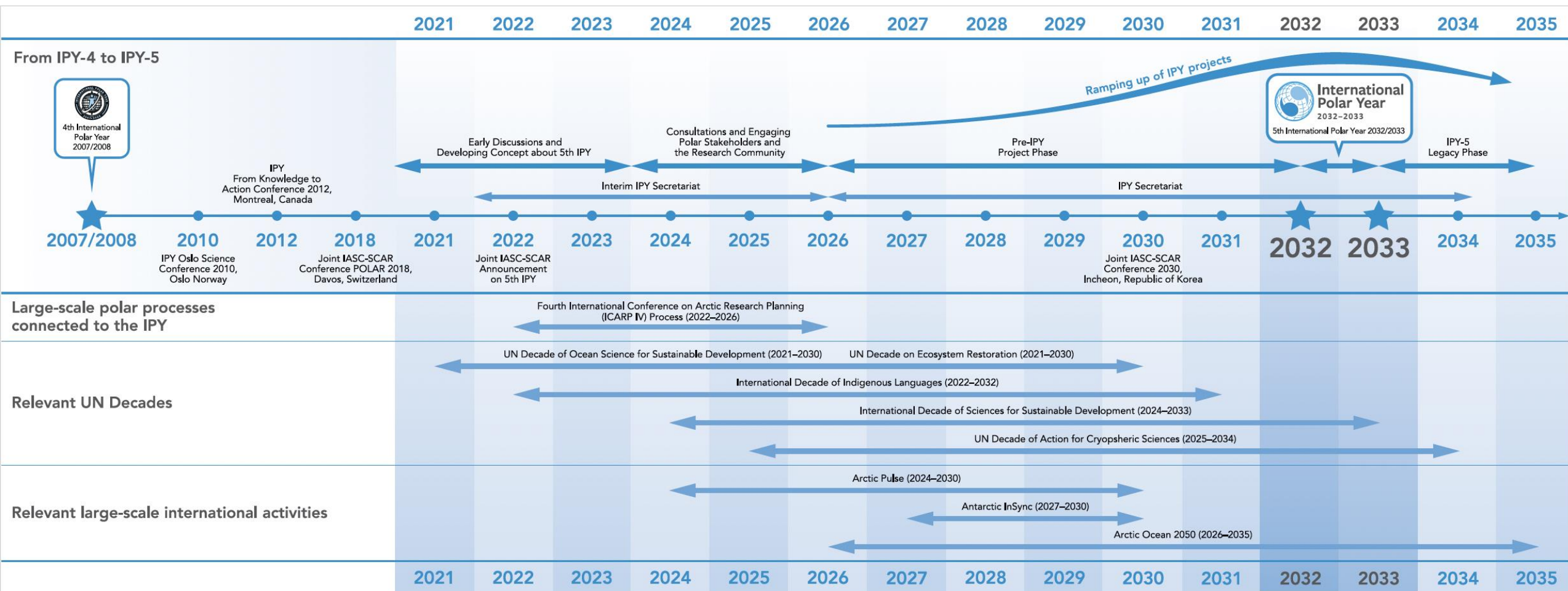
IPY-5 Website launched in October 2024

➤ IPY-5 website: www.ipy5.info





IPY-5 Planning Timeline





IPY Executive Committee

Move planning efforts forward between IPY Planning Group Meetings and take overall responsibility for the direction and development of the IPY

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

5th

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2032-33**

**Organisational
Structure**

IPY Planning Group

- Composed of representatives of regional and international organisations
- Meets twice a year
- Provides input, advice and overall direction for the IPY planning process and the IPY Executive Committee
- Prepares, presents and assists in taking forward specific issues to the IPY Executive Committee

Members

(As of April 2025)

IASC	FARO
SCAR	IASSA
ISC	ICC
WMO/WCRP	ICED
UArctic	ICOMOS
AIA	IUGG
AFoPS	PCAPS of WWRP
AMAP	PEI
AnMAP	Saami Council
Antarctic InSync	SAON
APECS	SCOR
ASFF	SCOSTEP
CLiC	SIOS
COSPAR	SOOS
EPB	WRH

IPY Task Groups

- Short-term groups working on a specific issue to address a strategic aspect of the planning process
- Members nominated by IPY Planning Group from their organisations or other relevant experts
- Report on their work to the IPY Planning group during their biannual meetings

Task Group 1: Visions and Priorities for for IPY 2032/33

Task Group 2: IPY Indigenous Leadership and Involvement Coordination

Task Group 3: Country and Funders Involvement

Task Group 4: Capacity building and early career coordination

IPY Interim Secretariat

- Setting up and coordinating Task Groups
- Administrative support for the IPY Executive Committee and IPY Planning Group
- Preparation of promotional materials and presentations
- Preparing update reports to meetings of relevant bodies
- Content management of the IPY5 website (ipy5.info)

Staff

The IASC and SCAR Secretariats, along with staff from the International Science Council, are currently acting as an Interim IPY Secretariat until a longer term arrangement is put in place.
ipy-secretariat@iasc.info

Current IPY-5 Planning Structure

- IPY-5 Executive Committee: representatives of IASC, SCAR, WMO and ISC
- IPY-5 Planning Group: currently representatives of 29 international and regional organisations plus one observer
- More committees to be added in the future (e.g. national involvement)

Organisations currently involved in the IPY-5 Planning Group:





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Polar Year**
2032–2033

Continued Open Call: Join the **IPY Planning Group**!

- directed at **regional or international organisations / unions / associations** (scientific, Indigenous, educational, etc.) that
 - work on / in the polar regions, including organisations working to deliver/enable science in the polar regions (e.g., logistics), and
 - are committed to contributing directly and long-term to the planning and delivery of the IPY 2032-33.



Task Groups

Task Groups: work on **developing a strategy** for specific aspects of the planning process:

- Vision and Priorities for IPY-5
- Country and Funders Involvement in IPY-5
- Indigenous Leadership and Involvement Coordination in IPY-5
- Capacity Building and Early Career Coordination

More Task Groups to be launched in **2025** and **2026**.

Organisations currently involved in the IPY-5 Planning Group:



IPY-5 Interim Secretariat

Supported jointly by IASC, SCAR and ISC Secretariats (but no funded IPY Secretariat yet!) :

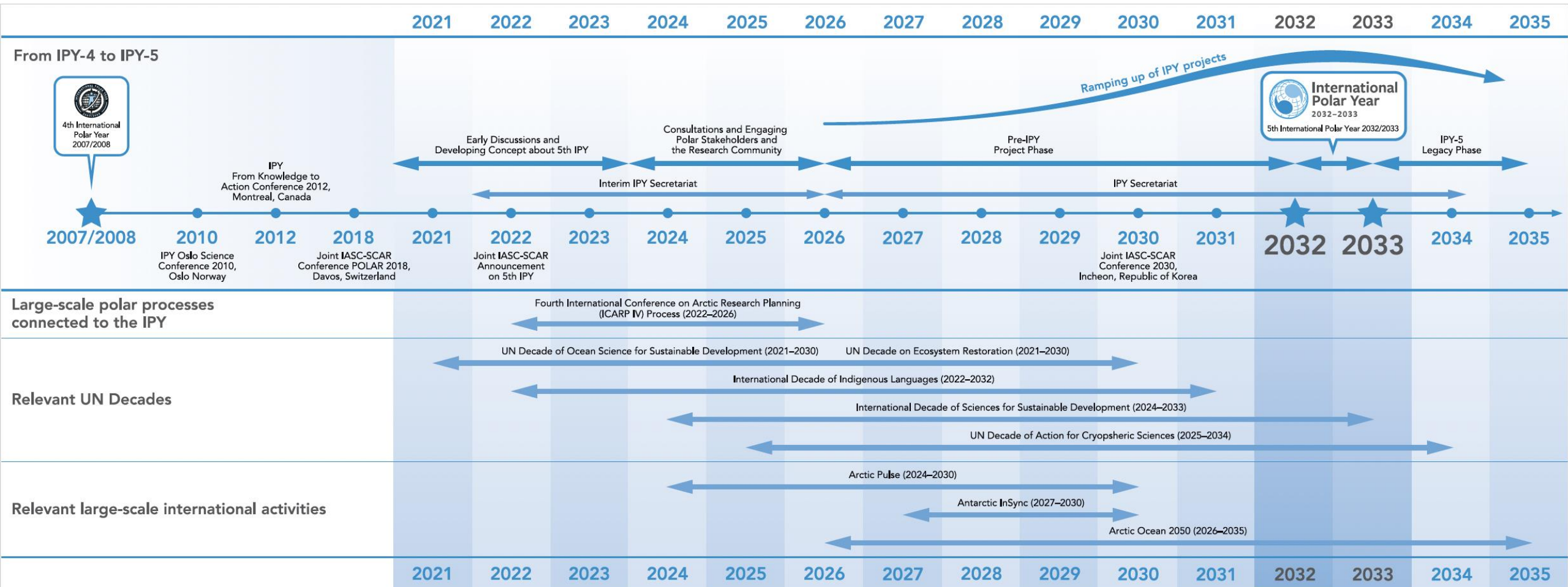
- **Gerlis Fugmann** (IASC Executive Secretary)
- **Chandrika Nath** (SCAR Executive Director)
- **Morgan Seag** (ISC Senior Representative to the UN System)
- **Angharad Downes** (SCAR Science and Operations Officer)
- **Johanna Franke** (IASC Project Officer)
- **Federica Scarpa** (IASC Communications Manager)

Contact:



ipy-secretariat@iasc.info

IPY-5 Planning Timeline





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2032–2033

Next steps in 2025

- Setting up more Task Groups on specific issues of the planning process
- Continue public consultations and engaging polar stakeholders, rightsholders and the research community in defining and shaping the plans and visions for the IPY
- Identifying a host and funding for an IPY Planning Secretariat
- Defining the ramp-up Period (2026 – 2031) for the IPY (e.g. definition of IPY projects)



Photo: Fabian Fobb



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Photo: Gerlis Fugmann

Contact the Interim IPY Secretariat!



www.ipy5.info



ipy-secretariat@iasc.info