

PROGRESS UPDATE REPORT

OCTOBER 2026



International Polar Year 2032–33 (IPY-5)

IPY-5: What Happens at the Poles Affects Everyone

Rapid change in the Arctic and Antarctic, although covering only around 10% of the planet, will profoundly influence the future of the other 90%, affecting climate, sea levels, food systems, water security, biodiversity, economies, and human wellbeing worldwide. The Fifth International Polar Year (IPY-5) will bring the world together to understand these rapidly changing regions and equip humanity with the knowledge, partnerships, resilience, and capacities needed to thrive in an increasingly uncertain future.

Building on more than 140 years of international polar cooperation and generations of Indigenous knowledge, IPY-5 will unite countries, disciplines, sectors, and knowledge systems in an unprecedented international effort focused on the Arctic and Antarctic. No single nation, institution, or discipline can fully understand or respond to the scale of change taking place in the polar regions. Through international collaboration, IPY-5 will help generate trusted knowledge, strengthen observing systems and scientific capacity, and support informed decision-making around the world.

IPY-5 is guided by five key imperatives:

- **Global science for global challenges** through international cooperation and equitable participation.
- **A transformational leap in knowledge** enabled by advances in observing systems, artificial intelligence, modelling, satellite technologies, and digital infrastructure.
- **Knowledge without borders** through sharing observations, expertise, and infrastructure internationally.
- **Diverse knowledge systems** bringing together scientific, Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge.
- **More resilient societies** through stronger partnerships, scientific capacity, trusted information, and lasting legacy investments.



More information can be found in the IPY-5 Vision Document (short version)

IPY-5 Executive Committee



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION



International
Science Council

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 decision-making** at local, regional, and global scales.
- **Partnerships** between scientists, academic institutions, Indigenous Peoples, and local organisations through co-design of research projects 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 being coordinated through an international Executive Committee led jointly by the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Science Council (ISC), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). This structure will continue to evolve as preparations advance toward 2032-33, with increasing involvement from the Planning Group and associated Task Groups, National Committees, and the recently announced International Coordination Office.

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

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

Do you have a suggestion for an IPY-5 Task Group?

More information on how Task Groups can be proposed is available on the IPY-5 website

Planning Structure

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)



IPY-5 Interim Secretariat (2021 – early 2027)

Interim Secretariat during the IPY-5 early planning phase operated by the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), International Science Council (ISC)

IPY-5 Planning Group

Provides input, advice, and overall direction for the IPY-5 planning process and includes representatives of international organisations involved in polar research, Indigenous engagement, observing systems, data coordination, education, early career networks, and related fields

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

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

IPY-5 International Coordination Office (early 2027 – 2035)

Coordination office for the IPY-5 planning process hosted by the UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norwegian Polar Institute, Korean Polar Research Institute, Chilean Antarctic Institute

IPY-5 Task Groups

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

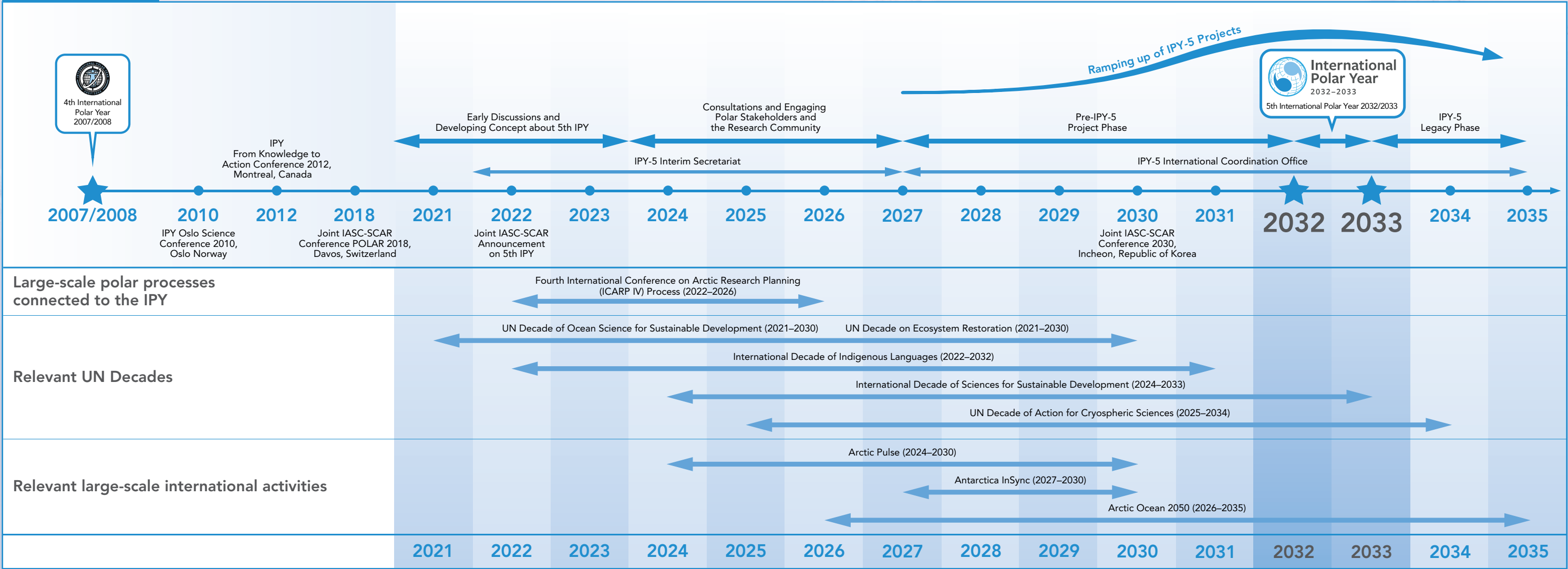
IPY-5 National Committees

Coordinate national contributions to the IPY-5; and help align national activities in research, data, education, outreach, and engagement with the broader objectives of IPY-5

IPY-5 International Coordination

IPY-5 National Coordination

Planning Timeline





Moving Forward Together

IPY-5 National Committees

National contributions will be the foundation of IPY-5. Countries interested in contributing to IPY-5 are encouraged to establish an **IPY-5 National Committee** or identify an existing national polar body that can fulfil this role. Several National Committees have already been established with a particular ramp up period expected throughout 2026 and are expected to remain active throughout the planning, delivery, and legacy phases of IPY-5.

National Committees help connect local and national activities to the wider international effort. While structures will differ between countries, committees are encouraged to:

- Support national participation in IPY-5.
- Facilitate planning and implementation of national activities.
- Promote education, outreach, and public engagement.

- Support open sharing of data and knowledge.
- Provide input into international IPY-5 planning processes.
- Strengthen connections between national and international polar initiatives.



Detailed guidance on establishing and registering an IPY-5 National Committee is available on the IPY-5 website

The IPY-5 National Representatives Coordination Committee (NRCC) will launch in November 2026 to facilitate communication and coordination among endorsed National Committees.

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.

Announcement of the IPY-5 International Coordination Office

In August 2026, it was announced that an international consortium led by Norway will host the IPY-5 International Coordination Office (ICO) from 2027 - 2035. The consortium brings together four institutions across three continents:



- UiT The Arctic University of Norway
- Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI)
- Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI)
- Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH)

The main office will be located in Tromsø, Norway, with regional offices in the Republic of Korea and Chile. The ICO will provide international coordination and support for the

planning, implementation, endorsement processes, communications, and legacy activities of IPY-5. The office will assume responsibility from the Interim Secretariat in early 2027 and will support the IPY-5 Executive Committee and Planning Group throughout the programme.

The ICO will also promote open science, support early-career researcher participation, and help ensure meaningful involvement of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous knowledge systems throughout IPY-5.



The official announcement of the new ICO is available on the IPY-5 website

IPY-5 Project Endorsement

IPY-5 will include a broad range of research, observing, education, outreach, capacity-building, and knowledge-sharing activities that contribute to the goals of the Fifth International Polar Year.

An endorsement system is being developed to recognise and connect activities that contribute to IPY-5 and its legacy. Endorsed initiatives will become part of the wider international IPY-5 effort and strengthen coordination, visibility, and collaboration across the programme.

Detailed information on endorsement procedures is anticipated to be released later in 2026.

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.

Who can apply for endorsements?

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

Detailed information on the IPY-5



Project Endorsement Processes will be available from late 2026 on the IPY-5 website

More information on IPY-5:

Contact the **IPY-5 Interim Secretariat** at:
ipy-secretariat@iasc.info
Website: www.ipy5.info