



2026-09-23

Swedish National IPY V Scoping Workshop

29 September 2026

Venues

As the workshop is distributed among hubs around Sweden, the venue for your university is listed on the workshop's [homepage](#).

Purpose

To explore ideas, perspectives and opportunities for advances in knowledge and capabilities that could emerge in the lead-up to and through IPY 2032–33, and to discuss where Swedish research, expertise, infrastructure and partnerships might make distinctive contributions.

Briefing material

The workshop homepage provides briefing materials, including this document, an introductory slide presentation (available both as a video and as an annotated slide deck), and links to suggested background reading. Please familiarise yourself with these materials before the workshop.

Framing questions

The following questions may help frame the discussion and guide our thinking towards IPY-5:

- What could we know in 2034 that we cannot know today?
- What would make those advances possible?
- Where could Sweden make a distinctive contribution?
- What are the next steps for the Swedish scientific community?

Workshop Schedule

08:30–08:50 – Welcome and Framing

Introduction to IPY 5 and the purpose of the workshop

08:50–10:00 Theme 1: Observing the Polar Regions

10:00–10:15 Break

10:15–11:30 Theme 2: Understanding Connections, Change and Consequences

11:30–12:20 Lunch

12:20–13:30 Theme 3: Polar Knowledge, People and Societies

13:30–13:45 Break

13:45–15:00 Theme 4: Anticipating the Future

15:00–15:15 Break

15:15–16:30 Next Steps: Developing Swedish Contributions to IPY 2032–33



Mode of operation

Structure for the thematic sessions

Short introduction by facilitator: 5 minutes

Local off-line discussion: 20 minutes

Joint discussion: 45 minutes

Discussions

Each theme will start with a local off-line discussion to get going. Thereafter should all participants join the joint discussion via Zoom from their own laptops. A conference room video system is also be connected to support interaction. Participants who are unable to attend a university hub are welcome to join remotely; however, they will not be able to take part in the local group discussions.

Suggestions, statements and ideas can also be put in the associated on-line collaboration tool and picked-up by facilitators and will provide material for the workshop report.

Note: Local discussions are not reported separately. The ideas and perspectives presented in the joint discussions reflect contributions from individual participants, hopefully informed by the local discussions, but should not be interpreted as representing the views of any group or university. If there is a large local group, the local organiser may divide it into smaller sub-groups.

Thematic workshop Themes

Theme 1: Observing the Polar Regions

Facilitator: Henning Lorenz, Uppsala University

This theme focuses on the next generation of polar observing systems and the scientific opportunities enabled by new observational capacity. Discussions should consider how sustained observations, autonomous platforms, remote sensing, integrated monitoring networks, and new forms of knowledge generation, including community-based co-creation, could transform our understanding of polar change and variability over the coming decade. The theme should also explore what scientific, technological, logistical, data, and human infrastructure may be needed to enable these advances and support ambitious polar research during the IPY 2032-33 era and beyond.

Guiding Questions to stimulate discussion:

- What observations are missing today?
- What observations could realistically become possible by 2032–33?
- Which scientific questions could only be answered through new observing capabilities?



- Where could Sweden make a distinctive contribution?

Theme 2: Understanding Connections, Change and Consequences

Facilitator: Anna Wåhlin, University of Gothenburg

This theme focuses on advancing understanding of the polar regions, from fundamental processes to Earth system interactions. Discussions should explore which key processes and mechanisms require major scientific advances by 2032-33, and how improved knowledge can help uncover feedbacks, linkages and interactions across the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere, hydrosphere, solid Earth, ecosystems and society. The ultimate aim is to strengthen system-level understanding of how polar regions function, change, and influence the wider Earth system.

Guiding Questions to stimulate discussion:

- Which critical linkages remain poorly understood?
- Are there knowledge gaps within the components that prevent understanding linkages?
- What transformative understanding could be achieved by 2034?
- Which questions require international coordination at IPY scale?
- Where are Sweden's strongest opportunities to contribute?

Theme 3: Polar Knowledge, Peoples and Societies

Facilitator: Johanna Mård, Uppsala University

This theme examines opportunities for major advances in understanding the relationships between people, societies, and polar environments. It encourages research that integrates diverse perspectives, approaches, and forms of knowledge, including Indigenous knowledge systems, local knowledge systems and scientists, to address complex challenges and opportunities in the polar regions.

Guiding Questions to stimulate discussion:

- What are the most urgent questions about people and polar change?
- What perspectives and knowledge are needed to better understand human dimensions of polar change and how can we work towards including these?
- What new forms of knowledge integration could be achieved by 2032-33?
- Where could Sweden make a distinctive contribution?



Theme 4: Anticipating the Future – modelling, AI and forecasting systems

Facilitator: Susanna Hansen van der Watt, KTH

This theme explores the prospects for improving predictive capability, scenario development and decision support. Discussions may include advances in modelling, artificial intelligence, digital twins, forecasting systems and approaches for addressing uncertainty and risk in rapidly changing polar environments. The theme may also consider the data and e-infrastructure required to support these advances, including data integration, interoperability, computing capacity, and long-term stewardship of observations and knowledge.

Guiding Questions to stimulate discussion:

- What predictive capabilities are missing today?
- What may become predictable by 2032–33?
- Which advances would represent a step-change in forecasting and scenarios?
- Where could Swedish expertise contribute internationally?

Next Steps: Developing Swedish Contributions to IPY 2032–33

Facilitator: Ulf Jonsell, SPRS

This concluding session brings together the ideas and perspectives emerging from the workshop. The aim is to reflect on common themes, identify cross-cutting opportunities and challenges, and discuss how today's discussions can help shape future planning and collaboration towards IPY 2032–33. Particular attention should be given to potential synergies across themes, communities and disciplines, as well as actions that could help maintain momentum in the years ahead.

SCROLL DOWN FOR ZOOM GUIDELINES



Zoom Participation Guidelines

All participants should join Zoom individually from their laptops.

Please display your **full name and organisation** in Zoom in the format

First Name Last Name, Organisation

Example: *Jane Smith, Stockholm University (or SU)*

Zoom Etiquette

- Keep your **microphone MUTED** when you are not speaking.
- Keep your **speakers MUTED at all times** (sound will come from the room)
- Keep your **camera OFF** when you are not speaking.
- **When you wish to speak**
 - Raise your virtual hand
 - **When asked to speak**
 - Unmute your **microphone**.
 - Turn your **camera ON**.
 - Make your comment.
 - Mute your **microphone** and turn your **camera OFF** again when finished.

General

- Please keep comments concise to allow participation from all locations.
- Test your camera, microphone and Zoom connection before the workshop begins.
- The workshop host may mute participants if background noise, echo, or feedback affects the meeting.