

Welcome to the

Swedish National Scoping Workshop on IPY-5

This pre-workshop slide-show contains:

- Background to IPY-5 and suggested reading
- Aim of the workshop
- Practical aspects of the workshop



Welcome to the
Swedish National Scoping Workshop on IPY-5

This pre-workshop information contains:

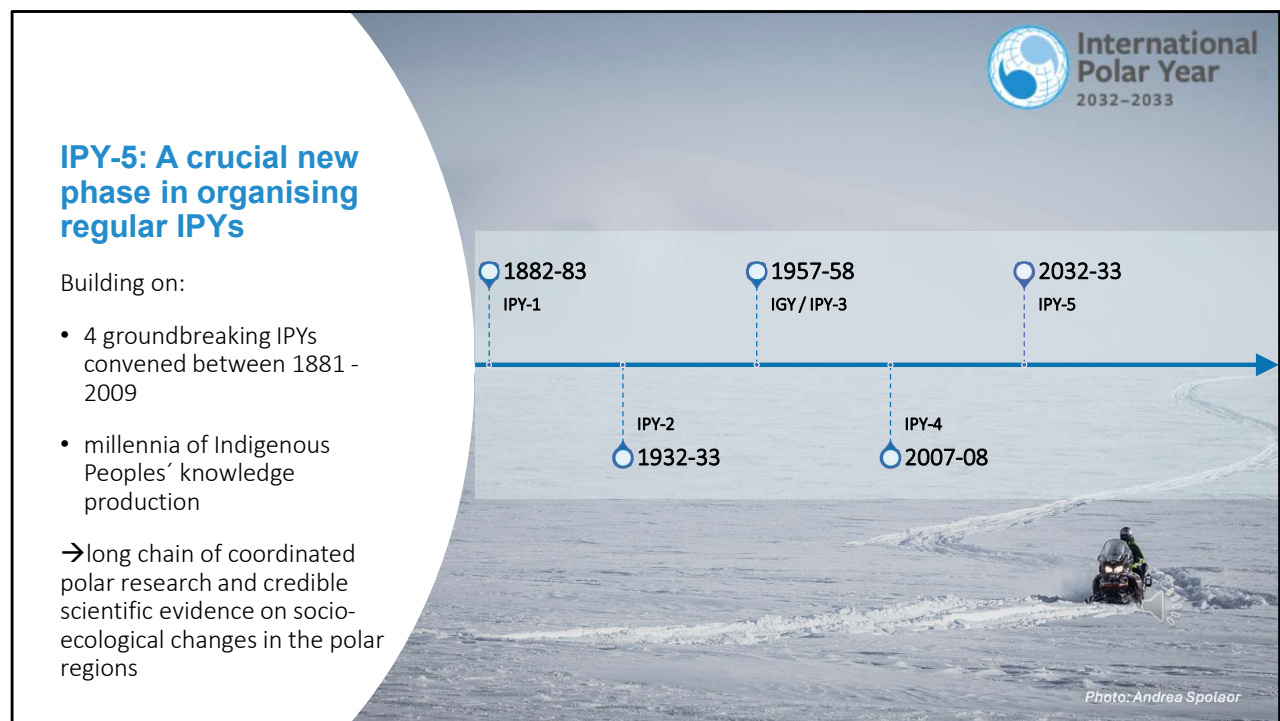
- 1) Background to IPY-5 and suggested reading
- 2) Aim of the workshop
- 3) Practical aspects of the Workshop



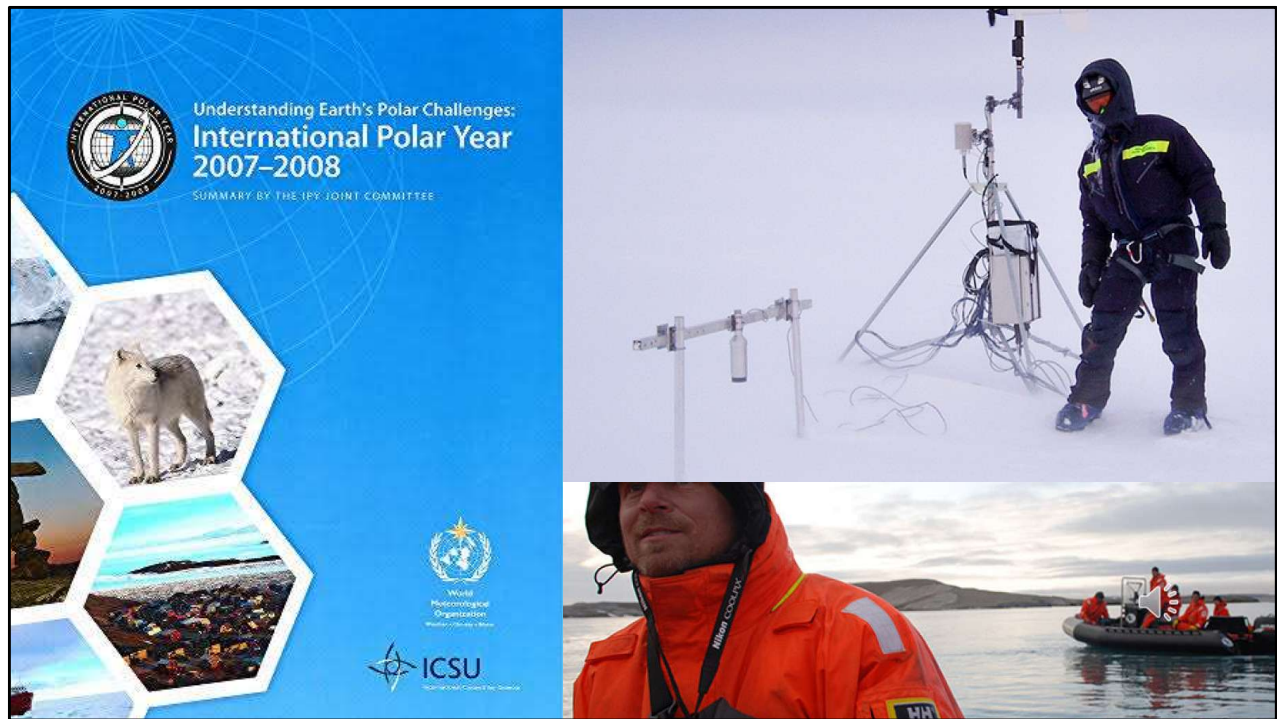
From Concept to Action



The fifth International Polar Year is a global scientific initiative that brings together researchers, institutions and Indigenous knowledge holders worldwide to advance our understanding of the Arctic and Antarctic and their role in the Earth system. It aims to coordinate international polar research and collaboration during 2032-2033 to address urgent environmental and societal challenges.



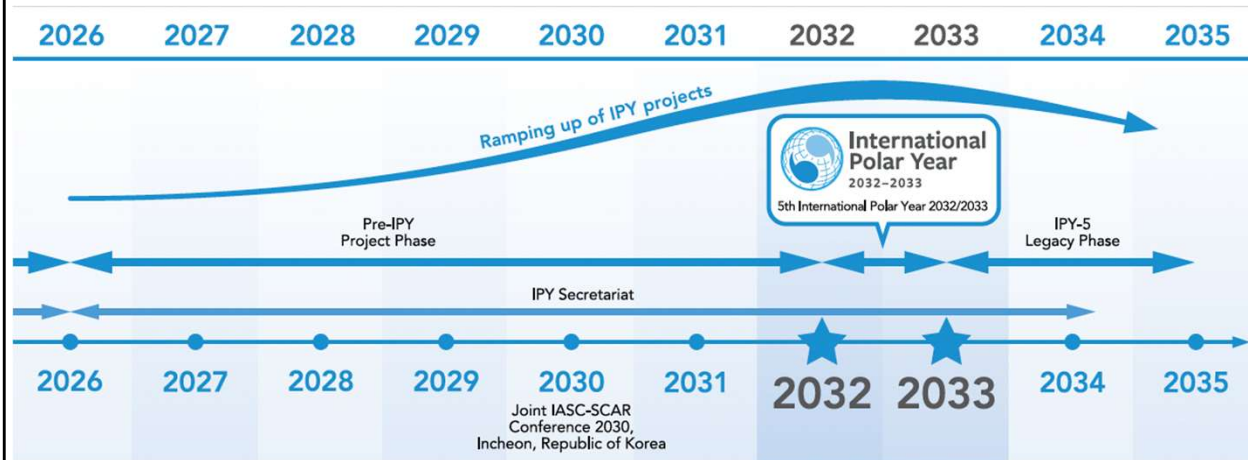
The first International Polar Year was already held in 1882-83, followed by three more major international polar research efforts with the latest 2007-08. Traditionally, these initiatives have occurred roughly every 50 years, but IPY-5 will take place only 25 years after the last one, reflecting the growing urgency of rapid changes in the polar regions. The 1957-58 programme, known as the International Geophysical Year, also helped lay the scientific and diplomatic foundations that led to the Antarctic Treaty.



IPY-4 (2007-08) was the largest polar research effort ever undertaken, bringing together more than 50,000 participants from over 60 countries. It advanced understanding of polar climate change, established new observing networks, strengthened collaboration with Indigenous communities, and helped pioneer open international data sharing. However, many key questions about future polar change remained unresolved. With the Arctic and Antarctic now changing faster than ever, and with growing geopolitical interest in polar regions and their resources, IPY-5 may be the most important

Polar Year yet.

IPY-5 Planning Timeline



Early planning for IPY-5 is essential because an International Polar Year is not a two-year event, but a decade-long process of building partnerships, research programmes, observing systems, infrastructure, capacity, and public engagement. Much of the value comes from the gradual ramping up of activities, enabling the coordinated delivery of ambitious research and outreach during 2032–33. Equally important is the legacy beyond the field period itself. IPY-5 should not only generate new knowledge, but also leave polar science, observing systems, international cooperation, open data

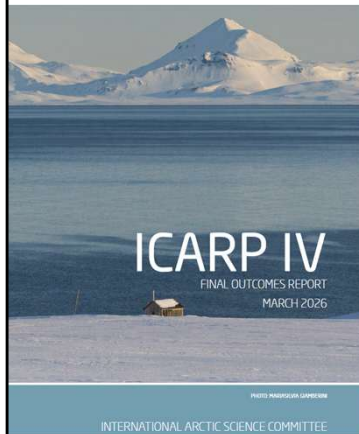
practices, and public engagement operating at a new level long after 2033.

IPY-5 Science Rationale

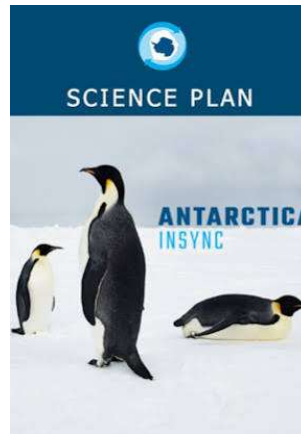
Concept note

Research Priority Themes and Rationales

Arctic



Antarctica



UPDATED CONCEPT NOTE
MARCH 2025

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 ("IPY5") in 2032–33.

Organisations involved in the IPY Planning Group

What concerns you most about Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, and why?

SCAR HORIZON SCAN 2026-2027

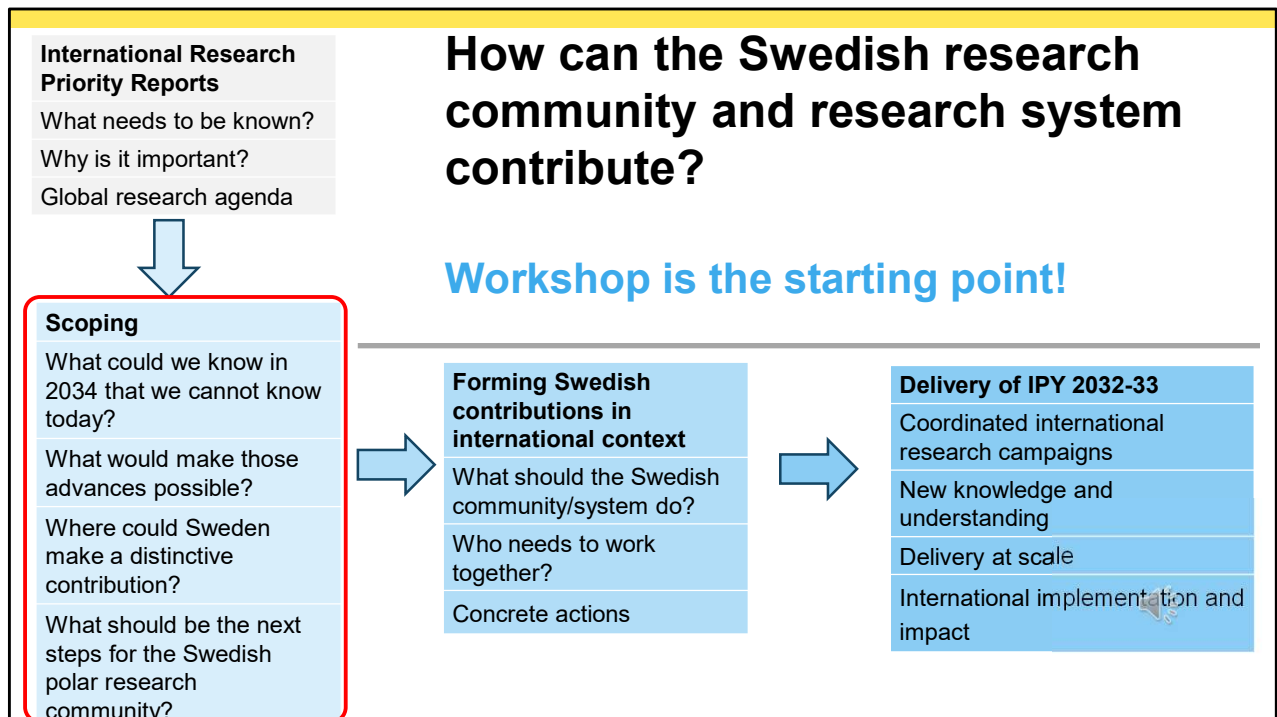
Phase I: Online Member Survey

Submit your insights by 1 March 2026

It may seem obvious why research in the polar regions needs to be intensified, given the scale and pace of environmental, societal, and geopolitical change. For IPY 5, this rationale is outlined in a short Concept Note. At the same time, the international research community has already carried out substantial efforts to identify and prioritize key research needs.

For the Arctic, these priorities are reflected in the ICARP process and its resulting report. For Antarctica, they are captured in the Antarctic InSync Science Plan, while SCAR is currently undertaking a new Horizon Scan to identify future scientific priorities.

Together, these community-driven processes provide an important foundation for both IPY and this scoping workshop. They help ensure that we build on existing knowledge and priorities rather than starting from scratch. Links to the reports and initiatives shown on this slide are available on the workshop website for those who would like to explore them in more detail.



The purpose of this workshop is not to revisit these high-level priorities, but to take the next step: to explore what advances in knowledge and capabilities could be achieved through and leading up to IPY 2032-33, where Sweden can make distinctive contributions, and what collaborations, infrastructure, and partnerships will be needed to achieve them. We want to move from broad research priorities to a clearer picture of what should be accomplished and how the Swedish polar research community can contribute within the international IPY framework

Key Framing Questions

- »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 should be the next steps for the Swedish polar research community?

The framing questions may guide the workshop discussion. Together, they may challenge us to think about what new knowledge could be achieved by 2034, what capabilities and collaborations would make that possible, and where Sweden can make distinctive contributions.

Just as importantly, they help us focus on the path forward: identifying the next steps needed to turn ideas and priorities into concrete Swedish contributions within the international IPY effort.

The opportunities, concepts and priorities identified during this workshop may also become the seeds of

future research programmes, coordinated campaigns and larger collaborative initiatives. As these ideas develop into more concrete plans, they can provide a stronger basis for securing financial, institutional and other forms of support. It is often easier to build momentum and attract support around a shared vision that is well defined and actionable than around a high-level concept alone.

Workshop Themes

- Theme 1: Observing the Polar Regions
- Theme 2: Understanding Connections, Change and Consequences
- Theme 3: Polar Knowledge, People and Societies
- Theme 4: Anticipating the Future
- Next Steps: Developing Swedish Contributions to IPY 2032-33

These four themes provide different perspectives on the polar regions, from observing and understanding change, to people and societies, and ultimately looking ahead to the future.

The themes are intended to help structure the discussion, but they are closely connected and not meant to be seen as separate silos. Participants are therefore encouraged to contribute across all themes and bring ideas and perspectives wherever they are most relevant.

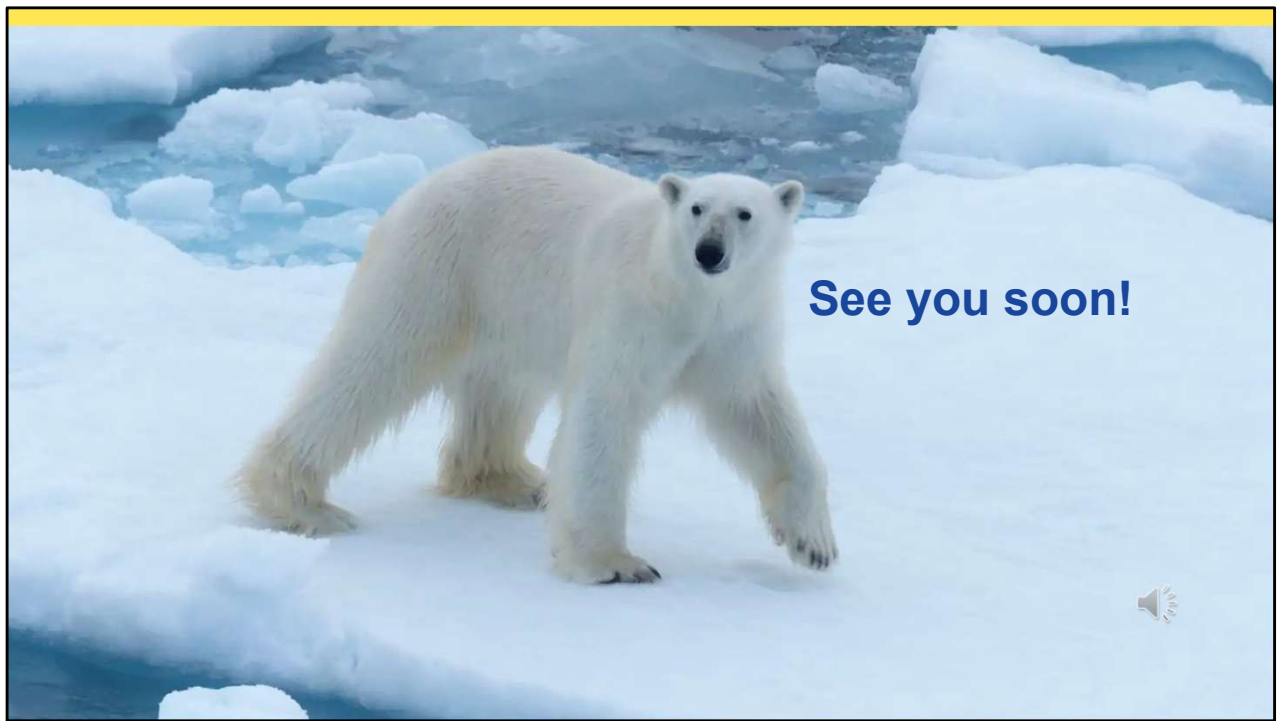
Practical Information and Next Steps

- » Show up at your venue – see workshop homepage!
- » Bring your laptop – we will connect the meeting rooms and individuals.
- » Join the conversation!
- » Remember – this is the first step; looking for ideas rather than solutions
- » Polar Research Secretariat will provide a report and the National IPY Planning Committee will provide guidance on the further steps

A few practical reminders. Please check the workshop homepage for venue information, and bring your laptop, as we will be connecting hubs and participants across the country.

Most importantly, join the conversation. This is a scoping workshop, so the goal is to explore ideas and opportunities rather than develop complete solutions.

After the workshop, the Polar Research Secretariat will prepare a summary report, and the National IPY Planning Committee will help guide the next steps towards Swedish contributions to IPY 2032-33.



See you soon!

