

# International Polar Year 2032-2033

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INITIAL CONCEPT NOTE  
OCTOBER 2023

# International Polar Year 2032-33

## 5th International Polar Year 2032-33

- **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 by:



### Why an International Polar Year in 2032-33?

This is a critical decade for people and the planet. Extreme weather, rising temperatures, rising sea levels, and devastating events such as droughts, floods, wildfires, marine warming, ocean acidification, and record lows in sea ice extent are becoming ever more prevalent, affecting ecosystems, economies, and human wellbeing around the world. Many changes are taking shape faster than previously predicted, and as the IPCC 6th Assessment Report made clear, many of the most serious consequences are linked to unprecedented changes in the Arctic and Antarctic. The urgency of understanding the consequences of such rapid change in the polar regions for global climate, biodiversity and human societies is now clear and has never been greater.



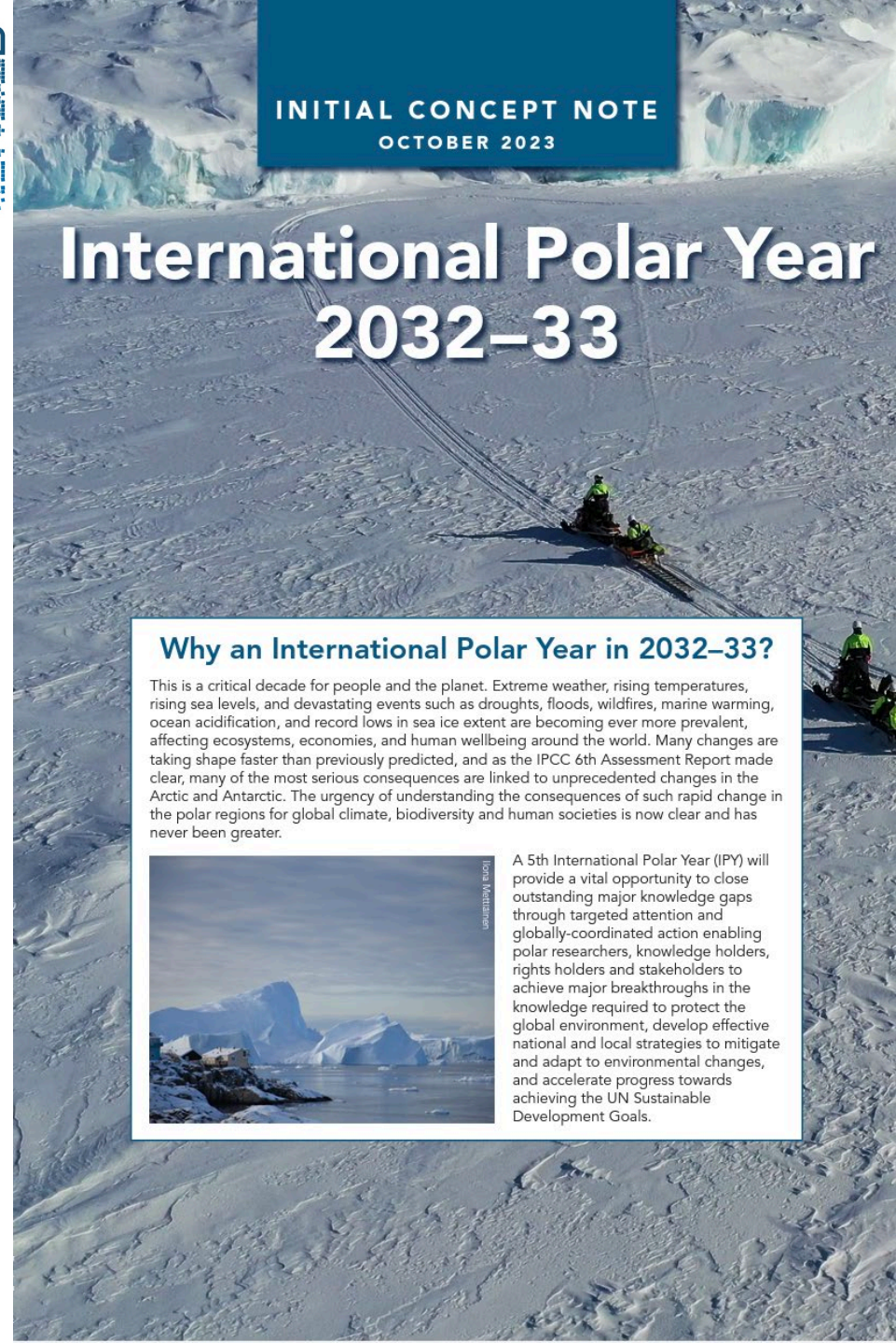
A 5th International Polar Year (IPY) will provide a vital opportunity to close outstanding major knowledge gaps through targeted attention and globally-coordinated action enabling polar researchers, knowledge holders, rights holders and stakeholders to achieve major breakthroughs in the knowledge required to protect the global environment, develop effective national and local strategies to mitigate and adapt to environmental changes, and accelerate progress towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



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- **April 2022 – SCAR community survey.** 436 respondents (of whom 75% participated in the last IPY) indicates broad support for IPY5 as likely to foster science/research that would not otherwise be possible (8.1)
- **Respondents expect IPY5 to impact on**
  - Public perception of polar regions (34%)
  - Policy in the polar regions (32%)
  - Own research (24%)
  - Own career (10%)



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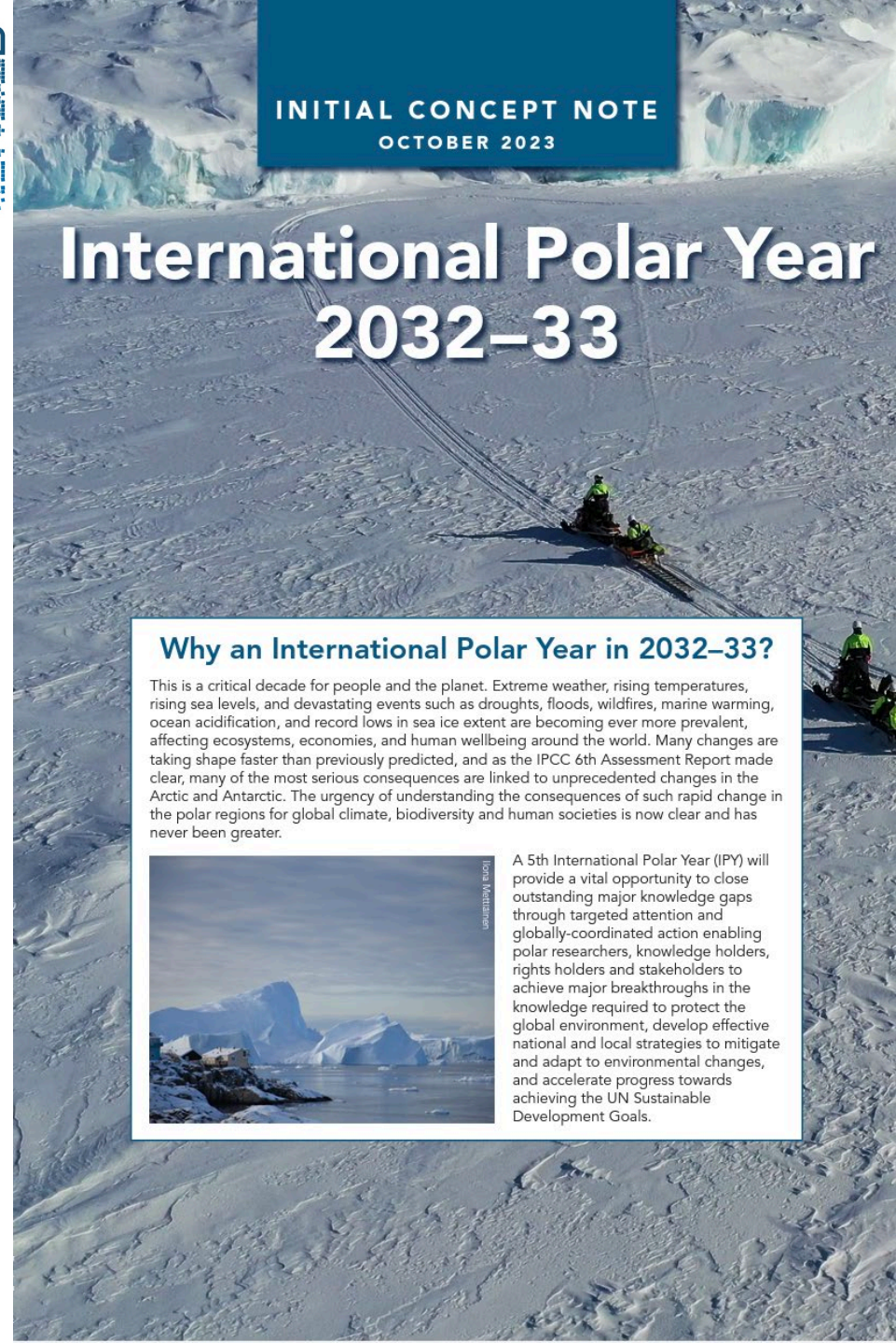






## Why an IPY in 2032-33?

- To bring the long-standing tradition of organising regular IPYs to an era of unprecedented need for large-scale coordinated research on polar and global changes.
- To provide a vital opportunity to close outstanding major knowledge gaps through targeted attention and globally-coordinated action
- To foster vital cooperation among countries, disciplines, programmes, and knowledge systems to produce urgently needed actionable information to support evidence-based challenges.
- To build on the methodological, technological, and epistemological advancements of the 4th IPY, including major shifts toward working across knowledge systems;
- To achieve a a step-change in transdisciplinary polar research through meaningful integration of natural sciences, social sciences, humanities research, and Indigenous knowledge systems.



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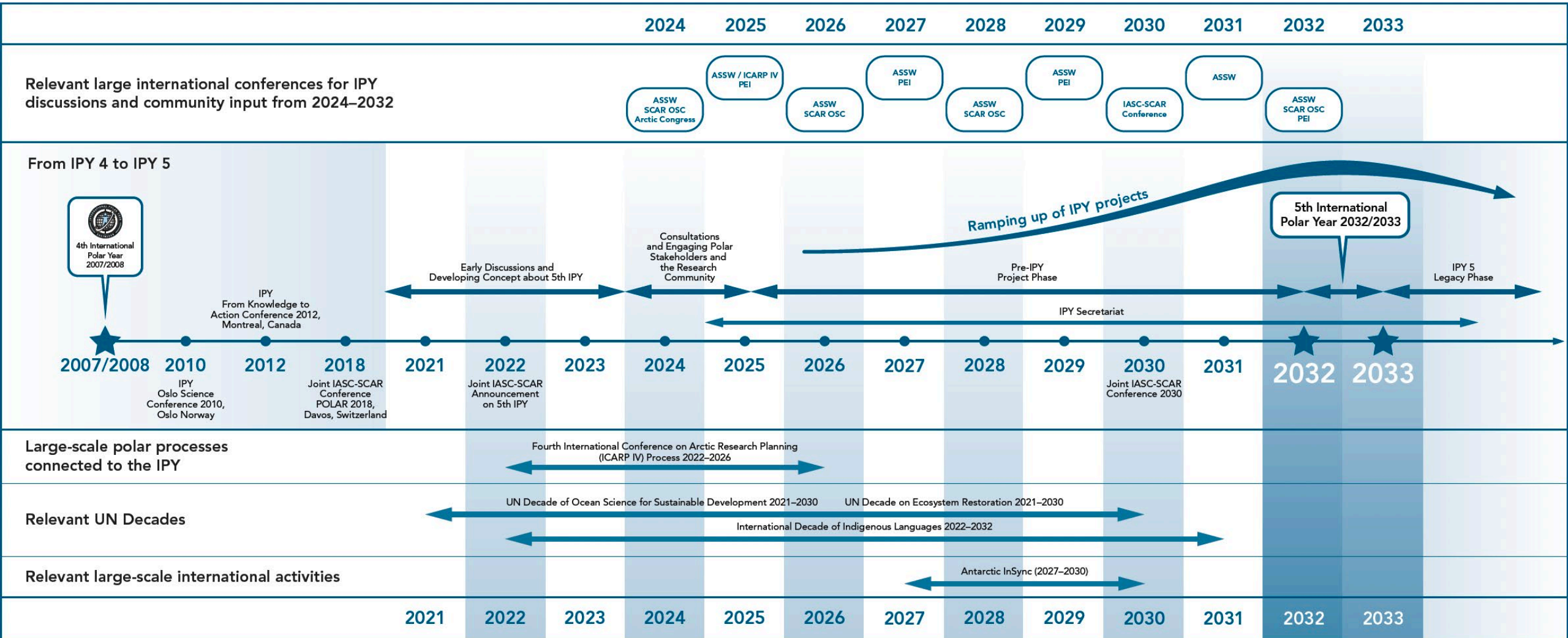
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## IPY Planning – Interim Structure

- IPY Planning Group of currently **17 international organisations**
- **Interim Executive Committee**
- **Task Teams** on specific planning tasks
- **Interim IPY Secretariat** hosted temporarily by the IASC and SCAR Secretariats

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Ilona Miettinen





## IPY Planning - Next Key Steps

- **Summer 2024:** Open call for international Arctic / Antarctic organisations to join the **IPY Planning Group**
- **October 2024:** Updated Concept Note published with more details on country and stakeholder engagement
- **2024 and 2025:** Public Consultations and Engaging Polar Stakeholder, Rightsholders and the Research Community in defining and shaping the plans and visions for the IPY.
- **Until mid 2025:** Identifying host and funding for IPY Secretariat
- **Until end of 2025:** Defining the ramp-up Period (2026 – 2031) for the IPY

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