EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

POLAR PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Preview of the online form

Towards stronger, internationally coordinated polar programmes

Deadline 2 January 2027

Language: English



An initiative by

PRINCE ALBERT OF MONACO FOUNDATION

In partnership with

IASC

SCAR

OCEANO INSTITUT OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE MONACO

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Polar Programme Development Grant

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Context

The Polar Initiative

The Polar Initiative is a collaborative platform founded by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), in collaboration with the Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation. It connects science, funding and implementation to support the protection, conservation and sustainable management of the Arctic and Antarctic. By bringing together relevant actors across sectors, the Polar Initiative strengthens international cooperation and helps translate polar knowledge into coordinated action and informed decision-making.

The Expression of Interest

Following the Monaco Polar Symposium 2026 and its Call to Action towards the Fifth International Polar Year (IPY-5), the Polar Initiative is inviting individuals and organisations to express their interest in contributing to the further development of the flagship programme ideas emerging from the Symposium.

This Expression of Interest is a first step to help understand what already exists around these ideas, who would like to engage, what they could contribute, and where relevant connections or potential leadership may lie.

> This is not a call for fully developed project proposals. At this stage, respondents are not expected to present a formal consortium, detailed workplan, implementation budget, governance structure or letters of commitment.

Purpose of this Expression of Interest

Based on the Expressions of Interest received, the Polar Initiative will identify complementary actors and potential Leads or Co-Leads and invite selected respondents to follow-up discussions.

Through this EOI process, including follow-up dialogue with selected respondents, the Polar Initiative will select a limited portfolio of programmes for support through the Polar Programme Development Grant. The Grant will provide resources to help move each selected programme from its current stage of development towards a clearer, coordinated and actionable programme framework.

The precise use of each Grant will be defined together with the selected programme-development group according to its needs. It may support activities such as coordination, facilitation, targeted workshops and meetings, participation and travel, technical or preparatory work, and other activities directly required to develop the programme.

Alongside the Grant, the Polar Initiative will support the process through facilitation, connections to relevant partners and expertise, and coalition-building. It will also connect selected programme-development processes to ongoing discussions and dialogue around programmatic funding and potential pathways to large-scale financing.

Connection with IPY-5

The programme ideas emerging from the Monaco Polar Symposium were developed in the wider context of preparations for IPY-5. The Monaco Polar Symposium is convened through the Polar Initiative and remains distinct from the formal IPY-5 planning process.

As this international planning process continues to evolve, the Polar Initiative will seek to ensure complementarity with the IPY-5 planning processes, working closely with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), two of the Polar Initiative's founding partners, which are also closely engaged in IPY-5.

Participation in this EOI process does not constitute or guarantee official IPY-5 endorsement. Any such endorsement is subject to the separate processes established through the IPY-5 planning process and published on the IPY-5 website.

Practical information

Deadline	2 January 2027
Language	English
Submission	One Expression of Interest per programme idea. Respondents may submit more than one EOI if they wish to engage substantially with several programme ideas.
Supporting material	No new supporting document is required. One existing document or link may be provided optionally.

A. About you

1 **Full name**
Short text - required

2 **Job title / role**
Short text - required

3 **Organisation / institution**
Short text - required

4 **Country / region**
Dropdown or short text - required

5 **Professional email**
Email - required

6 **Which best describes your organisation or role?**
Single choice - required

- ○ Scientific / research organisation
- ○ Indigenous Peoples' organisation
- ○ Local community organisation
- ○ NGO / civil society
- ○ Government / public authority
- ○ Intergovernmental organisation
- ○ Philanthropy / funder
- ○ Private sector / operational actor
- ○ Independent expert / individual
- ○ Other (please specify)

B. Your interest

7 Which programme idea are you primarily interested in contributing to?

Single choice - required

The programme ideas below emerged from the Monaco Polar Symposium 2026 and are described in the Symposium Outcome Report.

They are at different stages of development. Some remain early ideas requiring further structuring, while others connect to work that is already underway through existing organisations, networks or the wider IPY-5 planning process. Not all of these ideas are therefore expected to become programmes led or developed directly by the Polar Initiative.

The EOI will help identify where the Polar Initiative can add value, whether through programme-development support, connecting complementary actors and initiatives, or strengthening links with an appropriate existing process.

***Initiative 10 "Indigenous Peoples' IPY5 Secretariat" note**: While Indigenous participation at the Monaco Polar Symposium highlighted the need and interest in establishing an Indigenous Secretariat for IPY-5, we are not including calls for interest on this topic. Since the Monaco Polar Symposium, work on Indigenous leadership within IPY-5 has continued through the formal IPY-5 planning process.There is an effort underway led by Arctic Indigenous Peoples to establish a Task Group on Indigenous Leadership and Involvement in IPY-5. This Task Group will set the direction for Indigenous leadership in IPY-5 and the Polar Initiative will consider ways to support and complement this work in the future.*

○ 1. Reducing Uncertainties Around Sea Level Rise from Antarctica	○ 11. Antarctic Conservation: Ross Sea MPA and Circumpolar MPA Network
○ 2. Poles to Coasts	○ 12. Science Diplomacy & Bipolar Governance: Towards an Integrated Framework
○ 3. Ocean Stability & Planetary Health Under Bipolar Pressure	○ 13. Polar Science Funders-Investors Summit
○ 4. Polar Early Warning System for Global Action	○ 14. Permanent Polar Funding Architecture
○ 5. Polar Knowledge for All: An AI-Compatible Inventory	○ 15. Putting a Human Face on Polar Change
○ 6. AI for IPY5: The Polar Twin	○ 16. IPY5 Education Programme: Towards a Global Polar Culture
○ 7. Antarctic Digital Twin: A Public Engagement Tool	○ 17. Global Citizenship for the Poles
○ 8. Pan-Arctic Community Research: Methodological Co-Production of Knowledge	
○ 9. Pan-Arctic Community Observation Network: Sustained Community-Led Monitoring	

Please submit a separate Expression of Interest if you would like to engage substantially with more than one programme idea.

8 From your perspective, what is already in place around this programme idea, and what still needs to be developed, connected or clarified to help it move forward?

Maximum 250 words - required

Please briefly indicate any existing initiatives, programmes, networks, partnerships or processes that are already addressing part of this agenda, and how you or your organisation are connected to them, where relevant.

You may also highlight important gaps, questions, dependencies or opportunities for stronger coordination.

We are not asking for a proposed workplan or a fully developed programme at this stage.

C. What you could bring

9 **What could you or your organisation actively contribute or mobilise to support the further development of this programme idea?**

Maximum 250 words - required

This could include, for example, scientific or technical expertise, Indigenous or local knowledge, data, infrastructure, implementation capacity, policy expertise, networks, convening capacity, communications, funding connections, or other relevant resources.

You may include a relevant example or link if this helps us understand your potential contribution.

D. How you would like to engage

10 **How would you be most interested in contributing at this stage?**

Multi-select - required

- ☐ Act as a Lead or Co-Lead
- ☐ Contribute expertise, knowledge or advice
- ☐ Participate in a core programme-development group
- ☐ Contribute to a specific component or workstream
- ☐ Help connect relevant organisations, communities or networks
- ☐ Act as a funder or resource partner
- ☐ Help convene the process
- ☐ Other

Selecting a Lead, Co-Lead or convening role indicates an interest in exploring such a role; it does not constitute a formal commitment or appointment.

E. Who else should be part of the conversation?

11 **Which actors, organisations, communities, networks or perspectives do you believe should be involved as this programme idea develops?**

Maximum 200 words - required

Please focus on the people or perspectives that would be important to a credible and collaborative development process.

Where useful, you may indicate existing relationships or connections that could help bring these actors into the dialogue.

Where Indigenous Peoples, communities or knowledge systems are relevant to the programme idea, you are invited to identify the Peoples, communities, organisations or knowledge holders that should be part of the conversation, as well as any existing relationships or areas where further dialogue would be important.

This is a mapping question and not a request to form a consortium.

F. Next step

12 **Would you be open to a follow-up dialogue with the Polar Initiative and other relevant actors to explore this further?**

Single choice - required

- ○ Yes
- ○ Possibly - I would like to understand the next steps first
- ○ Not at this stage

If there are any important participation or accessibility considerations that would help us organise an inclusive follow-up dialogue, please let us know.

Optional - maximum 80 words

G. Conditional question - potential convenors / Leads / Co-Leads

Shown only if "Help convene the process" or "Act as a Lead or Co-Lead" is selected.

13 **Please briefly describe any relevant experience you could bring to a convening or leadership role, and the role you could potentially see yourself or your organisation playing.**

Maximum 200 words - required if applicable

We are not asking for a proposed governance model or coordination plan at this stage. This information will help us identify potential convenors for follow-up discussions.

Has your organisation discussed the possibility of you taking on such a role?

- ○ Yes / support confirmed
- ○ Initial discussions have taken place
- ○ Not yet discussed
- ○ Not applicable / responding in an individual capacity

H. Supporting information

14 **Is there one existing document or link that would be useful for us to review?**

Optional

This may include information about relevant work already underway or about the contribution you could bring. No new document should be prepared solely for this Expression of Interest.

One URL and/or one existing document only.

Link	Document
Optional URL	Optional existing document

How the Expressions of Interest will be used

The Expressions of Interest will inform the selection of a limited portfolio of programmes for support through the Polar Programme Development Grant.

The Polar Initiative will review the responses collectively to identify complementary groups of participants and potential Leads or Co-Leads who are best placed to work together to advance each programme idea, while building on existing efforts and considering where the Polar Initiative can add meaningful value.

Submission of an Expression of Interest does not guarantee selection for a Polar Programme Development Grant or participation in a selected programme-development group.

Selected respondents will be invited to targeted discussions in early February 2027. Following these discussions, final decisions will be made regarding support through the Polar Programme Development Grant.

Deadline: 2 January 2027

Thank you very much for your interest in contributing to this collective process and to the development of stronger, internationally coordinated polar programmes.