



SECURING THE FUTURE OF THE POLES



SCIENCE DIPLOMACY FOR **ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC RESILIENCE**

The Polar Initiative unites a network of leading organizations, leveraging their collective expertise, through science diplomacy, to foster collaboration and support decision-making toward the sustainable management of the Arctic and Antarctic.

TWO POLES, ONE COMMON FUTURE

The Arctic and Antarctic are essential to our planet's overall health. These regions play a critical role in regulating global climate patterns, influencing sea levels, and driving ocean currents. Moreover, polar ecosystems support diverse communities of unique species and, in the Arctic, have long been the homes and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

As climate change accelerates, the polar regions are undergoing rapid transformations driven by local and global impacts, with far-reaching consequences for ecosystems and human communities. These unprecedented shifts* are creating significant challenges, demanding collaborative efforts to develop equitable and sustainable management strategies and resilient conservation practices that are informed by both the best available science and local and Indigenous knowledge systems.

In response to these challenges, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, together with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), and the Oceanographic Institute - Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation, have launched the Polar Initiative.

UNITING SCIENCE AND DIPLOMACY IN A CHANGING ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC

The Polar Initiative uses science diplomacy and global collaboration to develop evidence-informed strategies to protect Arctic and Antarctic ecosystems in the face of local and global changes.

Our approach integrates scientific research, outreach, and diplomatic efforts to offer solutions for a resilient polar future. The initiative focuses on building a strong network of stakeholders — including scientists, policymakers, and Indigenous Peoples — to drive innovation, exchange critical knowledge, and promote cooperation in tackling polar challenges. Through our four pillars of action and targeted project calls, we invite new partners to collaborate with us and strengthen our impact.

**permafrost thaw, sea-ice retreat, melting glaciers, accelerating coastal erosion, declining abundance of commercially and culturally important species....*



ZOOM ON OUR 4 PILLARS OF ACTION

FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

The Polar Initiative facilitates international scientific collaboration to address the challenges presented by the changing polar regions. We connect researchers, policymakers, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders to drive joint research efforts and coordinated action.

Key Objectives:

- Organize the biannual Polar Symposium to unite researchers, policymakers, Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholders to discuss research findings and future priorities
- Support and organize interdisciplinary scientific exchanges and science-policy dialogue, raising awareness of the rapid transformations occurring in polar ecosystems

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION THROUGH SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

Our capacity-building efforts focus on developing the skills and knowledge of emerging polar researchers and knowledge holders, recognizing the roles that they play in science diplomacy. We support fellowships and interdisciplinary training programs to equip the next generation to tackle future polar challenges.

Key Objectives:

- Expand our joint fellowship program emphasizing interdisciplinary training
- Facilitate participation of early career researchers in international forums and decision-making processes
- Provide workshops and courses on scientific diplomacy to enhance skills in policy communication



KEY DATES

FEBRUARY 2022
LAUNCH OF THE INITIATIVE

BEGINNING 2025 LAUNCH OF THE DECADE OF ACTION FOR CRYOSPHERIC SCIENCES

YEAR 2032-2033
THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR

MANAGING A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

The Polar Initiative seeks to align scientific research with policy-making processes, to inform management and protection of evolving Arctic and Antarctic ecosystems. We support targeted projects that strengthen evidence-informed decision-making and develop solutions for mitigation, adaptation, and resilient management strategies.

Key Objectives:

- Issue annual calls for projects that address emerging challenges in polar environments, guided by scientific data, local and Indigenous knowledge systems and policy requirements
- Engage stakeholders to foster a holistic approach to polar management, incorporating the knowledge and equitable participation of Indigenous Peoples and communities

DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT

The Polar Initiative uses science diplomacy to foster global cooperation, engaging leaders, governments, and key institutions to reach informed decisions about the future of the changing polar regions.

Key Objectives:

- Inform policy discussions about the management of the polar regions
- Build and strengthen partnerships with international organizations and stakeholders
- Increase awareness among leaders about emerging challenges in polar regions



WHAT'S NEXT?

As ecosystems evolve under the influence of climate change in the polar regions, so does the responsibility to manage them effectively. The polar regions require coordinated efforts to develop effective strategies to mitigate and adapt to environmental changes and ensure the protection of these essential regions.

The activities of the Polar Initiative will provide an important collaborative contribution to the global actions of the 5th International Polar Year in 2032-33.

By working together, we can shape a future where the Arctic and Antarctic continue to provide key services for the planet.

JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The future of the Arctic and Antarctic is a collective responsibility that demands the engagement of diverse partners. We invite **researchers, policymakers, philanthropists, Indigenous and local communities, and project leaders** to join us in our mission to better understand and effectively manage these dynamic regions for the next generation.



JOIN US!

ABOUT THE POLAR INITIATIVE

Launched in 2022, the Polar Initiative is dedicated to leading efforts in tackling the key challenges emerging from the evolving polar ecosystems. The Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), and the Oceanographic Institute - Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation.

An Initiative by



The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (PA2F) is a global non-profit organisation committed to progressing Planetary Health for present and future generations. Founded by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco in 2006, the Foundation exists to promote a new relationship with nature and the innovations that can impact this change. The Foundation aims to bring humanity together to empower impactful solutions for our planet's biodiversity, climate, ocean and water resources. It works in three main geographical areas: the Mediterranean Basin, the Polar Regions and the Least developed countries.

In partnership with



The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) is a thematic organisation of the International Science Council (ISC), and was created in 1958. SCAR is charged with initiating, developing and coordinating high quality international scientific research in the Antarctic region (including the Southern Ocean), and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system. SCAR provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and other organizations such as the UNFCCC and IPCC on issues of science and conservation affecting the management of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system.



The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) is a non-governmental, international scientific organization. IASC is committed to a mission of encouraging and facilitating cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research and in all areas of the Arctic region. Overall, IASC promotes and supports leading-edge interdisciplinary research in order to foster a greater scientific understanding of the Arctic region and its role in the Earth system.



The Oceanographic Institute - Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation is committed to increasing awareness of the riches and fragility of the ocean, and to promoting its sustainable management and rational and effective protection. To achieve this, it acts as mediator between scientific and socioeconomic players, the general public, political decision-makers and the private sector. It implements this mission highlighting the exceptional heritage of Prince Albert I and the exemplary commitment of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco to "Promote knowledge, love and protection of the ocean".

FOR MORE INFORMATION | WWW.THEPOLARINITIATIVE.ORG |

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