Science conducted in and around polar and high-altitude regions is critical to understand the evolution of the Earth’s climate. It provides the opportunity to make unique scientific observations in pristine conditions and to develop new technologies for research.

Due to the complex logistics, challenging access and difficult safety conditions in these extreme environments, the Swiss polar community requires specific competencies and dedicated support.

The Swiss Polar Institute (SPI) supports scientists based in Switzerland who work in polar regions and remote high-altitude environments.

The SPI is a foundation under Swiss law and is recognized by the Swiss Confederation as a Research institution of national importance for 2021–2024.
The Swiss Polar Institute (SPI) acts as a focal point and supports Swiss research in polar and comparably remote high-altitude regions by enhancing opportunities, promoting collaborations and providing key services.

The SPI has the following objectives:

► Developing initiatives and programmes to strengthen cutting-edge Swiss polar research that addresses global challenges
► Facilitating access to international research infrastructure and polar science initiatives
► Federating the Swiss polar science community with a particular emphasis on interdisciplinary integration and the emergence of a new generation of scientists
► Enhancing the visibility and understanding of polar science and its related questions with the Swiss public
► Offering new opportunities through innovative partnerships between academia, industry and private funders.

The SPI pays particular attention to synergies between research in different polar regions and remote high-altitude environments.

Vision

Selected activities

- Funding for field access, logistics and technology
- Health and safety courses and support measures for fieldwork
- Expeditions and flagship programmes
- Access to field and summer schools
- Information events, scientific workshops and conferences
- Outreach programmes, exhibitions and public events