



## NATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLAR AND OCEAN RESEARCH

Ministry of Earth Sciences

Government of India

Headland Sada, Goa 403 804

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<http://www.ncpor.res.in>

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE ARCTIC REGION

**Application Deadline: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

#### Background

The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) [erstwhile NCAOR], an autonomous R & D Institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India is the designated nodal agency for the planning, coordination and implementation of India's scientific research endeavours in the Arctic. On behalf of the MoES, NCPOR invites research proposals from Indian nationals working in Indian research institutes or academic organisations having a sustained interest in pursuing research in the Arctic region. This call includes funded access (comprising travel, DA as per the Government of India norms, boarding and lodging) to the high Arctic international research base located at Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard (for more details please visit [www.ncpor.res.in](http://www.ncpor.res.in)).

#### Scientific themes

Scientific research proposals are invited but are not limited to the scientific themes outlined below:

##### Theme 1: Atmospheric Science

*Sub-themes:*

- Trace gases
- Clouds, precipitation and hydrological cycle
- Boundary Layer Meteorology
- Interaction of snow, atmosphere and aerosols
- Atmospheric composition and pollution monitoring

- Middle and upper atmospheric studies

## **Theme 2: Marine Science: Dynamics and functioning of Arctic fjords**

### *Sub-themes:*

- Hydrographic observations
- Biogeochemical studies
- Ocean-atmosphere-sea ice and snow interactions
- Land-sea-atmosphere interactions
- Diversity of marine organisms

## **Theme 3: Environmental Chemistry:**

### *Sub-themes:*

- Contaminant fate and distribution
- Local and long-range pollutants
- Transport, up-take, accumulation, and transfer processes of organic pollutants
- Emerging contaminants.
- Marine microplastics and litter
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

## **Theme 4: Cryospheric studies:**

### *Sub-themes:*

- Snow and ice chemistry
- Glacier mass balance and dynamics
- Snow layer evolution and interaction with the atmosphere
- Glacier biogeochemistry and microbial dynamics

## **Theme 5: Terrestrial ecosystems:**

### *Sub-themes:*

- Animal adaptation and vegetation succession dynamics
- Plant-microbe interactions
- Nutrient fluxes
- Permafrost studies

**Novel long-term scientific programs adding to our knowledge base of the Arctic realm and enhancing India's scientific credentials in polar research are encouraged.**

Applicants should go through annexures (I to V) to know more about the study area and available resources.

Applicants may visit resource websites listed in Annexure IV for more information on research in Svalbard. Please ensure that the planned research is not in conflict with the ongoing studies and environmental laws and regulations in vogue at Ny-Ålesund.

NCPOR encourages the submission of multi-institutional, interdisciplinary, and collaborative research proposals (network projects) addressing some key scientific questions pertaining to understanding the Arctic environment and climate change.

NCPOR may organise a brainstorming session for network projects to understand their logistic requirements and to provide critical scientific inputs.

### **Fieldwork period**

This call is for the period May to September 2023, which comprises the spring and summer in the Arctic. More details about the study area and its climate are available in Annexure I.

Another call will be out in July-August 2023 for the autumn-winter period. Please keep a check on the NCPOR website for the same. Projects who wish to access the field in both periods should apply separately in the two calls.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

The Principal Investigator (PI) as well as the co-investigator(s), if any, should be from an Indian research or academic organization. The proposal should be endorsed by the affiliated institute or university.

### **Project Proposal**

Scientific research proposals in the prescribed application format duly endorsed by the head of the organization should be emailed to [arctic@ncpor.res.in](mailto:arctic@ncpor.res.in) on or before **28<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. In the case of a network project proposal, it is required that each participating institution should endorse the application form before submission. Hardcopies need to be sent to the Director, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Headland Sada, Goa 403 804. The envelope should be clearly mentioned, “Proposal for scientific research in the Arctic (2023-2024)”.

**Ongoing proposals or PIs who had earlier accessed the field and wish to continue need to reapply and must fill in the project assessment form along with the application.**

Proposals received after the last date may not be considered. However, the same may be considered for the next call with the PI’s consent.

### Screening and Selection Procedure:

1. Submission of proposals along with endorsement before **28<sup>th</sup> January 2023**.
2. **First-level review:** Selected proposals would be reviewed at NCPOR for the scientific content and suitability to the study area.
3. Selected proposals along with comments and suggestions would be sent to the applicants for revision (if any) by **03<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023**.
4. **Submission of revised proposals:** Revised proposals (network and stand-alone projects) need to be submitted to NCPOR by **10<sup>th</sup> February 2023**.
5. **Second level review:** Revised proposals would be sent to a group of experts for the second level and final peer review and recommendation.
6. Recommended proposals would be called for presentation and team selection meeting before a group of experts in the **2<sup>nd</sup> week of March 2023**.

### Important dates and deadline

Deadline for application submission	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
First-level review at NCPOR	29 <sup>th</sup> to 02 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Communication of review comments to PIs	03 <sup>th</sup> to 04 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Submission of revised proposals	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Second-level review	11 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2023
Presentation and team selection meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> week of March 2023

### Data Policy

All data (including metadata) need to be submitted to NCPOR after the expedition as per NCPOR data policy.

Metadata along with the expedition report must be submitted by the PI immediately after the expedition. Final data after analysis should be submitted to NCPOR within 2 years from the collection, which shall be made public subsequently.

Applicants may go through the data portal - National Polar Data Center at <https://npdc.ncaor.gov.in/npdc/homepage.action> and may also make use of the data collected earlier.

### Application information

Please visit our website (<http://www.ncpor.res.in>) for further details of the application and information annexures.