

## **USGS Science at the Poles in the International Polar Year**

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The USGS has a long tradition of scientific monitoring, assessment, and research in the polar regions. Beginning with the geophysical and geological surveys carried out in Antarctica in cooperation with the National Science Foundation after WWII, the USGS has an extensive history of activities as diverse as topographic mapping, satellite image mapping, and geodetic control, satellite and ground-based monitoring of glaciers, research on ice movements, distribution patterns and adaptation of polar wildlife, seismic monitoring in the Antarctica and Arctic, estimations of energy resources of the circum-Arctic, mapping of the distribution of circum-arctic vegetation, and the development of paleoclimate records from Alaskan sediments and polar ice cores.