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The international ICE MEMORY initiative

Mountain glaciers worldwide have retreated dramatically and thinned in recent times and are in danger of disappearing rapidly in the coming decades as global temperatures rise. Not only the glacier termini are affected, but also the accumulation zones in the upper parts of the glaciers, where ice cores for paleo studies are collected. This is a major challenge the scientific community is facing, since glacial-archived information forming one of the best libraries of past climatic and environmental changes is under threat of being lost forever. As an international initiative, ICE MEMORY aims at collecting heritage ice cores from the world's key endangered glaciers. By creating an international ice core repository in Antarctica, the heritage cores will be stored under safe conditions and under international governance, to provide high-quality samples for ice core science to be conducted by future generations of scientists throughout the world.