

New Empires.

Navigating the era of great powers



DR. HEÏDI SEVESTRE

Internationally renowned
glaciologist

Dr. Heïdi Sevestre is an internationally renowned glaciologist, a leading voice in climate advocacy, and a member of The Explorers Club (and in 2026 was awarded the EC50, “fifty people changing the world”). Widely recognized for her extensive outreach efforts, Heïdi is often described as a scientist who engages in “all-terrain outreach,” sharing her knowledge across media platforms, the field, in books, and in documentaries.

In 2022, she became the first recipient of the [Shackleton Medal](#) for her work in protecting polar regions and received the French “Rayonnement” Prize, environmental category, in 2023.

In 2024, Heïdi was named a “[European Young Leader](#)” by Friends of Europe, representing France.

Heïdi is a key figure at [AMAP](#) (Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme), part of the Arctic Council’s Working Group. Regularly leading scientific expeditions to polar and high mountain regions, Heïdi strives to make scientific knowledge more accessible and to inspire action against the climate crisis.

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She is the author of Climate Sentinel (HarperCollins France) and Tomorrow is Us (Editions du Faubourg), and currently features in the National Geographic series Arctic Ascent with Alex Honnold on Nat Geo / Disney+. In early 2025, in partnership with UNESCO and the Uganda Wildlife Authority, she led efforts to monitor the glaciers of Uganda's Rwenzori Mountains National Park. She is now crossing Antarctica for her expedition Under Antarctica, a three-month, 4,000-kilometre research traverse of the continent with explorer Matthieu Tordeur, scheduled to finish around the end January 2026. During the expedition Heïdi was the first woman to have reached the south pole of Inaccessibility by kite ski.