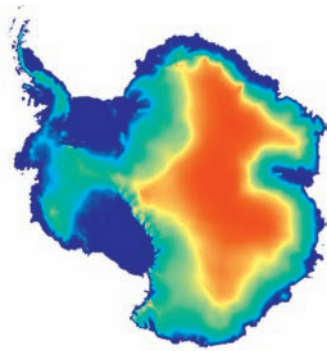
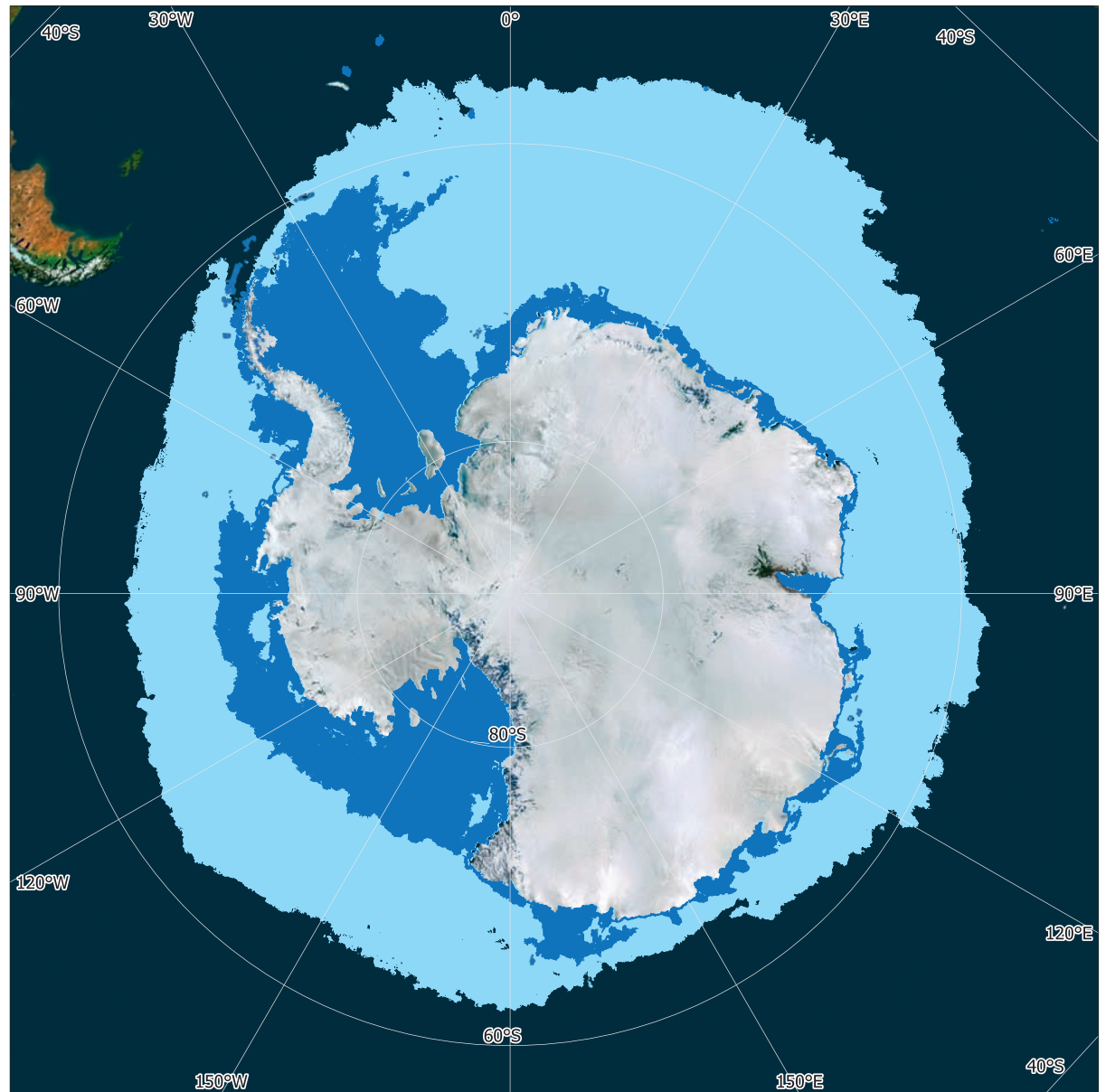
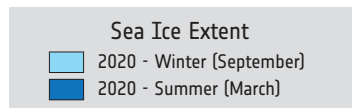




1. Sea ice extent around Antarctica in January and in July.



2. Elevation of the Antarctic ice sheet as measured by CryoSat.



### Antarctica

During the last decades, Antarctica, the largest desert on Earth, has gained increasing awareness in the scientific and political communities. This is due to its enormous importance for Earth's climate and for the consequences of climate change for humanity.

The ice sheet of Antarctica is the largest freshwater reservoir on Earth, containing more than 26 million cubic kilometres or 70% of all freshwater. Global warming leads to melting of the ice sheet,

so far affecting mainly the smaller West Antarctic sheet. Between 2012 and 2017 every year 220 billion tons of ice melted, contributing to the sea level rise.

Where the glaciers of Antarctica meet the Antarctic Ocean, the ice shelves are located. Ice shelves are large and typically 100 to several hundred metres thick, stable ice bodies floating on the water. The warming of the oceans reduces the stability of the ice shelves and leads to the calving of large icebergs.

3. Radar satellite images of the movement of iceberg A23a between August and October 2023. Data: Sentinel-1.

Left: 2023-08-06  
Centre: 2023-09-13  
Right: 2023-10-19

