



TOPtoTOP

GLOBAL CLIMATE EXPEDITION



PRESS RELEASE – 7th of November 2011

**TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition
under the patronage of United Nations Environment Program
arrived in Richards Bay, South Africa on the 4th of November 2011 and is
expecting to reach Durban by mid November to attend at the World Climate
Conference**

The expedition will achieve a world record, by being the first to travel all climate zones - over the seven seas to the seven summits - using only Nature's Power! This to set an example what can be done to live in harmony with our climate and share the collected climate solutions to students along the way.

Swiss Expedition sailboat Pachamama in Port	
November 11-14	Zulu YC, Richards Bay, South Africa
November 20 - December 10	Royal Natal YC, Durban, South Africa
December 20-31	Cape Town, South Africa

The Swiss family Schwörer are the core expedition team members. The 4 children are born on the expedition. Alegra the youngest crew on board is only 5 months old. Volunteers are joining the family. They are engaged in educational activities with schools and universities, inspiring the use of clean energy. So far they have sailed 42'613 nautical miles in their expedition vessel, climbed over 400'000 vertical meters, cycled over 18'000 kilometres and visited over 50'000 students!



Students from College de Port Mathurin in Rodrigues Visit PACHAMAMA after TOPtoTOP presentation



expedition leaders Dario and Sabine Schwörer

TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition began in 2002, and is a non-profit organisation of volunteers from 38 nations, based in Switzerland, under the patronage of the United Nations Environment Program and the Swiss Government. The yacht, PACHAMAMA, (Incan word for "Mother Earth"), is equipped with 11 Solar Panels and 2 Wind turbines, making it THE example for the cruising world, demonstrating what is possible in extreme conditions with smart renewable technologies. After more than 10 years on their mission, the team just arrived Richards Bay hand steering from their last destination Mauritius after the autopilot broke down. They had braving harsh conditions so as to

reach South Africa in time for the World Climate Conference in Durban end of this month. They like to demonstrate TOPtoTOP as a platform for young people to express their ideas and solutions for climate protection and contribute an important message to the conference.

They are still waiting for an invitation to the conference by the organizers and get recognized for the expedition's work and using only their own strength and natural energy such as the wind and the sun to arrive at the conference in Durban.

This unique initiative is based on environmental sustainability and to prove that great things can be achieved in balance with nature. The goal of the expedition is to bring awareness of environmental issues, to promote the search for environmentally compatible solutions and to encourage the start of projects beneficial to our climate.

A major part of their mission is to inspire children to achieve a better future. They share examples of nature's beauty and innovations for a green planet in class rooms all over the world and also give presentations to universities, service clubs and other organisations throughout the world. Already, they have taught over 50,000 children across the globe! They teach students about the importance of nature and give them various fun projects to learn all about sustainability. The students are then encouraged to express their own ideas about how we can care more for our environment and climate in the TOPtoTOP International Climate Solution Contest. TOPtoTOP aims to show case this solutions from the youth at the conference in Durban.

TOPtoTOP has chosen this expedition as an adventurous means to create awareness of global climate change and inspire the world to research and support lasting, environmentally friendly solutions. To expand the reach of this expedition and its aim, TOPtoTOP is working closely with the media, scientists and business worldwide.

Another aspect of the initiative is the clean ups. They have done clean ups at each of their destinations. The last TOPs they cleaned from trash was the top of EVEREST and Kilimanjaro. On the current voyage have cleaned beaches in Malaysia, Cocos Keeling (Australia), Mauritius and La Reunion. It is estimated that the TOPtoTOP expedition has collected 25 tonnes of waste so far!

All these achievements would never have been made possible without the generous support of their sponsors, particularly their two major sponsors **SGS** and **Victorinox**. **SGS** and **Victorinox** have both been actively involved in keeping PACHAMAMA ready for this incredible voyage. Their support as well as the patronage of the **United Nations Environmental Program** and **Presence Switzerland** is a crucial aspect of the success of the TOPtoTOP expedition. Both companies and organizations are great examples of institutions that are increasingly embracing the principles of environmental sustainability in their planning, reporting and decision-making.

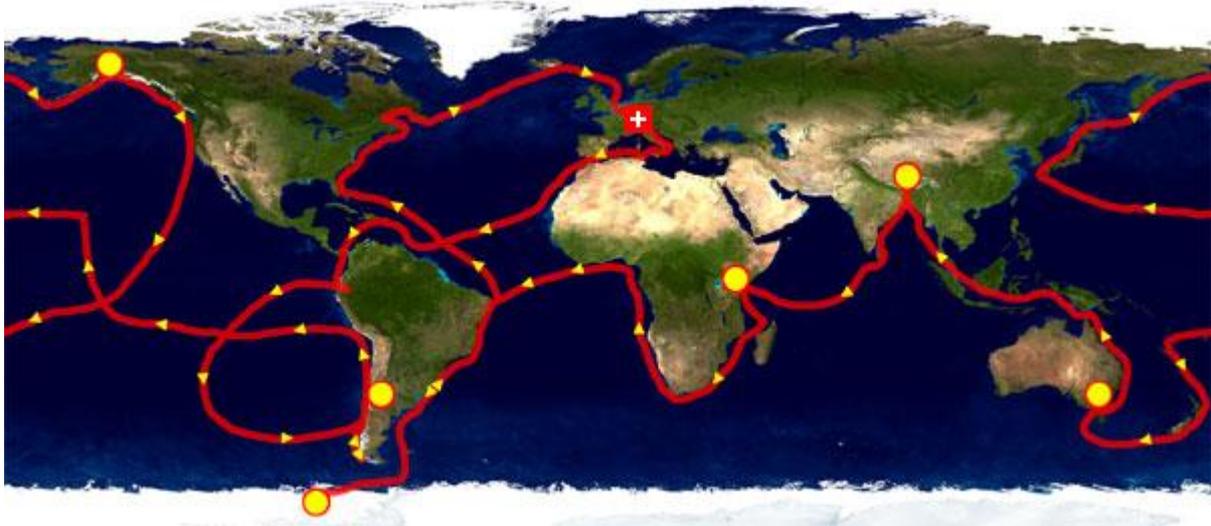
In **South Africa** they already experienced excellent support and hospitality through the "**Peri Peri**" weather service and the **Zululand Yacht Club**.

For further information and live updates on the expedition's progress, please visit the TOPtoTOP website: www.toptotop.org ...and their blog: www.expedition.toptotop.org

To arrange free school visits and public presentations or for film material, pictures and interviews with the team, kindly contact:

Dario Schwörer

Email: dario@toptotop.org



- **The expedition aims** to demonstrate that great goals and progress can be achieved in balance with nature.
- **The mission** is to inspire young people for a better future. Along the expedition we show examples of nature's beauty and promote innovations for a green planet and specially to protect our climate, in class rooms all over the world.
- **The key messages** are "climate protection" and "enjoy nature through sport but also give something back to nature".
- **The vision** is that TOPtoTOP becomes a lasting platform which brings active people closer to nature and sports.

**MT. BLANC
ACONCAGUA
DENALI
MT. KOSCIUSZKO
MT. EVEREST
KILIMANJARO
MT. VINSON**



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