



TOPtoTOP

GLOBAL CLIMATE EXPEDITION



PRESS RELEASE – 19th November 2014
‘From the Highest, Coldest point to the Lowest, Hottest’
Expedition arrive at Badwater Basin Death Valley



L-R Expedition Leader – Dario, Sabine, Andre (8), Noe (5), volunteer Anina, volunteer Jenny, Salina (9).

TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition under the patronage of United Nations Environment Program has arrived at Badwater Basin, Death Valley, California, after completing the Clean Up Expedition from TOP of the North American continent, Denali to the BOTTOM, Death Valley. Marking the first time in history that people have travelled from the highest point to the lowest, using just wind and human power – visiting schools and all climates along the way.



L-R Expedition Leader – Dario, Salina (9), Alegra (3), Noe (5), Andre (8), Volunteer Jenny, Sabine, volunteer Anina.

In spring earlier this year, the expedition summited Mount Denali. Aside from their goal; to climb the TOP of North America, from Sea level, they offered free presentations to schools to inspire students to protect the planet. In doing so, they motivated classrooms across Alaska and cleared an amazing amount of garbage from our seas and coastlines.



L-R – School visits - Expedition Leader – Dario and volunteer Martin at the Summit of Denali – School clean up

From Denali, the team made their way back to the expedition sailboat 'Pachamama' in Whittier, Alaska, sailing then down to San Francisco. On the 9th October, the expedition left Pier 39 and have been cycling over the past 6 weeks to Badwater basin, passing through Yosemite, Mammoth, Bishop, Lone Pine and the summit of Mount Whitney. Along the way the expedition have stopped off at schools, giving inspiring talks and presentations. On the 9th November the expedition also summited the highest TOP in the lower 48 states, Mount Whitney, performing a clean up. The two eldest children of Dario and Sabine, Salina (9) and Andre (8) were amongst those making it to the summit, the youngest to ever climb Whitney coming from the ocean under their own steam.



L-R Expedition make it to Yosemite, –Expedition Leader – Dario, children Salina and Andre, with Volunteer Anina at the summit of Mount Whitney – Lone Pine School Visit

From Badwater, the expedition will now continue visiting schools in Nevada, Utah and the south of California before heading back to the sailboat in the spring.

The expedition will then cross the North Pacific via Hawaii and Micronesia to Japan, before entering the Bering Sea to the Arctic, through the North West Passage and on to Greenland and New York. This section of the global adventure will be completed by climbing Mt Vinson – Antarctica in 2016/17.

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. They do this in order to set an example of what can be done to live in harmony with our environment, sharing collected climate solutions with students along the way.

The TOPtoTOP expedition has so far climbed from "Sea to TOP" the highest TOP measured from sea level: Everest - Nepal, the highest TOP measured from the center of the earth: Chimborazzo - Ecuador, and last year climbed the highest peak measured from the sea-floor: Mauna Kea in Hawaii!

The Swiss family Schwörer are the core expedition team members. The 4 children were born on the expedition. Alegra the youngest crew on board is 3 years old, Noé 5, Andri 7 and Salina 9. Volunteers join the family. They are engaged in educational activities with schools and universities, inspiring for example the use of clean energy. So far they have sailed 60'000 nautical miles in their expedition vessel, climbed over 400'000 vertical meters, cycled over 18'000 kilometres and visited over 70'000 students!

TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition began in 2002, and is a non-profit organisation of volunteers from 47 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 arrived in South Africa for the World Climate Conference in Durban end of November 2011. They demonstrated TOPtoTOP as a platform for young people to express their ideas and solutions for climate protection and contributed an important message to the conference. 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 70,000 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 these solutions from the youth also in Alaska.

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 were the top of EVEREST and the TOP of Africa, Kilimanjaro. On the current voyage they have cleaned many beaches as well and are looking for volunteers to continue their clean-up events also in Alaska.

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.

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:

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- **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
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MT. EVEREST
KILIMANJARO
MT. VINSON**

