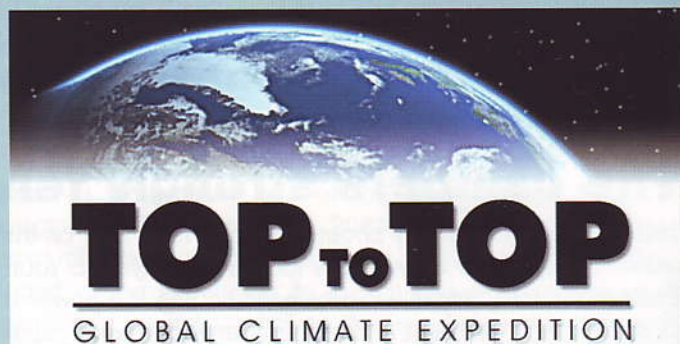


THE TOPtoTOP CLUB



This is a story of a group of young volunteers who focussed their passion for nature, mountaineering and sailing on raising awareness about the most challenging ecological problem facing humankind today - climate change. The volunteers believed that action - no matter how small - is important to encourage people to develop a respectful and caring attitude towards the environment.

In November 1999 – they came together to set up the TOPtoTOP club, a small but international team of young people from over 20 nations. It is founded and registered in Switzerland with the objective to organize sports activities that focus attention on the potential threats of climate change and generate support for environmental protection and aid campaigns in developing countries.

The members are united in their belief that climate change, as a problem, knows no political borders, and demands a global solution. That means every effort is needed to raise awareness about the potential threats of climate change. To that end, TOPtoTOP stands for positive, solution-oriented action, combining sport and environmental protection, and provision of relevant information related to climate change via the Internet, press and media.

The TOPtoTOP Global climate expedition

When the club was founded, the members shared an ambition to organize the first Seven Summits Round-the-World Expedition through the sole use of natural force and human energy.

The members intend to climb seven of the world's highest summits in four years (starting 20 August 2003 and finishing 20 August 2007), and they will do this by sailing from continent to continent, by biking and by climbing. This will require them to sail 50'000 nautical miles, bike 4'000 km and climb 130'000 altimeters. The exclusive use of natural forces and human energy is to demonstrate that great achievements can be accomplished in harmony with nature. This unique and ambitious project will be a major milestone for TOPtoTOP and, in preparation, the club is organizing training sessions to build capabilities for people who are interested in participating in the expedition.



DACHAMAMA

TOPtoTOP sports activities connect people to nature and action

The club's philosophy is that young people - through their voluntary participation in topto top sports activities - develop an understanding of the importance of nature and develop solidarity with people in the developing world, who are most affected and least equipped to deal with the consequences of climate change.

TOPtoTOP focuses on young people because the young people of today are the leaders of tomorrow and they have the potential to make a positive difference for the environment. Moreover, the adventurous and sporty nature of the activities encourages young people to engage both individually and as part of a team, to contribute collectively to improve the health of the planet and to a better future for all.

The members are encouraged to use their creativeness and link their achievements, contcts to generate financial support or secure pledges to support aid and environment campaigns. TOPtoTOP will work with established organizations in the areas of environmental protection and childcare to support international campaigns that correspond with its objectives.

Are they environmental saints or activists?

No, they are all normal human beings. The team consists of experts in the fields of geography, geology, climate change, medicine, law, economics, IT, communication, engineering, media, craft, mountaineering, sailing etc. TOPtoTOP is also not a protest organization. However, they do believe that young people, in particular, should understand environmental issues and be encouraged to take positive and direct action. Their involvement stimulates them to talk with friends, family, employers, to promote ideas and rally financial support for the

selected aid and environmental campaigns the member has chosen. Toptotop has attracted the interest of a number of young people, and as a result, the club intends to set up a youth section to reach out to more young people to be engaged in environmental protection projects.

Securing and supporting TOPtoTOP activities

Following their formation in 1999, a small group of TOPtoTOP members and supporters put together their personal finances to purchase "Pachamama" - a 50-foot sail yacht around which TOPtoTOP's core activities are based. The sail yacht not only offers the opportunity to sail and train, but also to be connected with nature.

However, to continue their activities and ultimately organize the expedition, TOPtoTOP depends on obtaining financial support from sponsors and supporters. The costs of the activities have been covered in the past with the help of donations, small sponsors and the participating members, but now the financial resources of the founding members are exhausted. TOPtoTOP must find new financing to be able to continue. Sponsoring is valuable since it allows TOPtoTOP to deploy more of the contributions of the young members and participants directly to the aid campaigns. Ultimately only sponsoring allows for the start of the unique Global Climate Expedition. TOPtoTOP needs your help to make this possible!

If you want to join as a member, participate in one of the activities or support TOPtoTOP financially please contact Wondwosen K. Asnake wondwosen.asnake@unep.ch at UNEP and/or TOPtoTOP directly through info@toptotop.org. You can also obtain relevant information from the web at <http://www.toptotop.org>

pachamama

[noun from Quechua, indigenous language of Peru] means Mother Earth in the Inca culture.

It is more than a word. It means living in total harmony with the Earth and not from the Earth. Throwing the last drops of a drink to the Earth, a practice continued today, symbolizes the Incas' gratefulness for the gifts of Mother Earth. We must cherish Mother Earth and not destroy her, for she is life.

