

**TOPtoTOP: Harnessing human energy for a better tomorrow  
The India Leg – Sep/Oct 2010**

**The first seven-summits-non-stop-round-the-world expedition, connects the seven continents with their various climate zones and ties environmental issues to sport**

- 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 examples of nature's beauty are shown and innovations for a green planet and climate protection are promoted; especially in class rooms all over the world.
- The **key messages** are "climate protection" and "enjoy nature through sport but also to give something back to nature".
- The **vision** is that TOPtoTOP becomes a lasting platform which brings active people closer to nature and sports.

**WHAT IS TOPtoTOP**

TOPtoTOP is a non profit organisation under the patronage of the United Nations Environment Program and Switzerland. A Swiss family together with volunteers, share the joy of sport and environmental action to protect the climate with young people all over the world. The Global Climate Expedition is underway non-stop to the top of the highest mountain in each of the seven continents of the world. This unique challenge will be done by human muscle power and natures force in walking, climbing, cycling and sailing.

The TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition will sail over 85,000 km, cycle 15,000 km and climb a total of 230,000 meters in altitude to reach the seven summits of each continent. Only human power, wind power and solar power will be used to achieve these goals, no motors. TOPtoTOP will visit all the major global climate zones.

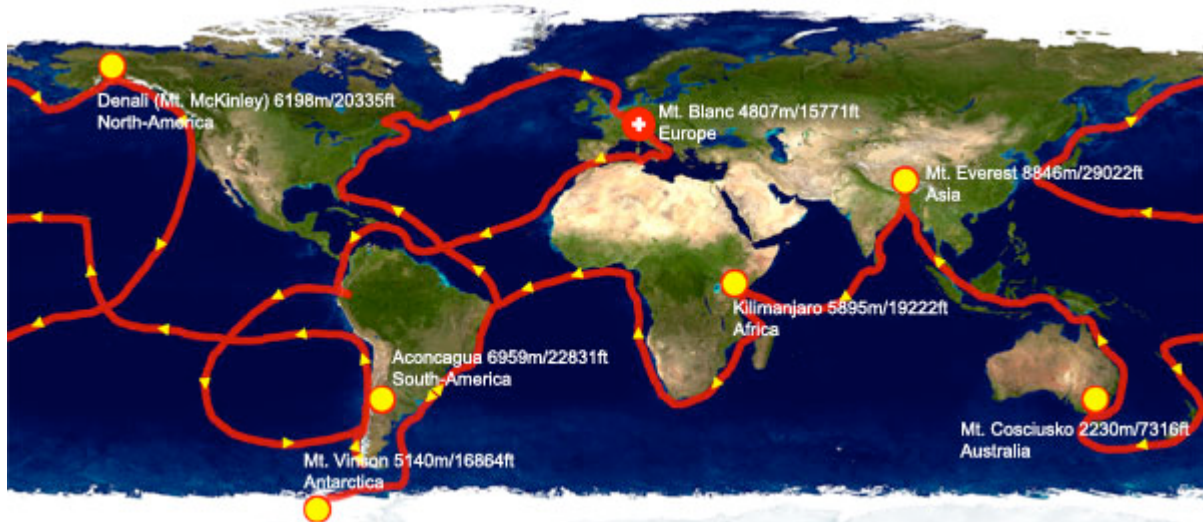
**BACKGROUND**

Environmental change and the impact it is making on our world, had a deep influence on the TOPtoTOP Schwörer family, based in Sargans, Switzerland. Dario, an environmentalist and qualified ski and mountaineering guide, and his wife Sabine, a qualified nurse, decided that they would do their best to build awareness for the environment and the depletion that human beings are causing, among as many people in the world as possible. The goal is to see the world come together for people and species affected by climate change. Now, along with their children – Salina, Andri and Noe – they travel the world spreading the message that global climate change is a major environmental issue. The expedition aims to collect climate change information and focus on positive projects and initiatives from all the places it visits.

## THE EXPEDITION

To this end, the TOPtoTOP expedition's exclusive use of human power and nature's force (wind, solar) proves that even today great achievements can be made in balance with nature. They hope that their initiative encourages people to use their feet and bicycles more often as regular means of transportation. Even their sailboat, Pachamama, an Inca word that means much more than "Mother Earth", suggests a lifestyle in harmony with nature. It is a vessel that can operate sustainably and fully autonomously (by the use of renewable energies) with maximum safety in the toughest marine environments.

The Schwörer couple embarked on their epic adventure – the TOPtoTOP Global Expedition – in December 2002. Advocating the cause of green energy, they decided to travel the earth using solar and wind energy. They use bicycles and self-propelled boats to travel across continents. Starting out as a husband and wife team, TOPtoTOP is now a team of five – with Salina aged 5 and Andri aged 3 years. The youngest child Noé was born on August 15, 2009. Before she was born, Salina had already sailed 5000 nautical miles, cycled 2500 km and climbed 4000m and Andri had done 6000 nautical miles and 600 km.



Dario and Sabine are of the firm belief that while governments and countries continue their effort towards preventing ecological damage, the only real change will come when the clamour for it from people becomes overwhelming. Their focus is to educate people about the ways that they can – as individuals – contribute to lowering their carbon footprint and greening the earth. They encourage the use of traditional technologies to make it simple to implement.

## FOCUS

Global climate change is a major environmental issue and the TOPtoTOP expedition aims to collect climate change information and focus on positive projects and initiatives from all the places they visit. People are encouraged to take environmental action on an individual level. "Think globally, act locally." TOPtoTOP sees sustainable energy as our future in combating climate change.

The expedition team visits mainly school children because they will be the custodians of the earth and they need the awareness and the information about environmental issues to grow into people capable of making decisions that are environmentally compatible. They believe that children who are made aware of their earth are more receptive and eager to make the effort to alleviate the dangers of climate change.

Supported by their main sponsors SGS and Victorinox, at each of the stops they make, the TOPtoTOP expedition meets with and talks to school children about making a conscious effort towards a cleaner, greener earth. The Schwörer family also tries to show to children – by example – how they can enjoy nature through

sport while at the same time give something back to nature. Over the years, and in their interface with children, they have found that some of the most inspiring climate change solutions have come from children.

## **ACTIONS**

### **Visit schools**

School visits are the key part of the expedition and already more than 47,000 children have been involved in classroom activities that focus on finding solutions to climate change.

### **Organize aid**

This includes school material, medicine and food for people affected by climate change. Whenever Sabine, a qualified nurse, gets the chance, she works at the local hospital.

### **Clean up the world**

One of the main causes of global climate change is pollution from traffic and from the disposal of waste. TOPtoTOP uses only nature friendly transportation: walking, biking and sailing and tries to leave a "green path" and minimise the "ecological footprint"

### **Connect with the local community**

The TOPtoTOP team goes into the local community to encourage and assist people to clean up their surroundings and give something back to nature.

### **Set new limits**

The TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition will sail over 85,000 km, cycle 15,000 km and climb a total of 230,000 meters in altitude to reach the seven summits of each continent. TOPtoTOP invites volunteers to join the expedition and, to date, people from 37 nations have participated.

### **Set an example**

Pachamama is the name of the TOPtoTOP expedition sailboat that serves as a reference for the cruising world! Bernard Nivelt designed this 50-foot aluminium sloop. Several world-leading companies around the globe are participating to outfit Pachamama with state of the art technologies and products.

## **THE MESSAGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE**

Each day, catastrophes related to climatic change and man-made disasters throughout the world are a reminder that our natural environment needs help and care. Only resolute action will solve accelerating environmental problems. TOPtoTOP promotes a philosophy of care, positive thinking and actions: "We owe our lives to the earth and nature. It is time to give something back to nature."

The goal of the TOPtoTOP 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 the environment. The Schwörer family also aims to move as many people as possible towards solidarity for the people affected by climate change and to connect people to nature and sport through the TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition.

The ultimate aim of the expedition is to show practically to children that great things can be achieved in harmony with nature.

## **EXPEDITION:**

- 12 year long eco-expedition
- Biking: over 18'000 km

- Climbing: over 400'000 vertical meters
- Sailing: 70'000 km
- Over 10 Tons of waste removed from coastal and protected nature parks
- More than 47'000 students visited

## **MORE DETAILS**

[www.toptotop.org](http://www.toptotop.org)

<http://www.expedition.toptotop.org/>

## **SPONSORS IN INDIA**

### **SWISSNEX**

After Shanghai and Singapore, the TOPtoTOP expedition will be hosted by swissnex India. during their stay in Bangalore. The Schwörer family will build awareness among children through presentations and workshops at urban and rural schools. The Schwörer family will also participate at a swissnex event for eco-friendly companies and institutions in the field of environmental research.

swissnex is an initiative of the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Similar institutions are located in Boston, San Francisco, Shanghai, and Singapore. Its goal is to fully exploit the potential of cooperation between Switzerland and the respective host countries in the fields of higher education, research, technology, innovation and culture and to promote Switzerland as one of the leading countries in those domains.

swissnex is a platform where Swiss and Indian individuals and organisations can connect. The purpose is to share knowledge and form partnerships in science, higher education, technology, art and innovation.

<http://www.swissnexindia.org/>

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