



# TOPtoTOP

GLOBAL CLIMATE EXPEDITION



## PRESS RELEASE – 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2013

TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition under the patronage of United Nations Environment Program will arrive in Homer – Alaska - USA on this 1st weekend of August 2013 after sailing around the world and coming now from Panama – Hawaii - the Aleutians and Kodiak. On the voyage they were investigating waste debris in the ocean for the International Pacific Research Center based in Honolulu. Between Honolulu and Alaska they took water samples to study the radioactivity in the North Pacific from the nuclear disaster in Japan, happening on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2011.

In Alaska they go to over-winter. Their goal is to climb the TOP of North America, Mount Denali, from Sea to the TOP in spring next year. Meanwhile they offer free presentations to schools to inspire students to protect the planet. They hope that many students join them in the clean-up activities, they go to organize.

They plan to give also a presentation in Homer and Seldovia and go to celebrate their Swiss independence day today at Mossy Kilcher’s place.

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.

In 2013 they will sail to Mount Denali in Alaska, then in 2014 through the NW Passage in the Arctic, continuing their journey to be the first sail-yacht to circumnavigate the two Americas from pole to pole in a figure of eight, making best use of the wind and currents. This section of the global adventure will be completed by climbing Mt Vinson – Antarctica in 2016/17.

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 recently they have climbed the highest peak measured from the sea-floor: Mauna Kea in Hawaii!





Expedition leaders Dario and Sabine Schwörer

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 2 years old, Noé 3, Andri 6 and Salina 8. 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](http://www.toptotop.org) ...and their blog: [www.expedition.toptotop.org](http://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  
ACONCAGUA  
DENALI  
MT. KOSCIUSZKO  
MT. EVEREST  
KILIMANJARO  
MT. VINSON**

