



TOP_{to}TOP

GLOBAL CLIMATE EXPEDITION



Annual Report 2012



Good Hope!



Pachamama - Sabine



St. Helena



Doris Leuthard



Film maker Jacquie



UN climate conference



Rodriguez Island



Tree planting



Clean up Tanque Island



Rio20+ Side Event



Climate Solution Contest



Amazonas



Happy children



Pachamama - solar



myclimate - partnership



Mauritius



World Expo Korea



Clean-up Ilha Grande



UNCCC Christiana Figueres



UN Earth Summit

This year led the expedition through six different countries: Mauritius (including Rodriguez Island), La Reunion (France), South Africa, St Helena, Brazil and South Korea. TOPtoTOP members were active in a total of 20 countries, especially in Singapore, Australia, Langkawi and Mauritius.

Our stay in South Africa and Brazil was facilitated and greatly helped by the assistance of the Swiss representatives and branches of SGS and Victorinox, and was therefore a great success. We would also like to offer sincere thanks to the Swiss Consulate in Rio de Janeiro, and also to what is probably the smallest branch of SGS, in St Helena. In turn, we also visited many schools, and held many activities. The 'TOPtoTOP Climate Solution Contest' was met with great interest. Thanks to Jacqui, it was possible to film a documentary demonstrating the commitment of the TOPtoTOP expedition.

Highlights included our participation in the 'UN Climate Change Conference' in Durban, at the 'UN Earth Summit – Rio20+' in Rio de Janeiro, and at the 'World Expo 2012' in Yeosu, Korea.

Between Rodriguez Island and the island of Mauritius our Autopilot failed and we were forced to travel thousands of nautical miles steering by hand. We were very glad that we were able to share the watches with Dominique, Michael and Bianca, who soon became first class helmsmen. At the end of September 2011 TOPtoTOP Mauritius was founded, with founder Gadi as inaugural President. Since then TOPtoTOP members have conducted environmental campaigns twice a month in Mauritius. Their activities may be followed on their Facebook page.

In La Reunion, we climbed the 3070m high, and thus the highest point in the Indian Ocean, Piton de Neige before travelling on to South Africa. Not far from South Africa a yacht collided with a floating container and sank at a location that we had passed just 24 hours previously. All people on board were rescued. We made landfall in Richards Bay (Afrikaans: Richardsbaai), where the SGS and Zululand Yacht Club welcomed us. Together with the local authorities, we organised a 'Climate Awareness' march.

While participating in the 'UN Climate Change Conference' in South Africa, we had, among others, Minister of State Doris Leuthard and UNCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres visit us on board *Pachamama*. At the conference in Durban, the Swiss made their stand available to us. Honorary Consul Hanspeter Graber was not only an organisational talent during the conference, but also in facilitating visits into the rural areas of the country. As a result, we were able to take part in a safari that encompassed elephants, rhinoceros, lions etc. Hanspeter mutated into the TOPtoTOP Coordinator for South Africa, and Quentin Hurt of SGS South Africa was of great help in facilitating our visits to school in the greater Durban area.

Dario Eberhard accompanied us around the southernmost Cape of Africa, the 'Cape Agulhas', and we were received at the Cape of Good Hope in Simonstown at Christmas by Annemarie. After much climbing on the table mountain and numerous school visits, we travelled on with Jacqui and Annemarie to St Helena.

At St Helena Jacqui recorded a film that documented the TOPtoTOP activities and the sustainable use of nature on this island paradise. The most beautiful task was probably the planting of 200 trees assisted by the primary school children of St Helena thanks to the support of Rebecca of the National Trust. The saddest thing for us in the Atlantic was the discovery of numerous tar lumps on the beach during one of our clean-ups. There is some conjecture that oil tankers routinely flush their hatches while on the open sea, where they cannot be seen. The overfishing of the seas by the ever-increasing numbers of huge ship factories (super-trawlers) has robbed many islanders of their livelihood. It was, therefore, not surprising that we saw very few dolphins.

During the crossing from St Helena to Rio we were suddenly hit by very strong winds, which resulted in the loss of our Gennaker sail (a cross between a Genoa and a Spinnaker). However, we were fortunate by comparison: two other yachts lost their masts during the crossing.

In Brazil the Swiss Consulate organised a warm welcome for us in the Marina da Gloria in the Centre of Rio. Thereafter we travelled south. The Marina 188 in Paraty became our base and allowed us to visit many schools in 'Ilha Grande'. There, on the famous Lopes Mendes Beach, we organised, for the first time, a combination of clean-up and surf competition with the assistance of Eduardo, the Chief Ranger of the National Park.

During the 'UN Earth Summit – Rio20+', we had a boat yard directly in front of the 'Peoples' Summit'. The official TOPtoTOP side event was a success: with the help of volunteers (many of them taking part spontaneously), we cleaned the beach in front of the Sugarloaf Mountain. Our motto is : 'Without the active contribution of each individual there is no improvement.'

During the Conference, Kathrin and René of myclimate stayed on the *Pachamama*. The outcome of the conference was, as during the Climate Conference in Durban, rather sobering. We were, however, able to enjoy the partnership with myclimate and celebrated this with the climb of Sugarloaf. The *Pachamama* anchored beneath this imposing rock in the Bay of Rio, and so we were able to bring pleasure to a number of people by assisting them with safe access via our rope to the mountain.

Thanks to Raimundo, we were also active in the Amazon after the Conference. At the end of July Dario was invited by the Swiss to attend the World Fair in Korea. Following successful presentations he made a brief stopover in Switzerland and had the opportunity to discuss in Savognin, among other things, the next 'base camp' for the 'TOPtoTOP Climate Solution' Award. Dario also met with myclimate, the Schmiedheiny Foundation and numerous TOPtoTOP members, and was able to witness the 100th birthday of his grandmother. In the meantime, Sabine skippered the *Pachamama* alone for the first time (with our four children), and also had a visit from her parents, Ernst and Rosi.

In August, solar pioneer Jürg measured our batteries, wind generators and solar system and helped to optimise them. Currently, we are on the road to Salvador with teacher Christina and at the end of September we will head north from Brazil.

Our next TOP is Denali in Alaska. The preparations for the difficult stretch of the Northwest Passage to Greenland have begun. To that end, we have already received some warm clothes from ArcTeryx.

The media coverage was very high, especially in South Africa and Brazil. In Durban, the venue for the United Nations Conference, we featured on the front page of the largest paper. Thanks to Rotarian Ernesto Neumann in Brazil, we had direct contact with the largest Latin American TV station, 'Globo'. The report about the *Pachamama* in Rio got the ball rolling, and so we had numerous TV reports and newspaper articles. In all the countries we have visited, television and print media coverage has been very positive about the TOPtoTOP action.

At the 11,884 nautical mile point, this year we have again learned about and entered into partnerships in good environmental projects. One of the most promising, amongst others, is the 'Energia Solar Ocidental-Bike', with the goal of improving life in the slums of Brazil with the introduction of solar power.

It is also pleasing to report about the TOPtoTOP Pilot Project, in conjunction with the NGO 'enkaina-e-retoto' in Tanzania: the first water tank for the school kitchen has been installed and is

ready to be tested when the next rains arrive in November. A special thank you to the elementary students of teacher Spörri in Binz, Switzerland, for the donation!

Since the launch, the number of visitors to presentations has risen to 62,000, and during which time TOPtoTOP has collected a total of 30 tonnes of waste. Needy schools have also been provided with necessary supplies.

Without the generosity and support of the people we met on our travels and your support, it would be impossible to undertake our mission. A big thank you to our patrons 'UNEP', 'Präsenz Schweiz' (Presence Switzerland) and 'myclimate', and also to our two main sponsors **SGS** and **Victorinox**. We would also like to thank all sponsors and supporters of the project with their top products and services (see 'Supportors' on www.toptotop.org).

A very special thank you to our members Annemarie Büchler, Michael Tatcher and Dominique Gabella, Bianca Tani, Dario Eberhard, Jacqui Hocking, Raimundo Nascimento, Martina and Simon Grisberger with Salome, Ernst and Rosi Ammann with Tobi, Silvia and Jürg Zahnd, Franco Schwörer, Stefan Hess, Kjell Kühne and Christina Hartmann, who accompanied us on the Expedition.

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Outlook: Our first expedition now is to circumnavigate the two Americas from pole to pole in a figure eight, in order to make optimal use of wind and currents. First we sail to Hawaii enroute to the next TOP, the Denali in Alaska. Then we sail through the NW Passage in the Arctic and on to New York. The expedition culminates with the final TOP, Mount Vinson in Antarctica in 2015/16. The next 'TOPtoTOP Climate Solution Award' is planned for next year and we will combine that to coincide with our presentation at Schmiedheiny Symposium in November. Next year, our goal is to inspire more young people with positive solutions for climate protection, by, among other things, revising our website (CMS), and by incorporating more film and new media.

Annual Report 2012 as a download in the news on www.toptotop.org

Photo Gallery: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/knqhq9iuy8c5fj1/B47jakA9VB/2012-annual-report>

Film St. Helena by Jacqui: <http://vimeo.com/44140306>

Please deposit 2012 Membership fees no later than end of October 2012.

Children: CHF 20.- Schools: CHF 75.- Companies, clubs, patrons: from CHF 250.-
Adults: CHF 50.- Families: CHF 75.-

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Thank you for your support!