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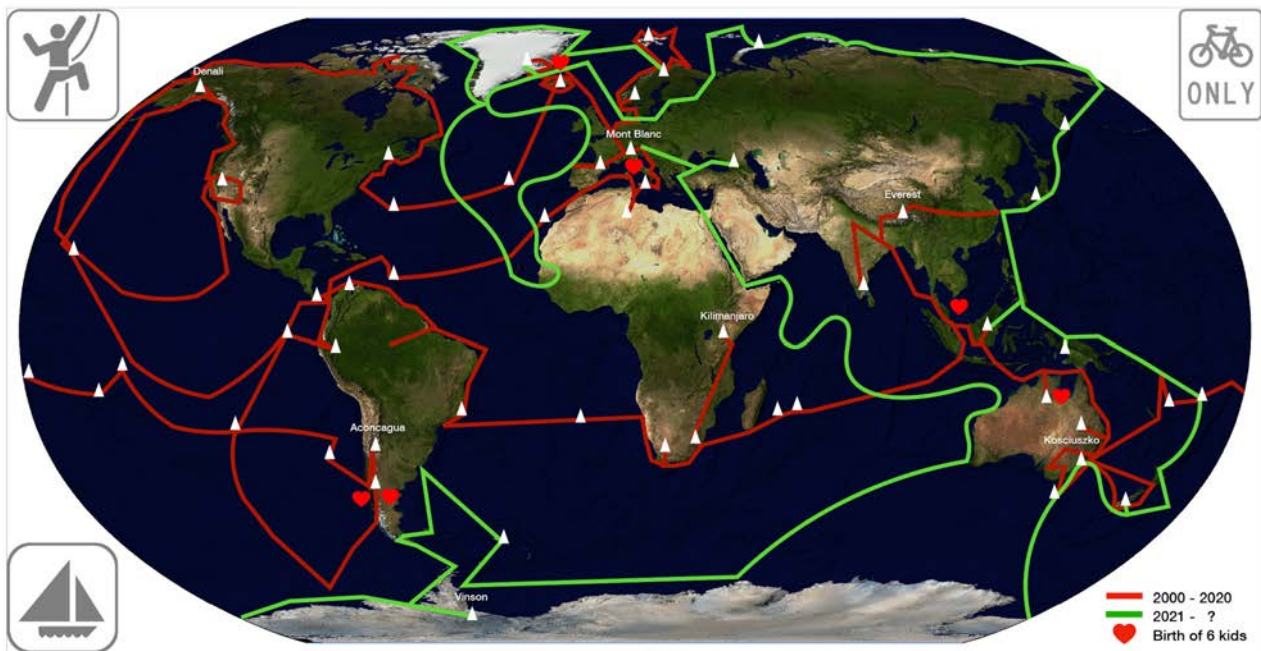
# TOP<sub>to</sub>TOP

## GLOBAL CLIMATE EXPEDITION



### Annual Report 2022

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
|    |    |    |    |
| Arctic Winter   | School Presentations  | Arctic Base  | Sailing North   |
|   |   |   |   |
| TOP Ambassadors   | Outdoor Events  | Wildlife   | Clean ups   |
|  |  |  |  |
| Ski & Sail  | Microplastic Sampling   | eDNA   | Schools on board  |
|  |  |  |  |
| TOP of Storhaugen   | Orca  | Nature studies   | Sailing school  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Data collection   | Building skills   | Torqeedo   | Scientists  |



### TOPtoTOP Track Record

#### EXPLORE — INSPIRE — ACT: OUR MISSION IS TO SAVE OUR PLANET!

TOPtoTOP is the first expedition to traverse the seven seas and reach the highest peaks on each of the seven continents, connecting with all climates zones and relying only on the power of nature and the human spirit. *“Along the way, we have discovered good solutions for our climate and inspired more than 160,000 students in more than 100 countries through presentations and actions. Our message is one of hope, designed to inspire students and communities to act for a better future by sharing experiences of nature's beauty and resiliency, and presenting innovations for a healthy planet”*. Dario Schwörer

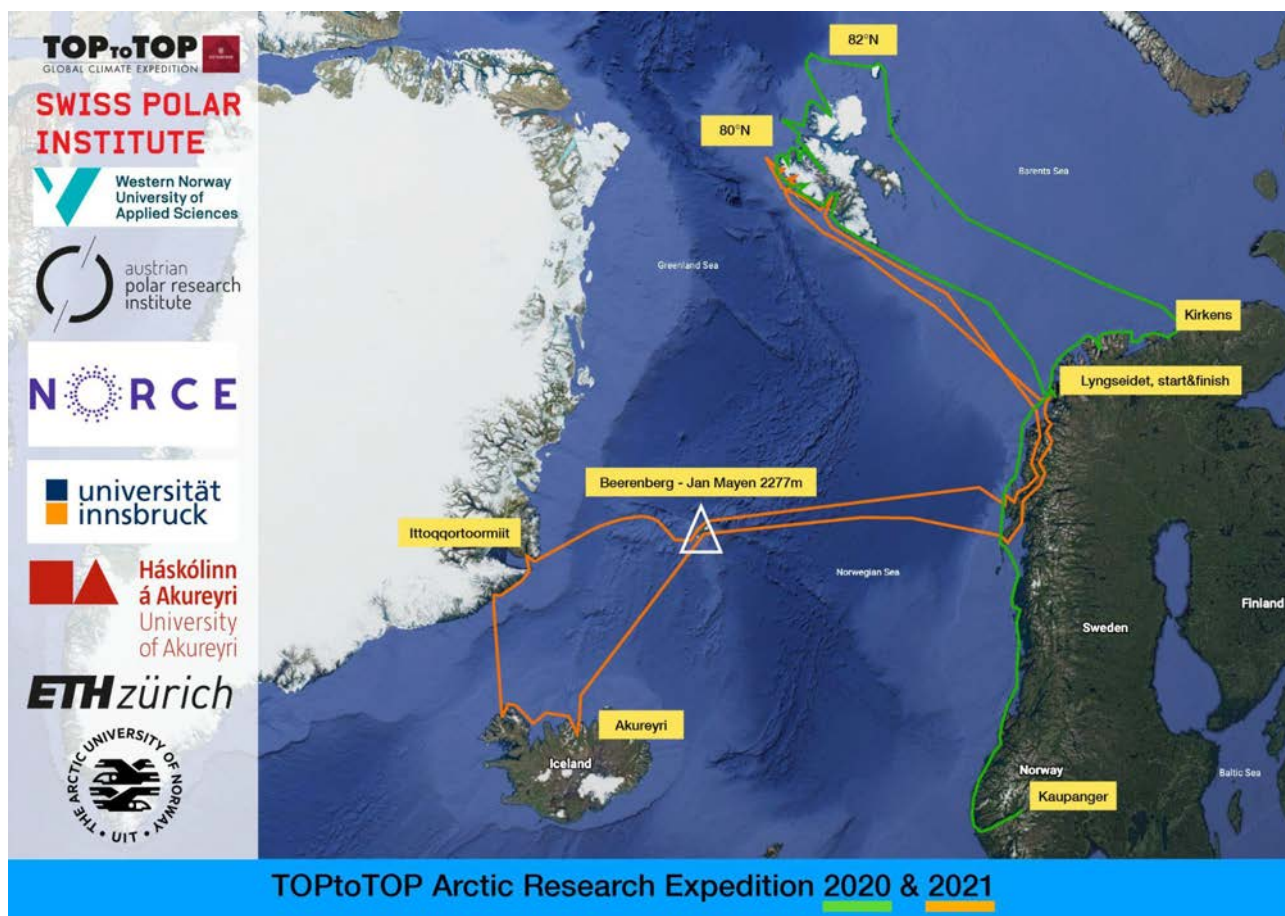
For more than two decades, Dario & Sabine Schwörer, their family and volunteers have circumnavigated our blue planet visiting every climate zone, witnessing examples of climate change and its effect on communities, conducting field-based research, and sharing examples of innovative solutions. They have learned along the way to protect, preserve and conserve our planet.

At the core of their expedition, they meet with students at schools and community groups, organize clean-up campaigns, and present examples from around the world of counteracting global climate change by living in an environmentally sustainable manner.

At the moment, the focus of their activism and engagement with communities is in the far North, introducing guiding skills and outdoor sports to indigenous peoples in the Arctic. This enables them to create an alternative source of income to survive in their fast-changing environment caused by climate change. In addition, they partner with science institutions to understand the fast changing processes in the arctic natural environment to raise awareness, look for solutions and create measures to adapt.

In this report, we elaborate on our expedition, its goals, the annual highlights for 2022, as well as our strategy, route, the outlook for 2023 and how you can support us in our amazing challenge to save the planet.

Right now, we are in the high Arctic at 70 degrees North, inspiring school children, focusing on the protection of the arctic biodiversity like polar bears and orcas, and taking water samples for microplastic and environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis.



## OUR PROGRESS — HOW WE MEET OUR GOALS

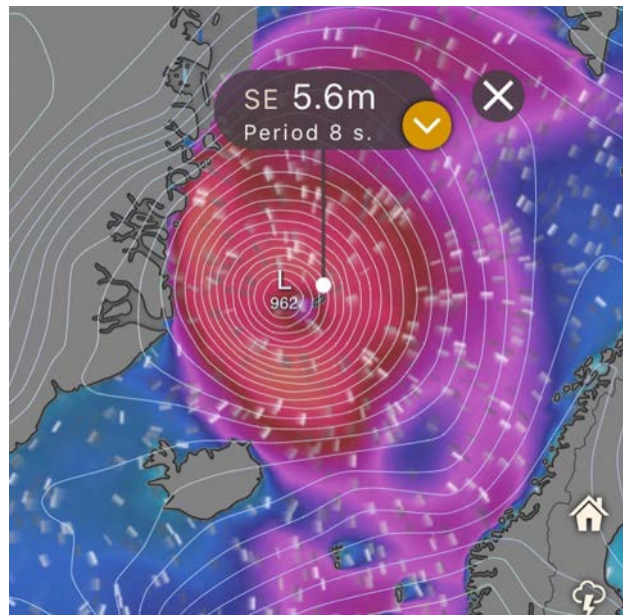
In line with our belief that “inspiring youth to act” is the most efficient way to facilitate long-lasting change, we, as is customary, visited schools and universities with our program.

In the Arctic winter month we continued our outdoor programs for local kids. Sailing and mountaineering connects young people with nature and has many benefits: Increasing resilience, learning endurance, being healthy, becoming a part of nature, thinking strategically, taking responsibility, and increasing self-confidence. To become a good sailor and mountaineer, we integrate other sports into our training: chess for strategic thinking; diving and swimming for strength; climbing for balance; surfing and skiing for coordination; ski-mountaineering and biking for endurance. **But the most important thing for us is that young people get back in touch with nature, become a part of it and protect it.** In addition to the weekly training, we organized again various events, camps and expeditions, especially for families with kids.

Meanwhile, we prepared for the “*TOPtoTOP Arctic Research Expedition 2022*” with professor Dr. Jon Hawkins and assistant Siri Engen. They will be travelling with TOPtoTOP on Pachamama to carry out marine and land based water sampling on and around Jan Mayen Island. The project,

SMerJM (Subglacial mercury cycling and associated export from Jan Mayen to the North Atlantic), looks to investigate the role of glaciers and volcanism on Jan Mayen for the mobilization of the toxic element mercury.

Another project we started in winter is the “TOPtoTOP Arctic Base”, a base for TOPtoTOP’s campaign “SAVE the ARCTIC”. It is a *A Norwegian – Swiss joint venture, with the objective to build THE best ZERO-Energy House in the Arctic that becomes an open house to everyone who needs a place to create sustainable solutions.* Our vision is to create also a scientific hub for Arctic Research out of Lyngen.



**2022** was a very difficult year and impacted the "TOPtoTOP Arctic Research Expedition 2022", because of the exceptionally stormy conditions. We left Lyngseidet first time in July after stocking the boat with plenty of water and food.

The weather and sea conditions were special: the permanent high pressure areas over Greenland and Europe forced the extended low pressure areas in rapid succession from the North Atlantic into the Arctic waters between northern Norway, Jan Mayen and Greenland. This special weather constellation not only led to a hot summer in Europe and subsequently to an extraordinary glacier melt in the Alps, it also influenced our route, sampling, clean ups and climbs. We tried to reach Greenland several times and in the end had no time left for Svalbard.

After our anchor winch stopped working after a violent storm, we made it to Skjervøy. In this storm the wind peaked 100 km/h and there were 7 meters high waves off the coast. At the end a huge wave entered our cockpit. It damaged a cell phone and the bracket of our electric outboard “Torqeedo”. Miraculously, the electric engine remained intact.

On August 17, we aborted the last attempt to bring our two scientists John and Siri to Jan Mayen. A Norwegian Army Hercules aircraft that was taking them at the time had to turn back due to bad weather. This shows the conditions we faced that year. Fortunately, the flight succeeded later, so at least they were able to take samples ashore on Jan Mayen.

Sea and weather conditions for the crossing were extremely poor this summer. A safe weather window for the approximately 1000 nautical miles from Norway to the East Greenland coast failed

due to pronounced low-pressure areas, between the massive and stationary high pressure areas over Greenland and Europe. One low pressure followed the next, and in between there was no calming that could have guaranteed a safe weather window for safe passage. The pronounced high pressure over Europe was responsible for the heat in Europe. In East Greenland it was cold, so that the pack ice on the coast and in the fjords partly did not melt. This temperature difference was certainly also a reason for the stormy seas and after five attempts we did not succeed to make landfall in Greenland this year.

On the other hand, despite difficult conditions, we were able to collect 8 eDNA and 8 microplastic samples and celebrate the 100th sampling. This on 8/27/2022 at over 70 degrees north latitude in northern Norway. The samples were collected from remote locations where we could observe a lot of marine life, such as one of the largest maelstroms in the world or a large population of sperm whales.

A big compliment goes to the entire crew. They showed a lot of patience and held out until the end, even though we could not reach our destinations Greenland nor Svalbard. Many thanks also to the people on Grytøya Island and especially to Halvard, who made everything to comfort us. The same goes for fisherman Dag on the island of Kagen.

We hope that the necessary repairs will not cause us too much headache. We are optimistic for 2023 and are sure that such conditions will not be repeated every year.

Since then, we have been concentrating again on school visits and bringing young people closer to nature and clean up the wonderful Arctic.

### **Accomplishments 2022**

- distance sailed: 2,000 nautical miles (of a total of 128,000 nm)
- distance climbed: 100,000 altimetres (of a total of 800,000 a.m.)
- distance cycled: 500 kilometres (of a total of 24,000 km)
- number of attendees at presentations: 5,000 (of a total of 160,000)
- number of DNA – and microplastics samples collected: 100
- plastic collected in clean-ups: 5,000 kg (of a total of 75,000 kg)
- campaign “**TOPtoTOP Arctic Research Expedition**”
- campaign “**Save the Arctic**”
- campaign **LPS**, “**Leave the Plastic in the Shop**”
- campaign **OHO**, “**One Hour Outdoors**”

### **HIGHLIGHTS 2022**

- Establishing the “**TOPtoTOP Arctic Base**”
- Sailing with local students to see the orcas.
- Community actions and Clean-Ups to fight plastic waste

- Great media coverage! Everywhere we travelled, the media were interested in an interview. In all destinations, TV, radio and print media reported very positively about the TOPtoTOP actions.
- Collaboration with the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, the Norwegian Research Center, the University of Tromsø and the ETH Zürich in Switzerland to get a better understanding about the Arctic Seas.
- With our concept to get everybody on board, we have been received with open arms specially in Norway, Croatia, Italy and Switzerland establishing new partnerships with local individuals, organizations and initiatives.

### **OUR STRATEGIES — HOW WE ACT**

Our belief *'to go together is to go far'* is a success: the family members and volunteers have gone far again this year and accomplished to inspire many to act too.

Our strategy to reach out more and to get the media involved worked very well. This approach also helped us to get in contact with the school authorities to organize events and actions.

We learned that our message is so much more powerful when our children started to talk to their peers of the same age.

Activities from TOPtoTOP members in other countries make us proud. Our ongoing success story is the backbone that creates the unique global family of activists. Our global network is based on understanding and solidarity in order to solve the global challenge we face with climate change.

### **OUTLOOK 2023 – OUR CAMPAIGN “SAVE THE ARCTIC”**

In 2023, *Pachamama* will operate in the Arctic Sea. We continue to sample up to the highest summits in the Arctic. We will collect data for climate and plastic pollution research in *Svalbard, Jan Mayen, Greenland, Iceland* and *Norway*. Furthermore, we will combine our environmental education program and clean-ups with our research activities.

- For the twentieth anniversary of "Swiss TOPtoTOP" we plan to visit some TOP's again and get a picture of what positive projects have been added.
- We start to establish an Arctic science hub in *Lyngseidet*
- We invite families and their kids to join our outdoor camps and events. Our goal is to connect as many people as possible with nature through outdoor activities. This, with the ultimate goal, to preserve this paradise for the next generation.
- We transfer our sustainable tourism – mountaineering and guiding skills – to give new perspectives and hope to young people living in the Arctic and to protect their environment, and also to enable them to get an alternative source of income to survive in their fast-changing Arctic environment caused by climate change.
- We aim to give remote places a voice and connect schools from different parts of the planet.

### **LONG-TERM OUTLOOK**

We aim to inspire another 100,000 students over the coming years on our route circumnavigating the Arctic and the Americas from POLE to POLE in a figure of 8, making optimal use of the winds and currents. On this endeavor, we sail the Northeast Passage. This would be only possible, if the war in Ukraine finishes soon; so that we can finish the circumnavigation of the Arctic and have a second try at climbing the last TOP, *Mount Vinson* in Antarctica.

- Our ultimate goal is to save the planet with the inspiring examples we collect, as well as with our environmental actions and educational events. We aim to build a global network of activists to solve global challenges, based on understanding, friendship and solidarity.

### Support us

It is time to save our planet! Our goal is to establish a lasting movement that inspires youth to act. Please consider an annual donation and scan below QR code or go to <https://toptotop.org/donate/>.



**Join us** on Instagram ([TOPtoTOPexpedition](#)), Facebook ([TOPtoTOPGlobalClimateExpedition](#)), website ([TOPtoTOP.org](#)) and subscribe on our YouTube Channel ([TOPtoTOPExpedition](#)).

### Become a member

The annual TOPtoTOP-membership is 50 USD/Euro/CHF per household/institution. A lifelong membership is 250 USD, please register at <https://toptotop.org/donate/toptotop-membership/>.

*Thank you for your support!*

### THANK YOU

Without the generosity and hospitality of the people we meet on our journey, and without your support, our efforts would have been unthinkable. A big THANK YOU especially to our main sponsor **VICTORINOX** as well as to the patronage of **UNEP** and our science partners **NORCE**, **HVL**, **UIT**, and **ETHZ**; and our carbon offsetting partner **myclimate**. Our thanks also go to all the benefactors and all those who support our project with their TOP products and services, especially: **PredictWind**, **Hostpoint**, **Waeco**, **Varem**, **Optrel**, **Munters**, **Magic Mountain Lodge**, **Hotel Waldegg**, **Topper International**, **Torqueedo**, **Nogva**, **Skarvik**, **Tromsø Seilforeining**, **Lerøy**, **Boreal Maritim** and **Lyngen Kommune**.

Special thanks to our members on the expedition: Sabine, Dario, Salina, Andri, Noé, Alegra, Mia, Vital, Hanne, Peder, Ueli, Peter, Siri, Jon, Fred, Per, Morten, Jonas, Johannes, Kyrre, Veronika & Carl, Paul Johan & Inge, Bruno, Eskil & Anna, Henrika & Patrick.

A special thank to all in the background: Alex & Ursula Zehnder, Marco & Karin Koch, Peter Locher, Manolito Birrer, Dag Olav Mollan Eneberg, Meret Jucker, Dominik Schaub, Simon Unternährer, Hanna Law, Bruder Martin, Frederic Marty, Peder Pederson, Marianne Nielson, Alessio Gomiero, Loïc Pellissier, Rosi & Ernst Ammann, Ottavia & Reto Schwörer.

We also wish to thank for their friendship and assistance:

Family Carl & Veronika Elsener, Sylvia & Juerg Zahnd, Bruder Martin Hieronymi, Dominik & Sylke Schaub, Marco & Ines Kappenberger, Family Odd Tufte & Gunvor Steine, Ric & Emma van Wachem, Clark & Barbara Blynn, Elisabeth & Rolf Hefti, Hanne Lykkja & Harald Renum, Michael Thorne, Family Torgunn & Yngvar Rist Aagaard, Family Henrika Lönngren & Patrik Jonsson,

Ingunn Riverts Vatne & Mathieu Blein, Susanne & Chérif Khater, Ursula & Alex Zehnder, Nathalie Thierstein & Stefan Leimer, Fred Marty, Family Marius & Karine Løken, Sten-Robin Morfjord, Peder and Kaja Pedersen, Roland Müller, Salve Dahle,

Turid Samuelson & Haldor-Inge Samuelsen, Pål Kragerud, Pål Brynsrud, Christian Wehrli, Peter Gnehm, Pater Andri, Eugen & Susi Funz, Dominik & Elisabeth Brun, Familie Birrer Hotel Waldegg, Jacques De Vos ...

