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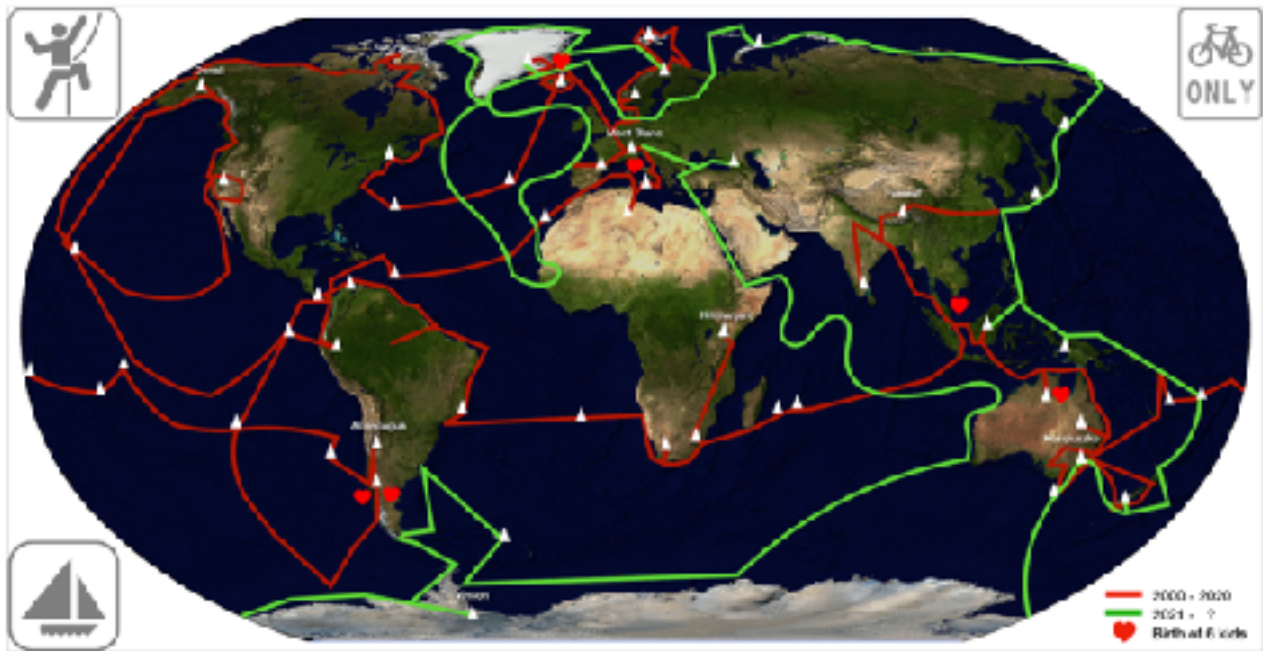


GLOBAL CLIMATE EXPEDITION



Annual Report 2025

			
Mountain biking	Public presentations	Skimo athletes	Sailing to schools
			
Solar roofing	School visits	Glacier milk	Beach clean-ups
			
TOP members	CPR Training	The piano	Glacier melting
			
Boat refit	Protect remote islands	Salina Matura	Lyngen Alps
			
2nd boat in the fleet	TV interviews	Arctic sailing	TOPtoTOP Arctic Base



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 all climate zones while relying only on the power of nature and the human spirit. Along the way, the expedition discovers good solutions for our climate and has, to date, inspired more than 180,000 students in more than 100 countries through presentations and hands-on actions.

“Our message is one of hope. We want to inspire students and communities to act for a better future by sharing experiences of nature's beauty and resilience and presenting innovations for a healthy planet.” – Dario Schwörer

For more than two decades, Dario and Sabine Schwörer, their family, and a growing network of volunteers have circumnavigated our blue planet, visiting every climate zone, witnessing climate change and its effects on communities, conducting field-based research, and sharing examples of innovative solutions. They continuously learn how to better protect, preserve, and conserve our planet.

At the core of the expedition are school and community visits, clean-up campaigns, and outdoor activities that connect young people with nature. Currently, the focus of TOPtoTOP's activities is in the far north and along key global routes that connect the Arctic with the Mediterranean and beyond. Here, TOPtoTOP works with local communities and partners to:

- introduce indigenous and local youth to guiding and outdoor sports as an alternative source of income in a fast-changing climate,
- contribute to cutting-edge research on biodiversity and plastic pollution through eDNA and microplastic sampling,
- build bridges between schools, scientists, artists, and decision-makers through education and cultural projects.

In this report, we elaborate on our expedition, its goals, the annual highlights for 2025, as well as our strategy, route, the outlook for 2026, and how you can support us in our shared challenge to save the planet.

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 again reached out to schools, universities, and communities with our program in 2025.

Sailing, mountaineering, ski mountaineering, and other outdoor sports remained at the heart of our activities. Wherever we stopped – from Arctic islands to Saharan oases – we organized programs for local children and youth. Outdoor activities connect young people with nature and have many benefits: increasing resilience, learning endurance, staying healthy, becoming part of nature, thinking strategically, taking responsibility, and building self-confidence.

To become good sailors and mountaineers, we continue to integrate other sports and music into our training: music for collaboration; 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 objective remains unchanged: young people should get back in touch with nature, become a part of it – and protect it.

At the same time, we continued to strengthen our scientific and educational collaborations. Through the Sea2toP campaign and our work with ETH Zurich and other partners, we collected environmental DNA (eDNA) and microplastic samples in sensitive Arctic and sub-Arctic regions. In 2025, we expanded this work further along our sailing routes while connecting research with hands-on school projects onboard and onshore.

ANNUAL REVIEW 2025

January–February: Light returning in the Arctic & Indoor Training

The year began in the far north, where the long polar night slowly gave way to the return of light. At our TOPtoTOP Arctic Base in northern Norway, storms and heavy snowfall made sampling and beach clean-ups more challenging than usual. However, this did not stop us from training and preparing for the upcoming season.

Indoors, we focused on safety training, navigation, and physical conditioning. With strong winds and frequent storms, we used the time to:

- train emergency procedures with our crew and volunteers,
- conduct indoor training sessions with local youth,
- prepare logistics and permits for upcoming expeditions.

Emergency doctor Michael from REGA joined us to provide advanced medical and emergency training.

March: “One more Swiss championship title”

In March, TOPtoTOP was invited to Switzerland for the national cinema release of our film “Home is the Ocean”. The opening was followed by multiple interviews and media appearances, which we used to amplify our message and invite more people to join the movement.

Between film screenings, training continued. Alegra once again demonstrated how sport and climate action can go hand in hand: she won the 3D Vertical in Les Diablerets and continued her strong ski mountaineering season. Her dedication shows young people that their passion for sport can also become a platform for environmental engagement.

These weeks in Switzerland also offered opportunities to visit schools, meet long-standing partners, and strengthen our network of supporters.

April–May: The light is back – preparation and community

As the Arctic winter loosened its grip, “the light came back” in northern Norway. With longer days, we welcomed more volunteers and members to the expedition. In 2025 alone, 16 people had already taken part by early spring.

Heavy snow and wind still made extensive sampling and beach clean-ups difficult. We therefore combined shorter outdoor actions with indoor learning sessions:

- sharing expedition stories and climate examples with local schools,
- technical training on navigation, weather, and safety at sea,
- fitness sessions to prepare youth and crew for the upcoming sailing and mountaineering season.

This period also served as a crucial planning phase for our Save the Arctic and Sea2toP campaigns in the months ahead.

June–September: A Fleet for the Planet & Arctic Operations

A major milestone in 2025 was reached in mid-year: TOPtoTOP has become a fleet.

Alongside our trusted mothership Pachamama, the 35-foot steel sister ship Naomi was fully restored, freshly painted, and equipped with the latest safety gear. Under the command of Noé, who successfully completed his captain's exam, Naomi is now ready for action.

This development marks a new chapter for TOPtoTOP: the next generation is literally taking the helm and carrying the mission forward. Noé, Salina, Andri, and Alegra – the children of Dario and Sabine – now play leading roles in the “Save the Arctic” campaign. Both Naomi and Pachamama have been active in the Arctic, collecting microplastic and eDNA samples to study biodiversity and organizing beach clean-ups on remote Arctic shores.

In this period, our activities included:

- sailing from Lyngseidet to Tromsø, where we welcomed new volunteer and teacher Jane Helen Kaaen to the crew,
- continuing north and south to strategic locations in the Arctic,
- planning and undertaking expeditions to Bjørnøya in Svalbard
- combining research sampling with education, hosting students and volunteers onboard.

Journalists joined us several times, documenting our work for international audiences. Among others, reports about TOPtoTOP and the Arctic campaigns are in preparation for Pro7's “Galileo” and Deutsche Welle, further expanding the reach of our message.

The TOPtoTOP Arctic Base – a Powerhouse for Sustainability

Parallel to the work at sea, a unique project took shape on land: our TOPtoTOP Arctic Base continued to evolve into a true Powerhouse in the Arctic.

In 2025, major construction milestones were reached:

- installation of an advanced solar roof, façade panels, and railing provided by 3S Swiss Solar,
- close collaboration with Xeeo, whose team – including their CEO – joined us on-site to install and optimize the electrical system,
- commissioning of a system capable of generating around 5 kW/h of electricity under Arctic conditions.

With these improvements, the Arctic Base became largely self-sufficient in renewable energy, a first-of-its-kind prototype in the region. The building now functions as:

- a research and logistics base for Arctic expeditions,
- a refuge for scientists, artists, and changemakers who need a quiet space to develop sustainable solutions or compose music,
- a meeting place for local and international partners.

A special moment of this year's construction work was led by Mia: before any trees were removed to further optimize solar efficiency, she planted new apple trees that she had grown herself – a powerful symbol that technological progress and care for nature can go hand in hand.

October–November: From the Arctic to the Sahara – when the mission meets emergency

In late 2025, a new project aimed to connect the Arctic with the Sahara overland. The idea was as simple as it was powerful: travel by trains, buses, and ferries from northern Europe to North Africa, visiting schools along the way to link young people from very different regions.

The journey quickly revealed both logistical and human realities:

- organizing school events in countries like Germany demanded persistence and creativity due to increasingly complex administrative requirements,
- taking photographs in schools became more difficult, reflecting changing privacy and safeguarding regulations,
- the Mediterranean crossing to Tunisia opened a dramatic window into global inequality as the captain shared his front-line experience with irregular migration.

From Tunisia, the route led toward Algeria. Here, security was visibly tight, especially in the south near the borders with Niger and Libya. The presence of police and military reminded us of previous tragic incidents, including the murder of a Swiss woman in Djanet.

Despite this, the Sahara revealed its profound beauty and humanity. Guided by Tuareg hosts – the legendary “blue people” of the desert – Salina and Dario experienced nights under a canopy of stars, bivouacking without tents in the dry desert air. They sang together, exchanged stories, and, even in remote plateaus, collected plastic waste. Salina challenged young Tuaregs in sports, building friendships through play and movement.

However, the mission took a dramatic turn when Dario drank contaminated water and fell ill with severe dysentery. Rapid dehydration led to a dangerous deep vein thrombosis in his leg – a life-threatening condition.

The ensuing days became a lesson in resilience and global solidarity:

- Salina acted quickly, ensuring Dario received initial treatment in the small hospital in Djanet,
- Dr. Bacha and his team did everything possible with limited resources,
- from Norway, Sabine coordinated with the Swiss air rescue service REGA in Zurich,
- REGA worked tirelessly to secure landing permissions in this remote Saharan outpost.

After four critical days, a REGA ambulance jet was cleared to land. Dario and Salina were evacuated to Switzerland, where specialists at Lucerne Cantonal Hospital confirmed how close Dario had come to a fatal pulmonary embolism. Thanks to rapid international cooperation, medical expertise, and the courage of everyone involved, both recovered.

Even in the midst of this emergency, the mission did not stop: Sabine continued with scheduled TOPtoTOP presentations in Norway, and preparations for the next global expedition were already underway.

This episode revealed something essential about TOPtoTOP: vulnerability and courage are not opposites. The project exists precisely at the intersection of risk, resilience, and solidarity. The Arctic to the Sahara journey did not end as planned, but it became an even more powerful story about human connection and the importance of international rescue networks.

December: Music, gratitude, and global reach

In December, three themes came to the forefront: gratitude, music, and connection.

Advent – a season of gratitude

The Advent season became an opportunity to pause and say thank you. Sabine dedicated herself to sharing her expertise through public talks and school presentations. By bringing real-world environmental knowledge directly into classrooms and community spaces, she helped inspire curiosity and deeper understanding about our planet.

Her quiet, continuous work – often away from the spotlight – is central to TOPtoTOP’s impact. In times marked by climate anxiety, Sabine’s presence and example show that it is possible to respond with calm, competence, and compassion.

Music anchors: The piano on Pachamama

Yamaha Music Europe released a short film featuring Dario and Sabine and the story of the Clavinova piano onboard Pachamama. What began as a four-minute glimpse into their extraordinary life became a viral success, reaching more than 400,000 viewers within weeks.

The film shows how a digital piano became a symbol of connection, family, and hope amidst a global climate mission. It highlights that environmental responsibility and human flourishing are not contradictions: music, play, and joy are not luxuries but essential sources of strength and resilience.

Over the past 26 years, what started as a family expedition has grown into a worldwide movement. All six Schwörer children were born during the journey, with the ocean and mountains as their classrooms. The piano has become one of the emotional anchors in this nomadic life, and the film has sparked meaningful conversations about what truly matters.

This new global visibility through Yamaha's network provides an important platform to bring TOPtoTOP's core message – Explore – Inspire – Act – to new audiences.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2025

Final quantitative data for 2025 will be consolidated after the end of the season. Based on current logs and ongoing activities, we estimate the following (to be confirmed in the final financial and activity statement):

- distance sailed in 2025: 3,000 nautical miles (of a total of 135'000 nm)
- distance climbed in 2025: 100,000 altimetres (of a total of 1'100'000 a.m.)
- distance cycled in 2025: [500 kilometres (of a total of 25'500 km)
- number of attendees at presentations in 2025: 25'000 (of a total of 200'000)
- number of eDNA and microplastic samples collected in 2025: [15 (of a total of 165)
- plastic collected in clean-ups in 2025: 5'000 kg (of a total of 90'000 kg)

Key thematic accomplishments include:

- Launch of Naomi as a fully operational sister ship – TOPtoTOP becomes a fleet,
- Significant progress at the TOPtoTOP Arctic Base toward full energy self-sufficiency,
- Expansion of the Save the Arctic and Sea2toP research and education campaigns,
- Strengthening of youth leadership within the expedition (Noé as captain, Alegra's sports achievements, Salina's project leadership),
- A powerful overland project linking Arctic and Sahara, underlining global interconnectedness and the importance of international rescue systems,
- Global reach through the Yamaha piano film and continued presence of the documentary "Home is the Ocean".

OUR STRATEGIES – HOW WE ACT

Our strategy remains grounded in a simple but powerful conviction: to go together is to go far.

In 2025, this meant:

- deepening collaborations with scientific institutions to combine exploration with rigorous research,
- empowering youth within and beyond our family to take on leadership roles at sea, in the mountains, and on stage,
- using media moments strategically – from cinema premieres to viral music films – to reach new audiences with a hopeful climate message,
- strengthening our presence in key regions like the Arctic, where climate change is particularly visible and urgent,
- continuing to anchor all actions in local partnerships and mutual learning.

We observed once again that our message becomes even more powerful when our children speak directly to their peers and when local youth become protagonists in their own communities. Activities organized by TOPtoTOP members and partners in various countries are a crucial part of this global mosaic of positive action.

Our global network is based on understanding, solidarity, and positivity. It is this network – from Tuareg hosts to Norwegian fishermen, from Swiss rescue pilots to international students – that gives the project its unique strength.

OUTLOOK 2026

Our long-term route and vision from pole to pole – connecting the Arctic, Antarctica, and the equator in a figure of eight – remain unchanged. What evolves each year are the partnerships, projects, and stories that bring this route to life.

Therefore Pachamama starts a new circumnavigation of the planet heading South towards Antarctica. Naomi stays in Arctic waters for the “TOPtoTOP Save the Arctic Campaign”.

EXPLORE – INSPIRE – ACT. Inspiring youth to save the planet.

We maintain a rolling schedule of events to remain flexible and responsive to local opportunities and global developments.

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 / EUR / CHF per household or institution. A lifelong membership is 250 USD.

Please register at <https://toptotop.org/donate/toptotop-membership/>.

You can also support us by:

- inviting TOPtoTOP to give a presentation at your school, university, company, or community event,
- joining an expedition as a volunteer or participant in one of our outdoor camps,
- sharing our stories and films with your networks.

THANK YOU

Without the generosity and hospitality of the people we meet on our journey – and without your support – our efforts would be unthinkable.

A big THANK YOU goes especially to our main sponsor **VICTORINOX**, to the patronage of **UNEP**, and all our science partners as well as our carbon-offsetting partner myclimate.

We also thank all benefactors and all those who support our project with their TOP products and services, including long-term and new partners around the world.

A heartfelt thank you to all members of the expedition in 2025 – family, volunteers, and local supporters – and to everyone working in the background to make this global climate expedition possible.

Together, we continue our journey: from top to top, from ocean to summit, from one community to the next – united by the belief that a healthy planet is the foundation for peace and a good life for all.