

# ZOOM – Kids on the Move for Climate Action



## CLIMATE VOYAGE AROUND THE ONE WORLD



Climate Alliance

# Stopovers at a journey around the One World

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## **Hello and welcome aboard our Climate Voyage around the One World!**

Be prepared - our climate shuttle is just about to leave the city of Bonn!

It will take us on a journey at the speed of thought that leads us to different places all over the world.

At the window of the United Nations Climate Secretariat - from the roof of which we will take off - you see Christiana Figueres. She is the head of the secretariat and is seeing us off. At the end of our climate excursion we will meet her again in Lima, Peru. There, at the 20<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Conference from 1.-12.12. 2014, we will hand over to her the green footprints collected by children all over Europe.

But first things first: now we are very much looking forward to our ten stopovers and all the things we will learn about our global climate. We will gain knowledge about the causes and consequences of climate change, we will listen to people telling us about their everyday problems, and we will look into what it means to polar bears and penguins when the ice melts away.

**We wish you a very exciting trip around the globe!**

***Your Green Footprint-Team at the Climate Alliance***

# 1 Europe: Skiing and Sledding

**Hallo (Hello), my name is Katharina** and I really love snowboarding and skiing. I also like sledding. How about you?

During the last winter holidays, my family and I went skiing in Austria. The mountains were around 2500 meters above sea level. Because there was not enough snow, the slopes had to be covered nearly all day and night with artificial snow from snow-cannons. Snow-cannons need a lot of energy and they cost a lot of money. The artificial snow is also much heavier and harder to ski on.



Where I live it only snows for a few hours in winter. There is hardly enough snow to build a snowman! It is also impossible to even think about sledding or snowboarding.



My grandmother lives in southern Germany and she told me that when she was a child sometimes she didn't have to go school during the winter because of all the snow. There was so much snow during the winters that the streets could not be cleared in time. Have you ever experienced something like that?

My father says that in a few years, snow will only be on top of the mountains, and even then it will only be there for just a few days or weeks. He says the glaciers in the Alps will not last much longer if the world keeps warming up.

**Tschüß! (Bye), Yours Katharina**

## 2 Antarctica: Splish Splash Penguin

The Antarctic - also called South Pole - is a nearly untouched wilderness at the end of the world. As far as the eye can see there is only ice, snow, mountains and glaciers. It's the coldest place on earth and the temperature can sink to  $-90^{\circ}\text{C}$ !

Only a few people live in Antarctica. Most of them are scientists that investigate climate change. They found out that the west side of the Antarctic is warming up considerably. Keep in mind that penguins in Antarctica live above ground on the packed ice. However, often it is so windy that the sea cannot freeze. Now, instead of packed ice, there are only sheets of ice. The penguins need the ice to rest and to hide from predators, such as the hungry leopard seal.



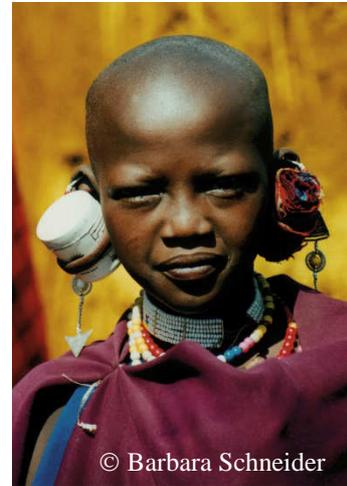
Sometimes, the blowing wind can quickly close up gaps between the ice sheets. This is often very bad for the young penguins living on the coast because their parents, who were off widely searching for food, return home and cannot find their babies because of the newly formed ice. Many young penguins starve to death. A few attempt to find their own path to the sea. But numerous sea birds lurk over the sea as their favourite food is baby penguins. Only about half of the baby penguins survive their first year.

If the water keeps getting warmer, the krill (small crabs) and fish, the favourite food of penguins, will retreat deeper into the sea in search of colder water. Because of this, penguins must search for new homes. Unfortunately, many areas have already been taken by other penguin colonies. The more penguins that live in an area, the less krill and fish there is, so penguins are forced to swim further out into the ocean to satisfy their hunger...



### 3 Africa: Healing Rain - But When?

**Supa! (Hello!) My name is Esiankiki** and I am a Massai girl. I live in a little village with cottages made out of mud and cow dung in southern Kenya. Our village is enclosed by bushes with thorns that protect us against wild animals. We have a little cattle herd, a few goats and some sheep. My brothers tend the animals, every day they go with the animals to drinking holes. They have to walk very far because the drinking holes near the village are dried up. Since there isn't very much water left, many animals have died of thirst. This makes my father very sad. The animals are all we have. We cannot plant fruits or vegetables - the land is too dry for that.



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Sometimes it does not rain a drop for months. Drinking water is very rare. At night my mother and I often walk to drinking holes that are far away.

The way back is very hard and dangerous. We carry the heavy water jars on our heads. Unfortunately, the water we bring to the village is very dirty. Many children get diarrhoea and stomach cramps.

Only a few children of our village get to go to school. Most of them must stay at home because they need to help their parents with work or they are too sick to go to school because of the dirty water.

Because of water is rare and precious in our country, there was an armed conflict between the Massai and the Gikuyu people. Many people were hurt or killed. To improve the situation, a well and a watering place for our animals should be built. If this works out, I would not have to walk so far to get water. And I could go to school more often - that would be great...



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**Sere! (Bye), Yours Esiankiki**

## 4 Southern Asia: Palm Oil and Toilet Paper From the Rainforest

Some years ago, over 80% of the so-called tissue paper in Germany was from recycled or waste paper. In 2006, this percentage was only 57%. This means that almost half of our paper (for example toilet, cosmetic, and tissue paper) is obtained from pulp fibre. Therefore, it is taken directly from wood from the forests.



But what does this have to do with Southern Asia, Orangutans and Sumatra Tigers? Their homes are in the rainforests in the 14, 000 Indonesian islands. Many large mammals that live in the rainforests don't live anywhere else, such as Java and Sumatra Rhinos, Sumatra Elephants and naturally, Sumatra Tigers and Orangutans.

Rainforests are often called the green lungs of our Earth. They provide us with oxygen and are large conservers of carbon dioxide and water. Therefore, the rainforests play an important role in our climate and environment.

Soon there may not be any more forests in Indonesia. If there are no forests, the

Sumatra Tiger would not be able to hunt anymore. Currently, every minute that passes a forest the size of a soccer field is being cut down.

The Indonesian paper industry processes 30 million cubic meters of wood per year. The industry focuses on making pulp, which it processes into paper tissues and toilet paper. At least 70% of this wood comes from rainforests, and it is often obtained illegally from illegal deforestation.

The virgin rainforests are being cut down for toilet paper and being burned to create palm oil plantations. The palm oil is shipped to Europe and used for such foods as margarine, chocolate bars, soups and ice cream. The palm oil is also used in laundry detergents, shower gels, and many other skin care products.

The oil is also processed into bio-fuel that we need because in 2007 the European Environmental Ministers declared that bio-fuels in the EU need to increase by 10%. Our local resources for rapeseed oil are not sufficient enough to support our needs.



## 5 Australia: Where the Firebugs Dance

Australia is the driest inhabited continent. It rains very seldom and irregularly. The long dry seasons and times with severe floods are normal there. Climate scientists are worried that droughts will last longer and will continue to worsen. In the inland many people gave up farming because the water is scarcer than it used to be.



Hello, my name is Kyle and I live in Brisbane, a big city in the east of Australia.

I like to ride with my bike to school. The temperatures can get up to 40° C in the shade in summer (which is during winter where you live). Our classroom has air conditioning, but this needs electricity, of course. The power is produced in coal-fired power stations, which release a lot of CO<sub>2</sub> and increases the effects of global warming.

In the last years, it has been terribly hot and dry, and everything has withered. Due to the drought, there are more and more bush fires. A few years ago, there were seven forest fires in Brisbane at the same time! Smoke and flames

were everywhere. At that time no one really paid attention because small bush fires are normal as many plants need fires to grow. Today there are very often heavy fires because a large amount of dry materials. Some houses at the edge of the forest were destroyed because of the fires.

This winter it finally rained in many areas in eastern Australia, but not where I live. Due to the drought, it is forbidden to wash cars and we are allowed to water the flowers only every three days (only with a watering can). Watering the lawn is not allowed at all. We gather shower water to have water for the flowers. Everyone is allowed 140 litres of water per day. That means you can only shower for four minutes to have enough water for the toilet, washing machine and everything else. This is not a very long time...



Well, see ya down under! Yours Kyle



## 7 North Asia: Permanent Frost into Permanent Mud?

North Asia includes a large area that you might know as Siberia. A large part of Siberia belongs to Russia. Hot summers (up to  $+40^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) are being replaced by extremely cold winters (to  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). It often snows 9 months out of the year.

In many regions, the ground is completely frozen - scientists call this permafrost. In many places the ground has already been frozen for many thousands of years, sometimes up to 1km deep! Now, in the warm summer months, some of the surface thaws. This has created a large amount of swamps and marshes. These wet areas have produced billions of flies and mosquitoes, which are a big nuisance to animals and humans.



It creates a problem in Siberia when the earth is frozen deeply and then softened quickly, because it is difficult to safely construct roads and houses. This is why buildings are being constructed on piles of deep earth that are known for staying frozen for the entire year.

Climatologists now fear that there is more thawing of the permafrost in summers than there ever was before. Roads and houses that were not built on the deeply frozen earth could sink into the "permamud". In Yakutsk, a city in eastern Russia, many

buildings are in danger of collapse because of this freezing and thawing.

Also, the railroad and electricity lines have been built on the permafrost. Experts are warning that the worst damage could be to the crude oil and gas pipelines. In the deserted and inaccessible areas of Taiga and Tundra, it could take a long time to locate and patch a leak.

Many climatologists say that if the permafrost continues to thaw, large quantities of the greenhouse gasses carbon dioxide and methane that are associated with the last ice age will be released. Satellite data shows that the lake areas in Siberia have increased by 12% in the last 30 years. Places where before there had been nothing but Tundra, are now covered by water, from which methane bubbles.



The Russian Government hopes that due to the permafrost thawing in southern Siberia, new land for grain production will be created for the northern hemisphere.

## 8 The Arctic: Polar Bear Becomes Swimming Bear

The Arctic - or the North Pole - is the kingdom of the polar bear. He is one of the biggest carnivorous animals. In winter he lives on packed ice - ice that floats on the sea - and hunts seals. He eats a lot to build up fat reserves. In the summer he often starves for months at a time. Then he lives on the continent because the packed ice melts. The polar bear is only a successful hunter while living on the packed ice. Seals are too fast for him in the water.



But his living space is literally melting away under his feet due to the climate change; the temperature of the Arctic has risen by 5° Celsius during the last 100 years. And because of this, the packed ice is getting thinner and thinner. Lately, in the spring the ice has been melting much earlier than usually does and it is freezing much later in the autumn.



This creates a lot of problems for the polar bear. The earlier the packed ice melts, the less he can eat to build up his fat reserves. At this rate, many polar bears will die of hunger during the ice free periods. This is especially bad for the polar bear's babies. Only every second baby survives the summer.

Because the ice can be very thin in the winter, it is not strong enough to support the heavy polar bear. In some places the packed ice collapses due to the polar bear's weight. Since they cannot stand on the ice it is getting more and more difficult to hunt seals.

Climate change is a big problem for the polar bear as there are more rainstorms. Due to this, the glacial caves the polar bears give birth to their cubs in can collapse. Both the mother and cub can be hurt or even killed.

If climatologists are right and the Arctic will be ice free in summer by the end of this century, polar bears will become extinct...

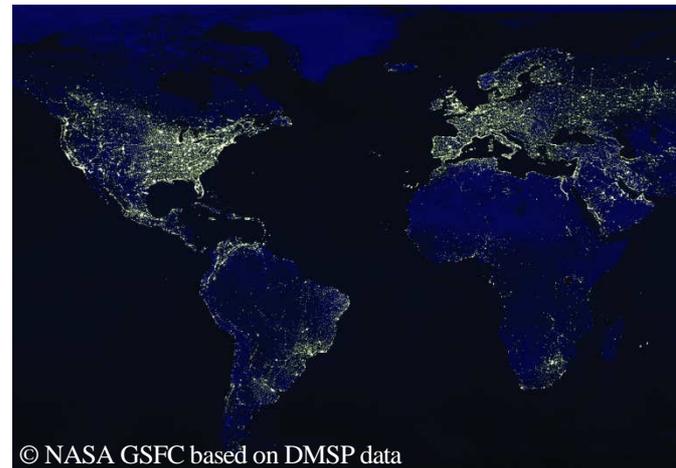


## 9 North America: Dancing Lights

The industrial cities in the northern hemisphere use more energy than the developing countries in the southern hemisphere. The night photograph of the earth is a good picture of energy and electricity used in these regions. In North America, on the eastern side, it is especially bright. Europe shines very brightly, too but Europe has more than twice the people living there.

For many North Americans it is normal to leave lights on when they leave a room. They also love to illuminate their cities with advertisements, and because of this large amounts of electricity are used. The electricity is taken from coal and the burning of crude oil, which releases more climate harming CO<sub>2</sub>-gasses (carbon dioxide).

The houses are poorly insulated and the heating is not very effective, because heating oil and natural gas are cheap. Also, gasoline is considerably cheaper than in Europe, which is why many people can afford to drive big cars. They often drive long distances; trips to work, a restaurant or a cinema 100 km away are not uncommon. Fuel consumption in North American is quite large with more than 10 liters per 100 kilometers consumed.



People in poor countries complain that the industrial cities only think about the advantages and they don't think about the impact that their behaviour has on people in other countries. Above all, it makes them angry that the USA is the biggest CO<sub>2</sub> producer in the world and does not participate actively in the international efforts to stop the global climate change.

Now that gasoline and energy are becoming more expensive in North America, many people are considering exchanging their "gas guzzling" vehicles for smaller cars and putting better insulation in their houses. But, until the CO<sub>2</sub> balance (the carbon dioxide emissions per capita) is improved, we will continue to see lights dancing in North America...



# 10 South America: Living at the Other End of the Pipeline

The burning of crude oil releases a large amount of CO<sub>2</sub> and other gases into the air –in addition to the many other problems created during crude oil production. Silvia Marcelia Tibi lives in a region where crude oil is produced. Her father belongs to the Shuar people, her mother to the Kichwa people. Silvia is married and has three daughters. We talked with her about her life in the Amazon rain forest.



**Alli puncha – Hello Silvia. Where in Ecuador do you live?**

The name of my community is Yana Marú and 80 people live there. Yana is near the bank of the river Pastaza. There is one street and busses can drive there. You can also go boating where I live. Many children live here, but there is no school yet in Yana. The next school is 3km away. The lessons are taught in Spanish. Sometimes an Indian teacher gives lessons. This is a big advantage, because they can speak Kichwa and are able to help the children become bilingual.

**Yana Marú lies in a region where crude oil is produced. What does this fact mean for your village?**

Mainly we are annoyed by the noise created by the people, explosions and helicopters! Not far from here is a waterfall. Just 15 years ago this place was very mystical. Today, the spirit has left because it is too loud. My family tries to protect the rain forest, but there are many problems. A lot of people in the community exploit wood and other things, for example medical plants. Sometimes scientists come here and dig everything out. They took plants from here, processed them and sold the plants under a different name!

Today you can also not go hunting. Okay, we have fish and all that, but recently we had accidents where crude oil leaked. Smaller rivers and lakes were contaminated. For four years there were no fish and no life. We had a big demonstration, but it is not enough to just tell them to go elsewhere. If so, other people would suffer from the crude oil – this is no solution.



**Thank you very much and Kayakaman – See you soon!**

# 11 South America II: Light for the Rainforest

Only half of all households worldwide are connected to the electric grid, in Peru it is about 65% of the population. Electricity is also a luxury for the indigenous population in the Amazon.

Hola, I'm Pepe of the people of the Cocama and I live in San Martín in the "Reserva Nacional Pacaya-Samiria", a national park. Our village is only reachable by ship. To Iquitos, the next large city, it's 7-8 hours by speedboat, but that's expensive.

Here the sun rises at 6 a.m. and at 6 p.m. everything is dark. In our houses we have so far mainly oil lamps. But they smell and produce soot; apart from them there is no good light.



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Recently we've gotten mobile LED Solar lamps. Their light is brighter and better for the environment.

And we don't have to buy any more expensive petroleum! The lamp's batteries are charged during the day with a small solar module (3 watts) or with a charging station (40 watts) that charges 10 lamps. Each gives off light for 6-8 hours. More and more people come from other villages and ask how they can also get such lamps.

We got our lamp from the AIDSESEP, an Indigenous Organisation in Peru. But we must also do something in return: the children in my school collected the garbage between the houses and banks of the river Samiria in big sacks for a whole afternoon and brought it to the waste collection station - all together there was quite a lot. That's because of the strong high water, which left many plastic bags and water bottles under our stilt houses.

Our waste is brought to the landfill in Nauta with a load boat. Unfortunately for some people this is too expensive, which is why ever more garbage is landed in the rivers and creates problems for manatees (sea cows), sotalias (river dolphins) and other river dwellers.

I've heard you separate your waste - why?

**Adiós por ahora - bye for now  
Pepe**



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**This is it! We've already completed our journey around the One World!**

The climate shuttle is just about to land in Lima, the capital of Peru. There politicians from many countries will meet in December 2014 in order to talk about and negotiate what their countries can do to protect the global climate in the future. But – do we want to wait without taking action?

Would you like to tell us about your ideas and actions for the protection of our climate? Do you have any questions concerning the pictures and text? Have you found out how you could address the issue of climate change? Or, have you discovered something – maybe when you were on holidays – that concerns climate change? Write us an e-mail to [zoom@climatealliance.org](mailto:zoom@climatealliance.org) or send us a letter to the address below and tell us about your experiences.

**We are looking forward to hearing from you!**

*Your ZOOM-Team at the Climate Alliance*

**[www.zoom-kidsforclimate.eu](http://www.zoom-kidsforclimate.eu)**

Zoom – Kids on the Move for Climate Action is a campaign of



**Climate Alliance**

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