



for a living planet

Voyage for the Future

is a WWF initiative to educate tomorrow's leaders about arctic climate change and prepare them to advocate solutions.

Eighteen young adults from nine countries participated in a ten-day expedition during June 2008 that took them along the coast of Svalbard, an arctic archipelago in the European High Arctic. On-board lessons covered climate change science and the global feedback effects associated with rising temperatures in the Arctic.

Voyage participants now

serve as WWF 'Ambassadors for Change,' sharing their knowledge to stimulate broad public support for measures to radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Their mission is to inform government and business leaders, media and the general public that the Arctic is the place where present and future climate change impacts are of urgent global relevance.



Arctic climate impacts – global concern

Temperatures in the Arctic are rising at twice the average global rate. Arctic sea ice coverage hit a record low in September 2007. Rapid and unprecedented melting is producing dangerous feedback effects that are increasing global warming beyond current predictions. Thawing arctic permafrost is releasing methane – a potent greenhouse gas that is twenty times more powerful than CO₂ in terms of its global warming impact.

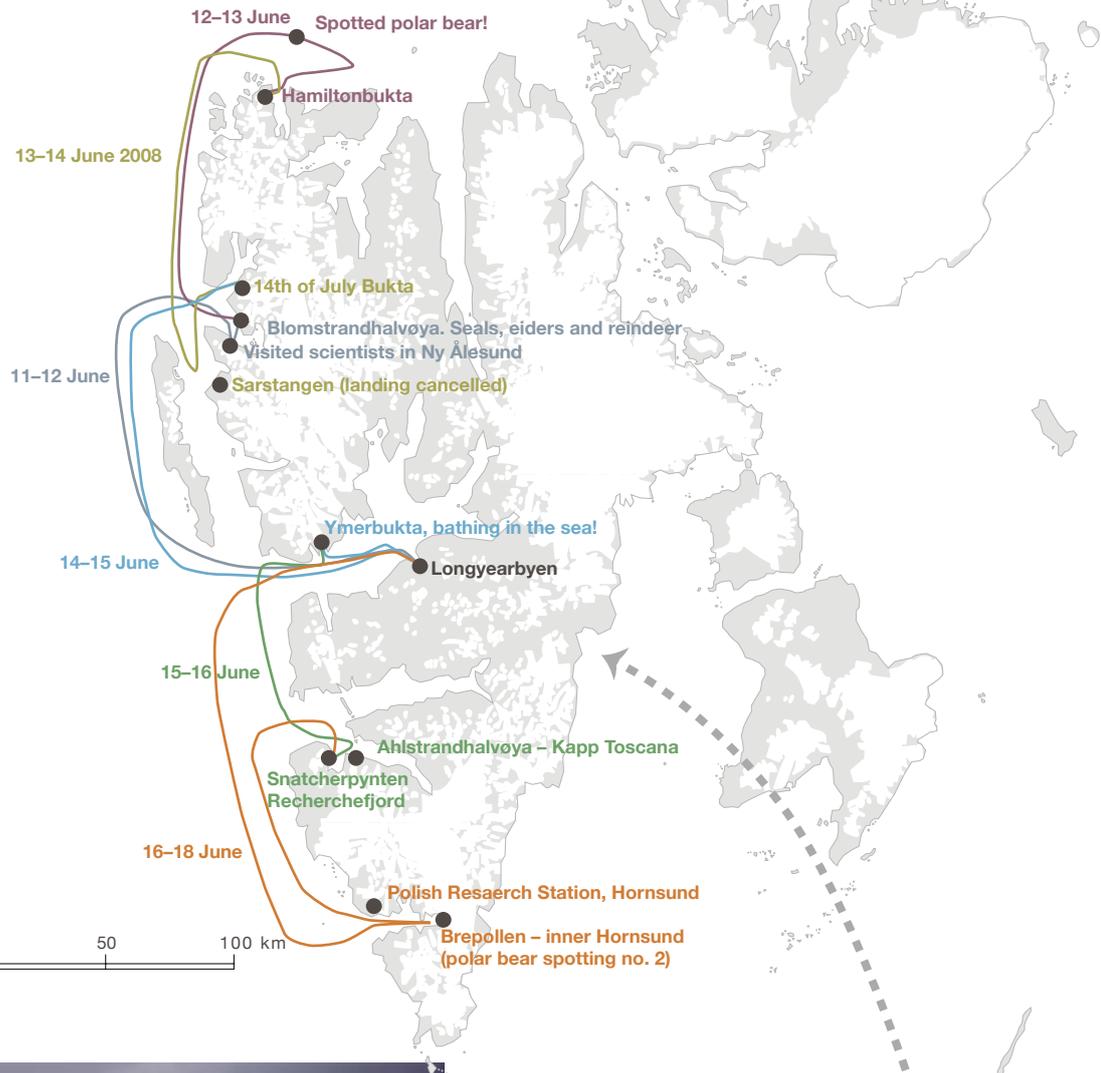




Voyage for the Future took place aboard the MS Aleksey Maryshev, a former research vessel that carried the WWF 'Ambassadors for Change' along the west coast of Svalbard.

WWF gratefully acknowledges the following arctic environmental and communications experts who contributed to the Voyage for the Future educational curriculum:

- Olav Mathis Eira, Saami representative and WWF Climate Witness
- Dr. Appy Sluijs, paleo-climatologist, University of Utrecht
- Dr. Michael Roleda, marine biologist, University of Kiel
- Dr. Kit Kovacs, marine biologist, University of Svalbard
- Dr. Jack Kohler, glacier specialist, University of Svalbard
- Marc Cornelissen, European Space Agency's CryoSat programme
- Solitaire Townsend, Futerra Communications
- Polish Polar Station, Hornsund Fjord, Svalbard
- Norwegian Polar Institute



10 June: Flying in from Oslo, capital of Norway

“There's no shortage of solutions”

The technologies and sustainable energy resources known or available today are sufficient to meet the growing global demand for energy and protect the Earth's climate. There is still enough time to build up and deploy them, but only if the necessary economic and policy decisions are made within the next five years. Radical and immediate greenhouse gas reductions are needed to prevent the Arctic from disintegrating. Visit www.panda.org/climate to discover WWF's vision for 2050 in the report, Climate Solutions.





In 2007, the sea ice cover dropped off the charts. Even the most pessimistic predictions of the IPCC did not predict such a dramatic change ... With less ice and higher temperatures, the Arctic that I am seeing will soon fade away.

Jeremy Brammer

The beauty of the Arctic is in its fragility. I hope that we realize that climate change is, and will be, the change that upsets this fragile system.

Jayne Collins

This is not just about polar bears and ice in some faraway place that we can put up on a shelf and save for that mysterious time called 'later'.

Ben Wessel

It is so difficult to image how a few rises in tenths of degrees can have such an immense effect not only on ice melting here (in the Arctic) – but what that means in terms of flooding, droughts, mass immigration, disease, and geo-politics.

Casper ter Kuile

The dangers are a problem of the present just as much as a problem of the future. We can no longer pass the burden onto other generations.

John Monaghan

The Arctic is such a powerful place, you'd think it was untouchable. But it's not.

Emma Biermann

The ambassadors

Nanny-Maja Anderbäck (Sweden)
 Johannes Barthelmeß (Germany)
 Emma Biermann (UK)
 Jeremy Brammer (Canada)
 Jayme Collins (Canada)
 Greta Hamann (Germany)
 Sven Heijbel (Sweden)
 Michiel Jansen (Netherlands)
 Casper ter Kuile (UK)
 Ekaterina Levitskaya (Russia)
 John Monaghan (USA)
 Yuriko Murakami (Japan)
 Evanne Nowak (Netherlands)
 Shunta Takagi (Japan)
 Karl Oskar Teien (Norway)
 Dmitry Vladimirov (Russia)
 Maria Waag (Norway)
 Ben Wessel (USA)



MORE BLOGS AND VIDEO AT: www.voyageforthefuture.org



“Are you on board?”



“Take action now to avoid dangerous climate change!”

There is no time to lose and no reason to wait. Climate change solutions exist today. The Voyage for the Future Ambassadors call on the world’s governments and business leaders to:

“ TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CREATING A SECURE FUTURE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Today’s leaders have a moral obligation to leave future generations with a stable environment. Handing down the global warming problem is not a viable option. ”

“ INITIATE ACTION TO REVERSE CLIMATE CHANGE

Political leaders must work to deliver a new global deal for a stable climate at the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in 2009. ”

“ COMMIT TO CUT EMISSIONS AND MOVE BEYOND PETROLEUM

Commit to mid-term reductions of between 25–40% by 2020, as agreed between Kyoto Parties in Bali. Moving beyond a carbon-based economy is possible using existing technologies to create jobs and provide clean energy. We have the solutions! Check out WWF’s views on this at: www.panda.org/climate ”

Follow the Voyage for the Future

In coordination with WWF offices in their home countries, the Voyage for the Future ‘Ambassadors for Change’ will engage with politicians and the media to advocate for action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They will campaign both virtually and in

person at a variety of international fora including the G8 summit and the UN Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. For campaign updates, visit: www.voyageforthefuture.org