

climate change is happening. now.



Climate Sailor

www.climate-sailor.com

What we plan

With this project we want to raise awareness about the extent of climate change that happens right here, right now. Far away from Europe and the mass media we want to go on a search for unique life stories. Stories of loss, transformation and the courage to walk into an uncertain future. Our aim is to empower the stories of people that are facing climate change. Their fears and hopes, their daily life and their their visions.

Where we come from

Today it is very easy to travel to remote places and make a movie about it. Your plane ticket is only a mouse-click away. The story of this project could start exactly like this. But it does not! Climate change leaves its traces worldwide. People talk a lot, do little and achieve even less. Would there be not the revolting youth whose climate protests are constantly in the headlines, you would almost forget about climate change. It is too easy to bury your head in the sand and leave the work to others. But there are already people, who are affected by climate change and who feel the consequences on a daily basis. In some cases the water is up to their necks, in others there is no water left at all. But since this mostly happens in far away places, we do not realize the grave situation we are all in.





Our aim

We want to travel to the places that are already affected. We want to observe and listen. We travel eco-friendly by sailing boat - with a camera on the shoulder, the freedom of the ocean around us and the wind in our hair - making a difference. Sailors, filmmakers, influencers and climate activists go together on a journey to make movies about people, who are already affected by climate change. We show their lives, their problems and if and which solutions already exist and how they change the lives of these people. Climate change does not have to be the end, but it means change. We want to put a face on climate change. The journey of the climate sailors begins.

Why by sailing boat?

Before the engine was invented, sailing boats were the usual way of transporting goods and people over big distances, CO2 emission free. We want to show, that this means of transport is still possible today. Furthermore a lot of areas which are already affected by climate change are set in the ocean or on the coast. Should our way lead us inland, we will use public transport, horses or simply our feet. For us climate sailors is the journey much more than a way to the destination and the restriction of living in a tiny space onboard teaches us even more. Privacy, provisions and all resources are scarce resources onboard. This forces us to cope in a sustainable way with the little we have. At home you just throw the garbage in the waste bin. Onboard there is no way to get rid of plastic and other materials, so you should not even buy them. Freshwater will be rationed and electric power is being produced by the sun or while being under way.



What we experience

Example Indonesia

First the water made its way up to the school house, then flooding the classroom floor forcing the school to close down. "Floodings at this time of the year are nothing out of the ordinary" says Angrita Pratama, the teacher of a small village school that lays close to the beach. "In rain season the place becomes regularly flooded, but around april it becomes dry again. Only this time it stayed". While some villagers are already packing their belongings to move to the next city, Angrita is frantically thinking of how to save the school after all...

Example onboard

There should have been a strong drift helping the boat to move, however nothing moves and there is no wind either. The lull already lasts for three days in a row. Climate change affects the meteorologic systems so they become even more unpredictable. The mood onboard is between frustration and apprehension. What are we supposed to do? Trying to reach the next port by engine or rather wait for the wind like people did for hundreds of years? Every day there are dozens of decisions that we need to make and sometimes maybe the audience can help us?



Outcome

Compassionate Documentaries

People for whom climate change is already reality do not give up without a fight. They become active and that also changes themselves. Suddenly there is hope, new paths open up. We show how they help themselves and which solution approach they already have. Enemies become friends. Some people might have found solutions that can help their neighbors or even people in far away countries.

Best Practice

Between storms and tropical summer nights: Life on the ocean is tough and new to the crew. Victory and failure are not far apart. We experience eco-friendly traveling on a daily basis. Creativity is the key. We will have to find solutions for the challenges that climate-friendly traveling has for us. The good thing is: What we will find out is also applicable at home and everybody can replicate it. E.g. Saving resources, using less plastic, reduce meat consumption etc.

Motivating Stories

Climate change has many shapes and effects many lives. It changes the lives of the climate sailors as well as the lives of the audience. We will document our own change with the camera and will share it with you. Live becomes an adventure again and we want to wake people up. Every climate sailor will take home lots of experiences and stories, sharing it with his/her friends so that not only our films will inspire people to become active but also all the personal stories that every climate sailor has to tell.



Media Formats

We want to put a face on climate change by doing what we do best: Filming. Our documentaries, portraits and making of videos fit the viewing habits of young people and we will take the viewer with us on our journey. As curious and emphatic film makers we will embrace the lives of our protagonists.

Format 1: Short-Documentary (ca. 25min)

In these monthly short documentaries we always portrait one protagonist who has been already affected by climate change. How is his/her life? What problems and dangers is he/she confronted with? What are the consequences of climate change for him/her? Which solution approaches has he/she for her own situation? We will show his/her personal journey and put his/her problems and solutions with the help of local scientists into a global perspective.

Format 2: Talk Show - „We are all in the same boat“ (ca. 25min)

In this monthly format we moderate a dialogue between e.g. a climate activist and a local politician on our boat. The aim is a prolific conversation between two opposite sides on neutral grounds that is productive and informative for the audience. The dialogue is induced by a task that both guests need to accomplish together e.g. cooking, fishing, sailing etc.

Media Formats

Format 3: Making Of (ca. 5-10min)

This weekly format portraits our work and our daily life on the boat. Which challenges did the crew meet? Which successes could we celebrate? This format is focusing mostly on social media and takes the audience onboard, sharing our daily boating life with them.

Format 4: How-to Video (ca. 5min)

In this weekly format a crew member takes the audience into his/her daily life. Besides usual chores like "Learning knots with Lisa", funny topics like "How to use the bathroom in a 3m swell with Daniel" and "Tricks to survive seasickness with Anna" we mostly focus on topics that the audience can replicate at home. E.g. "Vegan cuisine with Tim", "How to use less plastic with Chris" or "How to eat sustainable and eco-friendly with Jenny". Besides being entertaining these videos need to have an educational value for the viewer, encouraging him/her to become active in his/her own life.

Format 5: Daily Social Media Posts about the life onboard

These daily posts include pictures, videos and short stories about our daily life and the actual status of the projects. They need to entertain and inform our followers. Introducing the next documentary or talk show episode. Through social media we can expand our range, get in touch with the audience as well as new protagonists and team members.





Christian Slezak

Christian is a german multidisciplinary filmmaker based in Berlin. From a young age he started with filming and photography and quickly made his way into the professional world of filmmaking. After his A-level and his apprenticeship as fitter and turner he worked as a volunteer with disabled people in New Zealand before travelling to Australia, Asia and many more places for several years. Back in Germany he did his Bachelor of Arts in film and tv directing in Berlin while immersing into the german film scene at full speed. He incorporated many roles on and off set, including Producer, Director, Cameraman, Production Manager, Gaffer, Editor etc. and recently expanded his horizons into the business world as Technical Manager in the Video On Demand business. After several years of work in various fields he is now searching for more meaningful assignments.

Christian has the following licenses:
SBF, Paddi Open Water, First Responder

Alexander M. Schmitt-Geiger

Alexander gathered his first sailing experience with his yawl on the Starnberger See, a lake in southern Germany when he was 20 years old. After his law and political science studies, many years as manager of a communication agency and university lecturer he felt the urge to sail again, but this time around the world. After multiple voyages through the northern and eastern ocean, to the canary islands and through the atlantic he became an expert in all disciplines on board a sailing vessel. His biggest adventure was an atlantic crossing from Sint Maarten to the Azores and La Coruna through the Bay of Biscay to Cameret sur Mer and through the English Channel to Brighton. But he is planning even bigger sailing adventures in the future.

Alexander has the following boating licenses:
SBF, SKS, SRC, UBI, FKN





Support Us

This project is only possible in a group effort. We do not only need financial support but rather people we can work with on a long term basis. We need partners we can trust and who live the same values as we do. Are you a company or organization that wants to strive against climate change with us? Are you producing sustainable and eco-friendly products that you would share with us? Great! That is exactly what we need! As compensation you will not just receive our eternal thankfulness but media attention, your logo on our boat and much more. Let's talk about it!

We are looking for:

- Patrons
- A NGO that incorporates this project
- Sponsors

Christian Slezak
Waldstraße 48
13156 Berlin
Tel: +49 (0)151 15 44 77 65
Email: mail@climate-sailor.com
Web: www.climate-sailor.com

Alexander Schmitt-Geiger
Schwandorferstr. 3
81549 München
Tel: +49 (0)89 51 39 96 00
Email: mail@climate-sailor.com
Web: www.climate-sailor.com