



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Xpedition Project?

The Xpedition is a GLOBE Africa sponsored, GLOBE Seasons and Biomes endeavor, to contribute scientific measurements to compare with previous research on the effects of climate change on Mt. Kilimanjaro. The Xpedition Team, made up of GLOBE Students, Educators and Scientists will travel to Tanzania, Africa to climb the largest freestanding mountain in the world to gather environmental data within the distinct biomes of Mt. Kilimanjaro. The Xpedition Team will share those results and their eyewitness account of the journey with followers around the world online at www.xpeditiononline.com.

2. When is the Xpedition?

The Xpedition starts on **23 September, 2012** and will conclude on **1 October, 2012**. Questions will be accepted prior to the start of the Xpedition and posts from Team Members will continue for several days after 1 October, concluding with the Xpedition 2012 Revisited, approximately one week after the climb. A detailed Itinerary of the Xpedition can be found at <http://xpeditiononline.com/itinerary2012.html>

3. Who is sponsoring the Xpedition?

The Xpedition is a GLOBE Africa and Seasons & Biomes ESSP project. All equipment and web content was provided by either GLOBE Africa or the Seasons & Biomes ESSP Project.

4. Will a scientist be involved with the Xpedition?

Dr. Kenji Yoshikawa of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, one of the world's leading authorities on permafrost research and Dr. Kenji Narita a botanist from the University of Akira, Japan will both be collecting data and working directly with the GLOBE students on the mountain as well as answering questions from students following online.

5. **How can my school sign up for the Xpedition?**

Schools can sign up to receive email updates from the mountain at info@xpeditiononline.com All Additional information can be found on the Xpedition web site at www.xpeditiononline.com

6. **How can my students participate in the Xpedition?**

Classrooms around the world are encouraged to participate by contributing descriptive biomes of their local environments and posting them on the Xpedition web site and interacting with the Xpedition Team of GLOBE Students and Scientist on the mountain. Students are also encouraged to collect data of their local environment using GLOBE Protocols. That data can be added to your biome description but should also be entered in the GLOBE database. Questions & Biome descriptions should be sent to questions@xpeditiononline.com

7. **How will students benefit from participating in the Xpedition?**

Students will learn more about their local environment and its relationship to other biomes, by collaborating with Earth systems scientists and other schools as they conduct their own investigations. Students will be introduced to the study of climate in an interactive environment that promises to fundamentally more engaging than classroom study alone.

8. **How will student collected data be used by researchers?**

Student collected data on the mountain will be used to validate permafrost studies by Dr. Kenji Yoshikawa of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. GLOBE data collected by schools following the Xpedition will be added to the GLOBE database to assist with student centered regional climate change research.

9. **Will my biome be posted on the Xpedition web site?**

All biomes that are sent to info@xpeditiononline.com will be posted on the Xpedition web site. To assure that your biome is posted during the climb, starting September 23rd, it is recommended that you send in your biome as soon as possible.

10. **What is a biome?**

A biome is a large geographic area of distinctive plant and animal groups that are adapted specifically for a particular environment. Biome type is determined by the climate and geography of a region. Please email biomes to info@xpeditiononline.com

11. Which GLOBE Protocols will be used on the mountain?

The following GLOBE Protocols will be used each day on the mountain by GLOBE students and the data collected will be displayed on the Google Earth feature of the Xpedition Web Site. Students following the Xpedition online are encouraged to use the same GLOBE Protocols to collect local data to contribute to the GLOBE Database.

- Soil Temperature Protocol
- Water Temperature Protocol
- pH Protocol
- Cloud Protocol
- Modified Air Temperature Protocol
- Modified Relative Humidity Protocol

Both the Air Temperature & Relative Humidity Protocol's are modified due to the absence of a certified GLOBE Weather Station at each collection point on the mountain.

12. Will my question be answered from the mountain?

The Xpedition Team will answer as many questions as possible from the mountain.

Questions that are not answered during the climb will be addressed in Kilimanjaro 2012 Revisited, to be posted approximately one week after the completion of the climb. Email all questions to questions@xpeditiononline.com

13. How do I join the 2012 Xpedition as a Team Member on the mountain?

Anyone interested in joining the 2012 Xpedition Team on Mt. Kilimanjaro should email info@xpeditiononline.com Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro requires a great deal of preparation and spots for the 2012 Xpedition Team are filling up quick, don't hesitate.

14. Why Mt. Kilimanjaro?

Mt. Kilimanjaro, located near the equator in Tanzania, Africa, is a World Natural Heritage Site. One of the World's 7 Summits, the highest mountains on each of the 7 continents, Kilimanjaro is the highest peak in Africa at 5,895 meters. Although it is not the tallest mountain on Earth, Kilimanjaro is the tallest free-standing mountain in the world, rising 4,602 meters from its base. The glaciers of Kilimanjaro are quickly disintegrating under the equatorial African sun. Snowfall during the rainy season isn't keeping pace with the melting that occurs during the dry season, and this lack of replenishment is taking its toll.

15. How is this year's Xpedition different than last year's trek?

Students taking part in the collection of data on the mountain will be continuing the research began by the 2009 Xpedition Team. Students will compare their findings to historical data and new data loggers will be positioned on the mountain to be collected by future GLOBE students. New web features including a Google Earth guided tour and GLOBE Protocol Videos will also be included on the daily journal pages.