

BigMamma - Plant for the Planet kids reach the Kilimanjaro summit

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Tanzania – The German Felix Finkbeiner, the founder of the Plant for the Planet initiative, has together with his sisters Franziska and Flurina climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to draw attention to the consequences of climate change: the dwindling glaciers on the 'Roof of Africa'. Together with professional guides they took the six-day tour together and reached the 6,000-meter peaks Kibo. "We are very proud and happy to have made the ascent of Kilimanjaro. That there is so little glacial ice left here should wake us all. That is precisely why we have made this climb, we want to draw attention to the climate crisis and the urgent need to act now," said Felix Finkbeiner. His sister Franziska writes in her blog: "Many adults told us we could never do it. An 11 year old girl on top of Kilimanjaro – never! We also won in a fight against ourselves! Every step you take, a voice tells you: Turn around! At a lower altitude the headache will vanish. Stop torturing yourself! But we followed through with our goal and put our Plant-for-the-Planet flag on top of the summit. This flag demonstrates to all children that we can do anything!"

The local guide showed the children the dry river beds and described the dramatic consequences of the massive decline of the glacier: not only water shortages for agriculture is the result, but also drinking water shortages for humans and animals. In conversation with the locals, the children developed hence the word game 'Kilima-jangwa' instead of 'Kilima-njaro' – i.e. 'mountain desert' instead of 'mountain of the sources of the rivers' which is the actual name of the mountain in Kiswahili, the national language of Tanzania.

