

# Cycling the world for the environment

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## MORE THAN 12 300KM COMPLETED IN 17 MONTHS

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Two German organic farmers have taken on a world-wide tour on their bicycles to experience organic farming activities in other countries.

The Poppa Falls is known for its rapids in the river which is also one of the tourist attractions in Namibia.

However, when viewing the rapids at the camping site of the Poppa Falls Lodge, an unexpected scenery reveal itself - two people preparing food in front of a small tent, with two bicycles idling near.

After 12 300km and 17 months on the road, Daniel Schewe and Simone Schmitz have reached the Poppa Falls for a one day welcome rest.

“We are organic farmers in Germany and want to travel the world in an environment friendly way which is also cheaper than using fuel. We started with our bicycles on the Dutch border in July 2010 to see for ourselves how farmers in other countries make use of organic methods to contribute to the agricultural sector in their respective countries,” told Schewe Namibian Sun. The two toured Eastern Europe with their bicycles up to Greece where they crossed the Mediterranean Sea with a ferry to Egypt.



ORGANIC ADVENTURERS: Daniel Schewe and Simone Schmitz with their bicycles at the Poppa Falls camping site

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“We are travelling an average of 70 km per day and make sure that one day in a week is a rest day. The bicycles weigh between 25 kg and 50 kg each, mainly water and our luggage,” said Schmitz.

From Egypt, the two travelled through Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania where they had to work on a farm for 2 months to get money to continue with their tour.

“We only have limited funds to travel and rely at times on the goodwill of the people in the respective countries.

He said Simone has fallen ill in Tanzania and they had to travel by train from Dar Es Salaam to Livingstone in Zambia from where they continued their journey on the bicycles.

“The only country where we experienced some problems was in Ethiopia where the children threw stones at us, it was also at the border of that country where we could not ride our bicycles and had to push them through the sandy area.”

The two will be on their way to Windhoek, and the aim is to travel to South Africa from where they will go to South America by ship, ending their journey in Alaska. They will then return home to Germany.