



SUN INTERNATIONAL WELCOMES RIAAN MASER AND PARTNER VASTI AFTER EPIC ADVENTURE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Intrepid South African Adventurer Riaan Manser and his girlfriend Vasti Geldenhys have arrived to cheering crowds in New York and completed their epic adventure which saw the pair rowing across the Atlantic Ocean – a journey of over 9 300 kilometres.

In a highly emotional arrival, Manser, with whom Sun International is currently partnered, and his long-term girlfriend Vasti Geldenhys were greeted by family, friends, the Mayor of NYC, Commissioners of NYC, media and a huge crowd of fans as they rowed past the Statue of Liberty and then make their way to the West 79th Street Boat Basin in Manhattan to dock. The couple has been at sea since 30 December 2013 on a treacherous journey in a 6.9 metre kayak named the Spirit of Madiba.

This latest conquest was the fulfilment of a request of Riaan's long-time partner, Vasti, to take her to see the city of New York. Riaan agreed – but with a catch. A big one! The couple would travel across the width of the Atlantic Ocean, and up the entire coast of the United States in the middle of winter. A treacherous journey of 10 765 kilometres in a specialised rowing boat made for a crossing that put their 14 year relationship to the ultimate test!

“What Riaan and Vasti have achieved together is truly incredible and we are very proud to have been able to support them on their experience. Manser and now Vasti are true South African pioneers. Their tenacity and sheer determination to break boundaries and to complete such a challenging journey makes them a true inspiration and perfect representatives of our brand,” says Alison McKie, Group Marketing Manager at Sun International.

Their journey across the ocean saw the pair capsize completely, lose satellite contact and come close to death many times.

“The experience was incredible and a lot harder than we imagined. But now that we have done it, we hope we have made all our supporters proud of this world first. A big thank you again to Sun International for being our partner through this adventure,” said Riaan on completing this treacherous expedition.

By completing this journey, Vasti Geldenhys became the first woman to paddle across the Atlantic Ocean.



Sun International

Their journey was documented all the way, starting from Morocco past the Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, all the way to Barbados, and then making their way to their final destination, New York City.

Riaan Manser is one of South Africa's pioneering explorers and holds numerous records and achievements. He's cycled the entire parameter of the African continent; circumnavigated Madagascar in a single kayak; and, has circumnavigated Iceland with Dan Skinstad in a double kayak.