Saving Mount Everest 2011-12

Even the Top of Mount Everest is Cleared of Rubbish

To restore the mountain's dignity, Mount Everest shall be cleared of rubbish.

Tibetans call it Chomolungma - Mother Goddess of the Universe, the Nepalese call it Sagarmatha – higher than any bird can fly - and the entire world knows that Mount Everest - as it is known internationally - is the highest mountain on earth. From early on it has kindled man's yearnings and enthralled mountaineers from all over the world.

Since the first ascent in 1953, the stream of tourists grew steadily. The region protected in 1976 as **Sagarmatha National Park** was put on the World Natural Heritage list by UNESCO in 1979 and developed into a prominent tourism destination. The enormous growth in visitors has caused **considerable strain on the natural environment** and produced **mountains of rubbish** – from the base camp up to the death zone. But also in the Sherpa villages and in the lodges along the trekking routes no responsible waste disposal system is in place.

Despite local efforts the National Park region still lacks functioning waste management today. Some expeditions and trekking groups simply throw their rubbish into crevasses. Many locals lack the knowledge of how to avoid waste and its correct disposal, there is no proper control that the existing regulations and laws are being observed. Mountains of garbage threatening nature and health are the result. The development project wants to solve these pressing problems. The **Visit Nepal Year 2011** is an opportunity to draw attention to a form of tourism that protects the environment and meets the criteria of sustainability.

Trash in Camp 2

Oxygen bottles on South Col are waiting to be transported

Saving Mount Everest 2011- 2012 Project

The overall goal of **the project (www.savingmounteverest.org)** is to **conserve and protect biodiversity in the Sagarmatha National Park**. Implementing a solid waste management concept makes a significant contribution towards this goal. The project was originally conceived by Sherpas working in tourism who became aware of their responsibility. The local population in the entire Everest region will be involved as the project follows the participatory approach where the village communities play the major role. It is planned to create structures of self-administration which should guarantee a clean environment in the long run.

The total project costs amount to approx. **600.000 Euros** of which already more than two thirds were raised. Every donation helps and we still require other sponsors and partners in order to implement the project full scale and thus allow us to guarantee the sustainability of our efforts. Please support the project and thus the World Natural Heritage Mount Everest National Park!

EcoHimal will coordinate this unique international large-scale project. We have more than 20 years of working experience in the Everest region, have brought electricity, sewage systems and clean drinking water to the region and have contributed to the cultural development in the National Park by building the Khumbu Mountain Centre. **What really counts** is that the local people trust us and are willing to cooperate!

The main financial supporters are **Swedish Postcode Lottery** and **Hannes Snellman Attorneys Ltd. The government of Nepal**, **the Nepal Mountaineering Association** and the **UNESCO World Heritage Centre** in Paris will also contribute funds. Technical and financial support is provided by the Austrian company **UNTHA** which makes garbage shredders available and will take care of the technical training of local staff. The trash – an estimated 8-10 tons – will be hauled directly off the mountain by the **Everest Summiters Association**, mainly Nepalese high-altitude mountaineers and expedition guides. In addition, we will have the support of the **Institute for Waste Management of Vienna University of Technology** and the **Austrian Alpine Club**. **Sir Chris Bonnington**, **David Breashears** and **Wolfgang Nairz** as well as other famous Everest summiters support the project as goodwill ambassadors.

The project will start in the spring of 2011 with the large-scale clean-up mission of Everest and will finish at the end of 2012 with the implementation of a sustainable waste prevention and recycling concept.

During the **Visit Nepal Year 2011**, the crown juwel of Nepalese tourism will be in the public limelight more than ever. But this time not as the world's „highest dump" but with an exemplary campaign which will restore the mountain's dignity, just like in Tibetan Buddhism the physical integrity of a landscape is associated with life under the protection of the gods.

SVENSKA POSTKOD LOTTERIET

HANNES SNELLMAN

UNESCO

UNTHA shredding technology

TU WIEN

EVEREST SUMMITEERS ASSOCIATION

ECO HIMAL

Spendenkonten:
Hypo Salzburg: BLZ 55000 · Konto Nr. 1.0200.029.349 · IBAN: AT735500010200029349 · BIC: SLHYAT2S
Salzburger Sparkasse: BLZ 20404 · Konto Nr. 01.500.153.569 · IBAN: AT642040415001535 69 · BIC: SBGSAT2S
Öko Himal · Hofhaymerallee 11/17 · 5020 Salzburg · www.ecohimal.org