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Some Thoughts on the Project 'Saving Mount Everest'

We were full of enthusiasm and yearning for the 'Mountain of Mountains' when we marched up to Everest Basecamp in 1978. But what we found soon put a damper on our spirits: The eagerly-awaited famous Everest Basecamp was practically a rubbish dump. It took us and our Sherpa team some days to clean up before it looked the way we had imagined.

From then on, we tried as much as possible to keep the mountain as 'clean' as we expected it to be. Naturally, we were unable to transport everything down ourselves from the high altitude camps in the course of the expedition. But for hard cash and bonuses for our Sherpas they brought back everything that was humanly possible . even from the South Col.

We left Everest the way we had expected to find it - in its full glory. And we hope and wish that we will see it like that also in the future.

I wish the 'SAVING MOUNT EVEREST' campaign lots of success!

Wolfgang Nairz

Everest Summitter 1978
Leader of the Austrian Mount Everest Expedition 1978