



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Tshering Sherpa
Chief Executive Officer



It is my privilege to present the Annual Report of the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) for Fiscal Years 2023/24 and 2024/25. Since its establishment in 1991, SPCC has remained a community-rooted organization dedicated to managing waste and safeguarding the environment of the Everest Region. Over more than three decades, SPCC has grown into a trusted local institution, working closely with government agencies, local communities, and national and international partners.

During the reporting period, SPCC strengthened its integrated waste management efforts across high-altitude peaks, trekking trails, and settlements. From enforcing permit-based garbage declaration and clearance systems on Mt. Everest and other peaks, to managing waste along iconic trekking routes and in villages such as Namche and Lukla, our work continues to address the environmental pressures created by increasing tourism. Innovative initiatives—including drone-assisted cleanups, circular recycling partnerships, and the Carry Me

Back campaign—demonstrate that effective solutions are possible even in the world's most challenging terrain.

Ensuring safety in the high mountains remains a core responsibility of SPCC. Since 1997, we have been entrusted with constructing and maintaining the Khumbu Icefall route on Mt. Everest. The dedication of our Icefall Doctors has been central to safeguarding climbers and maintaining international confidence in Everest expeditions.

The catastrophic Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in Thame in August 2024 marked a turning point for SPCC. In response, we expanded our mandate to address climate-induced disasters through research, early warning systems, and community-based preparedness. The establishment of the Jomolongma Research and Knowledge Hub, the launch of the Himalayan Climate Charter, and partnerships with academic and scientific institutions reflect our commitment to building climate resilience in the Khumbu Valley.

These achievements would not be possible without support of our Executive Board, Advisors, staff, the active participation of local communities, and the continued support of our partners and donors. I extend my sincere gratitude to all who support SPCC's mission and invite you to continue this shared journey toward a cleaner, safer, and more resilient Khumbu Region.

EXECUTIVE BOARD



Lama Kazi Sherpa
Chairperson



Dawa Gyaljen Sherpa
Vice-Chairperson



Pemba Tshering Sherpa
General Secretary



Nima Doma Sherpa
Treasurer



Chheten Doma Sherpa
Member



Tenzing Dorjee Sherpa
Member



Nanga Dorjee Sherpa
Member



Sonam Dorjee Sherpa
Member



Fulopsang Sherpa
Member



Nga Temba Sherpa
Member



Ang Maya Sherpa
Member

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Human Resources



23

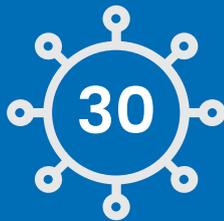
Permanent Staff

45

Seasonal Staff



Local Partnerships



Local Partner Groups

Ward 1: 4

Ward 2: 2

Ward 3: 9

Ward 4: 9

Ward 5: 6

(Youth, Women & Garbage Management Groups)



Waste Management Infrastructure



125

Garbage Bins along trekking trails



4

Environmental Stations (ES)



4

Public Toilets along trails



2

Waste Management Facilities (Namche & Lukla)

Garbage Collection Services



Namche

121

Lodges - Cafés - Shops

Lukla

98

Lodges - Cafés - Shops



Garbage Collected & Managed

FY 2023/24



Expedition Waste:
>100,000 kg

Trails & Settlements Waste:
>225,000 kg

FY 2024/25



Expedition Waste:
>110,000 kg

Trails & Settlements Waste:
>270,000 kg



Carry Me Back (CMB) Campaign

FY 2023/24



Volunteers:
7,060

Garbage Transported:
9,107 kg

FY 2024/25



Volunteers:
10,224

Garbage Transported:
14,128 kg

Garbage Transported to Kathmandu (Recycling)



14,620 kg
airlifted from Lukla
(Sita Air & Tara Air)



3,650 kg
by helicopter
(Syangboche-Phaplu)
+ truck



6,116 kg
by porters/zopkyoks/mules
(Surkey) + truck

Drone Technology in High Mountains



- Drones used on **Mt. Everest & Mt. Ama Dablam**
- Transported **ladders, ropes & supplies** upward
- Safely brought **garbage down** from higher camps
- Reduced **risk, time, and environmental impact**



Awareness & Community Outreach

Programs in 10 schools & 2 monasteries
> 1,000+ students reached

Paper briquette training in
2 schools

Awareness & cleanup campaigns in
20+ settlements > 600+ people reached



Major Cleanup Campaigns

403 kg



Drone Assisted Cleanup on Mt. Ama Dablam:
403 kg waste removed from
Camp 1 & 2 to Base Camp

75 kg



Kyazo Ri Cleanup:
75 kg waste removed from
Kyazo Ri (key drinking water source)

3,125 kg



Renzo La Pass Cleanup:
3,125 kg waste collected, including
post-GLOF debris cleanup at Thame



I. Background and Context

Since the historic ascent of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa in 1953, the Khumbu Region has become a renowned tourist destination, attracting thousands of mountaineers and trekkers each year. By the late 1980s, the region faced significant challenges related to waste management, leading the late Venerable Ngawang Tenzing Jangpo (Tengboche Rinpoche) to mobilize local communities. This collective effort resulted

in the establishment of the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) in 1991, with initial financial support from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA) and WWF Nepal. SPCC is formally registered with the District Administration Office in Solukhumbu and the Social Welfare Council.

SPCC plays a pivotal role in managing waste across the Khumbu Region, including Sagarmatha National Park and its Buffer Zone. Its core activities include waste segregation, public education, and the promotion of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. Since 1997, SPCC has also managed the Khumbu Icefall climbing route, monitored illegal climbing activities, verified permits, and implemented waste management strategies at base camps in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA) and Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA).

Working closely with local communities, SPCC oversees waste management in settlements and trekking trails through infrastructure development, garbage

collection, transportation, segregation, and disposal. SPCC's waste management activities align with the Environment Pollution Control and Sustainable Waste Management Plan 2023 of the Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality (KPLRM), covering all five wards of the municipality. The organization is headquartered in Namche Bazaar and employs 23 permanent staff along with over 45 seasonal staff to implement its programs.

The rapid growth in tourism and mountaineering, coupled with remote and challenging terrain, has made waste management a complex logistical challenge. SPCC's multifaceted approach—including infrastructure development, social mobilization, education programs, and partnerships with local groups—has been instrumental in addressing these challenges. In addition to its long-standing work in waste management, SPCC has recently expanded its working areas to address climate-induced disasters. The catastrophic Ngole Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) that washed out in Thame village on August 16th, 2024, caused significant damage to the local community and the broader Khumbu Valley, highlighting the urgent need for climate resilience and disaster preparedness.

In response, SPCC formed an advisory committee consisting of experts, scientists, academicians, and researchers from Khumbu; SPCC extended partnership with the University of British Columbia and set up the Jomolongma Research and Knowledge Hub in Thamo. The organization also launched the Himalayan Climate Charter (HCC) in collaboration with KPLRM, NMA, and Black Yak, and initiated an Early Warning System (EWS) project funded by the American Himalayan Foundation, in consultation with the local community of Thame. These initiatives aim to strengthen research, monitoring, and preparedness for climate-related disasters, building resilience for vulnerable communities in the Khumbu Region.

Through over three decades of dedicated work, SPCC has established itself as a trusted, locally-rooted environmental organization, combining local knowledge, community engagement, and scientific research to safeguard the Khumbu Region's natural and cultural heritage. Its commitment to sustainable development forms the foundation for the initiatives and achievements detailed in this annual report for FY 2023/24 and FY 2024/25



II. Integrated Waste Management in the Everest Region



1. HIGH ALTITUDES: *Cleaning the World's Highest Peaks*

Khumbu Region is home to some of the magnificent and tall mountains on earth including Mt. Everest, the highest peak in the world. Some of the popular mountains for climbing in the Region include Mt. Everest, Mt. Lhotse, Mt. Nuptse, Mt. Amadablam, Mt. Pumori, Mt. Thamserku etc. Climbers need to acquire permits from the Department of Tourism (DoT) under the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA) to climb these mountains. Each year, hundreds of climbers come to Khumbu Region to climb these mountains.

Similarly, many popular peaks regulated by the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) are located in the Khumbu Region, such as the Island Peak, Lobuje Peak, Kyazo Ri, Pharchamo etc. Climbers need to acquire a permit from NMA to climb these peaks.

For many years, SPCC has been working with the Department of Tourism (DoT) and Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) for managing garbage at the base camp of mountains and peaks.

Permit registration, garbage declaration and clearance system:

The Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) is the authorized local organization under the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA) and Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) to monitor waste in permit-required mountains of the Everest Region.

Through our permit registration, garbage declaration, and clearance system, all expedition groups must:

- Register their climbing permits online through SPCC website - www.spcc.org.np
- Submit all garbage at the end of their expeditions to our offices at Namche or Lukla, or to SPCC representatives stationed at Everest Base Camp (EBC), Island Peak Base Camp, Lobuche Peak Base Camp, or Ama Dablam Base Camp.

SPCC then issues garbage clearance certificates, which are mandatory for climbers to reclaim their refundable deposits from the Department of Tourism (DoT) or NMA.

Table 1: Expedition Waste Collected and Managed by SPCC in FY 2080/81 (Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024)

| Waste Categories | Everest/Lhotse/Nuptse | Other Mountains | NMA Peaks | Total |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Kitchen Waste (kgs) | 14,150.00 | 779.00 | 1,258.00 | 16,187.00 |
| Can/Tin/Glasses (kgs) | 7,518.00 | 1,308.50 | 387.88 | 9,214.38 |
| Mixed Waste (kgs) | 27,990.00 | 7,261.00 | 3,561.35 | 38,812.35 |
| Human Waste (kgs) | 27,533.00 | 5,260.00 | 3,337.00 | 36,130.00 |

Table 2: Expedition Waste Collected and Managed by SPCC in FY 2081/82 (Autumn 2024 and Spring 2025)

| Waste Categories | Everest/Lhotse/Nuptse | Other Mountains | NMA Peaks | Total |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Kitchen Waste (kgs) | 17,861.00 | 897.00 | 807.00 | 19,565.00 |
| Can/Tin/Glasses (kgs) | 8,374.00 | 907.50 | 507.00 | 9,788.50 |
| Mixed Waste (kgs) | 25,056.00 | 4,794.00 | 4,013.00 | 33,863.00 |
| Human Waste (kgs) | 31,797.00 | 4,074.00 | 4,360.00 | 40,231.00 |
| Poop bags (pcs.) | 1,333.00 | 290.00 | | 1,623.00 |
| Batteries (pcs.) | 1,802.00 | 139.00 | 8.00 | 1,949.00 |
| EPI Gas (pcs.) | 788.00 | 428.00 | 59.00 | 1,275.00 |



All collected waste is managed through SPCC's established disposal system. Human and kitchen waste are taken to the safe disposal site near Gorakshep, while general waste is transported to the SPCC facility in Namche for sorting and treatment. Recyclable materials are sent to Kathmandu through authorized partners. These coordinated efforts reflect SPCC's commitment to keeping the Everest region clean and environmentally safe.

Enforcement of Waste Regulations for Mt. Everest and Mt. Ama Dablam

SPCC implements and monitors key waste regulations on Mt. Everest and Mt. Ama Dablam. Since 2015, climbers ascending above Everest Base Camp are required to bring back 8 kg of waste, with SPCC verifying compliance at the Khumbu Icefall checkpoint. On Mt. Ama Dablam, climbers must bring back 3 kg of waste from higher camps.

From 2024, the Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality has mandated the use of poop bags on both peaks. SPCC actively monitors adherence to this rule to ensure proper garbage and human waste management on these popular peaks of Khumbu.

Project Care – Waste Transportation Initiative

In 2025, SPCC partnered with Round Table Nepal (RTN) under the Project Care – Waste Transportation Initiative to collect, segregate, and transport recyclable waste from Everest

Base Camp to Kathmandu for recycling. The operation involved field staff and local porters carrying waste from EBC to Gorakshep, sorting and repacking it, transporting it via zopkyok (hybrid yaks) and mules to Surkey, and finally delivering it by truck to the recycling partner Khaalisiin in Kathmandu.

Under this project, SPCC successfully collected, sorted, and transported 6,116 kg of waste for recycling. RTN supported all logistics from EBC to Surkey, while Khaalisiin handled transportation from Surkey to Kathmandu.

With Love, From Everest – A Joint Initiative for Waste Circularity and Innovation

SPCC and Khaalisiin have also launched a new initiative, "With Love, From Everest", which transforms waste from the world's highest peaks into high-value, upcycled products. This pioneering project also empowers women entrepreneurs in Nepal's waste sector, promoting both sustainability and local economic development.

Kyazo Ri Cleanup Campaign

SPCC responded to a community report from a local resident regarding increasing waste accumulation in the Kyazo Ri area. A seven-member cleanup team, led by Kami Rita Sherpa, was deployed and conducted a three-day cleanup in Spring 2024. The team successfully collected 75 kg of waste, which was transported to the Namche Waste Management Facility for proper processing.

To safeguard the area moving forward, SPCC is working to establish a regular monitoring and cleanup system for Kyazo Ri and its surrounding trails, ensuring long-term environmental stewardship and community engagement in waste management.

Ama Dablam High-Altitude Cleanup Project: Leveraging Drone Technology for Sustainable Mountain Conservation

The Ama Dablam Cleanup Project successfully utilized drone technology to tackle waste management challenges on Mount Ama Dablam in Autumn 2024. This initiative was a collaborative effort between the Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality, the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC), and Airlift Technology.

A total of 23 drone flights transported 403 kg of waste from Camp 1 and Camp 2 to Base Camp and delivered 115 kg of supplies from Base Camp to the upper camps. Each flight lasted an average of 10-13 minutes, with a cumulative flight time of 4 hours and 34 minutes. These operations were conducted with minimal disruption to helicopter



activities, and the use of automated flight paths significantly enhanced efficiency and optimized battery usage.

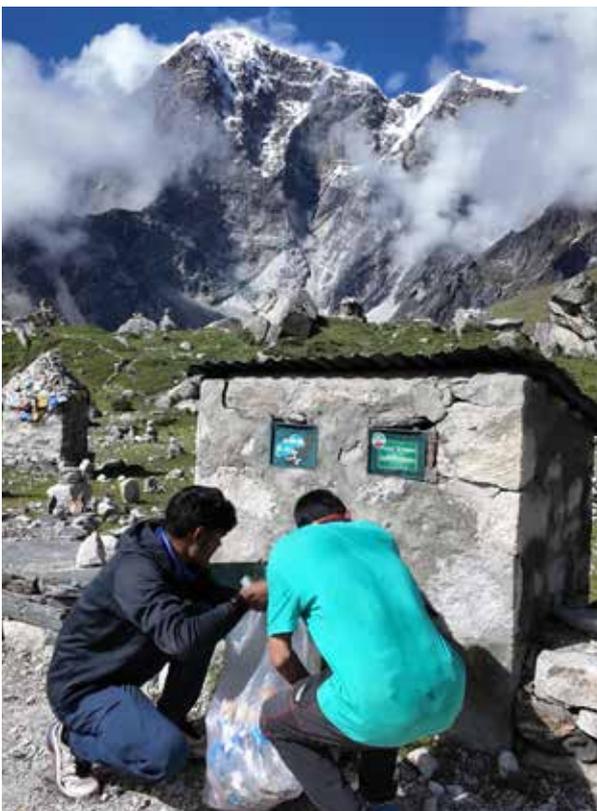
The project demonstrated the effectiveness of drone technology in reducing both operational time and physical strain on mountaineers. Furthermore, by using drones instead of traditional transport methods, the project minimized the risks to human life and made a notable contribution to reducing carbon emissions, offering a more sustainable solution to waste management in high-altitude environments.

2.ON THE PATH: Protecting the World's Most Famous Trails

The Khumbu Region—globally known as the Everest Region—is one of the world's most iconic trekking destinations, attracting thousands of visitors each year. Since the first ascent of Mt. Everest in 1953, tourism has grown dramatically, rising from about 1,400 trekkers in 1972/73 to over 53,000 in 2023. While this growth has strengthened the local economy, it has also increased environmental pressure, particularly in the form of litter along trekking trails. Waste commonly found along the routes includes wrappers, PET bottles, and cans.

Construction and Management of Garbage Bins Along Trekking Trails

To address this challenge, SPCC manages waste along all major trekking trails across the Khumbu, including routes through settlements, high passes, and base camps. Since 2013, SPCC has been installing permanent waste segregation bins along the trails to create a more efficient and systematic waste collection system. Each bin includes separate chambers for different waste types, enabling proper treatment and disposal.



In 2025, SPCC installed 10 new garbage bins at key resting points along the Everest trails with support from the Tenzing Norgay Sherpa Foundation (TNSF) and the Bally Peak Outlook Foundation. With these additions, SPCC now manages 125 garbage bins across all major trekking routes. SPCC also operates a permanent field office in Toktok and seasonal field offices in Machermo and Dingboche, enabling effective monitoring of waste along the trails.

SPCC's field staff and local partners conduct regular inspections, manage all trail-side bins, and collect litter to maintain trail cleanliness. In FY 2024/25, a total of 14,225 kg of waste was collected and managed along the trekking trails. These ongoing efforts have helped ensure that the Everest Region remains one of Nepal's cleanest and best-managed trekking destinations.



Renjo La Pass Cleanup Campaign

Under the theme “Let’s Keep Khumbu Clean,” SPCC organized the Renjo La Pass Cleanup Campaign from November 14 to 21, 2024, with generous support from the Bally Peak Outlook Foundation and the Tenzing Norgay Sherpa Foundation. The campaign was officially inaugurated in Namche by Mr. Jamling Tenzing Norgay, Secretary of the Tenzing Norgay Sherpa Foundation, together with SPCC Chairperson Mr. Lama Kazi Sherpa. The initiative focused on cleaning trekking routes from Namche to Renjo La Pass and surrounding areas, including GLOF-affected zones in Thame.

Over eight days, more than 100 volunteers—including representatives from local government, the Women’s Group, Nepal Police, and Nepal Army—actively participated in the campaign. A total of 3,125 kg of waste was collected, comprising 1,948 kg of burnable waste, 1,127 kg of tins and cans, and 50 kg of glass. Cleanup activities included key sections such as Namche to Thame, the high passes, Gokyo Lake, and villages impacted by the August 2024 GLOF. SPCC managed burnable waste within Khumbu and transported recyclable materials to Kathmandu for proper recycling.

The campaign significantly enhanced environmental quality along major trekking routes, reinforcing the cleanliness and sustainability of the region while supporting post-GLOF recovery in Thame through debris removal and trail rehabilitation. The high level of community involvement also strengthened local ownership of environmental protection and highlighted the collective commitment to preserving the pristine beauty of the Khumbu region.

Over eight days, more than 100 volunteers—including representatives from local government, the Women’s Group, Nepal Police, and Nepal Army—actively participated in the campaign.



3. IN THE VILLAGES: Empowering Local Communities

As tourism becomes the main livelihood strategy of the people of Khumbu region, tourism related business enterprises such as lodges, restaurants, bakeries, tea shops and shops are established almost in every settlement. These enterprises produce tons of garbage including tins, cans, packages, PET bottles, papers and kitchen wastes in tourist season.

Recognizing that sustainable waste management must be rooted in the community, the SPCC partners with local residents to manage waste generated by lodges, restaurants, and households. The organization works directly with 30 community partners, including Garbage Management Groups (GMGs), youth groups, and women’s groups across the region.

Our key community programs include:

Door-to-Door Garbage Collection and Management at Namche and Lukla

SPCC provides door-to-door waste collection services in Namche and Lukla, the two major settlements of the Khumbu region. Field staff collect garbage from all households, businesses, and institutions and transport it to SPCC’s waste management facilities for proper treatment and disposal. Currently, these services cover 121 lodges, restaurants, cafés, and shops in Namche and 92 business enterprises in Lukla, ensuring systematic waste collection and management and contributing to the cleanliness of these key settlements.

Table 3: Garbage collected and managed by SPCC at Namche, Lukla and Tok Tok

| Fiscal Year | Mixed Waste (kg) | Can (kg) | Tin (kg) | PET/ Plastic Bottle (kg) | Glass (kg) | Total |
|-------------|------------------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| 2080/81 | 196,384.09 | 6,936.91 | 5,749.57 | 7,578.16 | 8,426.47 | 225,075.20 |
| 2081/82 | 218,885.84 | 10,682.87 | 9,002.20 | 20,623.30 | 12,259.98 | 271,454.19 |



Partnership with Community Partners in Various Settlements

To strengthen community participation in waste management, SPCC has established Garbage Management Groups (GMGs) in multiple settlements and clearly defined their responsibilities. In addition, SPCC collaborates with existing local organizations, including youth and women's groups, to enhance waste management practices. These partnerships have significantly improved waste collection and management across settlements and trekking trails.

Currently, SPCC works with 30 community partners across its working areas. Local partners organize regular cleanup programs in their villages and coordinate directly with SPCC to address garbage management challenges. SPCC provides both financial and technical support to these partners to ensure effective waste management in their respective settlements.

Community Partner Distribution in five wards of Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality

- Ward No. 1: 4 partners
- Ward No. 2: 2 partners
- Ward No. 3: 9 partners
- Ward No. 4: 9 partners
- Ward No. 5: 6 partners



Construction of Environmental Stations (ES)

In many Khumbu households, kitchen waste is traditionally reused as animal feed. However, other household and commercial waste—such as paper, glass, cans, tins, and plastics—is often mixed together and disposed of in open dumping pits. This practice poses increasing threats to the fragile mountain environment, human health, and the regional tourism industry. To address this, SPCC has initiated the establishment of Environmental Stations (ES) in key settlements to promote sustainable waste management. These stations enable proper segregation, collection, and storage of recyclable materials, including PET bottles, tins, cans, and glass, aligning with the Environmental Pollution Control and Sustainable Waste Management Plan (2023) of the Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality (KPLRM).

In FY 2024/25, three Environmental Stations were constructed as part of this initiative. The first ES, completed in Khumjung, features multiple compartments for effective waste sorting and storage, supporting recycling practices in local settlements. This project was jointly funded by the Khumbiyulha Buffer Zone User Committee and SPCC. The second ES in Khumjung was funded by Zurich Insurance Company Middle East through the Himalayan Museum and Sustainable Park (HMSP)/Sagarmatha Next, while the third ES in Thame was built with joint funding from the Namche Buffer Zone User Committee, Sagarmatha National Park and SPCC.

Each Environmental Station is strategically located in consultation with local communities to ensure accessibility for households. The stations are roofed and fenced to prevent rainwater contamination and protect recyclables from animals and wind. Upon completion, SPCC conducted community awareness campaigns on proper usage and handed over management responsibilities to community partners, while continuing to provide technical and management support. These Environmental Stations are designed to replace open dumping pits, enabling first-level waste segregation and promoting sustainable waste practices in the Everest region.



Outreach and Education Programs

To promote long-term sustainable waste management, SPCC has placed strong emphasis on outreach and education in the last two fiscal years. Social mobilizers have been hired and have completed data collection across all five wards of the Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality (KPLRM). They actively raised awareness through community programs, cleanup campaigns, and regular waste management education in schools and monasteries throughout the Khumbu region. In addition, social mobilizers are supporting the formation of local waste management groups and collaborating with communities to develop policies that reinforce SPCC's initiatives, fostering greater community participation and ownership in environmental stewardship.

Engagement, Awareness, and Action: SPCC's Event Highlights

SPCC actively led and supported key environmental events throughout the year, engaging students, local communities, and partner organizations in hands-on conservation efforts. Key activities included inter-school events for National Children's Day, a tri-day World Cleanup Day campaign with over 150 volunteers, and the celebration of International Women's Day honoring grassroots environmental leadership. These coordinated efforts strengthened local capacity, fostered a culture of environmental responsibility, and reinforced SPCC's role as a driving force for sustainable, community-led action in Khumbu.



The Carry Me Back (CMB) campaign is a crowdsourced waste transport initiative jointly implemented by the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) and Sagarmatha Next, in collaboration with Sagarmatha National Park, the Buffer Zone Management Committee, Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality, Tara Air, Sita Air, and Blue Waste to Value. The initiative mobilizes trekkers and guides to voluntarily carry small bags of semi-processed recyclable waste—such as PET bottles, cans, and tins—from upper settlements to Lukla. From Lukla, these materials are transported to Kathmandu for recycling. Operational management of the campaign on the ground is led by SPCC with financial support from Kiehl's and Bally Peak Outlook Foundation through Himalayan Museum and Sustainable Park/Sagarmatha Next.

Initially launched in Autumn 2019 and restarted in Spring 2022 following the COVID-19 pandemic, the CMB campaign has become one of the Khumbu region's flagship community-driven environmental programs. In FY 2023/24, the campaign expanded with the establishment of an additional pickup station in Pangboche. At present, the initiative operates two pickup stations—located in Pangboche and Namche—and one drop-off station at the entrance gate of Lukla. During both the Spring and Autumn trekking seasons, SPCC deployed eight seasonal staff responsible for volunteer engagement, data management, waste sorting, semi-processing, and packaging.

Volunteers participating in the campaign collect one or more bags of sorted recyclables from designated pickup stations and drop them off at the Lukla drop-off point. This simple yet impactful action enables visitors to contribute directly to sustainable waste management in the Everest region.





Campaign Participation and Impact

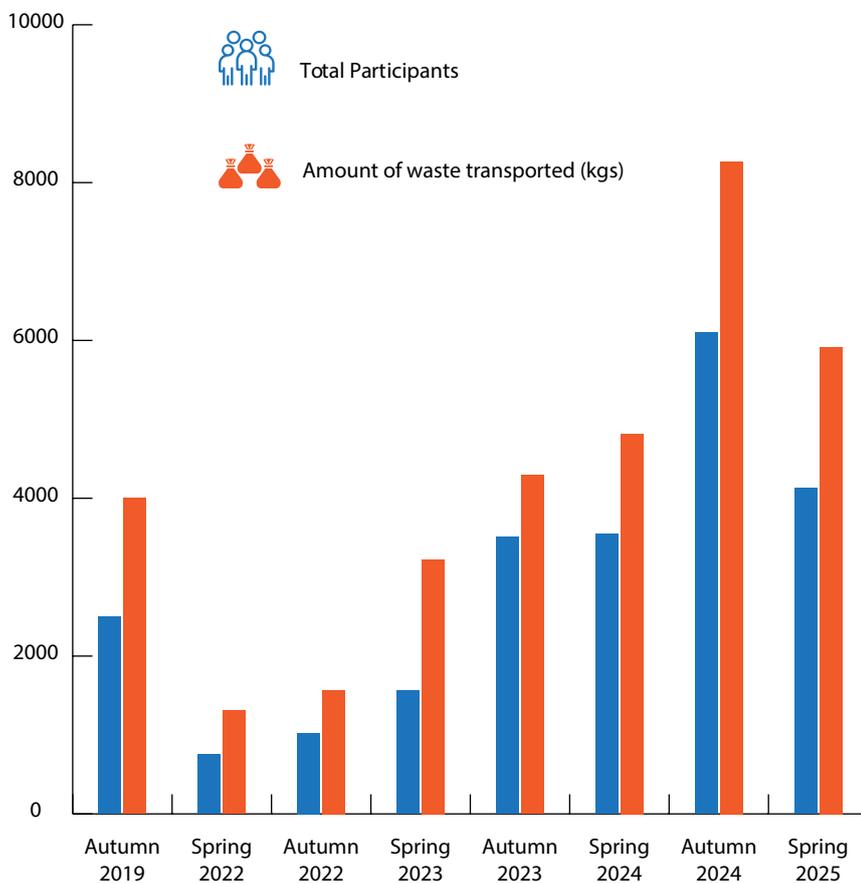
- FY 2023/24: 7,060 volunteers transported 9,107 kg of recyclables
- FY 2024/25: 10,224 volunteers transported 14,128 kg of recyclables

To date, a cumulative total of 23,128 trekkers and

guides have taken part in the CMB campaign, collectively transporting 33,396 kg of recyclable materials from Namche and Pangboche to Lukla, and onward to Kathmandu for recycling. The campaign has also generated meaningful employment opportunities for both local residents and migrant workers in the area.

Recyclables collected at Lukla are airlifted to Kathmandu by airline partners Tara Air and Sita Air and subsequently handed over to Blue Waste to Value for recycling. Due to recent diversions of flights to Ramechhap, a portion of the recyclables has also been transported by road via Surkey to ensure uninterrupted operation of the recycling chain and maintain circular waste management practices.

As a gesture of appreciation, all participating volunteers receive a souvenir coin produced by Moware, crafted from recycled PET bottle caps.



Sustainable Waste Management and Climate Resilience in Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality (KPLRM)

The six-month project, funded by UNDP Nepal and co-financed by KPLRM, was implemented by SPCC to promote environmental education, climate-resilient agriculture, and sustainable waste management across the Khumbu region.

Key Achievements:

- **Eco Clubs:** Eight Eco Clubs were established, fostering environmental awareness and leadership among students.
- **School Gardens:** Climate-resilient gardens were developed in Chaurikharka and Kharikhola School, providing hands-on training in greenhouse farming, composting, and high-altitude crops to 80 students and teachers.
- **Environmental Station:** A new Environmental Station at Shree Mahendra Jyoti Higher Secondary School supports systematic waste segregation, collection, and storage for 343 students and teachers, facilitating recycling practices.



- **Paper Briquette Training:** Two schools received equipment and training, enabling 32 students to produce over 100 briquettes, promoting sustainable waste-to-energy practices.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** 880 students participated in interactive sessions on climate change, waste management, and sustainability.

The project enhanced community engagement, empowered students as environmental leaders, and laid a foundation for long-term climate resilience in the Khumbu region.



From Source to Solution: Building a Recycling Culture

To reduce dumping and enhance recycling, SPCC emphasizes waste segregation at the source. This includes placing and maintaining garbage bins along trekking routes, establishing Environmental Stations in villages for sorting and storage, and operating a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) to semi-process recyclables. Together, these initiatives foster a circular economy in the Everest Region.

SPCC's commitment extends beyond collection, ensuring that recyclable materials are responsibly processed. Since 2016, SPCC has collected, sorted, semi-processed, and transported recyclables—including cans, tins, PET bottles, and glass—from the Khumbu Region to Kathmandu, addressing the lack of local recycling facilities. In FY 2023/24 and FY 2024/25, a total of 18,270 kg of recyclables were transported, comprising 7,070 kg of glass bottles, 4,704 kg of PET bottles/

plastics, 428 kg of cans, and 6,068 kg of tins. Of this, 14,620 kg were airlifted from Lukla in partnership with Sita Air and Tara Air, while 3,650 kg were transported by helicopter from Syangboche to Phaplu and then by truck to Kathmandu, ensuring a continuous and responsible recycling process.



III. Mountain Safety and Route Management

Managing the World’s Most Dangerous Climbing Route: SPCC’s Role in the Khumbu Icefall

Since 1997, SPCC has been contracted by the Department of Tourism (DoT) under the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA) to construct and maintain the climbing route through the Khumbu Icefall—one of the most treacherous sections on the ascent of Mt. Everest. Located between Everest Base Camp and Camp II, the Icefall is characterized by deep crevasses, unstable seracs, and constantly shifting ice, making it the most dangerous part of the climb.

Each climbing season, SPCC deploys a specialized team of eight highly skilled Icefall Doctors—experienced climbing Sherpas from the Solukhumbu Region—who install ladders, fix ropes, and continuously monitor and repair the route. The route is typically opened in early April and closed at the end of May during the spring climbing season, with ongoing maintenance throughout due to the unstable nature of the Icefall.

The Khumbu Icefall Route fee assessment committee sets the fee for Khumbu Icefall Route. The committee consists of representatives of Department of Tourism (DoT), Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), Everest Summiters’ Association (ESA), Expedition instead of Everest Operators’ Association (EOA), Trekking Agents’ Association of Nepal (TAAN), Nepal National Mountain Guide Association (NNMGA) and SPCC. Since Spring 2014, each member of the expedition team has to pay US\$600 for using the route in the spring climbing season and a combined sum of US\$25,000/- for all climbers for setting the route in the autumn and winter season.

In this fiscal year, a drone was used to assist the Icefall Doctors in transporting ropes and ladders from base camp into the Icefall Section.



Icefall Doctors Team 2024

- Icefall Doctors: Ang Sarki Sherpa, Dawa Nuru Sherpa, Pemba Tshering Sherpa, Ngima Tenzi Sherpa, Ngawang Chimmi Sherpa, Dawa Chirri Sherpa, Dawa Jangbu Sherpa, Mingma Gyaljen Sherpa
- Base Camp Manager: Tshering Tenjing Sherpa
- Kitchen Staff: Wangdi Gelbu Sherpa, Ngawang Thaten Sherpa

Spring 2025 Icefall Doctors Team

- Icefall Doctors: Ang Sarki Sherpa (Team Leader A), Dawa Jangbu Sherpa (Team Leader B), Dawa Nuru Sherpa, Nima Tenji Sherpa, Mingma Gyalzen Sherpa, Dawa Chhirri Sherpa, Lhakpa Sona Sherpa, Tendu Sherpa
- Base Camp Manager: Tshering Tenjing Sherpa
- Kitchen Staff: Wangdi Gelbu Sherpa, Ngawang Thaten Sherpa

Partnership Highlight: Strengthening Safety Through BYN Black Yak Co. Ltd

On March 2, 2024, SPCC signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BYN Black Yak Co. Ltd and the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) in Namche Bazaar. This partnership aims to enhance the safety, efficiency, and well-being of the Icefall Doctors—SPCC’s specialized team responsible for establishing and maintaining the Khumbu Icefall route on Mt. Everest.

BYN Black Yak Co. Ltd, a leading Korean outdoor company, generously donated high-quality mountaineering equipment and committed to supporting the Icefall Doctors for the next five years. This ensures that the team is well-equipped to work under extreme high-altitude conditions and continue providing safe passage for climbers.

Facilitated by NMA, this collaboration strengthens SPCC’s operational capacity, reinforces the safety of mountaineering activities in the Everest region, and highlights the importance of corporate support in high-altitude environmental and safety initiatives. SPCC expresses sincere gratitude to BYN Black Yak Co. Ltd and NMA for their ongoing commitment to supporting the Icefall Doctors and the broader mountaineering community.



Partnership Highlight: Insurance Support for Icefall Doctors through the 7 Summits Foundation (7SF)

The Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) and the 7 Summits Foundation (7SF) have partnered to provide comprehensive insurance coverage for the Icefall Doctors, who perform one of the most hazardous roles on Mount Everest. As part of this collaboration, 7SF handed over the first year’s insurance premium to SPCC on 20th March 2024. Under the agreement, 7SF will continue to cover the Icefall Doctors’ insurance costs for a total of four years, ensuring their safety and well-being while carrying out this critical and high-risk work.

SPCC Everest Expedition 2024 – Successful Summit

On 22nd May 2024, the SPCC Everest Expedition 2024 team successfully reached the summit of Mount Everest. The expedition



team comprised two SPCC executives and two Icefall Doctors, exemplifying SPCC's commitment to both leadership and frontline expertise in high-altitude operations.

Summit Team Members:

1. Dawa Gyaljen Sherpa – Vice Chairman, SPCC
2. Tshering Sherpa – CEO, SPCC
3. Dawa Jangbu Sherpa – Icefall Doctor, SPCC
4. Dawa Nuru Sherpa – Icefall Doctor, SPCC

Congratulations to all team members for their remarkable achievement and dedication to Everest expedition safety and excellence.

3. Monitoring of Illegal Climbers and Safety Measures on Peaks

Since 2000, the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC), in collaboration with the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), has been implementing the "Illegal Climbing Control Project" in the Khumbu Region. SPCC is the authorized local institution responsible for monitoring illegal climbers and managing garbage on peaks registered under NMA, including:

Imja Tse (Island Peak), Khongma Tse, Kusum Kangru, Kwangde, Lobuje, Mera Peak, Mt. ABI, Mt. Cholatse, Mt. Kyazo Ri, Mt. Lobuje West, Mt. Nirekha, Mt. Ombigaichen, Mt. Phari Lapcha, Pharchamo, and Ramdung.



A check post has been established at Island Peak base camp to monitor climbers and manage solid and human waste. The assigned inspection officers verify climbing permits for all climbers, who are required to carry valid permits throughout their expedition. Any climber found engaging in illegal climbing is subject to prosecution under Nepalese law.

- In Fiscal Year 2023/24, no illegal climbers were reported.
- In FY 2024/25, one climber from Poland was caught attempting to ascend Island Peak without a permit. The individual was escorted to SPCC's Namche office and fined according to regulations.

At the start of each climbing season, SPCC also inspects the climbing route of Island Peak and installs ladders over wide crevasses to ensure climber safety. Our technical team carefully evaluates the route, installing ladders where necessary. Climbers are responsible for bringing and using their own ropes and climbing equipment.

IV. Climate Resilience Initiatives

A catastrophic Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) that washed away the village of Thame on August 16, 2024, served as a powerful catalyst for the SPCC to officially expand its focus to include climate-induced disasters. This event highlighted the urgent need for climate resilience and disaster preparedness in the vulnerable Khumbu Valley. In response, SPCC has launched several key climate action initiatives:

Local Consultation Meeting with Residents of Thame Valley

On 25th January 2025, SPCC convened a local consultation meeting in Kathmandu with residents of Thame Valley to discuss the aftermath of the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) that struck Thame in August 2024. The meeting brought together 21 participants, including Thame residents, ward representatives, and members of various organizations. Community members shared their experiences, challenges in coping with the disaster, and recommendations for future disaster preparedness and risk reduction. The consultation reinforced SPCC's commitment to working closely with local communities, researchers, and authorities to enhance disaster preparedness and build resilience against climate-related hazards in the Khumbu Region.



Launch of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Resilience Project

In a significant step toward strengthening climate resilience in high mountain communities, SPCC officially launched the project titled "Early Warning and Community-Based Emergency Response Preparedness for GLOF Resilience in Thame and Downstream Villages". The two-year project is funded by the American Himalayan Foundation (AHF) and implemented in partnership with the Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality (KPLRM) and the Cryospheric Society of Nepal (CSN). Its primary objective is to protect settlements in Thame and downstream villages from future GLOFs through early warning systems, community training, and inclusive disaster preparedness planning. The project builds on lessons from the devastating GLOF of August 16, 2024, which caused widespread damage to homes, public infrastructure, and local livelihoods, highlighting the urgent need for preventive measures in this fragile Himalayan region.



Himalayan Climate Charter 2025 Summit for Earth

The Himalayan Climate Charter 2025 Summit for Earth, held on 5th July 2025 in Kathmandu, was a landmark event addressing urgent environmental challenges in the Himalayas. Supported by Black Yak and co-hosted by SPCC, Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality (KPLRM), and the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA), the summit brought together 263 participants, including government representatives, scientists, media, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), mountaineers, NGOs, and international agencies.

The summit highlighted Khumbu cleanup and conservation efforts, promoted local-global partnerships, integrated indigenous knowledge with modern science, and launched the Himalayan Climate Charter 2025 as a global call to action. Key discussions included post-GLOF recovery in Thame, drone-assisted Everest waste collection and community based early warning systems. A high-level panel emphasized implementing the Khumbu Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA), strengthening early warning systems, recognizing yak herders and traditional energy systems, and linking climate adaptation with food security and sustainable tourism. The summit reinforced the Himalayas as a global climate barometer and set a roadmap for community resilience and mountain ecosystem protection.



Jomolangma Research and Knowledge Hub

In collaboration with SPCC and the University of British Columbia (UBC), the Jomolangma Research and Knowledge Hub was established in Thamo village, Solukhumbu district, to integrate community knowledge, indigenous values, and scientific research in addressing climate change, cultural preservation, and sustainability challenges. The hub serves as a center for community-centered research, hazard mapping of glacial lakes, and the Placename Revitalization Project, which preserves indigenous names of places and trails. It also focuses on capacity-building, community ownership of data, and scholarly exchange. By combining local knowledge

and academic expertise, the hub supports disaster preparedness, cultural revitalization, and sustainable development in the Khumbu Region.



V. SPCC Representation and Global Outreach

In the last two fiscal years, SPCC actively represented the organization and the Khumbu Region in national and international forums. CEO Tshering Sherpa participated in the Parvat Regional Conclave, Parvat Manthan in India, highlighting SPCC's achievements and future plans for sustainable waste management. He also represented SPCC at the Sagarmatha Day: Nepal-China Everest Adventure Tourism and Cultural Carnival 2025 in Beijing, China, sharing insights on regional challenges, sustainable initiatives, and meeting with the Nepalese Ambassador to discuss collaboration. Additionally, in May 2025, Tshering Sherpa was a panelist at the Sagarmatha Sambaad held in Kathmandu, contributing to high-level discussions on mountain conservation, sustainable tourism, and climate action in the Himalayas.

On 5 December 2024, the Honorable Minister of Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation, Badri Prasad Pandey, visited Lukla, where SPCC's Lukla Branch Manager provided an overview of ongoing initiatives. SPCC staff, Ms. Chhewang Palmu Sherpa and Mingma Nuru Sherpa, also engaged with members of the Federalism Enablement and National Concerns Committee in Namche Bazaar, presenting projects on waste management, environmental conservation, and community engagement.

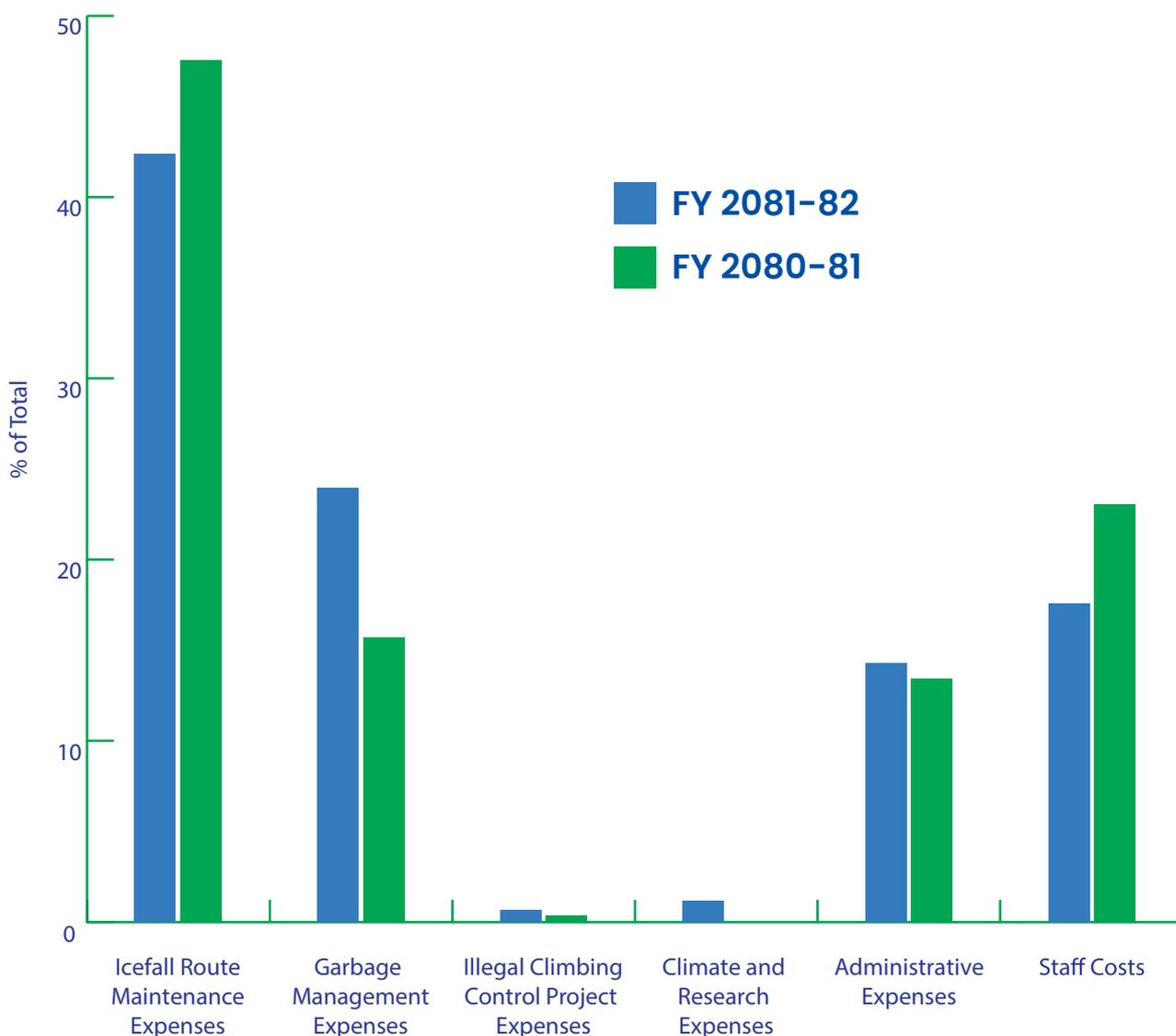


In February 2025, an SPCC delegation led by Chairman Lama Kazi and CEO Tshering Sherpa, along with the Base Camp Manager and Icefall Doctors, visited South Korea at the invitation of BYN Black Yak Pvt. Ltd. The delegation met with company leadership and Nepal's Ambassador to South Korea, participated in the Seoul Mountaineering Event, engaged in skiing and climbing training, and collaborated on a cleanup campaign at Surisan Gyeonggi-do Park. These activities strengthened SPCC's international partnerships, promoted Khumbu tourism, and highlighted SPCC's efforts in waste management and environmental preservation.

Financial Highlights

Financial overview of FY 2080–81 and FY 2081–82

| S.N. | Sectors | FY 2081–82 Expenditure (NPR) | % of Total | FY 2080–81 Expenditure (NPR) | % of Total |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Icefall Route Maintenance Expenses | 37,444,564.85 | 42.34 | 31,212,780.71 | 47.53 |
| 2 | Garbage Management Expenses | 21,178,875.94 | 23.95 | 10,299,803.51 | 15.68 |
| 3 | Illegal Climbing Control Project Expenses | 581,770.00 | 0.66 | 234,255.05 | 0.36 |
| 4 | Climate and Research Expenses | 1,055,440.80 | 1.19 | – | – |
| 5 | Administrative Expenses | 12,623,316.50 | 14.27 | 8,807,623.37 | 13.41 |
| 6 | Staff Costs | 15,555,186.94 | 17.59 | 15,115,550.16 | 23.02 |
| Total Expenditures | | 88,439,155.03 | | 65,670,012.80 | |



Acknowledgement

SPCC acknowledges with sincere gratitude for the collaboration and the support received from the following partners, donors and supporters:

Major Executing Partners:

- Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA)
- Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality (KPLRM)
- Sagarmatha National Park (SNP)
- Sagarmatha National Park Buffer Zone Management Committee (SNP BZMC)
- Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA)
- Social Welfare Council

Other Partners

- 7 Summits Foundation (7SF)
- Airlift Technology
- American Himalayan Foundation
- Bally Peak Outlook Foundation
- Black Yak
- Blue Waste to Value
- Cryospheric Society of Nepal (CSN)
- Himalayan Museum and Sustainable Park/Sagarmatha next
- Khaalisiin
- Kiehl's
- Round Table Nepal
- Sita Airlines
- Tara Airlines
- Tenzing Norgay Sherpa Foundation
- UNDP Nepal
- University of British Columbia
- Zurich Insurance Company Middle East

SPCC also acknowledges the continuous support from the local communities, community partners, expedition operators, trekking agencies, and volunteers.

