



Annotated Bibliography

Commission for Environmental Cooperation Publications and Work on

Eco-Palm in North America

Trade and Environment, August 2005

Introduction

This bibliography contains documents on the development of the eco-palm market in North America. An overview of the pilot project with churches is proposed, including a link to the CEC's major partner and to the order form for eco-palm.

Greening Trade in North America: Eco-Palm

http://www.cec.org/programs_projects/trade_envIRON_econ/greening-trade/palm.cfm

The CEC's greening trade efforts are focused on the assessment, labelling, financing and purchasing of environmentally preferable products like sustainable *Chamaedorea* palm. A list of related web resources and links to partner organisations are available as well as the proceedings, the agenda and background reports to the "Cancún meeting to discuss Management and Marketing of Sustainably Managed *Chamaedorea*."

Link to the Pilot Project's Web Page

<http://www.cnr.umn.edu/FR/cinram/projects/palm/index.html>

Additional information about Eco-Palm can be found on this web page: The CEC's "Chamaedorea Palm Certification Project" partner is the University of Minnesota Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM). This institution is the designated leader of the pilot and the main contact.

Reports and Other CEC Publications

Developing an Eco-palm Market in North America: A Pilot with Churches. Dean Current, CEC. August 2004.

http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1774
English only

Results from a survey conducted with North American Christian churches, which represent some of the largest buyers of palm fronds, showed high levels of awareness and willingness to pay for sustainable palm offered during Easter. This document presents a short description of the process necessary to prepare for a sustainable palm sale to participating churches. An outline of the 2005 pilot project is proposed. As well, it presents: (1) guidelines for the sustainable harvesting and processing of the palms which aim to avoid discarding up to 50 percent of the fronds collected, and (2) a definition of certification guidelines for monitoring palm populations in order to help guarantee the quality of the product that enters the market and minimize the number of fronds discarded. Also presented are supply, demand, and marketing considerations relating to certifications of xate palm. The main objectives of the project are to promote the conservation of natural forests, the sustainable management of *Chamaedorea* palm, and improved local livelihoods through the certification of palm management and sale of the palm and a certified-fair trade label. Its overarching goal is to put in place a chain of custody for the harvesting, management, and trade practices for *Chamaedorea* palm originating in Guatemala and Mexico for sale to church congregations in the United States, Canada and Europe.

***Chamaedorea* Palm, for Easter, Promoting Environmental Justice and Fair Trade: Equity through Alliance.** Dean Current, CEC. 2004.

Available upon request (in English and Spanish)

This brochure summarizes some of the work on Sustainable Palm at the CEC and explains the ABC's of the issue, such as:

- ways you can help;
- what else should you know about *Chamaedorea*;
- how you can help create a sustainable livelihood in the tropics;
- how to work with your retailer/distributor;
- how to work with your congregation.

It also includes a list of resources.

Summary of Cancun meeting to discuss Management and Marketing of Sustainably Managed *Chamaedorea* Palms. CEC. September 2003.

http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1489
Also available in French and Spanish

Representatives of local communities in Mexico and Guatemala, national and international certifying bodies, universities and Christian congregations gathered in Cancun to discuss an initiative sponsored by the CEC to market sustainably managed and harvested palms of the *Chamaedorea* genus in North America—and perhaps Europe. The event followed studies prepared by the CEC documenting the market for the *Chamaedorea* palm in North America and Europe. They also made a survey of Christian congregations to gauge their interest in fair trade: purchasing a sustainably harvested product for a price that would permit palm gatherers to increase their income. Those studies demonstrated that: 1) the palm market for cut greens is large, with Christian congregations comprising the more important consumers; and 2) Christian congregations are willing to pay a premium for palms that are sustainably harvested and fairly traded. The document comes with a list of participants.

***Chamaedorea* Palm in the Floral Trade: Promoting Environmental Sustainability and Social Equity through Strategic Alliances between Producers and Christian Congregations**—Workshop Agenda. CEC. September 2003.

http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1250

Also available in Spanish

The publication presents the preliminary agenda of this workshop of 8 September 2003, which was held in Cancún, México.

The Potential Market, and Market and Certification Mechanisms for Palms of the Genus *Chamaedorea*, Dean Current, Eva Lassemo and Juan Carlos Cervantes. August 2003.

Available upon request (in English and Spanish)

The work presented includes:

- results of a survey of the major Christian denominations, exploring their interest and willingness to pay for a “certified,” “fair trade” palm;
- a review of potential mechanisms for marketing the certified/fair trade palms;
- review and discussion of church groups working with environmental and social equity issues for future contacts; and
- recommendations for the next steps required to initiate a pilot project for marketing certified/fair trade palms in the North American market, starting with harvest and following the process through distribution and final delivery to congregations. This deals primarily with the Palm Sunday market, but also addresses other potential market outlets.

In Search of a Sustainable Palm Market in North America. CEC. September 2002.

http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1028

Also available in French and Spanish

The goal of the CEC’s work on *Chamaedorea* palm—wild species endemic to Mexico and selected by the CEC’s Governing Council for a pilot project—is to study the possibility of using the market to protect the species. The basic question is, under what conditions, if any, would trading of wild species be sustainable? This report, the first for this project, documents palm collection and cultivation in Mexico, as well as its market structure within and outside Mexico. This information is used to assess whether eco-labeling palms would provide sufficient incentive for sustainable trade in the species.

Chamaedorea is a large genus of palms that grow in the understory of tropical forests throughout Latin America. Their size, shade tolerance and ease of reproduction have gained them popularity as potted plants for interior decorating. *Chamaedorea* fronds are also used in floral displays, with peak demand during the Easter and Palm Sunday holiday season.

A complete list of CEC publications is available online at: <http://www.cec.org/bibliographies>

Should you require any other information on the work of the CEC on Eco-Palm, please contact:
<info@cec.org>.