

Why Eco-Palms?

- Eco-Palms preserve the vitality of the communities and forests for years to come.
- Community groups receive 5 to 6 times the normal payment per frond.
- Eco-Palms are purchased directly from the communities, which lessens the impact of the fluctuating market and allows value-added processing to take place within the community.
- A typical Eco-Palm is harvested in the forest by men and processed by women in the community. This increases employment opportunities for women in the community and helps them contribute to their family's financial stability.
- Continue to buy palms for Easter Season and floral arrangements. Without a market for the palms the forests are at risk of being converted to agricultural fields.

About Chamaedorea Palms

- Non-oil palm plants are used in many facets of life, including religious ceremonies and floral arrangements.
- Approximately 308 million palm fronds were consumed in the United States in 1998.
- Each palm plant produces 2 to 5 harvestable leaves over a 2 to 4 month period.
- Palm gathering actually protects valuable natural forests. Gatherers protect forest areas where palm grows.
- Many of the palm producing forest areas are important "biosphere reserves" and tend to be the home of poorer segments of the rural population.
- There is currently an effort to **certify these palms** from **communities** practicing **sustainable forest management**.



How to Work with Your Retailer

Talk to your current palm distributors and ask if they are aware of the source of their palm fronds. Let them know about your environmental and social justice concerns. Ask them if they would be willing to participate in distributing *Chamaedorea* palm fronds from certified operations. We can provide you names of suppliers if you need them.

How to Work with Your Congregation

Inform your parishioners about the opportunity to improve the conservation of forests and forest species by improving the livelihoods of people living near the forests. Instruct them about the value of their consumer choices and how these choices have direct impacts on the environment and social justice.

Other Ways You Can Help

Promote the use of Chamaedorea beyond Easter. Encourage parishioners to use certified palms in their wedding or funeral floral arrangements.

Talk to your neighbors, friends and other congregations. Help raise awareness about the project in your community.

Where The Benefits Go

Directly back to the harvesters and communities



Other Resources

Commission for Environmental Cooperation
(http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/scope/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=14)

Amazon Conservation Association
(www.amazonconservation.org)

Conservation International
(www.conservation.org)

World Resources Institute, Forest Frontiers Initiative (www.wri.org/ffi)

For More Information

If you are interested in ordering palms for this coming Palm Sunday and Easter activities, please call the Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM) at the University of Minnesota.

612-624-4299

cinram@umn.edu

<http://cinram.umn.edu>



Eco-Palms

Social and Environmental Justice

Chamaedorea Palms for Easter

