This Palm Sunday, you can make a difference...

Nestled in the jungles of Mexico’s Southern Sierra Madre, in the State of Chiapas, there are communities of indigenous people that rely on the farming of corn, beans, and vegetables as a main source of income and food. To supplement their income, the young men of these families are often forced to migrate outside of their communities, frequently to the United States.

For these people, another source of income has been the collection of Camedor or Xate palm (Chamaedorea spp.) leaves. These species of palms are widely used during Palm Sunday celebrations and in floral arrangements. Over the years, the farming and collection of Camedor palms leaves has become an important source of their income.

Recently, concerns have developed on the over-exploitation of the resource-rich tropical forests where these plants are native. The need of these communities to sustain their population has pressed the indigenous population to expand their collection to protected areas with the subsequent deterioration of the natural resources of the ecosystem.

Currently there is a coordinated effort from U.S. and Mexican governmental, non-governmental, academic and industry organizations to develop and promote an environmentally and economically sustainable production of Camedor palms in the tropical areas of Mexico through Partnership for Prosperity. Partnership for Prosperity is a presidential initiative established by the mandate of Presidents Bush and Fox to improve economic conditions for poor Mexican families by fostering the rational production, value-added processing, and directly marketing and exporting noncompetitive products to the United States.

How you can help...

We are not looking for donations. We are only asking that you consider ordering Camedor Palms. Continental Floral Greens of San Antonio, Texas, phone 1-877-234-4767, http://www.cfg-greens.com, is a participant in this activity and has agreed to serve as our U.S. commercial partner/importer. Continental is handling the wholesale distribution. Please contact your local supplier or florist to order Camedor palms which have been marketed under the auspices of the Partnership for Prosperity initiative.

By working together, we hope to develop an environmentally and economically sustainable resource for the marginal and isolated communities in Chiapas. With this base, greater strides can be made to promote community development, provide better working conditions for the population, and develop greater roles for women in their community.

Thank you,

The Partnership for Prosperity
Camedor Palm Project

ECONOMIA-FONAES (Ministry of Economy - Mexico); SAGARPA (Ministry of Agriculture - Mexico); USAID (United States International Development Agency); USDA (United States Department of Agriculture); Conservation International; Texas A&M University; University of Chapingo and Continental Floral Greens.

Bulk Label Example

These palms were harvested in an environmentally-conscious and economically sustainable manner by the people of Chiapas, Mexico.

For more information, visit the Partnership For Prosperity website at http://p4p.tamu.edu.

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