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Producer Portfolio

PUEBLOS MANCOMUNADOS IN MEXICO



Making furniture for schools in Mexico

Pueblos Mancomunados is a community-owned cooperative based in Oaxaca state, southern Mexico. Eight tightly knit communities comprise the cooperative, and most of the members are indigenous Zapotec people. The cooperative's members operate two sawmills and a furniture factory, as the climate in the area is very well suited to both drying wood and making furniture. All of their products are FSC certified, as they use locally sourced FSC-certified wood in all their activities.

The cooperative successfully secured a government contract in 2011 for making furniture from locally sourced wood for nearby schools. This was a very important step, as it has provided a steady income from their products. However, they do not want to become too dependent on just one big contract. Therefore, together with other local furniture-producing cooperatives, they have opened a showroom in the state capital city (also called Oaxaca) and are looking to expand to more cities.

Taking responsibility

For Pueblos Mancomunados, improving local environmental conditions is a key aim. Their primary reason to be FSC certified and use certified wood is to protect the region's forests and fight the illegal logging that is taking place in non-certified forests. In 2009, they received an award from the government in recognition of their work to create demand for sustainably managed timber.

Taking care of the nature that surrounds them is only one side of Pueblos Mancomunados' efforts to improve local conditions, though. Another big part of their business model is improving living standards for the region's inhabitants and nurturing a culture of respect among the local population. To fulfil this mission, they work to create jobs within the communities, with a focus on women and young people, who are traditionally underprivileged in many agrarian communities.





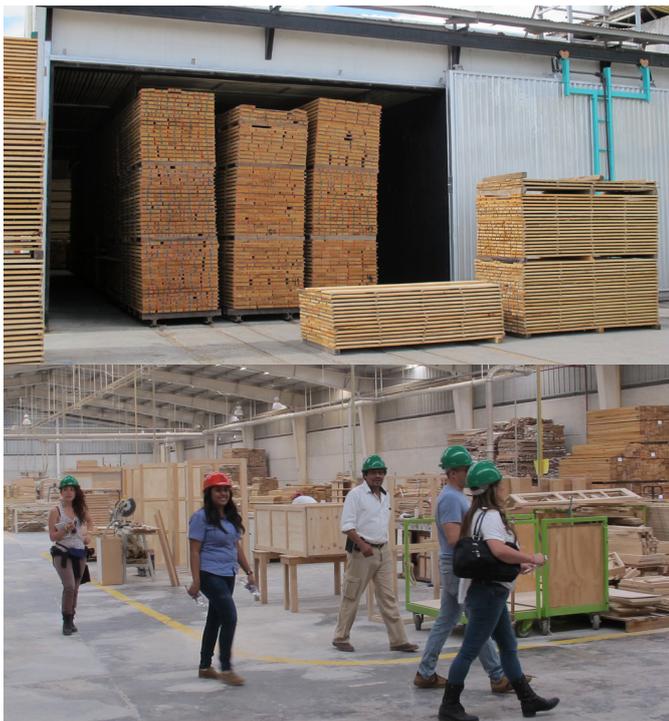
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Challenges

The biggest challenge that Pueblos Mancomunados faces is capacity building to strengthening their abilities to dry the wood to required standards. Sometimes, the wood they receive is too wet and takes much longer to dry to the required standards. They are therefore looking for even more communities that can supply the quality of wood they require, so that they have a steady supply.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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FACTS

Certificate Holder

Pueblos Mancomunados

Certificate code

RA-COC-005804

Tree species

Comunidad Santa Catarina, ixtepeji, Pinus Ayacahuite, Pinus douglasiana mart, Pinus leiophylla, Pinus patula, Pinus pseudostrobus, Pinus teocote, Quercus spp, Bienes comunales Santiago, textitlan, Pinus maximinoi, Pinus montezumae, Pinus oocarpa, Pinus patula, Pinus pseudostrobus

Products:

Indoor furniture
Cabinets
Custom furniture
Beds
Tables
Couches and armchairs
Kitchen countertops
Chairs and stools
Wardrobes
Cupboards and chests
Office furniture
Parts of furniture
Shelves
Institutional casework

Solid wood (sawn, chipped, peeled)
Planks
Poles and piles
Beams