



EcoTimber's FSC Manufacturing Saves 172,000 Acres of Forest in Bolivia

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We Had A Dream

EcoTimber was founded in 1992 as the first business in North America dedicated to selling only sustainably managed wood products.

We had a dream that we could change how forests were being managed all over the world, by creating a market for “good wood”.

Then in 1993, the Forest Stewardship Council was founded as a way to certify that wood from truly sustainable sources was indeed making its way into the marketplace.

EcoTimber's Demand for FSC Flooring Saves 172,000 Acres

Fast forward to 2008. Our FSC-certified factory in Bolivia needs more FSC logs for EcoTimber flooring. The surrounding forest area is under pressure to be cleared by local villagers – often to plant coca. Once cleared, the forest is no longer a sustainable source of income, and the villagers often fall into the cycle of working for the coca cartel. In order for the villagers to have a sustainable income from the forest, they need forest management planning, certification, and equipment.

EcoTimber's factory in Bolivia recently purchased 24,000 acres of FSC-certified forest - and more importantly, we secured deals with eight different indigenous groups and joined them together under one certification covering an additional 148,000 acres!

As part of this partnership, we purchased the tractors and sawmill machinery for these operations. In return, we have exclusive rights to buy the FSC logs from this 148,000 acres, which will now remain as a bio-diverse intact tract of healthy forest. Without our program, these forests would have been destroyed.

And so the dream has become a reality. Demand from the marketplace for EcoTimber's FSC flooring has increased to the point where we can now preserve a large parcel of forest land for future generations.