

little people company

Evergreen or Greenery?

How environmentally conscious are you when buying furniture?

At Little People Company we factor the environment and sustainability into everything we do. We are not just out to adorn ourselves with 'green' feathers. Little People Company's core values centre around social responsibility, environmentally-focused production, use of off-cut products, complete utilization of our resources, recycling of materials and wasted raw materials, reduced packaging, and CO2-friendly shipping.

But we also consider the economic development in Africa and have taken a position on child labour, human rights and number of employees. I.e., we encourage our suppliers to employ human hands and use fewer machines. This way we create more jobs for more people while reducing the CO2 impact of our production.



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All our suppliers think like us. That's why they have been chosen and that's why they have signed on to our code of conduct without hesitation and without having to make any significant changes to their production. The production of handmade furniture requires that we work very closely with all of our partners to ensure long-term relationships, bonus plans, production enhancements as well as a healthy and safe work environment.

Children's furniture made by children? No, of course not. Africa does not have a significant tradition of child labour the way we see it in China and India. Nevertheless, we do ask our suppliers to ensure that child labour is never practiced at the factories we work with. The founder of Little People Company has worked with social responsibility for many years. She has even written a book on the subject and she is well aware of what to watch out for.

"During my many trips to factories in China, I have seen too many examples of how Code of Conduct is not honoured. Many small businesses believe that if large companies, such as IKEA or H&M are placing their production at a certain factory then it is probably good enough, assuming that the larger company has done all the legwork. But that isn't always the case," says Anne-Louise Thon Schur," and continues: "Even major companies make mistakes and continue to find issues with their CSR programmes."

It's always about human relationships when producing goods in a developing country. At Little People Company, we maintain very close relationships with our suppliers to ensure that there is proper balance between performance and quality. We may pay a bit more for goods than we would have done in China, but in return we are creating growth on a continent that needs it desperately. Instead of focusing solely on PR, image and sales we attach great importance to production and supplier relationships. We are not interested in mass producing consumer goods. Rather, we believe in traditional values, sustainable production in countries that need economic development. We believe in the long term objectives of fair trade.

For more inspiration, please go to www.littlepeoplecompany.dk

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