

ZAMBESI TEAK - THE WORLD'S FINEST HARDWOOD

Teak is one of the hardest and most durable of the African hardwood trees, and is amongst the most beautiful timbers in the world, with a fine, close grain and deep, rich natural colour.

Teak is harvested from the vast forest of the Kalahari sand veldt, the largest continuous stretch of sand in the world, under the watchful supervision of the Forestry Commission and the Forest Stewardship Council. Harvesting is carefully audited and controlled to ensure only selected trees are removed from each hectare, leaving large seed trees and young vigorous trees with rapid growth rates that fix carbon at a much faster rate than a mature forest stand would. We pay royalties on all timber cut to the Forestry commission into a trust for development projects for the communities living in or near the forests. These projects include self sufficiency gardening projects, installations of boreholes, and development of schools and clinics infrastructure. Because the communities are involved with the management of the forests and benefit from the jobs created and royalties paid, they take ownership and work hard to preserve the forests. If they did not benefit in this manner they would be forced to clear the trees to plant crops to survive. This would be a disaster on two counts: firstly we would lose the teak forests, and secondly the very fragile soils of Kalahari sands would rapidly deteriorate under peasant agricultural practice and become desert wasteland. The sustainable utilization of these forests is therefore essential to their preservation.