

Cocalatex of Kerala, India



Next to agriculture, forests are the second largest use of land in India. Forest cover ranges from the Himalayan temperate region to the dry-zone forests. *The India National Forest Policy* stipulates that one-third of India be under forest or tree cover.

Much of the evergreen rain forests of Kerala have been turned into reserve forests and wildlife sanctuaries. In Kerala there are five national parks, eleven wildlife sanctuaries, two bird sanctuaries and a tiger reserve.

Much of the rubber production in India is contributed by Kerala state. Rubber plantations are located in three of the fourteen districts. Most of these plantations have Forest Stewardship Council certification. Cocalatex exports FSC certified products to Germany, the United Kingdom and The United States.

The guiding principles of Cocalatex:

- Prohibit conversion of forests or any other natural habitat.
- Respect International workers' rights.
- Prohibit the use of hazardous chemicals.
- Respect human rights with particular attention to indigenous peoples.
- Identify and appropriately manage areas that need special attention (e.g. cultural or sacred sites, habitats of endangered animals or plants.)

Cocalatex values, respects and preserves India's natural resources. All latex sold to Savvy Rest is grown in accordance with organic principles and all required regulations.

Solly Sunoj, Cocalatex