

BARK CLOTH® EUROPE

Foundation

- 1999

Turnover

- \$ 1.23 million (2010)

Employees

- 55 in Uganda, 4 in Germany

Branches

- Interior architecture
- Furniture
- Automotive

Key Materials

- Tree bark
- Banana fibre, palm fibre, elephant grass

Key Products

- Tree bark textiles
- Flexible/non-flexible composites
- Tree bark, banana and palm fibre reinforced bio-based plastics



Textiles and Composites from Tree Bark

Innovative Materials Meet Ancient Traditions Tree bark fleece from Uganda is the most ancient textile of mankind. The DLR German Aerospace Centre is testing it as a matrix in fibre composites, which show extraordinary flexibility and punching tenacity for use in planes. In 2008, it was declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage. It is the world's only material which has so far achieved this status.

The Ugandan-German family venture BARK CLOTH® is pioneer, innovation- and market leader of systematic bark tree fibre development and production. The permanently renewable bark is harvested every year without felling the tree. It is the basis for a wide range of textiles and flexible/non-flexible composites, which are manufactured in low-energy, partly CO₂-emission-free processes and distributed under the brand name of BARKTEX®.

Pure and unique surfaces: designers value the expressive character, unique texture and sensual tactility of BARKTEX®. Archaic authenticity: each piece is a unique specimen with its own story. Exquisitely hand crafted, hence finished with state-of-the-art agents. Only bio-based polymers and biodegradable agents such as other fibres, lignin, fatty acids and natural oils and waxes are used. Production capacity 2011: 220,000 sqm.





For its efforts, BARK CLOTH® has been honoured with a number of internationally recognized industrial awards for material engineering, cutting-edge design, technical and social innovation. The former development aid project provides hundreds of craftswomen and farmers families with a secure income.

Uses: furniture, automotive/transportation sector, trade fair and exhibition architecture, wall coverings, illumination (lampshades, light sails), cases for household/electric appliances, fashion and footwear, displays and presentation, arts and crafts. Interiors at home, in hotels, restaurants, museums, and yachts.

Green and sexy: extremely fast growing renewable resource. Cradle2Cradle. Zero CO₂ emission processing. Eco certificates EEC 2092/91 for European Union and NOP for USA. Sustainable production on small-scale mixed-cultivation farms. No competition but complementarity to food cultivation. Externally judged high social rating score according to UN Global Compact principles.

Bark up the right tree!
Make your products unmistakable!



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