

UN GLOBAL COMPACT
COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS 2015
JANUARY

mater

DESIGN CRAFTSMANSHIP ETHICS



STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT

I am pleased to confirm that Mater reaffirms its support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

In this annual Communication on Progress, we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the Global Compact and its principles into our business strategy, culture and daily operations. We also commit to share this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,



Henrik Marstrand
CEO & Founder, Mater A/S.

Mater

Mater is a Danish design brand with a strong vision to create timeless and beautiful design based on an ethical business strategy. Mater is committed to creating ethical, sustainable and socially responsible design in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Global Compact.

In Mater we treat our employees, customers and suppliers with respect, humility and dignity. In collaboration with our supply chain we try to develop more sustainable, safe and secure methods in the production. Through our way of thinking we enforce production of recycling materials and believe that value lies within the story and history of our products. It is our mission that every single product at Mater meets the requirements of sustainable production.

HUMAN & LABOUR RIGHTS

Vision

At Mater we have taken an active role in the work and compliance with human rights as described in UN Global Compact – this is part of the company Code of Conduct. We respect human rights as absolute, and strive to ensure all humans in our determination to provide all humans the rights and freedoms they wish to enjoy. Mater will never voluntarily be complicit in human or labour rights abuses, and instead always seek to uphold the rights and freedoms of all, contributing where our reach allows.

Progress

We try to be part as much part of the production as possible, but have experienced more difficulties as our production of certain designs has reached amounts to which the small suppliers cannot deliver. This means, that we have moved certain aspects of production to larger suppliers, hence our sphere of influence has diminished. This is one of the main reasons to why we have chosen BRICpro as a partner. They have the knowledge and power to influence the production facilities in a way that corresponds to our needs – in an ethical and environmental way.

BRICpro address human and labour rights through a specially developed dialogue tool which focuses on health and safety. They enter into dialogue with the factory about the importance of CSR and helps to find ways to make improvements. All factories has been through an initial assessment and dialogue, and it is standard practice to follow up on potential improvements at the factories.

We encourage our remaining manufacturers to support the principles of the 'UN Global Compact' within they possible reach and we are still experiencing continuous improvements. Our collaboration with our suppliers, and continued support for their ethical and environmental improvements, has proven to be of great importance to the local community and we strive to improve working conditions according to the principles of the UN Global Compact at the production sites. We try to keep the suppliers we have had long lasting association with by allowing them to produce the designs we sell in smaller quantities.

- ❖ PRINCIPLE 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- ❖ PRINCIPLE 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.
- ❖ PRINCIPLE 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- ❖ PRINCIPLE 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- ❖ PRINCIPLE 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and
- ❖ PRINCIPLE 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Results

Our collaboration with our suppliers, and continued support for their ethical and environmental improvements, has proven to be of great importance to our local community and we strive to improve working conditions according to the principles of the United Nations Global Compact at the production sites. We encourage our manufacturers to support the principles of the 'UN Global Compact' within their possible reach. We have experienced continuous improvements,

BRICpro

Mater overall strategy place great emphasis on ethical criteria and since the project SUSBIZ INDIA is no longer in progress we have looked for a responsible partner to facilitate and build responsible operation in the countries where we manufacture our products. This led us to BRICpro who assist companies in creating ethical business relations with socially responsible manufacturing units, factories and workshops in emerging markets. They are now facilitating the development of three selected products by Mater.

Through BRICpro, Mater adopts sustainable production practices supporting employees, local craft traditions and the environment.

FSC & SOLAR ENERGY

We now only produce wooden products which is FSC certified or otherwise certified, recycled or reclaimed materials. At Mater we love sustainable designs and solutions. This is why we are working on a lamp which is self-sustained through solar energy. Hopefully this is available next year.

GLAD DESIGN AND PERNILLE HOLM

We have agreed to assist and cooperate with Pernille Holm and Glad Design in a project to create more possible opportunities for the disadvantaged. This program differs in a very significant way from many other business processes in Denmark. It does so by equally focusing on the social bottom line as the economic – The program is about creating jobs for disadvantaged unemployed citizens and activate them in a new textile production workshop.

The main challenge is that these people are vulnerable because they have conditions that contributes to special needs that enterprises must take in consideration. It can be physical or mental disabilities or social problems such as individuals with criminal records.

Pernille Holm is driving the process to setup the workshop with Mater as the commercial partner for a range of cushions and throws.

SELECT PROJECTS

Vision

Mater is a Danish design brand with a strong vision to create timeless and beautiful design based on an ethical business strategy. Mater combines exclusive high-end design with working methods that support people, local craft traditions and the environment.

Progress

Sustainability is a core element in every aspect of our production processes. We seek to find innovative ideas bringing sustainable design to every element in our business. Consequently, we actively support the international recognized non-profit organization FSC™. In an FSC™-certified forest no more trees than the forest can reproduce is felled, and over-exploitation of nature is avoided. In addition, FSC™ guarantees that flora and fauna are protected and that the people who work in the forest are guaranteed education, safety and a fair pay. Further we look into alternative materials that grow faster and have better sourcing credentials

Danish law requires us to manage our waste in an environmentally sound manner. It also imply that waste must be sorted so that the most can be recovered and recycled. We try to adopt these thoughts to not only our products but also suppliers, as there are no such rules in India and China. We will continue to work with our partners (customers, suppliers, authorities) to obtain and develop the most optimal environmental products and services. Throughout 2014 we have moved a substantial part of our big selling series Mater High Stool to FSC certified partners in Europe, mainly two operations, Vudex in Slovenia and Kvist Industries in Denmark, thereby supporting certified wood as much as possible.

Results

All of our products are characterized by sustainability, whether it is through FSC-certified materials, recycling, fair trade principles, reclaimed materials or staining done by substances of plant origin. Sustainably harvested natural mango wood is grown and tended for, and once the productive life of the tree is over, it is cut down and another one is planted. Incidentally, mango, as a fruit is widely consumed across the country hence the wood is plentiful.

- ❖ PRINCIPLE 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- ❖ PRINCIPLE 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
- ❖ PRINCIPLE 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

SELECT PRODUCTS

LIGNIA DINING TABLE

For centuries timber has been prized for its beauty and endurance however demand for premium hardwood has put enormous strain on natural resources and many once abundant species have been depleted by harvest – some to extinction. With outstanding sourcing credentials Lignia® and Lignia XD® are premium timbers which have been created from sawn plantation timber with colour and performance locked into the core – fit for purpose, plentiful and sustainable. Sustainable and abundant supply and of course it is FSC-certified



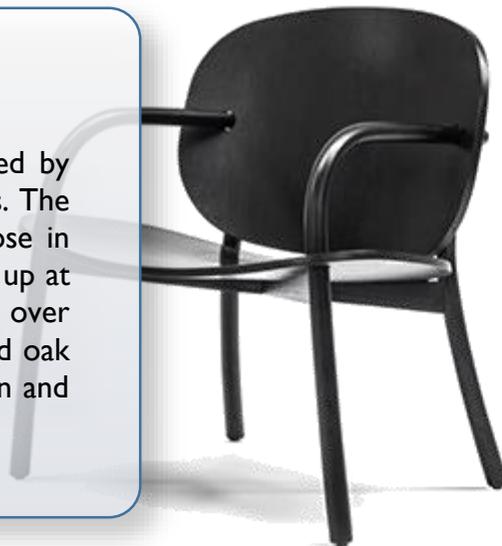
TERHO LAMP

The Terho lamps are designed by the Finnish designer Maija Puoskari. In Finnish Terho means acorn and the name refers to the natural and sympathetic shapes of acorns found in nature. And of course the wood used is FSC-certified.

The special color of alder wood and the opal made of white mouth blown glass is a unique combination of glass and wood only seen in lamp designs on rare occasions.

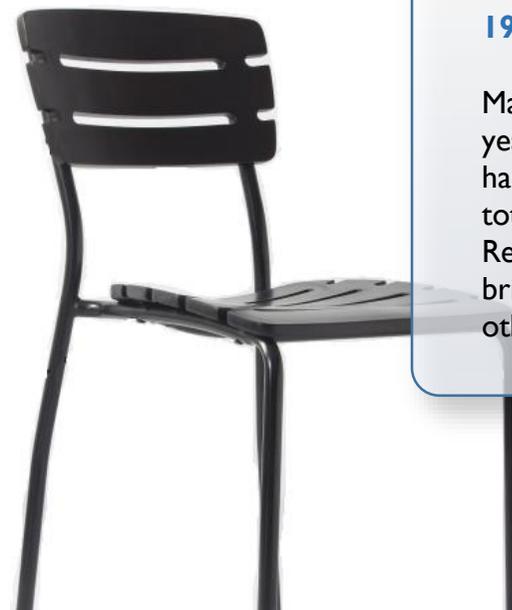
CLOUDY CHAIR LOUNGE

The Cloudy Lounge Chair is designed by the Spanish design duo Stone Designs. The inspiration for the Cloudy Chair arose in the woods of Romania while looking up at the trees trying to find a ray of light over the clouds. It is made of FSC certified oak veneer with a black water based stain and respects the local environment.



1920 SHANGHAI

Made from Recycled Elm salvaged from 100 year old buildings in Shanghai. This wood has unique features and no chair will be totally identical. This is what we call Reclaimed and we are proud that this chair brings life to a beautiful material that would otherwise have been discarded.



ANTI-CORRUPTION

❖ PRINCIPLE 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

Vision

Mater has a zero-tolerance towards corruption. In building ethically viable communities any form of bribery and corruption must be sought eliminated.

Progress

We recognise the risks of corruption in our supply chain, and as a consequence of this, we continue to work closely with our suppliers in India and China to eliminate any form of misconduct, including extortion and bribery.

Results

We have, to our knowledge, not had any incidents to report, and we continue to show a zero-tolerance.