

MAKING QUALITY PAPER FROM ANIMAL DUNG AND OTHER WASTES

[World Challenge](#), a global competition organized by BBC World News and Newsweek and aimed at projects showing enterprise and innovation at a grassroots level, awarded in 2006 the Maximum enterprise in Sri Lanka for its innovative papermaking process.

The Maximus firm set up shop in Kegalle, Sri Lanka, in 1997, not far from an elephant orphanage. The proximity of elephants was a boon for the papermakers; for as they soon discovered elephant dung is an ideal raw material for paper products they began a range of elephant-dung paper to draw attention to the plight of the Sri Lankan elephant. This unusual product has found buyers within Sri Lanka and throughout the world. A proportion of the sales are donated to the elephant orphanage. Moreover, Maximus provides an income for 35 staff, and its recently established *Peace Paper* scheme helps rural people earn money from collecting dung from wild elephants.

Paper produced by Maximus is composed at 75% of elephant dung and at 25% of recycled paper, offering a valid contribution to environmental protection. In the [Maximum website](#) it is possible to find detailed information on [paper collection process](#).

Paper production from animal dung is also a sustainable business in other countries of the world. In Thailand, the Elephant Dung Paper project of the Thai Elephant Conservation Center, based in Lampang, in the north of the country, within its strategy to help elephants and protect environment, is producing high-quality elephant dung paper. It is processed without use of chlorine, 100% bacteria free, and it is sold and distributed in Thailand, North America and Japan. This activity also allows the Center to provide jobs to relatives of elephant keepers and low-income families. In the Elephant Dung Paper website [the process of papermaking](#) is widely described with text and pictures.



To know more

<http://www.ecomaximus.com>

<http://www.elephantdungpaper.com>