

## Hat Weaving: Culture, Economy and Conservation

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In Becal, Campeche, Mexico, local economy and cultural identity are built around the industry of weaving the leaves of *Carludovica palmata* Ruíz & Pavón (Cyclanthaceae), and *Sabal mexicana* Mart. (Arecaceae) into hats. These plantations do not appear not to deplete soil nutrients, so new land does not have to be cleared for sustainable production. Although the weaving industry in Becal is beginning to decline, it is increasing in smaller towns where weaving has been recently introduced. A small *ejido* in southern Campeche, originally settled by people from Becal, is currently starting a weaving industry with the palm *Cryosophila stauracantha* (Heynhold)  
R.Evans.