

Doing What We Can for the Sustainability of Gorontalo's Indigenous Knowledge and Environmental Friendliness

Amongo's environmental friendly mats can directly combat the plastic pollution from plastic mats.

Producing and using our products not only fosters sustainable development in Gorontalo Province, but also helps us meet several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Amongo products

Amongo products can be diversified into common hats, bags, and even agricultural mats.



Mission

Amongo's Mission includes:

- 1 Reducing the use of plastics
- 2 Increasing women's participation in combating the use of plastics
- 3 Achieving several Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) such as women's participation, sufficient work and economic growth, climate action, and global partnerships

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AMONGO

Future Sustainability of
Indigenous Knowledge and
Environmental Friendliness
Gorontalo

What is Amongo?

Amongo is the local name for traditional handmade pandanus leaf mesh used to create mat-like products. It has strong cultural and historical roots in Gorontalo Province, where it has been widely used by the people in the region.

Where and How Is It Made?

Gorontalo is located in Northern Sulawesi and of Indonesia, and is known for a variety of extraordinary handicrafts and traditional products. Amongo is one of them.



Amongo is made from green pandanus leaves that are cut from their trunk and dried. The leaves are prepared into specific sizes by using a wooden stick and weaving them into mat-like products.



Amongo Community

The Amongo community of craftsmen mainly consists of women living near the beach in Kayu bulan sub-district, Gorontalo Regency. Although they live under poor conditions, their will to produce Amongo is strong. Even though many have switched to plastic mats for extra income, they still produce Amongo products.

Their Background Problems

High Rate of Non-School Children

The average monthly income of the residents in Gorontalo is approximately 18,000 yen, which is considerably lower than the national average (approximately 21,000 yen). Especially in rural areas, there are many families that live on roughly 3,000 yen.

Therefore, children from poverty-stricken communities cannot receive education beyond high school, and more than 20% work after graduating from junior high school.

People Working in Dangerous Gold Mines

Members of poverty-stricken communities tend to work in gold mines, as their side jobs. In fact, there are more than 10,000 gold miners in Gorontalo, and their working conditions are not only dangerous, but they also bring mercury pollution to the surrounding areas.



Amongo artisan is beginning to weave the sheets into an Amongo mat



Pandanus leaves, raw material for Amongo



Weaving the Amongo mat

Why
AMONGO
?

Toward Solving Environmental Problems

We are working with the people of Gorontalo to preserve their diverse and rich culture, by addressing the poverty problem. We are also finding ways to solve the problems of deforestation and mercury pollution caused by illegal gold mines.

We believe that the autonomous management of the environment by the residents is intrinsically related to the success in improving the social status of women.