

Chako's background story

Chako's quality handcrafted products are made from upcycled waste material from the tourism industry otherwise destined for landfill.

While the tourism industry creates a lot of opportunities for Zanzibar and its people, it does bring more waste to the beautiful island that cannot be processed on the island. That is why recycling is so important. Currently Chako works with young unemployed men and women to create unique upcycled interior design objects and accessories out of waste.

By providing training to unemployed local women and young unemployed people we contribute to the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of these vulnerable groups in society. Chako works according the 'Tourist- 2-Tourist' concept, which aims to take the waste that tourists create and recycle it into new products that the tourists will buy and bring home with them and the local tourism establishments will decorate their places with or reuse in their restaurants.

Chako's products offer the hospitality industry a powerful and innovative way to reduce its footprint on the island's environment while supporting and celebrating local design. At the same time, we focus on the increasing waste issue in Zanzibar and create awareness about waste among local Zanzibaris, local tourism establishments and tourists.

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Chako find it important to empower women. Women do not have nearly the same rights as men have. This is due to tradition and religion. Working with waste and upcycle these into new products was by many women seen as a more traditional job for men. Therefore Chako had to stimulate and encourage the women and show them they can do the job as well.

Now Chako see that the products made by the women are of very good quality and made with proud. Also more women now are joining the team and helping recycle the waste.

With the sales of our upcycled products Chako empower women and unemployed youth by providing training and make sure fair salaries are being paid under good working conditions.

