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Pleasing Peel Bracelet

On the streets of Bogotá, Colombia, you'll find fresh orange juice vendors on every corner. But what to do with all that peel? Sapia has found a way to recycle it. Talented makers dry, shape and dye the peel and turn it into anything from Christmas ornaments to bracelets like this one, which combines coiled peel beads and dried, dyed acai berries.

Adjustable.



Materials:

orange peel beads, acai beads, string

About the Artisans

Sapia - Colombia

Sapia was originally conceived in 1995 by Ana Piedrahita, an entrepreneur in Colombia's capital city of Bogota who saw the potential for producing a unique and intriguing items from orange peel. Colombia is among the highest per capita in orange juice consumption, which has spawned a strong demand for fresh-squeezed juice. These vendors would normally have to pay to discard the used peels, but now can actually earn additional income from selling them to Sapia.

Sapia employs 32 artisans directly, with another 50-plus artisans working independently. They also support an additional group of people through their purchase of orange peels, the raw material for their products. They have used their sales growth as an opportunity to reach out to other artisan groups in rural areas of the country, and have worked diligently to move beyond their original orange peel products and create new lines based on tagua, corn husk, cotton thread and recycled materials.

Travel the world with each visit to Ten Thousand Villages.

Learn how Fair Trade really makes a difference. Our goal is to provide vital, fair income to artisans by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages sells product from more than 30 countries, providing work for nearly 60,000 people around the world.

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