

Omba Arts Trust

Namibia

The *Ovahimba* of the Kunene region of Namibia create hand-etched bracelets made from recycled PVC tubing. The artisans begin by cutting the PVC in to the shape of the bracelet, and then etching a design. After that, natural



dyes are used to color the designs, and the PVC is heated to shape it. Although not a ‘traditional’ material, the *Ovahimba* people who create these bracelets have a long history of jewelry making and body adornment. The choice of PVC is a creative way to combine their traditional practices and recycle the

material as building development increased in their region.

The *Ovahimba* are part of Omba - an arts trust working with over 450 producers in nine regions of Namibia to market unique handmade and traditional crafts. They guarantee fair pay for their artisans and offer women in particular (who are largely illiterate), a chance to earn an income in a country with a 50% unemployment rate.



For the *Ovahimba* and Omba, **#artsaves** by creating a sustainable livelihood for marginalized communities.