THE PROJECT

The IKIKO project involves the construction of a new village for the Badjao tribe of Isabel (350 people), Leyte island (the Philippine archipelago) in a relocation site given to them by the municipal government within the mangrove areas between land and sea. There are 50 houses will be built in total, as of today 20 are already built (the end of the construction is estimate in April 2017) and one multipurpose building (already build).

The Badjao village is built over the water on stilts; Their stilt village allows them to stay connected with the marine world. Indeed, the Badjao are not comfortable on land, the village on stilts is the ideal alternative for their lifestyle and livelihood.

THE NGO

IKIKO is a French NGO created by Christophe Cormy Donat, a young architect who graduated from École spéciale d’architecture (ESA) in June 2016. The mission of IKIKO is to protect the environment, encouraging education and training for the Badjao community in Isabel, Philippines.
The Badjao are nicknamed the “sea nomads.” They live in the Southeast Asian region, where the Pacific Ocean waters mingle with those of the Indian Ocean in an area called “the coral triangle” between the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. They are an ethnic group with a language and a culture of their own. Their presence along thousands of kilometres of coastline makes it difficult to assess their number, roughly estimated at 20,000 individuals. Their way of life is the result of a perfect adaptation to the marine environment on which they depend not only economically, but also spiritually.

This community of Isabel fled the islands of Mindanao (Southern Philippines) due to piracy. They have been living now, for 20 years, in Isabel, a city of 40,000 residents. The Isabel Badjao live from fishing, and unfortunately they catch fewer and fewer fish, due to over-fishing by foreign entrepreneurs coming from Taiwan and Hong Kong, plastic ocean pollution and destructive fishing practices utilized by other subsistence fishers. As a result, the children from the village cross Isabel to beg. Little by little, as victims of the progress of society, the Badjao begin to lose their cultural identity.

Their old village was a bunch of shacks/make-shift houses in a private lot located along the shores of the municipality: an urban area that didn’t appear on any urban plan. The occupants were neither owners, tenants of the land and their constructions were legally illegal. The municipality provide them a land with property’s title for each family, in a near future each houses will be connected to running water in Isabel water district and electricity (solar panels). One of the most vital marine pollution due to the Badjao’s incorrect waste disposal. To contemplate with it, part of the priorities of the project is to build comfort rooms for their daily hygiene and necessities needs. Waste and wastewater management will also be ensured.

IKIKO VILLAGE
CHRISTOPHE Cormy DONAT
Facilitate the use of appropriate technologies, materials and labour adequate to local values, to the cultural specificity and responsive to the natural environment.

(The Hasselt Charter entity number 5)

The culture and lifestyle of the Badjao is now threatened by marine pollution, coastline degradation and discrimination. This complex, mismanaged issue hinders the development of the people. The other aspect of the IKIKO project is to strengthen the autonomy of the village by creating a circular economy that fits within the framework of sustainable development and which is inspired in particular by the philosophy of “upcycling” by recycling plastic bags and bottles littering the beach, streets and parks of Isabel and to show them how this can benefit their community economically by transforming it in another form of income (and thus away from the begging they have to practice to support themselves) and the learning of a know-how. After their first use, plastics become a valuable raw material for the manufacture of other products, while offering a solution to waste management. This initiative will empower the villagers of Isabel and preserve their lifestyle. Finally this recycling will constitute a new form of income for the Badjao, helping them to achieve fiscal autonomy.

IKIKO VILLAGE
CHRISTOPHE CORMY DONAT

1. plastic bag collection
2. sorting and cleaning
3. cutting and recycling
4. transformation into plastic yarn
5. manufacturing
6. selling

1. Second to produce a plastic bag
2. 20 minutes of utilization
+ 450 years of pollution
IKIKO VILLAGE  
CHRISTOPHE CORMY DONAT

“Support participatory, democratic, multicultural and interdisciplinary processes and approaches in strengthening community solidarity as a factor of rural and urban social development.”

(The Hasselt Charter entity number 8)

Houses will articulate around a building for the whole community which will become the center, leisure and social core of the village. The fishermen will be able to dock and untangle their nets, the children can play and study, the dwellers will be able to celebrate various festivals, wedding ceremony and village meeting, it can be use as a school and a recycling/manufacturing center and a suited place for their products expo hence visitors coming from NGO’s are frequently visiting them. A center for their education also, this serves as their classroom.

The multi-purpose building and houses are made of local materials (structure and framework in coconut lumber, bamboo split for flooring and palm tree leaves for roofing) and only traditional technical of constructions are using (only hand working, no electric tools were use during the construction).

In order for the architectural project to support the manufacturing and educational processes of the project, the building and its fabrication was made done in a collective, environmental and enjoyable manner.

Each family built their own house, and two badjao team helped to build the multipurpose building (a men team for the construction of the structure and a women team for the fabrication of the plastic pannels). The building would become the perspective of the use of recycled materials by incorporate as much recycled material as possible: the walls are braiding with plastic bags, the structure is made of recycling electric post given by the electric company...

Also IKIKO project in its wishes to foster respect for each other’s culture and break down the barriers between Badjao and Filipino people from Isabel, various workshop and meeting were organized: in Isabel Central school of the municipality with Christians and Badjao children, with some prisoners of Isabel district jail, pastor and faithful from a church. During these workshops volunteers made some plastic pannels for the multipurpose building.

+ 5000 BAGS  
+100 KM OF PLASTIC YARN  
320 PANNELS