



About Tagua...

Tagua ("tah-gwa"), also known as corozo, palm ivory, ivory nut or vegetable ivory, is primarily the dried seedpod of the tagua palm tree (*Phytelephas macrocarpa*) which grows in the tropical rainforests of South America. The female palms bear large woody, burr-like fruits, each containing several seeds about the size of hens' eggs. The immature seeds, white or cream in color, are gelatinous and edible. When these ivory nuts are dried for 6-8 weeks they become very hard and can then be peeled, sliced or carved and dyed in different colors.

In the late 1800s up through World War II, before the invention of plastic, the tagua nut was used to make some of the finest buttons in the clothing industry. Other common items such as jewellery, dice, chess pieces and cane handles were made from tagua as well. More recently, palm ivory has been used in the making of bagpipes.

The indigenous people of South America used tagua to represent femininity because of its great magnet-like romantic energy. Each member of the tribe was given a tagua pendant to wear around their neck. They believed that persons wearing tagua would live in harmony and always be loved by their family and friends.

In addition to protecting animal species which produce ivory such as elephants, tagua products help preserve tropical rainforests by providing a sustainable income for forest gatherers without harming the tree.