This short course was developed as a resource material for the trainer. This module is one in a series of six, which covers all competences standard for Bilum Making in level one in Local Craft. Due to the demand STRU has developed this short course for the community and other stake holder to have better knowledge and understanding of. Furthermore the course aim is to create a link for training those unskilled people in the community to have the opportunity to understand the most important aspect in local handcraft.

LOCAL CRAFT

Bilum Weaving

RATIONALE

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The development of this short course was sponsored by the ADB-PNG EMPLOYMENT ORIENTED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (EOSDP) and produced by curriculum officers at the SKILLS TRAINING RESOURCES UNIT (STRU)
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COURSE OUTLINE: Bilum weaving

Program: TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY
Course: LOCAL CRAFT
Module code: TH012vi
Module name: Bilum Weaving

Module 1: Coconut mid-rid fruit basket
Module 2: Floor mat-fine weave
Module 3: Hat weave
Module 4: Open basket weave
Module 5: Cane basket
Module 6: Bilum weaving
COMPETENCY PROFILE: Basic Bilum Weaving

Duty Task

A. Coconut mid-rib fruit basket
   A1. Identify tools and materials
   A2. Group brooms
   A3. Form the base
   A4. Pairing brooms
   A5. Weave the mid-rib basket

B. Floor mat-fine weave
   B1. Identify tools and materials
   B2. Strip pandanus
   B3. Weave mat

C. Hat weaving
   C1. Identify tools and materials
   C2. Strip pandanus
   C3. Weave the braid
   C4. Sew braids together

D. Open basket weave
   D1. Identify tools and materials
   D2. Strip pandanus
   D3. Weave inside lining
   D4. Weave outside
   D5. Weave handle
   D6. Weave opening and attach handle

E. Cane basket weave
   E1. Identify tools and materials
   E2. Prepare canes
   E3. Weave base
   E4. Weave basket opening
   E5. Attach handle

F. Basic bilum making
   F1. Identify tools and materials
   F2. Twist bilum rope
   F3. Identify weaving method
   F4. Weave bilum mouth
   F5. Make bilum handle
   F6. Join handle to bilum
## CURRICULUM GUIDE

**Program:** TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY  
**Course:** LOCAL CRAFT  
**Module code:** TH012vi  
**Module name:** Bilum Weaving  
**Module Purpose:** The purpose of the module is to equip participants with skills and knowledge in basic bilum making so they can be able to make for the family or for sale.  
**Nominal duration:** The module should take approximately 10 hours.  
**Prerequisites:** There are no pre-requisite to this module.  
**Content:**  
- **F1.** Tools and materials  
- **F2.** Weaving method  
- **F3.** Mouth of bilum  
- **F4.** Making handle  
- **F5.** Joining handle to bilum  
**Suggested delivery method:** The short course will be delivered in a practical, hands-on manner.  
1. Explanation (what we will do) 5%  
2. Demonstration (how we will do it) 15%  
3. Implementation (now you do it) 70%  
4. Evaluation (how good did we do it) 10%  
**Instructor:** The trainer preferred will be a recognized trainer from the community or a trained vocational teacher with bilum making skill.  
**Resource requirement:** Training notes, sample, tools and materials.  
**Assessment condition:** In a community hall or where the participants can feel comfortable to learn.  
**Reference:**  
Overview of Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

On successfully completing the course the participants will be able to;
F1. Identify tools and materials in bilum making.
F2. Twist the rope in the correct manner.
F3. Weave the bilum following the correct procedures.
F4. Weave the bilum mouth.
F5. Make the bilum handle.
F6. Join the handle to the bilum and complete.

APPENDIX 1: Training and Assessment Guide (Learning Outcome).

**Task F1:** Tools and materials.
Suggested minimum instructional time: 30 minutes

**Learning outcome F1.1:**
- Identify tools and materials in bilum making.

**Teaching Strategy:**
Learning activities for the participants must include the instructor to;
1.1 Identify tools and materials to use.
1.2 Explain use of each tool.

**Assessment condition:**
In a classroom situation or a training hall where the participants are provided with;
- making bilum materials
- samples of strings – wool/sisal/plastic rope
- sample of twisted ropes/strings
- scissors

**Assessment criteria:**
The participant has;
1.1.1 Named tools and materials used in bilum making.
1.1.2 Discussed use of each tool.

**Assessment method:**
- Short answer
- Oral questions and observation
- Practical application

**APPENDIX 2:** Training and Assessment Guide (Learning Outcome).

**Task F2:** Twist the rope.
Suggested minimum instructional time: 1 hour

**Learning outcome F2.2:**
- Prepare canes following correct procedures.

**Teaching Strategy:**
Learning activities for the participants must include the instructor to;
2.1 Identify and explain types and sizes of ropes/strings to use.
2.2 Explain and demonstrate steps in twisting the rope.

**Assessment condition:**
In a training hall where the participants are provided with;
- making bilum materials
- samples of strings – wool/sisal/plastic rope
- sample of twisted ropes/strings
- scissors

**Assessment criteria:**
The participant has;
2.2.1 Selected correct types and sizes of rope to use.
2.2.2 Twisted the ropes.

**Assessment method:**
- Short answer
- Oral questions and observation
- Practical application

**APPENDIX 3:** Training and Assessment Guide (Learning Outcome).

**Task F3:** Weaving method.
Suggested minimum instructional time: 1 hours

**Learning outcome F3.3:**
- Start weaving the bilum using correct size plastic strip.

**Teaching Strategy:**
Learning activities for the participants must include the instructor to;
3.1 Identified size of the bilum to weave.
3.2 Identified stitch size according to the plastic strip.
3.3 Explained and demonstrate weaving methods.
Assessment condition:
In a classroom situation or a training hall where the participants are provided with:
• making bilum materials
• samples of strings – wool/sisal/plastic rope
• sample of twisted ropes/strings
• scissors
• different size of plastic strip

Assessment criteria:
The participant has;
3.3.1 Outlined the size of the bilum;
   a. 60 cm x 30 cm (W x L).
3.3.2 Selected size of the plastic strip;
   a. 60 cm x 1 cm plastic strip (L x W).
3.3.3 Weaved bilum according to given measurements.

Assessment method:
• Short answer
• Oral questions and observation
• Practical application

APPENDIX 4: Training and Assessment Guide (Learning Outcome).

Learning outcome F4.4:
• Weave the mouth of the bilum.

Teaching Strategy:
Learning activities for the participants must include the instructor to;
4.1 Explain and demonstrate steps in starting the bilum.

Assessment condition:
In a classroom situation or a training hall where the participants are provided with:
• making bilum materials
• samples of strings – wool/sisal/plastic rope
• sample of twisted ropes/strings
• scissors

Assessment criteria:
The participant has;
4.4.1 Weaved the mouth of the bilum.

Assessment method:
• Short answer
• Oral questions and observation
• Practical application

APPENDIX 5: Training and Assessment Guide (Learning Outcome).

Learning outcome F5.1:
• Weave the handle of the bilum.

Teaching Strategy:
Learning activities for the participants must include the instructor to;
5.1 Explain and demonstrate steps in weaving the bilum handle.

Assessment condition:
In a classroom situation or a training hall where the participants are provided with:
• making bilum materials
• samples of strings – wool/sisal/plastic rope
• sample of twisted ropes/strings
• scissors

Assessment criteria:
The participant has;
5.5.1 Weaved the handle of the bilum.

Assessment method:
• Short answer
• Oral questions and observation
• Practical application

APPENDIX 6: Training and Assessment Guide (Learning Outcome).

Learning outcome F6.1:
• Join handle to the bilum.

Teaching Strategy:
Learning activities for the participants must include the instructor to;
6.1 Explain and demonstrate steps in joining the handle to the bilum.

Assessment condition:
In a classroom situation or a training hall where the participants are provided with:
• making bilum materials
• samples of strings – wool/sisal/plastic rope
• sample of twisted ropes/strings
• scissors

Assessment criteria:
The participant has;
4.4.1 Weaved the mouth of the bilum.
Assessment criteria:
The participant has;
6.6.1 Join the handle to the bilum.

Assessment method:
• Short answer
• Oral questions and observation
• Practical application

APPENDIX 7 Introduction

HOW TO MAKE A BILUM

The bilum is a traditional PNG string bag. Bilums come in a variety of shapes and styles and are made for different purposes. Bilums are made to carry babies in and to use for leisure. Despite the many different aspects and purposes of bilums they all are made from the same basic weaving method.

Bilums are worked by forming rows of a special knot around a strip which today is usually made of plastic packing strips. The strips are used to determine the size of the stitches and help to make the job of holding the stitches easier. When the string runs out a new length is twisted on to the end.

Bilums consist of a spiral of rows of meshes.

A1: Tools and materials

You will need:
• Some coloured strings
• 60 cm or more to form the base
• 3 plastic strips 30 cm long
• A pair of scissors
• One or two needles (darning needles). Use old spokes from an umbrella.

Others:
• Rubber (use old tyre tubes) to protect your skin when twisting the string especially when using sisal or bush ropes.

Instructional Notes

A2: Twisting the string

To twist the twine:
1. Measure about 150 cm metres of string. Divide in half one side should be longer than the other.
2. Hold the string together on you left hand, the thumb and the pointer you should have two strings hanging down (do the same if you are left handed).
3. Use the right hand using the palm of your hand to roll and twist the string on your laps.
4. Relax the left hand when twisting the string, release when beginning to roll and twist the string. You will see that automatically the string will twist.
5. Continue with same procedure until the string is short.
6. Join in new strings as they become shorter until you need the required length for the bilum.

A3: Weave main body

To weave the bilum:
1. Make a loop around the plastic strip and tie with a slip knot.
2. Place one end of string on the front of the plastic strip (that is side the facing you) and hold it down with your thumb at the front and with your forefinger at the back of the plastic strip.
3. Pull the working and over the top and then behind the plastic strip creating a loop at the top of the plastic strip.
4. Working end is brought under the plastic and is fed under the other end of the string so that
the plastic strip now has a circle of the string around it. This mesh must be kept loose enough to be able to feed the subsequent stitches into the loops of the previous ones.

5. Working end goes over the loose end into the top loop from the left side to the right side. It is important that the points where the string crosses over are kept at the bottom and top of the plastic strip. The working end goes behind the plastic strip and is fed from left to right into the bottom loop.

6. Repeat the procedure until you reach the required length which will be the half the circumference of your bilum.

A5: Weave bilum handle

Bilum handles are sometimes made separately from the bilum then joined on. Others are made straight from the side of the bilum. There are many styles but the simplest uses the same basic stitch as in the body of the bilum then joined on.

1. Use a shorter plastic strip and make about 8-10 stitches.
2. Use a second plastic strip. Make the next row using the same stitch.
3. Continue making rows until you reach the length of handle that you want.

A4: Weave bilum mouth

1. Start with a new piece of string and join to end of the string that you used for making the body of the bilum.
2. Hold the top of the bilum facing you so that you can clearly see the top edge of the stitches forming the top row.
3. Skip the last working stitch of the body of the bilum. Count three loops to the front and feed the string into the third loop from left to right. Make a knot. Count three loops and feed the string into third loop from left to right. From right to left push the string into the knot that you made. Bring the string back towards you forming a circle.
4. Count another three loops in front and feed the string into the third loop. Bring the string back and feed it into the previous circle. Continue around the mouth of the bilum.
5. Feed the last stitch into the first stitch to form a continues chain when the two ends meet. To finish, tie knot and cut the extra string.
A6: Join handle to bilum

1. Hold the bilum up and from the way it hangs judge where the sides are. The handle must be attached to these points so that the bilum when it is carried will be evenly balanced.

2. Joined body of the bilum to the handle together by looping stitches. It is important that the joining stitches are made into the first row of the bilum not just into the finishing edge of the mouth of the bilum so that your join is strong.

3. Secure with a knot when fish.

ATTACHMENTS

Safety Precautions

1. Always place your work in a bag, and put safely away from children.

2. Needles must be packed in safe container, avoid falling of from the bag.

3. Never place unfinished work lying around the house or any place, it could cause accidents.

4. Twisted strings must be rolled up neatly to avoid been tangled up.

5. Always roll string to a minimum length that you are able to use on the bilum (to avoid tangling up), time will be wasted in undoing again.

6. If you have sensitive skin, use a protector to cover your laps to avoid skin rashes.

7. Never allow children to stay closer when you are weaving the bilum, you might accidentally poked the child with the needle.

8. Always have extra darning needle in your craft bag.

9. Always have extra strings to save time and money.

10. Be careful when using lime when twisting sisal/bush strings, use little bit only to avoid irritating the eyes. If you have sore eyes, avoid using it.
Acknowledgment

This short course module, developed in Papua New Guinea, is based on the competency-based training model.
The Skill Training Resource Unit (STRU) of Employment Oriented Skills Development Project (EOSDP) in conjunction with Department (TVET) division and the implementing agency Department for Community Development Services wish to express their thanks to the people who have contributed in producing the module.
We hope it will provide basic knowledge and skills for the informal and the formal sectors especially the women, men and the youth to be employed or self-employed through having better skills for tomorrow.
The development of this short course was sponsored by the ADB-PNG EMPLOYMENT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (EOSDP) and produced by curriculum officers at the SKILLS TRAINING RESOURCES UNIT (STRU).