

# PRODUCING SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES FROM KAPOK FIBRES WHILE PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT IN CHINA

[The Flocus company](#), based in Shanghai (China) uses the Kapok fibre to create sustainable textiles for the fashion industry.

The Flocus products containing Kapok are naturally comfortable, lightweight, hypoallergenic, soft to the touch and, without any additives, they have many properties such as moisture management, temperature regulation, insect repellence.

In English, Kapok is the name used for both the tree (*Ceiba Pentandra* in Latin America) and the fiber. This cotton-like fiber, abundant and silky, envelops the numerous seeds found in the tree's fruits, ellipsoid and woody capsules.

In the past Kapok could not be spun and has been used, directly from the pod in which it grows, simply as stuffing, in products such as mattresses and soft toys. But during the last years and considering the Kapok potential of being one of the lightest hollow fibre, the technology has improved in order to spin its fibres into tiny yarns and use them to create a wide range of fabrics. Although the fiber cannot be used to produce a 100% Kapok fabric, it can be blended with other materials to manufacture a variety of products.

The Flocus™ company, founded in 2015, is committed to [create a responsible supply chain of Kapok](#). The company specializes in Kapok fibre blends with a highest percentage of Kapok, using the most advanced technology. The company manufactures sustainable yarns, fabrics and fillings made from finest Kapok fibres that combine performance with naturalness for any application.

[Kapok fibre is organic, 100% biodegradable and 100% recyclable](#). In every application, during the production process, and at the end of the product's life, Kapok is regenerative. Furthermore, in the framework of the major current challenges for the sustainability of the fashion industry, using a natural fibre as Kapok, the Flocus company contributes to reducing the use of animal and synthetic products in the market.

Extensive documentation available on the internet shows the great contribution of the Kapok tree for environmental protection. Kapok is a very large, resistant tree that grows spontaneously in pristine forests, mountains and even abandoned land. The tree supports efficient ecosystems avoiding erosion, organically fertilising the land while sequestering carbon in the atmosphere. A single tree may produce between 500 and 4000 fruits, with 200 seeds in each fruit. When the fruits burst open, its numerous seeds are spread all over the forest making the Kapok trees able to colonize new open areas. This species is often used for reforestation in degraded areas.



The Flocus company points out that by using the Kapok fibres for manufacturing sustainable products, it is possible to ensure a positive impact for the environment and for economic and social development of the communities where the fibre is grown and processed. Kapok tree can grow on land which is not suitable for agricultural purposes, the fibre is a non-food fruit crop which can be picked from the tree, leaving the plant to grow and prosper. Kapok trees need no irrigation, no pesticides, and no fertilisers. They can grow in a biodiverse environment, organically fertilizing the land, supporting poly-cropping and saving the use of an important resource such as water. In its campaigns to promote the Kapok products, Flocus invites more farmers to join their supply chain planting and growing more Kapok trees.

Kapok can be blended with different materials [for the manufacture of products for various uses](#) and the Flocus company provides the textile industry and the consumers with a naturally sustainable alternative. Kapok fibre is naturally organic and therefore requires no certification. However, the Flocus supply chain partners include spinners, weavers and other organisations which blend kapok with other fibres and their processes operate under globally recognised certifications such as Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), Global Recycle Standard (GRS).

When blended with cotton fibre, Kapok which is five times lighter, reduces textile weights by up to 10-15% and lends a unique texture, even when used in small percentages. It also has waterproof and hypoallergenic properties and is a very effective natural insulator. This new material allows to create a highly sustainable fabric, preserving large quantities of resources, in particular water. Moreover, for the marketing of Kapok fibres, to prevent synthetic fibres migrate into yarns, the company substituted synthetics bags with yute, which can also be recycled or biodegraded after use.

Flocus has been recognized by several international organizations and has received support for the development of its activities. International recognitions began in 2015, when Flocus won the *Performance Days Eco-Award* with its Kapok fabric, chosen out of almost 850 other fabrics as the most innovative and ecological. In 2016 they won the PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) Award and the *Outdoor Friedrichshafen Industry Award*. The International Sports fair ISPO counted Flocus' vegan filling among the Top Ten products for the fall/winter collection. In 2018, Flocus has been chosen to take part in the [Fashion for Good's Plug and Play](#) accelerator initiative, receiving support to scaling-up their technologies, methodologies, and business models. The [Fashion United magazine](#) dedicated an article to the Kapok fibers produced by Flocus presenting them as sustainable alternatives and textile innovations that are currently being pursued all over the world.

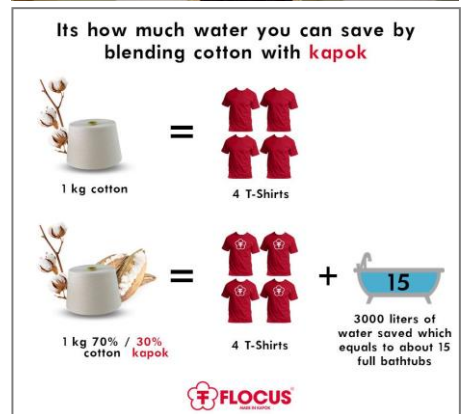
With its successes, the Flocus company contributes to draw international attention to the exceptional potential of the natural fiber produced by the Kapok tree, which, thanks to the development of suitable technologies, can now be used to produce a wide range of fabrics.

### To know more

[Flocus website](#)

[Flocus in Facebook](#)

[Flocus in instagram.com](#)



[Flocus in premierevision.com](http://premierevision.com)

[Flocus in ecotextile.com](http://ecotextile.com)

[Flocus in fashionunited.com](http://fashionunited.com)

[Ceiba in Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia)

[Kapok in wikipedia](http://wikipedia)

[Natural fibres in FAO website](http://FAO website)

[Kapok in rainforest-alliance.org](http://rainforest-alliance.org)

[Ceiba Foundation website](http://Ceiba Foundation website)

[Ceiba in gbf.org](http://gbf.org)

[Kapok in agro-raya.com](http://agro-raya.com)

[Kapok in dormiente.com](http://dormiente.com)

[Kapok in rencollective.org](http://rencollective.org)

[Kapok in gabelgroup.it](http://gabelgroup.it)

[Flocus in ciaindumentaria.com.ar](http://ciaindumentaria.com.ar)

