

Large Ancestor Cult House Mask, Torembi Village, PNG.



This vintage carved Ancestor House Cult Mask comes from Torembi Village, home to the Sawos people of East Sepik, Papua New Guinea. Crafted from wood and inlaid with cowrie shell eyes, it displays the striking lines, ochre tones, and expressive features typical of the region.

The mask would have been mounted on the wall of a men's house and used during special ceremonies. The Sawos people, who inhabit forest areas on the edge of the kunai grasslands, are divided into clans linked to specific ancestors and totemic species, each represented through sacred carvings.

Such masks embody wan or waken—powerful ancestral beings—each named after an important clan forebear. This example is intricately carved, painted in traditional tribal ochres, and flame-dried over a fire, highlighting its early origins.

H – 63 cm W – 29 cm D – 8 cm Weight – 1.8 kg

