### Geographical Indication (GI) of Handicrafts: A tool to improve the livelihood and protect biodiversity in remote communities?

#### **Context of GI** Study area: GI in Colombia An increasing number of traditional local · Diversity of ecosystem and agroecologies (Amazon basin and the Andean Mountain) products, either agro-food or handicraft Natural • GIs Handicrafts cover products that are derived worldwide, are registered as Geographical indications Factors from local plant varieties (GIs) There are products known for their place of origin and · Diversity of ethnicities and cultural practices their uniqueness of agro ecological and cultural · Traditional knowledge transferring over generations; specialization of producers environment, providing a particular quality and · The artisanal sector in Colombia has genuineness luman approximately 300.000 artisans in different Factor Geographical indications (GIs) provide a legal $WTQ^{\leq}$ regions framework to protect and promote such product's **Research objective** Methods Assess the potential of Geographical Indication for Household-level survey: Handicrafts produced in rural areas in Colombia -133 producer and processor interviews Natural resources (Biodiversity) Focus group discussions with maintenance producer associations Direct observation: -Cultivation/collection of raw material - Processing plants Map of Colombia: Showing Key informant interviews with the 8 GI products in 8 field governmental officials sites

# **Results**

#### Impacts on Biodiversity



 Undervalued natural resources in the production system of Handicrafts (lack of knowledge about the wild crops) Inadequate harvesting and ecosystem degradation Scarcity of natural resources due to increasing demand of handicrafts

 Decreased cultivation of underutilised plant species, thus reducing the Landscape biodiversity

# Conclusions

-GIs has the potential to contribute to the viability of agricultural activities in remote regions, and thus the maintenance of the ecosystems and local economy

- However, if the GIs is considered only as intellectual property right, the interest of producer communities is limited, due to the lack of positive impacts on biodiversity and market benefits



Despite the limited economic benefits, multiple regions strongly depend on the artisanal sector

The producers are not benefiting from an added value of a GI certification due to missing management of certifications Lack of government's support to the stakeholders for the management of certifications (GIs)

- Lack of market information and weak market power of the GI handicraft producers Artisanal production sales



# Recommendations

Strengthening national legal framework and the inclusion of environmental sustainability criteria for a sustainable utilisation of raw materials is strongly recommended to reach an improvement of the livelihood of the artisans and protection of biodiversity



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