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Cultural Diversity in Ethiopia and Its Impact on Local Economies and Biodiversity

[Ingrid Hartmann](#)

Conference paper

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This paper shows examples of the cultural diversity of Ethiopia and its rootedness in biodiversity and history which is expressed in its crafts. Two main approaches for their preservation are illustrated, a subsistence-oriented and a market-based approach. Different kinds of products, like basketry, weaving, leather and cultural foods, are analyzed in respect to their natural and historical rootedness and the way in which current approaches for their promotion impact the rural economy and the natural environment and thus contribute to the creation of alternative livelihoods in drylands. A specific focus is on the socio-economic

conditions of traditional Ethiopian craftworkers, who remain ostracized and impoverished.

Keywords

Biocultural diversity **crafts**

cultural value systems **cultural identity**

biodiversity conservation

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