



## TENUN IKAT SIKKA

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## TENUN IKAT SIKKA HANDWOVEN TEXTILES

Quick facts about Tenun Ikat Sikka (GI)

Origin: Sikka region, Flores island (Indonesia)

GI protected since: 2017

Producers: 1959 farmer families in Sikka district





## What is a Geographical Indicationt (GI)? What does it serve?

A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

For the consumer, a GI is a logo on local specialty products that guarantees that this product is authentic, original, of high quality, and produced in a specific region and according to specific rules. It also guarantees that the origin and quality is regularly



patterning practices in Eastern mesia and Timor Leste. on is harvested, spun into dyed, tied, and then uplete pattern is only visible after the weaving. It's a manual work that requires a lot of precision, creativity, imagination, and patience. In this sense it is a

true piece of art!

more than a piece of art

a piece of art, as each region or ethnic group has their own ikat motifs, colours, and patterns that have been transmitted over generations from the ancestors. Ikat textiles serve as clothing and decoration of cultural occasions such as births, weddings, and death ceremonies. As such, ikat textile play an important role in social life and represent the culture, history, and collective identity of local communities, among them Sikka.

Buyers of ikat therefore never just buy "a piece of textile", but each ikat is a unique piece of art and at the same time of high cultural significance. The weavers - usually elderly women - thereby combine the roughly 50 transmitted patterns considered as distinctive for Sikka identity with own interpretations and



Registration as a GI aims at the protection of traditional and authentic products from falsification. This is important for common agricultural GI products and it is even more important for a highly significant cultural creations such as Tenun Ikat Sikka. What is explicitly protected with Tenun Ikat Sikka is neither the process (weaving) nor the material (cotton and natural dye), but the patterns themselves, as they provide the ikat with distinctive local characteristics. These patterns have been copied by the industry without permtission and without any link to the Sikka region. The producers of Tenun Ikat Sikka therefore

As ethnic fashion is becoming increasingly popular in Indonesia and worldwide, there are plenty of opportunities to sell Tenun Ikat Sikka to high-end designers, the fashion industry, as well as tourists. The only condition to sell ikat as "Tenun Ikat Sikka GI" is to use original handmade ikat from Sikka, with at least one of the protected patterns fully depicted. In return, the producers carefully check on the quality and traceability of the Tenun Ikat Sikka.