

## **Bajo Livelihoods in Sama Bahari, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia, since 1998**

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Members of the Bajo community in Sama Bahari, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia, rely mostly on the surrounding marine ecosystem for their livelihoods. However, the establishment and implementation of a marine protected area in the region between 1996 and 1998 has imposed rules and regulations that affect the livelihood strategies of local Bajo fisherfolk. Other historic events have also influenced Bajo livelihood outcomes, namely the Asian economic crisis and the fall of President Suharto in 1997/98. This thesis aims to analyze the livelihoods of this local Bajo community and to better understand how their livelihoods have changed since 1998. I collected fieldwork data through semi-structured interviews, Photovoice, a focus group and participant observation during a six-week stay in the community in 2013. I draw from the literature on everyday resistance, the sustainable livelihoods approach, and the capability approach to conceptualize my research findings. I find that there has been no significant change in financial income levels or the vulnerability context for local Bajo livelihoods; there has been a rather evident decrease in environmental sustainability; and, despite these specific elements, a slight increase in the level of overall well-being in Sama Bahari. A greater understanding of Bajo livelihoods should be considered in efforts to manage local fisheries, reduce poverty, and develop sustainably.

