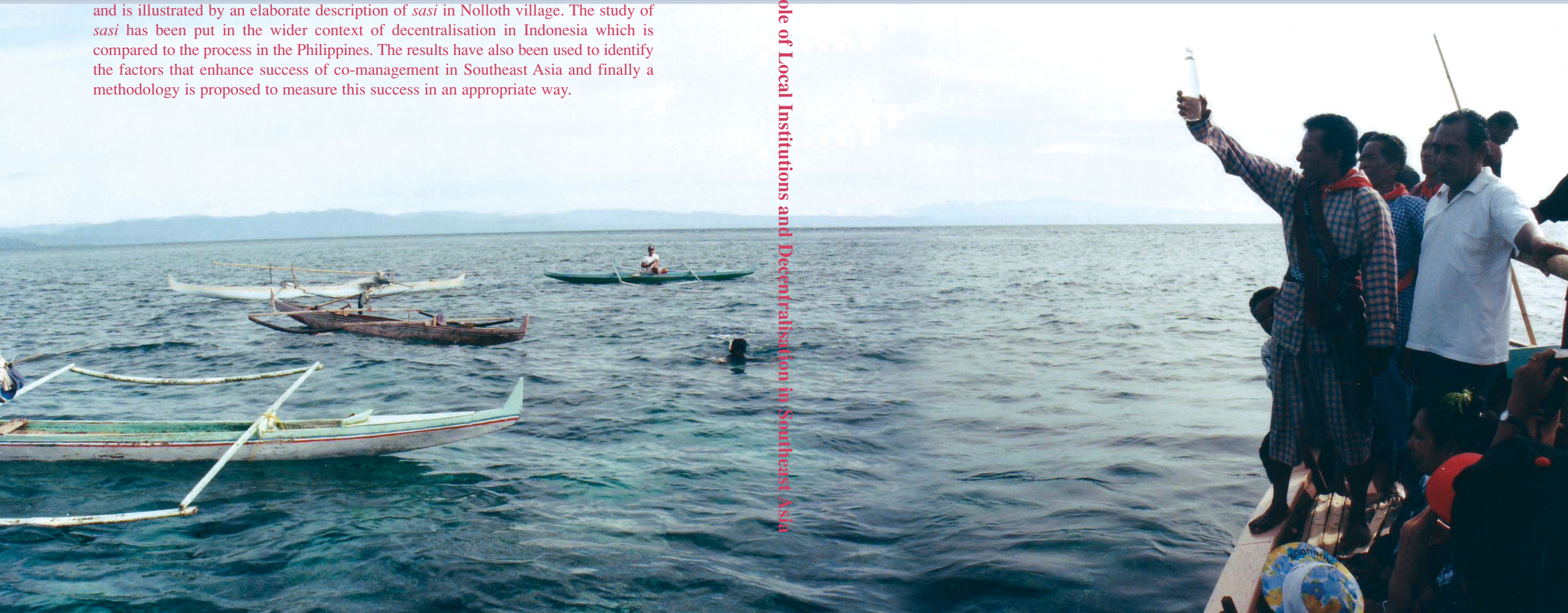


This PhD thesis is about the potential role of local institutions in fisheries management. As marine resources world wide deteriorate, the call for better management urges national governments to decentralise management authority and responsibility to local and lower government levels. Ownership and long-term access to resources are important incentives to manage resources for sustainability, while proximity to the resource and the presence of relevant local knowledge and management institutions, allow for effective and more equitable management that is both adaptive and resilient.

*Sasi* in Maluku, Indonesia, is such an institution and has often been heralded as an example of successful local resource management. The extent to which it was still active, however, was not known. This thesis contains an inventory of *sasi* and an analysis of its performance in terms of equity, efficiency, biological and social sustainability, and is illustrated by an elaborate description of *sasi* in Nolloth village. The study of *sasi* has been put in the wider context of decentralisation in Indonesia which is compared to the process in the Philippines. The results have also been used to identify the factors that enhance success of co-management in Southeast Asia and finally a methodology is proposed to measure this success in an appropriate way.

# Fisheries Co-Management, the Role of Local Institutions and Decentralisation in Southeast Asia

With specific reference to marine *sasi* in Central Maluku, Indonesia



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