



An Institutional Analysis of Sasi Laut in Maluku, Indonesia

I. Novaczek, I.H.T. Harkes, J. Sopacua and M.D.D. Tatuhey. 2001. An Institutional Analysis of Sasi Laut in Maluku, Indonesia. ICLARM-The World Fish Center Tech.Rep.59, 327 p.

Increasing environmental degradation in much of the developing world is often linked with rapid economic development and the loss of indigenous knowledge systems and traditional resource management institutions. There are however very few detailed studies on enduring indigenous or traditional resource management institutions. In response to this gap in knowledge ICLARM-The World Fish Center embarked on a study of the Sasi Laut (an indigenous fisheries resource conservation and management tradition) in Maluku, Indonesia. The study was part of a larger global project on fisheries co-management funded by the Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA) and the International Development Research Center (IDRC) of Canada. Indonesia has the largest number of and longest enduring traditional community-based coastal resource management systems in Southeast Asia. Although many of these systems are disappearing, the basis of these systems and resource

management approaches used in these systems hold some promise of providing directions for crafting new institutions for managing natural resources. Such knowledge could be a basis for improved policy choices resulting in sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

This study provides a better understanding of the extent and functioning of community-based coastal resource management systems in Maluku province, Indonesia and suggests recommendations for national, provincial and village government to support, maintain and develop effective traditional and indigenous resource management institutions. The study has shown that the Sasi Laut has benefits that can be used as a basis for building local level management institutions.

Although large-scale changes have taken place in Maluku since the time this study was completed, the changes provide new opportunities for the development of innovative arrangements for state and community cooperation for managing aquatic resources. It is hoped the detailed study of the Sasi Laut system provided in this report will form an important benchmark for future studies on indigenous resource management systems in different parts of the world.



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