

# Sama Badjau Resettlement in an Urban Context

## A Cultural Integration and Adaptation Approach

Barangay Bakod Bayan, Cabanatuan City

According to the Minority Rights Group International (2017), the world is currently experiencing a unique period of migration with tens of thousands moving to new cities, countries, and continents each year. This transition takes many forms and is guided by a variety of forces. While the change may be the product of logic and of reasons like seeking better employment opportunities, in many cases crime, persecution, and other human rights abuses are the primary factors of migration.

Migration may also bring a positive effect on ethnic and religious minorities who leave their village, area, or nation to build a better life in another country, motivated by violence and/or persecution. Once the reason for displacement is identified or defined, the indigenous community acts by protecting itself and voluntary transfer or relocating elsewhere.

There are many challenges in the relocation of ethnic groups/minorities. Many reject going to relocation sites because of the pressure to respond to a new way of life, a different setting which they are not familiar with. Also, according to Javernick-Will, there are numerous criticisms on how government programs have been implemented for minority groups that originally aimed at building livable communities by offering quality housing, facilities, social amenities, a sense of neighborhood, protection, and permanence (Amy Javernick-Will, 2020).

One such Indigenous group who suffered from displacement due to political war is the Sama Badjau. Despite being known as a people that is highly adaptive, resilient, and flexible in terms of communication and trading in the areas of Mindanao, forced evictions and homelessness of the Sama Badjau have been increasing in the region for the past decade. The Sama Badjau is one of the few indigenous communities continuously suffering from marginalization.

One of the major aims of this research is to show that the Sama Badjau can adapt to a sedentary life on land, in complete contrast to their usual water-based and nomadic context. This brings up the question of Sama Badjau's original identity. It shows that there are various determinants that explain the sedentarization and adaptation of the Sama Badjau on land.

## RESEARCH PROBLEM

How did the Sama Badjau adapt to the new settlement provided by the Local Government of Nueva Ecija?

## OBJECTIVES

Understanding the Sama Badjau original context  
Identify the spatial elements needed  
Determine the existing projects, programs and policies  
Housing needs  
Residential Satisfaction

## SIGNIFICANCE

aims to show how the Sama Badjau were able to adapt in a resettlement site provided by the local government of Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. It will help to establish the feasibility of a public housing development for Indigenous People's (IP) group in the urban context.



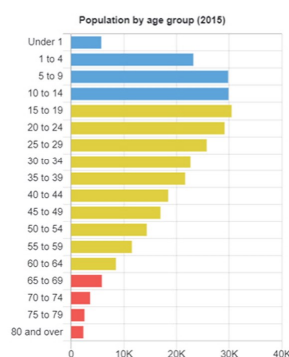
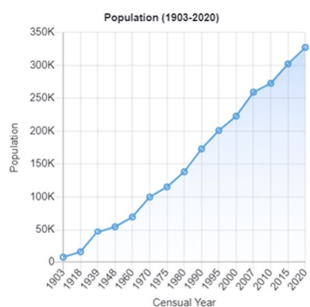
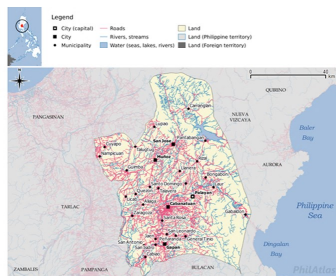
According to Sather (2001), The Sama Badjau also lived on land, even in permanent settlements. It was also stated on the Royal Annals of Brunei that the Sama Badjau group have contributed historically to the early days of the Sultanate.



Saath mentioned that Islam is also considered one of the factors why Sama Badjau was divided into two groups in the Sulu Archipelago, namely, "Badjau" and "Samal". Those with a more maritime way of life, which considered as less Muslim, are called "Badjau" and the land-based groups appeared to



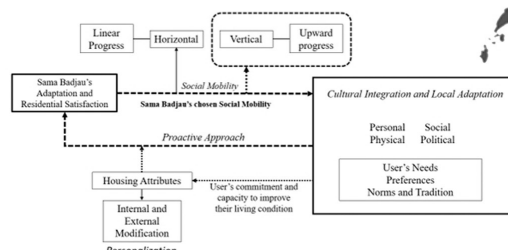
It cannot be disregarded that there are different kinds of progress in the history of the Sama Badjau, those who shift within the same social stratum who migrate by sea (Horizontal Mobility) and those who prefer to change the characteristics of their set identity and adapts to a new settlement on land (Vertical Mobility).



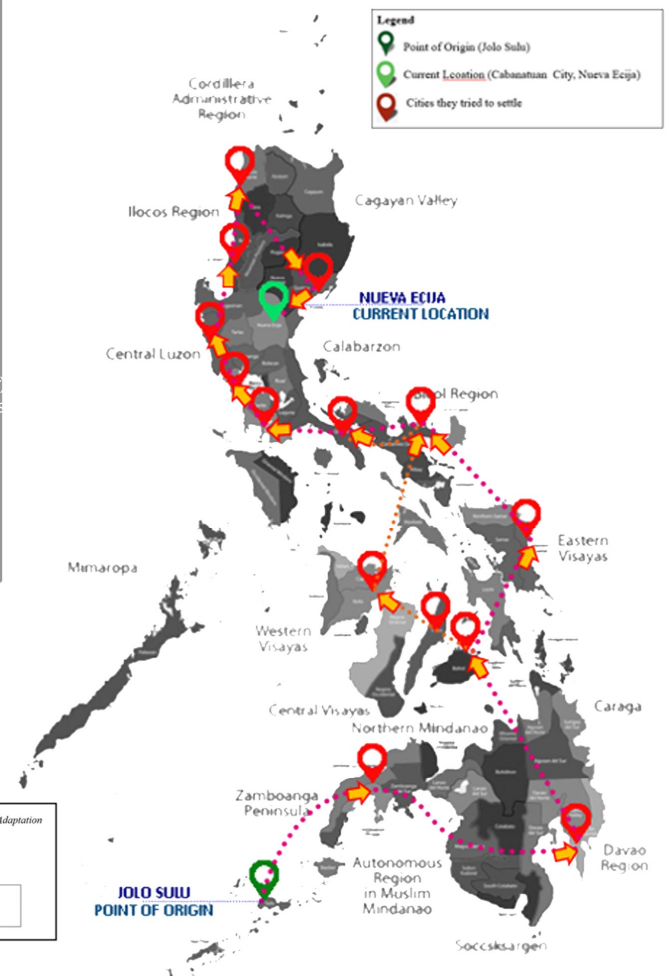
Understanding the two different types of Social Mobility of Sama Badjau namely horizontal and vertical mobility. There are several housing projects that can be used as a case study. Horizontal Mobility is much easier to distinguish as it focuses mainly on the sea-based migration which is predominantly found in most Sama Badjau settlement. It also includes the areas near bodies of water such as settlement along the shoreline, houses along rivers and many more. There are several case studies that have been conducted to understand the liveability of Sama Badjau near bodies of water. Case studies like the Sama Badjau in Malitam Dos located in Batangas City, Sama Badjau in Tawi-tawi, Davao, and Cebu which are all located near bodies of water.

In the case of Vertical Mobility, adaptation on a new settlement that is far from the characteristics of their traditional housing and site location (near bodies of water) is quite unusual. In understanding this kind of mobility, it is necessary to find a housing settlement for Sama Badjau community that is inland and far from any bodies of water. Furthermore, the community might have already modified the feature of their identity to be able to adapt and prove that they are qualified in developing and progressing material culture by embracing a sedentary mode of life.

Sama Badjau Community in Barangay Bakod Bayan Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija has been chosen as the case study because of the following criteria. Initial Information about the characteristics of their original and current setting were identified during the Preliminary Survey.



## MAP MOBILITY





# Research Participant's Profile



The survey results are based on 100 Sama Badjau, with each represent one household. Each household has an average of 3-4 members of family but there are family that has a maximum of 5-6 members. Some of the household sizes have increase due to their extended family.



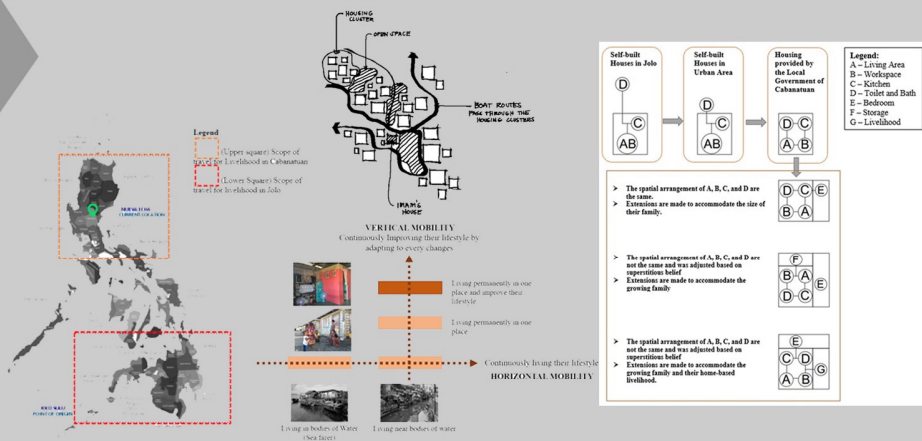
Representative from Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) who are currently maintaining the peace and order within the community will provide technical information regarding the Sama Badjau Resettlement Project.

## Sama Badjau Resettlement in an Urban Context: A Cultural Integration and Adaptation Approach

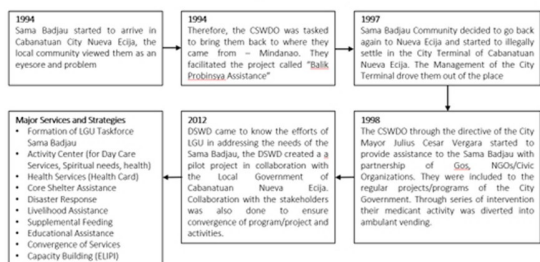
### Understanding the Sama Badjau original Context and the spatial elements needed in the implementation of the resettlement project in Cabanatuan City.

Housing Evolution based on the Preliminary Interviews on Beneficiaries of the Sama Badjau Resettlement Housing Project about their physical houses, livelihood, norms, and practices to understand their spatial needs and Mental Sketch Mapping.

	Jolo Sulu (Sea)	Nueva Ecija (Land)
Houses	Self-built houses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boat houses</li> <li>Houses on stilts</li> </ul>	Houses Provided by LGU Cabanatuan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single Detached</li> </ul>
Livelihood	Fishing, Mat-making, and Accessory making	Tricycle Driver, Fish Vendor, Accessory Maker and Vendor, Sari-Sari Store Vendor
Norms and Practices	Imam house (healer) Self-built house for their Imam	Imam House (healer) Self-built house for their Imam

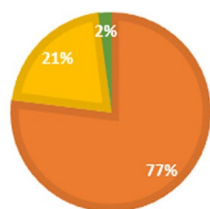


### Existing projects and programs of the Local Government Unit for ethnic groups like Sama Badjau in Cabanatuan Nueva Ecija.

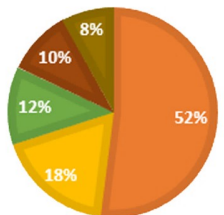


### Result of the survey for Residential Satisfaction

Highly Satisfied Satisfied Neutral

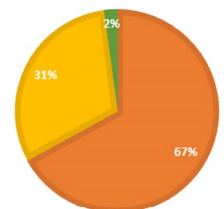


### Breakdown of Attributes that resulted to 77% of Highly Satisfied respondents



### Pie chart showing the breaking down of attributes resulting to the 21% of Satisfied respondents

Easy Adaptation Safety No response

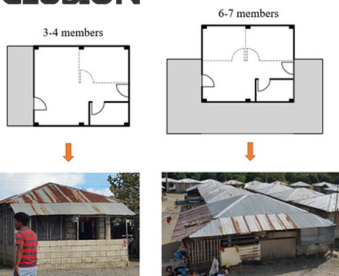
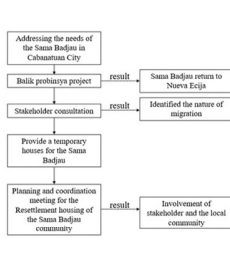


In spite of the positive response from the Sama Badjau community, 2% of the respondents answered that they are Neutral as they have a few concerns regarding the resettlement project.

## RESEARCH ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

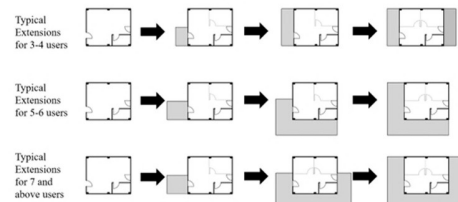


Basic Module	Housing Modification	Pictures and Total number of Users
Single Detached House	Extensions: (F) Livelihood (R) Kitchen Area Materials: Roof: Galvanized Iron Roof Ext. Support: Coco Lumber Wall: Hollow Blocks	No. of Users: 3-4
Shell House with doors and windows to enclose the unit	Extensions: (F) Livelihood Materials: Roof: Galvanized Iron Roof Ext. Support: Coco Lumber Wall: Hollow Blocks Improvements: Window: Jalousie	No. of Users: 3-4
	Extensions: (F) Resting Area Materials: Roof: Galvanized Iron Roof Ext. Support: Coco Lumber Wall: Bamboo	No. of Users: 4-5

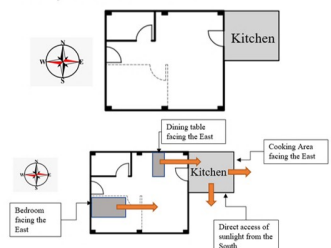


Extensions for home-based livelihood such as sari-sari stores, accessory-making, and food preparations are also evident.

The houses are modified based on the size of their family. According to their leader, a single dwelling typically has two (2) or more families.



They started to personalize and improve their houses based on their financial capacity. Some of them extended their houses to create space for livelihood such as sari-sari store and street food stall. Furthermore, a few of them decided to expand their houses to accommodate their growing families while also incorporating their distinct requirements and interests.



The Sama Badjau considered how their living area can function as a workspace during the day and a sleeping area at night. The furniture is also placed depends on their belief.