Wawata topu (women divers) are four generations of fisherwomen striving to make a living in the costal village of Adara, West Atauro, Timor-Leste. Their daily lives, their economic practices and their vital concerns, as well as the contradicting discourses and social barriers they face, are shown in this ethnographic portrait that makes visible their critical contribution to the household economies and the fishing community at large. Their underwater dancing takes place in a context of rapid social change, where the generalization of the formal education, the progressive consolidation of western moral values and the potential openness of more attractive livelihoods not linked to the sea, seem to be forging a social negotiation of the household economic strategies initiated by the oldest generation during the 60’s.
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A Film by
David Palazón
Enrique Alonso

Produced by
Enrique Alonso
David Palazón

Production Assistant
Mario Gomes

Photography by
David Palazón
Nelson Turquel

Editing and Post-production
David Palazón

Documentation and Research
Enrique Alonso

Interviews
Enrique Alonso
Nelson Turquel

Graphic Design
Fredrik Stürmer

Translation
Hector Hill
Enrique Alonso

Underwater Filming
Nelson Turquel
Nuno da Silva
Beatriz Marciel
Enrique Alonso

Music
Popular songs from Ataúro

Duration
36 mins

DVD PAL
(all regions)

Widescreen
16:9

Language
Tetun & Rasua

Subtitles
English