

WATER RESOURCE UTILIZATION OF LAKE LANAOS: ITS IMPLICATIONS TO SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ABSTRACT

This study mainly aims to determine the modes of water resource utilization of Lake Lanao and how these relate to socioeconomic development of selected lakeshore and riverine municipalities of Lanao del Sur. Concurrent triangulation approach was the research design of the study involving 500 survey respondents and 16 key informants. Findings of the study indicate that the lake water has been used for domestic and economic purposes like energy generation, farm irrigation, and shell harvesting. On the other hand, the lake has become the sink of all types of wastes emanating from the residents resulting in water pollution. Moreover, the socioeconomic development of selected communities has little to do with the benefits accruing from the revenues generated from the establishment of the hydropower plants that gets water from Lake Lanao.

The study has significant implications to lake water resource governance, disaster resilience, and climate change adaptive strategies. Sustaining the quality of water resource for human consumption and other uses is challenged by anthropogenic activities that endanger the environmental sustainability of the lake. Appropriate and efficient management of Lake Lanao needs to consider the interconnections of the different ecosystems (water, land, forest) surrounding the lake through the ridge to reef or watershed approach to restore its integrity and ecological balance. The sustainable utilization of Lake Lanao water resources has bearing on the lake's current status and its ability to serve the needs of the immediate lakeshore communities and the hydropower demands of the increasing power users of Mindanao in the future.

Keywords: Lake Lanao, Meranaw, water resource utilization, water governance