ABSTRACT

In this study the researcher investigated “The Impact of Lake Kivu Management Projects on Socio-Economic Development of the Lakeside Communities in Rubavu District, Rwanda”. People who had activities on and around Lake Kivu before the projects commence (i.e before 2000) have been required to create cooperatives or else they are not allowed to engage in any activity within fifty meters from the Lake. Some of the people affected do not understand the benefits to the population; it is very likely that conflicts between the population and the government could develop. Thus the researcher aims at exploring the achievements of Lake Kivu management projects in the socio-economic development of the lakeside communities. The work has the following three specific objectives; to explore the extent to which the projects have contributed to food security and to the eradication of malnutrition in the lakeside communities, to asses the extent to which the projects and related programs have improved access to healthcare of the lakeside communities, to analyze the extent to which those projects have contributed to capacity building in providing beneficiaries with access to employment, energy services, communication facilities and income generating activities. The design of the study is a survey. The population of this study considered all the people grouped in different cooperatives supported by Lake Kivu in Rubavu district, Rwanda and local authorities of those sectors. The population included 629 people, 4 project managers, 621 cooperative members, 2 executive secretaries of the two sectors of Rubavu district bordering Lake Kivu and 2 nutritionists of health centers in both sectors. The researcher decided to use confidence interval of 95% with the margin of error of 9 and the sample population was 100 people. While collecting data, the researcher used the questionnaire, the direct observation and the interview. This was done in order to maximize information from different respondents. After collecting data from the field, the researcher classified, analyzed them and interpreted the findings as a basis for recommendations made. The findings of this study revealed that the projects positively influenced the socio-economic development of the lakeside communities. The problem that is still persisting is that these projects didn’t introduce any few fish species since they became effective but only concentrated on protecting the lake, fixing and implementing regulations for its use. Thus, in case
managers would like to protect the Kivu lake and to improve the socio welfare of the lakeside communities, the introduction of better fish species in that lake is indispensable.