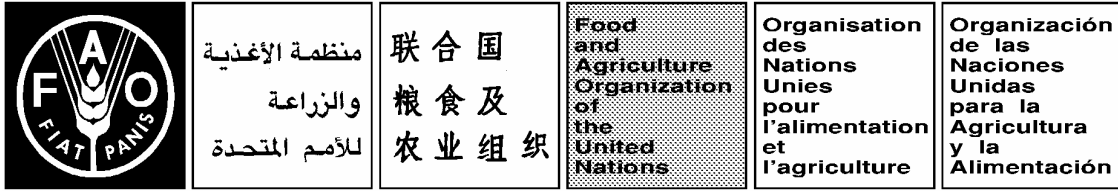


December 2002



COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES OF AFRICA

Twelfth Session

Yaoundé, Cameroon, 2-5 December 2002

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES OF AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA), at its Eleventh Session (Abuja, Nigeria, October 2000) made a number of recommendations on which several actions have been taken by the Secretariat. This document briefly reports only on actions that are not discussed under other agenda items. The relevant paragraph numbers of the Report of the Eleventh Session are given in brackets.

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Sensitize NGOs to the needs and opportunities of fisherfolk and fish farmers and encourage them to improve their skills, in particular in literacy, numeracy and small business management (paragraph 28).

2. FAO is increasingly involving NGOs as active partners in many fisheries and aquaculture field activities.

Ensure participation at macro- and micro-levels in fisheries management planning and policy formulation, using the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) as enabling tools (paragraph 30 (i)).

3. The activities of the regional Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) cover this recommendation and will be further explained in the Programme presentation of its activities.

Identify and promote new approaches in extension services, specific to the fisheries and aquaculture sector to respond to the new context created by Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) (paragraph 30 (iv)).

4. Extension continues to be a focal point for the programme of the Fisheries Unit (RAFI) of the FAO Regional Office in Accra. Efforts are made to focus attention on improving extension service delivery in regional and national field activities. As long as the conditions created by SAPs prevail in the fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors in the countries covered, new extension approaches will be sought and promoted, especially in multi-disciplinary interventions.

Encourage the private sector to increase investment in aquaculture, particularly in hatchery management and fingerling production (paragraph 30 (ix)).

5. The Development and Planning Service (FIPP) of FAO continues to study and develop mechanisms that will facilitate the development of commercial aquaculture in Africa. The factors being covered include seed production through hatcheries. The privatisation of public hatcheries is being encouraged to make fingerling production more efficient and access to fingerlings cheaper.

Assist member countries to combat aquatic weeds like water hyacinth, Typha grass and Nypa palm, particularly through the use of biological techniques (paragraph 35 (i)).

6. During the last five years FAO has assisted several countries in Africa in controlling aquatic weed infestation in inland waters, through both regional and national projects. These projects essentially use biological control methods, involving the rearing and release of Neohydronomous insects, notably weevils (*Neochetina* genus) and moth (*Samedos albiguttalis*) to control and prevent further spread of aquatic weeds, such as water hyacinth, water fern (*Salvinia*) and water lettuce (*Pistia*), to hitherto-not-affected areas, and the coordination of aquatic weed management activities in general in the affected eco-systems. Training on insect rearing and release is always associated with these projects. Several countries benefited from these projects, including Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Tanzania, Togo, and Uganda.

7. It is important to mention that even though water weed infestation can be controlled through physical (mechanical and manual), chemical and biological means, in Africa biological control has proved to be the only sustainable way to control floating water weeds. There are results to show that infestation of *Salvinia* (water fern) and *Pistia* (water lettuce) can be significantly reduced. For water hyacinth, significant biocontrol is observed after release of *Neochetina* insects. In Lake Victoria, for example, water hyacinth infestation level has been reduced by 60% or more with the release of *Neochetina* insects.

Promote aquaculture as a fish production alternative to the over-exploited water bodies (paragraph 35 (ii)).

8. Aquaculture is being promoted in Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) interventions in the region. In other cases it is being promoted as a complementary source of fish supply to stagnating capture fisheries production.

Strengthen regional collaboration in the exchange of information and experiences (paragraph 35 (iv)).

9. It is not information itself that is fundamentally lacking but easy access to existing current information. Fostering this accessibility has been a major intervention of the regional SFLP. It continues to share information on its experiences and activities and to conduct study tours between its beneficiaries. The SFLP also provided e-mail/internet access for all its associated countries and that has facilitated exchange of information between countries of the Committee. Their effort has been complemented by FAO in its organised forums, where participants were informed of information available and how to access it, especially through websites. It is believed that more countries will make use of websites and information enquiries set up by FAO and other bodies working in the region.

Make greater use of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to reduce conflicts between capture fisheries/aquaculture and other sectors, such as tourism in large water bodies (paragraph 35 (v)).

10. This assessment is being encouraged in FAO field programme development. A recent example is the development of aquaculture legislation in Namibia.

Provide assistance in the formulation of policy advice for the sustainable management of capture fisheries and the development of environmentally sound aquaculture (paragraph 35 (vi)).

11. FAO is assisting with policy assistance and the elaboration of strategic development framework. Interventions are planned in Zambia, Madagascar, Malawi and Côte d'Ivoire.

Discuss the future of the CIFA Sub-Committee for Lake Tanganyika at the Sub-Committee's next session (paragraph 37).

12. The Technical Secretary of the Sub-Committee will report on this issue later on.

Establish Ad Hoc working groups to address issues specific to the Sahelian zone (paragraph 39), such as :

- *involvement of the Community (co-management and community management) in the management of inland fisheries;*
- *management of fisheries in shared-waters; and*
- *promotion of the integration of irrigation and aquaculture (IIA).*

13. The working groups have been set up and extra-budgetary funding will be sought to make them operational.

Place greater emphasis on the involvement of stakeholders in the management of fisheries resources and the development of aquaculture initiatives (paragraph 45 (i)).

14. The SFLP has begun a pilot project in Ghana, Mali, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire simultaneously to involve stakeholders in the management of their inland fisheries, especially the large water bodies. The experience will be shared among associated countries and eventually with all member countries of the Committee. National co-management initiatives are also being encouraged by FAO.

15. The organisation and strengthening of fish farmer groups are being encouraged in FAO field activities to provide a forum for stakeholders to be more involved in aquaculture initiatives that will more effectively address their problems. A Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP) project to that effect has been formulated for Ghana.

Solicit funding for the regional programme in Integrated Inland Water Resources Management in Drought-prone West African Countries (paragraph 49).

16. The Committee endorsed Programme Profile is being used as reference point for seeking donor funds while intermediate measures are being evaluated in conjunction with the up-coming IIA workshop.

Publish the updated version of the Directory as a searchable database on the Internet as well as in print, in English and French (paragraph 56).

17. The Fisheries Unit (RAFI) of the FAO Regional Office is working on updating the English version of the Directory as an electronic searchable database, which will be made available on the RAFI and main FAO websites. The French version will follow the publication of the English version next year.

Assist the riparian countries bordering the two lakes (Malawi and Kariba) in the management of their fisheries (paragraph 57).

18. In November 2002, FAO organised a technical consultation between Zambia and Zimbabwe on the development and management of the fisheries of Lake Kariba.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

19. The Committee is requested to note the progress reported and make recommendations as deemed appropriate.

20. The Committee may also wish to discuss actions taken at the national level on those recommendations addressed to Member Governments.