

December 2002



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

E

COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES OF AFRICA

Twelfth Session

Yaounde, Cameroon, 2-5 December 2002

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF GCP/INT/735/UK

INTRODUCTION

1. During 2002 the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (GCP/INT/735/UK) has been engaged in the identification and formulation process of three Pilot Projects. These are "Improvement of the policy and institutional environment for the development of co-management systems in inland waters", "Post-harvest livelihoods issues" and "Participatory fisheries coastal management".

2. In this exercise, SFLP followed a fully participatory process since the themes and the participating countries of the 3 Pilot Projects were selected by the 25 countries participating in the Programme. The following core countries will therefore implement the Pilot Projects:

- 1) Improvement of the Policies and Institutions for Co-Management in Inland Waters: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Mali
- 2) Post-harvest Livelihoods Issues: Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, and Senegal
- 3) Participatory Coastal Fisheries Management: Congo, Gabon, Guinea and Mauritania

3. The first project was approved by the SFLP Steering Committee in July 2002 and started in November 2002. The formulation of the second and third ones started in October and November 2002 and it is expected that they would be approved early in 2003.

4. The main SFLP activities undertaken during the inter-sessional period in inland fisheries¹ are briefly presented hereafter according to the 7 Outputs of the SFLP logical framework.

Output 1. National fisheries plans and policies improved through adoption of relevant principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), and national poverty alleviation planning takes account of fisheries community needs

5. In 2001, the National Coordinating Units (NCUs) of Senegal and Ghana undertook in their respective countries the mapping of key Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIPs) impacting upon fisheries livelihoods using the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA). Each of them was supported by a national team coordinated by a national facilitator, an international consultant and frequent backstopping missions from the Regional Support Unit (RSU). In addition, a national consultant was recruited in Ghana to assess the contribution of the artisanal fisheries sector to the national and local economies. The draft national reports were discussed during national seminars and the final reports during three sub-regional PIP workshops.

6. The activity contributed to NCUs' capacity building in using SLA and CCRF for analysing 'critical' PIPs impacting on fisheries livelihoods. It also developed awareness to initiate in each country an adjustment process of policies and institutions to improve fisherfolk livelihoods.

7. Follow-up activities in Ghana and Senegal are undertaken through community and institutional support projects. After the sub-regional workshops Congo and Niger requested SFLP assistance in the analysis of their policies and institutions. In Niger, it will focus on the socio-professional organizations and their participation in policy development. In Congo, it will address the effective functioning of the National Fisheries Consultative Council.

8. A draft guidelines on methodological aspects of PIP studies using SLA was finalized. Translation into English and circulation for comments will be done during the fourth quarter. It will be used, as well as other references, to prepare a brochure which would serve as a tool to increase the capacities of NCUs in SLA-driven planning. The brochure will particularly emphasize the SL guiding principles and the way by which they can effectively be applied in the planning process. Some concrete examples from past SFLP activities will illustrate the text.

9. Poverty reduction is today no longer considered to be an exclusively economic problem. It is also seen to have human, social, ecological, cultural, political and institutional dimensions. This is why SLA is particularly appropriate, which explores poor people's own priorities, facilitates cross-sectoral analysis and looks at the linkages between micro, meso and macro levels. Within this context the SFLP and the Centre for the Economics and Management of Aquatic Resources (CEMARE) of the University of Portsmouth (UK)

¹ An information paper on recent SFLP activities in relation to marine fisheries was presented at the 16th Session of the FAO Committee for Eastern Central Atlantic Fisheries (CECAF), 15-17 October 2002, Tenerife, Spain

organised two Workshops in 2001 on the theme: "Artisanal Fisheries, Poverty and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries".

10. These workshops gathered together representatives from the 25 SFLP participating countries who examined the major factors that influence poverty and the vulnerability to poverty of fisheries communities in the region, within the context of the SLA and CCRF. These workshops were also an opportunity to stress the need for closer ties and partnerships between various institutions at all levels and the fisheries communities, with a view to promoting economic development and reducing poverty.

11. The Programme undertook an initial analysis of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes (PRSPs) in the region in reference to artisanal fisheries. This analysis was based on information received from the NCUs. Eleven selected countries attended a meeting on "integrating fisheries in poverty reduction planning in West Africa" in November 2002 to discuss existing and potential linkages, strengths and opportunities for poverty reduction in small-scale fisheries through PRSPs. To strengthen linkages between fisheries departments and PRSP, each country delegation comprised two members: one person directly involved in national poverty reduction programmes and one from the fisheries administration involved in fisheries planning.

12. During the period under review, national activities aiming at strengthening the visibility of the fisheries sector in national poverty reduction programmes took place in Guinea, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Angola and Mali.

13. A workshop was held in June 2002 to discuss and validate the results, conclusions and recommendations of a six-country study (Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Guinea, Nigeria and Cameroon) on the contribution of fisheries research to the improvement of the livelihoods of artisanal fisheries communities in West Africa. It led to the drafting of national « *Advisory Notes* » to decision-makers summarizing: the context of the study, key lessons and implications for action to improve the contribution of research to poverty reduction.

14. The study has shown the diversity of livelihoods dependent to some degree on artisanal fisheries resources in the region, the importance of the sector for national and local economies, and the actual and potential roles of participatory fisheries research at all levels. For example: influencing national policies and institutions, producing knowledge relevant to improving local livelihoods and poverty reduction, and generating recommendations for development projects and programmes. However, it was clear that research often needs some special financial and institutional support in order to fulfill these roles, incentives for researchers may need to be adapted, new partnerships are required and institutional change within research institutes needs to be fostered.

15. A joint SFLP/FAO Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research working party on "Poverty in small-scale fisheries: promoting the contribution of the SLA and the CCRF in poverty alleviation" was organized in Rome in 2002. A follow-up seminar took place in September 2002. Recommendations of the working party will guide future activities of the SFLP with specific reference to poverty profiling and fisheries in PRSPs.

16. A “Fisheries Legal Review Study” with pilot studies in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire started in 2002. The immediate purpose of the review is to establish the extent to which the application of laws, regulations and informal rules for inland and coastal fisheries, yield the results that are expected by the stakeholders and by those who framed them. This activity of a normative nature is the responsibility of FAO HQ.

Output 2. The capacity of communities and their partners to participate in planning and management for improved livelihoods increased

17. In 2001 SFLP produced a training manual based on the findings of a previous consultancy on NCU and NGO training needs assessment. The manual focuses on adult education techniques, SLA, organizational development, institution building, gender analysis, SFLP project cycle, training and facilitation skills, community approaches and participatory methods, and small project formulation. The manual was successfully tested during a two-week training course embracing 26 participants from the five SFLP Anglophone countries. The manual was edited and translated into French and Portuguese, and distributed to the NCUs. Three courses were later organized in 2001 for the French and Portuguese speaking countries.

18. A five day national training session on the manual was held in 2002 in most participating countries. The reports and 2003 training plans were received and reviewed during a consolidation workshop in July 2002. The workshop recommended to use the manual in its present format and content to train staff at the field level in 2003.

19. In collaboration with partners including Governments, NGOs², sub-regional Organizations, women involved in fisheries post-harvest sector, a Sub-Regional Workshop and Fish Fair on artisanal fish processing and marketing was held in June 2001 in Dakar, Senegal. It was attended by representatives of women’s groups, governments, NGOs and individuals from 13 countries including 11 from SLFP. During the fish fair several improved fish processing practices drew the attention of women’s groups who requested training in specific post-harvest techniques and methods.

20. From 1999 to 2001, Cameroon, Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) were involved in a research development project funded by the European Commission (EC) and executed by CEMARE entitled “Sustainable development of African continental fisheries: a regional study of policy options and policy formation mechanisms for the Lake Chad Basin”, which put emphasis on information gathering and analysis in order to inform policy and decision-making. During a final project workshop held in October 2001, these participating countries requested SFLP to support a proposal called “The Lake Chad Basin Fisheries Forum (LCB-FF)” which would build on the positive experience of the previous project. This was agreed as an institutional support project which would include Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger and Nigeria.

² International Collective in Support to Fishworkers (ICSF), an International NGO, and two Senegalese NGOs, the Collectif National des Pêcheurs Artisanaux du Sénégal (CNPS) and the Centre de Recherches pour le Développement des Technologies Intermédiaires de Pêche (CREDETIP)

21. The project design centres on the creation of the Lake Chad Basin Fisheries Forum (LCB-FF). At its core, this will involve the organization and operation of regular meetings at both local (within each country simultaneously) and regional (one country at a time) levels. The meetings would encourage and involve the participation of a full range of stakeholders (primary, secondary, external) to identify and discuss the important issues affecting the development of the fisheries of the LCB. The LCB-FF would initially focus on three major activities: (a) the creation of a better understanding of the Chad Basin fisheries system; (b) the improvement of information exchange between stakeholders; (c) the improved organization of stakeholder groups. A first meeting took place in July 2002 in Yaoundé, Cameroon between the five NCUs to organize the work.

22. Preparatory work is ongoing with the relevant Nigerian authorities on the possible inclusion and development, at Diploma and Certificate levels, of SLA/CCRF training course content in the curricula syllabi of the Nigerian Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Resources (NIFFR). Other training institutions such as NGO INADES Formation and the fisheries training center in Gabon are interested by such developments.

23. An exchange visit took place between NCUs from Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo visiting NCU Benin to share experiences on fisherfolk umbrella organizations, credit and savings schemes, micro-finance organizations and the production and distribution of anti-malaria impregnated mosquito nets.

Output 3. Community-based co-management systems established and functioning

24. Various activities undertaken since 2000 in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, in particular, led to the identification, formulation and approval of the Pilot project on the Improvement of the Policies and Institutions for Co-Management in Inland Waters.

25. SFLP assisted Côte d'Ivoire in its first contacts with IFAD for the funding of an artisanal fisheries project. In this context, the Programme provided financial support for a socio-economic study of the fisheries communities bordering Lake Kossou and for an exchange visit of these communities to Aby Lagoon. In 2002, DFID provided IFAD with funding for a study on policies, strategies and development programme for artisanal fisheries in the country. Unfortunately, the process is on stand-by due to civil unrest.

26. Following a participatory analysis of fisheries livelihoods for improved fisheries co-management on Lake Sélingué undertaken in 2001, a multi-stakeholders workshop was held in Sélingué, Mali in January 2002 to present and discuss the preliminary outcomes. The workshop adopted a series of proposals and recommendations to consolidate the co-management mechanisms and to better integrate fisheries communities in the local development process.

27. Two national consultants carried out a Sustainable Livelihoods analysis of the Bagré and Kompienga fisheries communities in Burkina Faso. On this basis, a workshop was held in July 2002 which put emphasis on the improvement of existing participatory monitoring systems to consolidate co-management mechanisms. A brochure on fisheries co-management

was prepared by national consultants. Its translation into local languages and dissemination will be undertaken within the framework of the pilot project.

28. In Benin, a poverty profiling was carried out in the lagoon system and fisherfolk umbrella organizations in marine, inland and post-harvest fisheries are strengthened through community and institutional support projects. The partnership with IFAD, which was initiated in 2001 during the formulation of the Project in Support of Participatory Development of Artisanal Fisheries (PADPPA), will be formalized in a Letter of Agreement between SFLP and the project to provide proper training, in particular on SLA and monitoring.

29. In Nigeria, the RSU participated in the IFAD appraisal mission of the Community-Based Natural Resource Management Programme Niger Delta (CBNRMP). This participation improved the incorporation of the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach in the CBNRMP design and implementation arrangements. In Nigeria also, a community project aiming to improve fisheries resources management of Tiga Dam through group management training, resource management and sensitisation is ongoing. Resource management information and some credit facilities improved considerably enabling the members of the fisherfolk cooperative to acquire nets with the appropriate mesh sizes, as well as to adopt better resource management practices. The increased cooperative membership was perceived as an indicator of greater group cohesion, contributing not only to the enhanced collective financial assets, but also to the delivery of desired outcomes (e.g. construction of market-shed) from persistent collective pressure on the Local Government Administration.

30. A training session on SL analysis using Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) tools took place at the Mapé dam in Cameroon in 2001 for NCU members and extension officers from the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries. The participatory diagnostic which involved representatives of the main fishing villages led to the identification of two community projects for fisheries co-management and women organizations. In the context of these projects approved in 2002, the co-management process developed strategic partnerships and the fisheries communities selected their representatives and formulated a common vision on the co-management of the resources.

31. A community project for Boalin fisheries community in Burkina Faso started in January 2002. After some training sessions, the community members organized themselves to close the fishing during some period of the year and to protect the aquatic resources. The members of the communities participate actively in the decision making process at the micro and meso level.

32. After an exchange visit of representatives of the Mbali fisheries communities in Central African Republic to learn from their colleagues in Bagré and Kompienga in Burkina Faso, they formulated a community project proposal for the co-management of Mbali reservoir which was approved in 2002. The training activities started and all fisheries communities living along the Mbali Lake have been informed. The work on the co-management process has started with the assistance of a resource person from Cameroon recruited by the community project.

Output 4. Ecosystems and the resources they support enhanced and/or protected

33. SFLP provided support to Burkina Faso to integrate fisheries enhancement into the national component of the FAO Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS). A study was undertaken to set up a strategy for the development of fisheries enhancement for the

improvement of fisherfolk livelihoods and food security. The preliminary reports of the study included participatory diagnostics, SL analysis, PIP and socio-economic investigations. The synthesis of these reports, including a draft strategy for the development of fisheries enhancement, was validated during a wrap-up workshop held in Ouagadougou in August 2002. The workshop results will be presented as SFLP contribution to GTZ project wrap-up workshop on fisheries enhancement scheduled for December 2002. In order to share the lessons learnt on fisheries enhancement in Burkina Faso with other countries in the region, participants will be invited from selected SFLP participating countries.

34. In 2002, the National Coordinators were asked to contact the national agency/ministry in charge of environment to explain SFLP rationale and identify relevant national priorities in relation to the fisheries sector. Unfortunately, by the end of September 2002 only 7 countries reacted. It is expected that areas of synergy would be identified during the implementation phase of the Pilot Projects.

Output 5. Economic and social benefits from the artisanal sub-sector enhanced

35. Many activities undertaken under Outputs 1, 2, 3 and 4 contribute also to this Output, as well as the 39 community projects operational in November 2002.

36. A study on gender aspects for a gender sensitive approach to SFLP started in November 2002. Its overall objective is to identify the opportunities to strengthen women and organizations and their role in livelihoods improvement. The study will review the lessons learned from community projects aiming at strengthening social and financial capital in the post-harvest sector. It is expected that the study will clarify how NCUs can improve the gender sensitiveness at micro, meso and macro levels in co-management structures and poverty alleviation programmes. Case studies will be carried out in Benin, The Gambia, Ghana, Niger, and Sao Tome and Principe. The final product of the study will be a draft guidelines for gender sensitivity in SFLP projects and activities.

37. In Senegal, a stakeholders analysis of the members of a credit and savings association located in Mbour was carried out in November 2002. The study will be presented during a national workshop organized by NGO ADPES, member of Senegal NCU, with their partner, Oxfam-Netherlands (Novib) in December 2002. It will learn the lessons from the contribution of micro-finance to poverty reduction in fisheries communities in Senegal. These lessons could be disseminated in 2003 through the Pilot project on Post-harvest Fisheries Livelihoods Issues.

Output 6. Policies, institutions and processes informed by dissemination of SFLP experience and knowledge

38. Info-Flash continued to be released every month in 3 languages (French, English and Portuguese). A questionnaire was sent out to readers in 2002 to improve it. The results were presented and discussed during the National Coordinators meeting in September. They requested that Info-Flash should remain a support for NCUs providing factual information of

what is happening in other countries thus contributing to promote networking among the 25 NCUs. They also stressed that the quarterly SFLP Bulletin must remain an information tool where news and articles on the impact of, and lessons learned from, SFLP-supported field activities are published.

39. Since June 2002 the SFLP Web site is operational (<http://www.sflp.org>). It is an exchange and dissemination platform of regional relevance for the artisanal fisheries sector in West Africa. Users will find amongst others, information on the Programme, the SLA and participatory tools used to improve fisheries communities livelihoods, SFLP publications, and news, articles and interviews about fisheries communities.

40. A Folder to promote SFLP activities in the region is in preparation. It will include 11 short stories on the results of community projects. The purpose of the exercise is to give some visibility to fisheries communities in the region and beyond for decision-makers, donors and journalists. The editing process is on-going and the release is planned for early 2003.

41. The "Guide for the preparation of community projects" was produced in French, English and Portuguese and disseminated in 2002. IFAD has indicated its interest in using it in the field and during training sessions for its consultants.

42. In the framework of the EC-ACP regional programming process, DG-DEV requested SFLP assistance in documenting the contribution of the fisheries sector to the reduction of poverty in West Africa. In this context, a paper was prepared and a seminar organized in Dakar, Senegal in February 2002. The seminar was attended by the National Coordinators representing the 4 sub-regions of the Programme, experts from FAO Fisheries Department and projects, European Commission, sub-regional and regional organizations involved in fisheries policies in West Africa (Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission – SRFC ; Comité Régional des Pêches du Golfe de Guinée – COREP ; Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine – UEMOA).

43. The results of the seminar were reviewed and commented in March in Brussels by a EC meeting attended by the SFLP Programme Coordinator and Team Leader. The Dakar paper was found of great interest and no major disagreement was noticed. It is expected that the final version of the paper will be used:

- to define and implement the EC policy on "Cooperation for development in the fisheries sector" at the regional level in West Africa,
- to reinforce the complementarities of the interventions on "Cooperation for development in the fisheries sector" between EC and the Member States,
- to reinforce, in the fisheries sector, the coherence between the external interventions of other European policies (Common Fisheries Policy, Research, Trade, etc.) and the development objectives.

44. SFLP provided assistance to the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) to visit the Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine (UEMOA) and the Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), and meet with officials of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to brief these organizations about the fisheries sector and its inclusion in results of the EC regional programming exercise.

45. During the period under review, RSU staff provided support to NCUs and artisanal fisheries communities for effective implementation of participatory monitoring systems.

NCU members responsible for the financial monitoring were identified and trained in simple accounting and bookkeeping, including preparation of quarterly financial reports.

46. In March 2002, the Programme organized in Cotonou an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) workshop for Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger. Following this workshop, an IEC project proposal was prepared by the NCUs. To facilitate the coordination and follow up of the SFLP-funded activities, the IEC activities in support to community projects identified by the NCUs participating in a Pilot project will be incorporated into the pilot project IEC activities and budget.

Output 7. Effective institutional network for programme implementation established

47. During the reporting period, the institutional structure of SFLP continued to evolve. In particular, many NCUs broadened their composition and established linkages with agency/ministry in charge of poverty reduction programme. Many of them also created strategic partnerships for poverty reduction in fisheries communities. In the meantime, the role and required capacities of the RSU were reviewed in the context of the implementation of the three Pilot projects.

48. A database of selected NGOs that have been trained in SLA and/or are implementing SFLP field activities was prepared. It will provide their detailed background and activities in support to SFLP-funded community projects.