

"Info-Flash" the SFLP ... on the move ...



Welcome to the

SFLP Info-Flash

This new means of communication will be forwarded monthly through Internet to the National Coordination Units, FAO Representations, DFID and to the Fisheries Department of FAO.

The overriding objective of this **SFLP Info-Flash** is to provide the 25 member countries with the most up to date information on the Programme.

Please feel free to contact SFLP at any time you have any information on events in your country.

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Issue 28 – April 2003

Guinea – A Forum to influence policies and institutions

In an effort to reduce the frequent incursions by trawlers into the coastal zone reserved for small-scale fisheries, a community project involving the fisheries communities of Koukoudé, Bongolon and Matakang in coastal surveillance was implemented by Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) in November 2000. The results were very encouraging in terms of the collaboration between the administration and the fisherfolk, and the project had a positive impact on the livelihoods of the communities concerned. Inspired by the positive outcome of the activity, the National Coordination Unit (NCU) recently organised a national forum to facilitate discussions on the experience. The forum, which was supported by the SFLP, was held in Conakry on 15 and 16 April 2003. It was attended by almost 70 participants from the administration, communities (fisherfolk, fish mongers), development partners, the private sector, the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission and other relevant non-fisheries institutions, such as the ministries responsible for decentralisation and poverty reduction.

Constructive observations were made on the impact and limitations of the project, and brainstorming sessions were held on how to ensure sustainability for its

achievements, and to replicate the experience in other coastal zones in Guinea. The discussions were very lively, and a series of recommendations was put forward on improving the existing coastal surveillance system. A video documentary on the community project, entitled "*les artisans de la mer*", was shown to bring the experience alive for participants.

The forum also helped to raise the awareness of decision-makers and development partners of the need to integrate development efforts in small-scale fisheries into a global process of coastal zone management. The forum served as an opportunity to inform decision-makers about the processes of change needed in the coastal zone surveillance system if fisheries livelihoods are to be improved.



Fishermen keep a look-out for industrial trawlers in their fishing zone

Benin – ANM survey report validated ...

A team comprising the NCU and the SFLP Regional Support Unit recently conducted a survey on the Beninese fish vendors' association (*Association Nationale des Mareyeuses et Mareyeurs Assimilés du Bénin* - ANM). The purpose was to assist the NCU in analysing the profile of the association's members, to assess the functioning of its National Executive Bureau and its interaction with the decentralised structures, and to identify action which would strengthen the association's technical and organisational capacities. The feedback meeting held on 26 March 2003 to validate the survey report brought together representatives of two fisherfolk umbrella organisations (UNAPEMAB and UNAPECAB), the *Programme d'Appui de Développement dans la Pêche Artisanale* (PADPPA), the *Centre d'Action Régional pour le Développement* (CARDER), a local NGO,

Mouvement des Jeunes Chrétiens pour le Développement (MJCD) and the NCU.

Participants noted that most of the survey's findings applied to all the other umbrella organisations in the sector, and made contributions to improve the report. Issues raised in the report were addressed during further discussions in plenary and group sessions. The priority actions decided on at the end of the meeting included the organisation of a planning workshop and the development of a communication strategy. These activities are to be followed by an adult literacy programme and training to strengthen the community's organisational development capacities. All the partners present expressed their readiness to provide support where necessary at the appropriate time. The Union's executive is currently preparing a work schedule, after which a multi-stakeholder meeting will be held to consider it and to identify possible partners for implementation.

Senegal – SFLP sub-regional ties strengthened

The *West African Economic and Monetary Union* (UEMOA) invited SFLP to participate in its a meeting of the Directors of Fisheries of its 8 members states in Dakar from 25 to 27 March 2003. The purpose of the meeting was to review and validate the member countries' (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo which also participate in the SFLP) 3-year fisheries development plan for 2003 to 2006. The participants included Directors of Fisheries Departments of member countries, NGOs and donors.

The meeting agreed on the general objective of the plan which is "to establish, during a 3-year period, a process to promote sustainable fisheries management in the UEMOA geographical area". Two specific objectives were identified: "Promoting a mechanism for the regulation of access to fisheries resources" and "Promoting cooperation for a sustainable management of resources of common interest". On this basis an implementation strategy and an action plan were approved. The meeting gave the opportunity to some international organizations, NGOs and SFLP to present their activities and opportunities for collaboration with UEMOA.

Benin, Congo – Initiative to prevent HIV/AIDS in fisheries communities

The SFLP has approved institutional support on HIV/AIDS prevention in selected fisheries communities in Benin and Congo which regularly host a large number of foreign fishers, either because of the fishing opportunities they offer, or their busy fish markets. The studies to be conducted will document the sexual attitudes, practices and behaviours of fisherfolk, related to migratory practices which make them a high risk group. The findings of the studies will be used to develop prevention and control to reduce the vulnerability of fisheries communities to HIV/AIDS. The sites identified for the survey are Kétonou, So-Zounko, Ayiguennou and Hio in Benin, and Pointe Noire, Plage Base Agip and Bas Kouilou in Congo.

Specialised NGOs, such as *Alternative Communautaire* (Benin), *Médecin d'Afrique* and *Agence Régionale d'Information et de Prévention du SIDA* (ARIPS - Congo), which have existing links with donors and the private sector, have been identified to work with the communities. They will train local facilitators who will form a permanent support to the communities, and act as links with HIV/AIDS organisations and donors. These facilitators will ensure the effective circulation of information to create greater popular awareness about the disease. They will also mobilise the fisherfolk around the issue and assist them in developing appropriate measures. Their duties will also include lobbying policy makers and donor agencies to obtain support for actions identified.

Mauritania – Social and human assets of Blawakh fisherfolk to be strengthened

The high rate of fish loss and waste is considered a major obstacle to livelihoods improvement by the Blawakh fisheries community. This situation is further exacerbated by their lack of knowledge of participatory management and sustainable production techniques, and of the fisheries regulations in force. To improve this situation, the SFLP is starting a

community project to strengthen the human and social assets of the fisherfolk.

The project will be implemented as a series of training and awareness-raising campaigns on best practices that will help promote sustainable development in the community. The training timetables are very flexible, and are adapted to the community's calendar of activities. Five groups of 20 men and women each will be trained by a local NGO, *Association Nationale pour le Développement Local Participatif* (ANADLP), on such diverse topics as authorised fishing gears and fish sizes, protected species, and livelihoods diversification strategies. The project will also involve the broad dissemination of the National Fisheries Code and relevant principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF).

Another NGO "Mauritanie 2000" is to organise an adult literacy programme and training in small business management and basic accounting techniques for women in particular. The aim is to ensure that the women fish mongers and smokers who benefited from a loan acquire the skills to use the funds properly. The training is spread over a period of 2 years and each session will last for between 2 and 4 months.



Writing skill is a fundamental aspect of adult literacy programmes

By the end of the exercise, it is expected that the fisherfolk will be more prepared to use responsible fishing techniques and to participate more actively in the management of their fisheries resources. This will help to ensure sustainability for their livelihoods and development for their community.

Congo, Gabon, Guinea and Mauritania – Poverty profiling for Coastal Artisanal Management Pilot Project

In preparation for the drafting of the Pilot Project on the participatory management of coastal fisheries, a team of five national consultants from Congo, Gabon, Guinea and Mauritania undertook a mission to the Pilot Project sites of their respective countries to conduct the poverty profiling studies. Each exercise involved about 25 days of fieldwork which has now been concluded. The reports will be passed on to the Pilot Project formulation mission as a reference document. National institutions which have already confirmed their willingness to participate in the Pilot Project are expected to take part in the project formulation mission.

Democratic Republic of Congo – Improving partnership ties

The NCU of the Democratic Republic of Congo is exploring possibilities for collaboration with the local chapter of Oxfam UK which has adopted the "livelihoods approach" as a key

approach to guide its new strategic plan. During the initial contacts, the NGO confirmed its interest in sending some of its staff to participate in the training course on the use of the SFLP Guide for the preparation of community projects, to be organised by the NCU. A second meeting was scheduled to allow the NCU discuss a proposal for collaboration in assessing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to the livelihoods of fisheries communities in Kinshasa, Bandundu and Equator provinces.



NCU members exchange ideas about indicators during a training on participatory monitoring in DRC

The NCU is also exploring possibilities for collaboration with the NGO Concern International on an HIV/AIDS aids project in Malebo Pool. The NCU plans to work closely on the project with its counterpart in Congo Brazzaville which has SFLP institutional support for a similar project (*see above*). This will make it possible for the two countries to capitalise on the SFLP's learning process as the activity evolves, through easier and more direct sharing of lessons and information exchange on best practices. If funding is obtained for this project, it will be the first time that two neighbouring

SFLP countries have worked together on a community project with the same theme.

ACP Fish II

In co-operation with the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission, the Support unit for International Fisheries and Aquatic Research (SIFAR) and the FAO are undertaking a feasibility study for an initiative for supporting the development of fisheries policy and for fostering improved institutional capacity for fisheries and aquatic resources management. The initiative, to be funded by the EC, is called ACP Fish II, and will comprise a systematic and practical programme aimed at facilitating effective resource management in ACP countries. It will focus on institutional and knowledge requirements for sustainable fisheries management at all levels of decision-making, ranging from sub-national to regional.

An e-mail discussion forum is to begin on 12 May 2003 to solicit suggestions and ideas from a broad group of fisheries management specialists. The discussion will focus on the development of a knowledge exchange system for fisheries management. More specifically, contributions will be called for on what such a system should do, how it could be developed and made to work, and its possible location. Discussions will continue for a period of 2 to 3 weeks and the summaries will be used to provide information for a Workshop planned for June 2003 at the FAO in Rome. SFLP National Coordinators interested in participating in the forum are requested to register with Joan.Baron@fao.org or Tim.Bostock@fao.org. Further information is available online at <http://www.onefish.org/id/142453>

Up-coming events

- The Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) 2003 Conference scheduled to hold in Dakar, Senegal, from 22 to 24 May 2003, will be on the theme: "*Linking Research and Rural Innovation to Sustainable Development*". The SFLP is to be represented at the conference. Various SFLP materials will be used to introduce the Programme and to explain its activities aimed at improving the livelihoods of fisheries communities.

New community projects

- **Cameroon:** There are two new institutional support projects for Cameroon: (i) Support to the Maga fisheries community in the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the lake; and (ii) Support for the co-management and sanitation of Garoua fish market, and strengthening of the organisational capacity of the Northern Women Fish Vendors' Association (AFVFN).
- **Nigeria:** The SFLP will engage in institutional support for the decentralisation of some of the operations of the Nigeria NCU. The creation and operation of 4 Local Coordinating Units (LCUs) in Kano, Borno, Delta and Cross-River States, where the NCU is currently assisting fisheries communities in implementing small projects, will be facilitated.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** Institutional support for an analysis of fisherfolk associations in Pool Malebo and the preparation an organisational development plan.