

# "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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### Benin – PADPPA formally launched

The Support Programme for the Participatory Development of Small-scale Fisheries (*Programme d'Appui pour le Développement Participatif de la Pêche Artisanale - PADPPA*) was launched in Cotonou at the International Conference Centre on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2003. The ceremony was declared open by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP). In attendance were representatives of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the African Development Bank (ADB), Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme SFLP and primary beneficiaries.

The occasion was used to officially launch the PADPPA, and to present its activities, workplan and budget. The Programme co-funded by IFAD and

ADB has an 8-year lifespan, and its activities will cover all areas of fisheries in the country. A Letter of Agreement between the two Programmes will be prepared soon to formalize SFLP support, which will include training PADPPA staff in SLA and participatory monitoring.



V. A. Gomez, the spokesperson of Beninese fisherfolk socio-professional organisations addresses participants at the PADPPA launching

### Mali – National fisheries meeting

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Mali organised a special fisheries day in Mopti on 28 January 2003 to hold a brainstorming session on fisheries issues. The session, which was officially opened and closed by the Minister, was chaired by S. Coulibaly, NCU Information and Communication Focal Point, and technical adviser on fisheries. The meeting had more than 100 participants representing the fisheries

administration, fishing organisations, local and regional administrations, and NGOs. It concluded with the recommendation that the existing *National Fisheries Master-plan* be reviewed to take into account the major elements of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA), the PRSP, and the decentralisation process.

### Nigeria - Two new community projects

The Nka Iyak Esuk Edibe-Edibe Association of Calabar south (Cross River State, Nigeria) is to benefit from SFLP support. The objective is to strengthen the capacity of the fisher folk in community organisation and fisheries resource management. The Daban Masara Lake fishing community will also implement a community project to increase the capacity of fisher folk. Particular attention will be paid to gender aspects, and both projects will seek to enhance the access of poor women in the community to micro-credit. A local NGO, the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development, has agreed to provide training on micro-finance and organisational development to both male and female members of the Nka Iyak Esuk Edibe-Edibe group. The association is to work with the project management committee and the NCU to review indicators and establish their base levels when the project

starts. This is expected to contribute to the effective and efficient monitoring of project performance.

Meanwhile, encouraging results are being observed in the Rurum fishing community, which has been working with SFLP since July 2001 to improve the management of the Tiga dam fisheries, as well as improving access to credit. Responsible fisheries management practices that will help sustain livelihoods have been adopted by the fishermen, and they have been highly satisfied with the outcome of their efforts. The community is determined to continue with their successes to enhance their livelihoods and has requested the assistance of SFLP in the review of their community action plan and participatory project monitoring system. The need for such an activity became evident in the aftermath of the terrible flood that swept through the area shortly after the community project began.

### **Congo – Monitoring at macro level...**

A National Steering Committee to monitor the NCU's activities has been set up in Brazzaville. The committee members include the Director of Fisheries, the ministerial adviser on fisheries, an FAO representative and the SFLP national coordinator. It is chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Women's promotion. This involvement of top level management demonstrates the country's commitment to the Programme and provides an opportunity to apply SLA outside the fisheries sector.



**The Management Committee of the community project in Makotipoko at a meeting with some NCU members**

### **... Training on organisational development in Pointe Noire**

An international consultant assisted the NCU in assessing the performance of socio-professional associations that benefited from the Agip Base community self-help promotion project. This took place prior to a sub-regional training workshop on organisational development organised in Pointe Noire from 21 to 25 January 2003. Participants at the workshop included NCU representatives and members of the community project management committees in Makotipoko and Agip Base (Congo), Pool Malebo (Democratic Republic of Congo), and Mapé and Maga (Cameroon). Also present were staff from NGOs and local government officials working with the communities.

The workshop culminated in the drafting of a training guide which combines the experiences and lessons learnt about the constitution of umbrella organisations to represent the fishing communities in Pointe-Noire and Cotonou.

### **... Collaboration possibilities increase**

In Congo, plans are being developed for a national survey to inform the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). It is hoped that this will provide an opportunity for the NCU to push forward the interests of the fisheries sector by ensuring proper representation of fisheries communities in the survey.

Moreover, an opportunity exists for the NCU to collaborate with the fisheries component of the Agricongo project funded by the European Union (EU). It is expected that a partnership agreement will be established when the Pilot Project on participatory marine fisheries management is implemented. Meanwhile, the baseline poverty profiling exercise was conducted by a multidisciplinary team of national consultants from 18 to 28 February 2003.

### **Sierra Leone – Fisheries interim policy statement validated**

A national fisheries stakeholder's workshop was organised in Sierra Leone at the beginning of the year to discuss the interim statement of policy intent for the fisheries sector. The workshop was co-financed by the SFLP and the FAO Regional Office for Africa. Sixty participants, including the Ministers of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Economic Planning and Development, and Agriculture and Food Security respectively, representatives of the Parliament, FAO, NGOs, civil society and fisher folk deliberated on, and validated the draft. The workshop was also able to prepare a list of policy priority areas by the end of the exercise.

Another positive outcome of the activity was the agreement of the authorities responsible for the Integrated Household Survey (SLIHS) in Sierra Leone to increase the number of fisheries communities in the sampling exercise currently being carried out.

### **Guinea – Video on participatory MCS**

A SFLP community project has assisted small-scale fishermen in Koukoudé, Bongolon and Matakang in the participatory Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of industrial trawlers. These vessels break zoning regulations and the participatory surveillance carried out by the communities in collaboration with the Centre for National fisheries Surveillance (CNSP) has had a positive impact on reducing incursions and improving the livelihoods of the fisheries communities in the zone. The SFLP will assist in the production of a video documentary to describe these experiences. The video will subsequently be translated into English and Portuguese in order to spread the lessons learnt to other SFLP countries where similar problems exist. The script has been drafted with input from all stakeholders and shooting is soon to commence. The video documentary is to be shown at the national forum on participatory MCS which will hold in Conakry in April 2003.

### **Gabon – Lessons learnt & Partnership sought for Pilot Project**

A recent field visit to the Milembie community project revealed that the project's first phase to improve the management capacity of the fisherfolk has been completed. Men and women beneficiaries of the training in organisational development, accounting and business management, were very satisfied. During this first phase the demonstration of improved smoking ovens has convinced the fish smokers of the benefits, and access to the landing site has been improved. This experience is expected to help improve the Milembie community's capacity to stimulate the interest of surrounding fisheries communities participating in the Pilot Project for participatory marine fisheries management.

The Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) is soon to begin in Gabon. This may provide opportunities for fisheries sector funding, and the NCU plans to intensify lobbying to obtain it.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo – Intensive effort on partnerships**

Stakeholders in the Malebo Pool fisheries community met recently to review the workplan and participatory monitoring

system of their community project. Present were NCU representatives, the executing NGOs (Inades and SEPAC), and fisher folk. The SFLP mission which took part in the FAO discussion group on food security in Kinshasa on 18 February 2003 was also able to attend and contribute. Also contact was established with other development partners: Cefomad, Oxfam UK, Concern, the Salvation Army and a micro finance organisation, for possible collaboration.

A request for funding for a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) to revise fisheries regulations in the country has been formulated and sent to FAO by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

### *25<sup>th</sup> Session of COFI*

The 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held at the organization's headquarters in Rome from 24 to 28 February 2003. The SFLP stand displayed special information packs (booklets, photographs, technical reports, folders, etc) On the activities being executed in partnership with the NCUs. These were distributed to the international participants who showed great interest in the Programme activities. During the meeting countries participating in the Programme made several statements concerning their work and progress with SFLP thereby raising its profile. At the end of the meeting a press conference was held for international

development journalists to further publicise the Programme's activities.



A shot of the SFLP stand at COFI

Of particular interest were the high quality printed material and radio interviews, produced in collaboration with the FAO Information Department (GII), and which were given special publicity through the official Web site of the organization (<http://www.fao.org>). This information material illustrates how community projects have helped poor fisherfolk to participate more fully in improving the policies and institutions that impact on their livelihoods. These documents will be disseminated to the governments of participating countries and development partners in the near future.

### **Imminent events**

- Workshop on the Gender Guide at the SFLP Regional Support Unit in Cotonou – 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March.
- Participatory MCS Forum in Conakry, Guinea – April 2003.