



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.

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Burkina Faso – Guide on fisheries concessions in preparation ...

The experience of the Wramba fishermen's group in Moussodougou fisheries community (Comoé Province) in Burkina Faso has helped to highlight the issues to be addressed if conflicts over concession rights to lakes are to be minimized. The NCU of Burkina Faso requested SFLP support to produce a simplified manual. The objective is to assist fisherfolk understand better what concession rights are all about and how they themselves can go about obtaining them. The first phase of the activity has begun with a study aimed at promoting a better understanding of government laws and regulations on concession rights to lakes.

The study was conducted by a national consultant working closely with the NCU and the community. Their livelihoods, especially social structures and strategies were first analysed. The various causes and types of conflicts that may arise as a result of special fisheries concession rights to a waterbody were also identified. Different stages of negotiations for resolving them analysed. The impacts of existing policies, regulations and structures on the livelihoods of the community were also identified, assessed and lessons drawn which may also inform the decentralisation process.

One major conclusion of the exercise was the need to avoid any ambiguity in the drafting of legal and regulatory texts which guide rights to fisheries concessions. This was considered to be a first major step towards avoiding conflicts among the different groups in any community. Concession terms should also make stakeholders responsible for the protection of the reserved areas, and promote co-management. On the social level, there is every indication that the adoption of fisheries concessions by local communities will contribute to improving their economic situation and ensuring their sustainable development. This in turn will contribute to the orientation of national strategies and policies on decentralised rural development.



A busy fishing net production workshop in Burkina Faso

Exchange visit to Niger ...

From 21 to 27 April, a delegation of 6 fishermen from small and medium-sized lakes in the Kou Valley, Tounoura, Boalin, Kokologho, Sandogo and Ramitenga in Burkina Faso, led by 2 officers from the NCU made an exchange visit to their counterparts in Niger.

The mission began with a meeting between the two NCU delegations to discuss past and on-going activities, especially the training modules used in Niger's self-help projects and their fund mobilisation strategy. This was followed by visits to the Niamey fish food production factory, where officials provided them with detailed information on the raw materials used, production costs, prices, and distribution/sales outlets. They also visited a private fishpond and a fingerlings/fish production and sale complex consisting of 30 ponds (SONA station) and managed by the NGO ADA. The final part of the exchange was a visit to the Tafouka community project where, after paying a courtesy call on the head of the local administration, they were accompanied by two officials from the Birni N'konni Environmental Department and Niger NCU members.

Before leaving, the fishers held a debriefing session to review their observations and action to be taken on their return home. Prominent among the latter was: (i) the replication of the very interesting experience with the fishponds; and (ii) the organisation of feedback meetings to share their experience with their peers.

Nigeria – Prospects for SLA and CCRF inclusion in the curricula of 2 fisheries colleges

The Nigeria NCU is busy with a proposal for including the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) and the principles of the Code Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) into the curricula of two Federal Colleges of Freshwater Fisheries Technology in New Busa and Doro-Baga. The proposal was inspired when the management of the Nigerian Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research (NIFFR), which coordinates the 2 colleges, recognized the relevance and potentials of the SLA and the CCRF in enhancing the fisheries sector in the country. E. Okafor (national consultant), and M. Ovie (NCU member and NIFFR Director) visited the Regional Support Unit (RSU) in Cotonou from 6 to 9 May. Their objective was to review

existing documentation and training material, and begin in-depth analysis of the implications of the exercise for the schools' curricula.

The team discussed the feasibility of the proposal with the RSU and consulted relevant documentation on the topics from the SFLP library. Information collected will be used to design and develop SLA and CCRF course contents, with special reference to national experiences gained in SLA-based projects and programmes (e.g. DFID JEWEL project in Jigawa State and SFLP projects in Kano, Borno, Delta and Cross-River States).

The incorporation of these courses in the curricula of the colleges provides an exceptional opportunity to enhance and sustain the efforts made by the SFLP to promote the use of SLA and CCRF guiding principles in development activities to reduce poverty in the country. Furthermore, the other short-term programmes run by the two institutions for fisheries executives and other concerned organisations will ensure that high-level national fisheries specialists, decision-makers and allied sectors become more conversant with the SLA and the CCRF. It is expected that the experience will open up more possibilities for replication of the experience by other sectors and institutions in the country.

The team has since returned to Nigeria, where they are to discuss the modalities for integrating the SLA and the CCRF into the colleges' curricula with the relevant national authorities and development partners (e.g. DFID Country Office and project staff, SFLP-trained trainers, etc.). The detailed course content will be validated during a workshop.

Chad – Post-harvest Pilot Project formulation begins

The national formulation teams of the four countries selected to implement the Post-harvest Pilot Project (Chad, Cameroon, Senegal and The Gambia) have carried out preliminary field work in their respective countries to map poverty and identify fisheries communities' activities in collaboration with the beneficiaries. The Chad National Formulation Team comprising B. Barka (National Coordinator), M. Bairou (NCU Operations officer), M. Boulbaye, M. Oumadji, M. Dara, K. Haroun (Socio-professional organisation) and M. Malgueteng (NGO Apibase), hosted the SFLP Post-harvest Pilot Project formulation teams from 1 to 10 May 2003.



A woman working on a cassava farm in a fisheries community (Chari River, Chad)

They began with a field visit to the 5 communities selected to participate in the Pilot Project intervention zone, 120 km north-east of Ndjamen. After a debriefing session on the results of the fieldwork conducted by the National Pilot Project team, the beneficiaries were asked to identify their priorities. The high priority of communities in the lake zone (Karal, Karga, Métériné) is the need for mobile smoking ovens to help the women fish processors adapt better to the frequent flooding of their working area. The other communities along the Chari River (Mani and Mara) were noted to already have a well developed livelihoods diversification strategy, with the cultivation of cassava on the limited land available. However, an 80kg bag of cassava only

brings about CFA 2,000, and their priority is thus to gain access to more land and support in marketing their fish and agricultural products.

Before drafting the Pilot Project logical framework, the formulation team visited some potential partners to discuss and obtain further clarifications on their level of commitment to the pilot project. *Projet d'Appui aux Services Agricoles et aux Organisations de Producteurs* (PSAOP), *Programme d'Appui au Développement Local* (PROADEL), *Associazione di Cooperazione Rurale en Africa e America Latina* (ACRA), *Union Régionale des Coopératives d'Épargne et de Crédit* (URCOOPEC) and the FAO-funded "*Programme de réinsertion*" have all confirmed their collaboration. A feedback meeting was later organised to present the logical framework to the representatives of the 5 communities visited for their observations. Issues raised included funding for the procurement of communication equipment (motorcycles, mobile phones, etc), the organisation of training and the problem of access to land.

Benin – IFAD Training Workshop focuses on SLA

A special training workshop was organised in Cotonou from 12 to 16 May 2003 by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for its West African field staff and consultants. It provided the participants with an in-depth understanding of the SLA guiding principles and enabled them to determine its specific applicability in improving the design and implementation of IFAD programmes. IFAD programmes have objectives and approaches very similar to those of the SFLP. On the request of the Africa Director of IFAD, the RSU contributed by sharing with the workshop its experience in the use of SLA participatory and gender tools.

The workshop was attended by selected IFAD field staff, consultants and representatives from partner institutions in Cotonou. It was financed through the Sustainable Livelihoods Diagnostic and Learning Supplementary Fund, supported by DFID. The workshop was facilitated by international consultant, M. Trudel, with the support of IFAD's Technical Adviser on SLA.

Special attention was given to vulnerability contexts and institutional and policy environments which have an impact on communities' livelihoods strategies. Formal presentations, individual reading, group discussions, problem-solving and feedback sessions were used to make activities more lively. This highly participatory workshop enabled participants to work and learn together by sharing their various field experiences from design and supervision missions.

It is hoped that participants will use the SLA underlying principles to improve IFAD projects and, in so doing, raise the profile of the sustainable livelihoods framework in development agencies.

Sao Tome & Príncipe – Lessons learned and future plans

The Angolares fisheries community project will soon come to an end. The community project has helped to upgrade organizations at the fish-landing sites and strengthen the organisational capacities of Angolares fishers, fishmongers and processors. The NCU recently organised a feedback meeting with the community to share the results of the project.

One of the major benefits of the project identified by the community is their heightened awareness of the importance of organisation in local development efforts. They have better

understanding of what it takes to manage a functional and effective community-based structure which will be capable of influencing decision-makers. Through the adult literacy programme, fisherfolk have been empowered to participate more actively in other training programmes, and to embark on more ambitious projects at personal and group levels.

The success of this SFLP-sponsored activity in Angolares has inspired the Government to continue the project in Angolares, and to replicate it in other communities all over the country. Reassured by the positive response of the Government, as well as the support of NGOs and other development partners for this locally-generated activity, the Angolares fisheries communities have been encouraged to move forward in their self-development efforts. A series of participatory appraisals were recently conducted in Stª Catarina, Praia Campanha no Príncipe and Giappa e Loxinga (north-east of Sao Tome), and their community action plans are currently being drafted. Plans are also underway to conduct a participatory appraisal in the Messias Alves, Neves and Ribeira Afons fisheries communities (south-east of Sao Tome).

A meeting was held with the NGO MARAPA, which played an active role in the Angolares community project, to review and agree on areas where it can provide support for future activities. The NCU has also



At the end of the community project, fish processors in Angolares are looking forward to a brighter future

approached and scheduled meetings with the Ministries of Education, Natural Resources, and Health, the UNDP and some other NGOs to call for support in co-financing and/or implementing the new community projects that will result from the participatory appraisals. These efforts to mobilise support will also serve as openings for the further promotion of the SFLP and its activities in the country.

Senegal – Support to relocated communities ...

The SFLP is to provide assistance to fisheries communities around the Djoudj Park in organising the direct marketing of fresh and processed fish and diversifying their livelihoods. The seven communities which will benefit from the activity (Débi, Tiguette, Rhone, Diadium I, Diadium II, Diadium III, and Fourarate) were displaced from their traditional land when the Djoudj Park area was demarcated in 1995. They then benefited from a 5-year (1995-2000) development plan initiated by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Netherlands and German development agencies. The present SFLP support is specifically designed to assist them in consolidating the very encouraging results of these previous efforts.

Up-coming events

- The National Coordinators' meeting will be held in Cotonou from 7 to 10 July 2003; the coordinators will have the opportunity to discuss progress and achievements with the SFLP Mid-Term Evaluation mission.

New Community Projects

- **Niger:** An institutional strengthening project for improved information and communication has been approved for the Tafouka fisheries community.

As part of this support, fisherfolk will be trained in basic marketing principles and livestock fattening techniques. Their organisational skills will also be strengthened. The Restricted Community Management Committee and the umbrella organisation will receive support in strengthening their communication system. By handling the marketing of their products themselves, they will no longer need the services of middle men, and livestock fattening as an alternative livelihoods strategy will create employment. The increased revenue generated by these activities is expected to enable them to set up a savings scheme which will help reduce their vulnerability to unexpected events. The project activities are also expected to lead to a considerable reduction in the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Park by the fisherfolk, and thus to the reduction of conflict between the communities and the Park administrators. The project is to last for 12 months.

... GFAR Conference 2003

The SFLP was represented at the second triennial conference of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) held in Dakar, Senegal, from 22 to 24 May 2003. The GFAR is an initiative used to facilitate and promote partnership between stakeholders involved in agricultural research and development all over the world. It enjoys financial support from the European Union (EU), the FAO, IFAD, the World Bank, Italy, Great Britain, Holland, Denmark, Canada, France and Germany, amongst others.

The objective of the Dakar conference was to review past and current activities undertaken by the GFAR since its first meeting in Dresden, Germany, in 2000, to brainstorm on future actions, and to redefine the role of the GFAR secretariat. Participants at the conference acknowledged that development should not only focus on production activities, but should also deal with communities' social issues (e.g. health, education), and involve other sectors like livestock farming, forestry, fisheries, etc. In addition to these observations, which formed part of the conference recommendations, the GFAR Secretariat was also requested to promote demand-driven approaches based on local initiatives and learning-by-doing, with special reference to pro-poor policies, poverty reduction and food security actions, and a global communication network to exchange experiences, all of which have direct linkages with the SFLP approach. One of the major conclusions of the conference was thus to change from a research-driven to a more holistic approach.

Guinea Bissau – New National Coordinator

A new Director of Small-scale Fisheries has been appointed by the government of Guinea-Bissau. He is P. Baranção and he replaces D. Balde as National Coordinator of the NCU of Guinea-Bissau. This change after 3 years of existence of the SFLP poses a great challenge for the new National Coordinator. The SFLP wishes him success in his new post.