



INFO-FLASH

the SFLP... on the move...

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NEPAD¹ “Fish for all” Summit: Abuja Declaration on fisheries and aquaculture in Africa

NEPAD, in partnership with the Worldfish Centre and FAO, organized a Summit titled “Fish for All” in Abuja, Nigeria, from the 22nd to the 25th of August 2005. During the Summit initiated by the President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, the vital role of fisheries and aquaculture in the African development agenda was highlighted.

During the technical meeting (22nd to 23rd August) in which experts from the public and private sectors, as well as the civil society of the region participated, a common perception of the current situation and future trends in fisheries and aquaculture in Africa emerged. The drafting of the NEPAD plan of action for the future development of the sector in Africa led to the identification of investment priorities.

The last day of the Summit, presided over by the Nigerian Head of State, was consecrated to the Abuja Declaration on fisheries and aquaculture in Africa. The Abuja Declaration is a mark of the political commitment of the African Union to support the action plan through NEPAD, in direct collaboration with sub-regional economic organizations and development partners. It emphasizes the need to improve the governance of fisheries, to gradually replace the “free access” regime with the “controlled access” regime, and to ensure that the allocation of resources is well balanced between small-scale fisheries and industrial fisheries. Moreover, the Abuja Declaration supports the promotion of the effective participation of stakeholders, especially the poor and the marginalized, in the different stages of the process. The documents of the Summit are available online on: [http:// www. fishforall.org/ffa-summit/outcomes.asp](http://www.fishforall.org/ffa-summit/outcomes.asp)

“The future of small-scale fisheries” - The theme of a brainstorming workshop in Ouidah

The Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) Team, representatives of the FAO Fisheries Department in Rome and the Regional Office for Africa in Accra, Ghana, as well as resource persons came together in Ouidah (Benin) from the 12th to the 15th of July 2005 to brainstorm on the future of small-scale fisheries in West Africa. Also discussed was the role the Programme could play in this at the end of its current phase financed by the DFID till October 2006.

The meeting provided participants the opportunity to obtain a general overview of the current status of the fisheries sector, and especially of the small-scale sub-sector. They were also able to review the different aspects and key elements to be integrated in the activities of future fisheries development programmes. At the end of the exercise, proposals were made for further discussion in the next meeting of the National Coordinators of the Programme.

¹ The New Partnership for Africa's Development

SFLP Info-Flash

The overriding objective of the **Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme** is to provide the 25 member countries with the most up to date information on the activities of the Programme. Info-Flash is produced by the Regional Support Unit based in Cotonou (Bénin).

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UEMOA² - Consensus on the constitution of a fisheries legislation harmonization committee

Member States of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), as well as the representatives of international and regional organizations (FAO, BCEAO³ BOAD⁴, and SFLP) met in Lome, Togo, from the 27th to the 29th of October 2005 for a workshop on the constitution of a fisheries policy and legislation harmonization committee.

The constitution of this committee is the first institutional step in the three-year development programme for fisheries adopted in 2003 by member states of the Union. The next step will involve the definition of a joint fisheries management plan for the UEMOA region. This will be discussed in Bissau from the 25th to 27th October 2005. Having participated in the Lome workshop, the SFLP will also attend the Bissau meeting.

The fisheries sector and the decentralization process - training manual in preparation ...

The first draft of the training manual on fisheries and decentralization being prepared by the SFLP in collaboration with the Rural Institutions and Participation Service of the FAO (SDAR), was reviewed and improved with complementary details during a workshop held in Dakar, Senegal, from the 12th to the 15th of September 2005. This draft was prepared based on the results of case studies on the decentralization process in 5 SFLP participating countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Niger and Senegal).

The workshop brought together National Coordinators, representatives of national institutions in charge of decentralization, the consultants who prepared the case studies, as well as members of the RSU team.

The objective of the workshop was to modify and review the base document to be used in preparing the training manual. The final version of the manual will serve as a pedagogic tool that will enable national institutions in charge of decentralization, as well as those in the fisheries sector, to further take fisheries communities into consideration in the decentralization process and local development.

Benin - Four fishing communities start implementing action plans to fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS

The implementation of the plans of action to fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS has started in four Beninese fishing communities: Ayiguinnou, Hio, Kétonou and Sô Zounko.

The implementation of the activities retained in the plans of action will spread over three years in the four communities. These activities will take into consideration several HIV/AIDS related peculiarities of the fisheries sector identified during the appraisals conducted as part of the preparation for the drafting of the action plans. Special attention will therefore be given to high-risk groups and factors linked to the migratory movements of fishermen and women fishmongers.

The action plans are being implemented directly by the communities with the technical assistance of specialized NGOs intervening in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention and care. The administrative and financial management of the action plan in each community is the responsibility of a committee made up of women, youths and leaders. The implementation of these plans is funded by the "*Projet plurisectoriel de lutte contre le VIH/SIDA (PPLS)*"⁵.

² The West African Economic and Monetary Union: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo

³ Central Bank of West African States

⁴ West African Development Bank

⁵ A project co-financed by the World Bank and the Beninese government

Mali, Mauritania and Senegal - Common guidelines for the development of fisheries and aquaculture

On noting the low level of development of small-scale inland fisheries in their respective countries, the Ministries in charge of fisheries in Mauritania and Senegal visited Selingué on the 28th of July 2005 to draw inspiration from Mali example in the management of inland fisheries. The visit was preceded by the meeting of Fisheries Directors. On the basis of the results of the Selingué Pilot Project implemented by the SFLP, the Ministers agreed to prepare common guidelines for the development of fisheries and aquaculture, as part of the activities aimed at enhancing the Senegal River ("*Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal - OMVS*").

The guidelines involve: (i) The definition and implementation of common fisheries and aquaculture development programmes in the Senegal River basin; (ii) the restoration of degraded biotopes of the river; (iii) the harmonization of rules for the control, surveillance, security and access to fisheries resources, and (iv) the prevention and management of conflicts.