



INFO-FLASH

the SFLP... on the move...

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A new regional HIV-AIDS programme proposed for Africa

The Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP), the Swedish Regional HIV/AIDS Team, the Swedish Fisheries Board and WorldFish Centre organised a joint meeting in Cairo, the Egyptian capital, from the 18th to the 19th of September 2006. The objective of the meeting was to come up with proposals for a new regional project that will serve as a strategic response to the HIV-AIDS pandemic in the fisheries sector of the region.

At the end of the discussions, an agreement was reached on a project that will cover southern, western and central Africa, the implementation of which will start at the end of 2006. The SFLP will be involved in the part of the project that will cover Benin, Cameroon and Nigeria.

During the meeting, the SFLP presented a concept note on its contribution to a strategic response to HIV-AIDS, and on improving access to the prevention, treatment and care for the most vulnerable groups in the fisheries sector. The WorldFish Centre came up with a proposal which places emphasis on research and capacity building in order to improve knowledge of risk factors as well as investment opportunities and best practices. The WorldFish Centre proposal also addresses issues relating to the contribution of fisheries in Africa to health and food security.

Cape Verde: Community radio, « Voz di Santa Cruz », inaugurated

A community radio, "Voz di Santa Cruz", was inaugurated in Pedra Badejo (Cape Verde), on the 3rd of August 2006. Present at the inauguration were the Honourable Minister and Deputy Prime Minister in charge of qualifications and employment, representatives of the UNDP, the FAO and the Luxembourg Cooperation Agency, the Managing Director of the Fisheries Department and of the Mayor of the Council of Santa Cruz.

The main objective of the radio is to provide a forum for discussions and exchanges for the people of the community, development actors and the Santa Cruz township as a whole. This radio station, whose creation the SFLP contributed to, is also authorised to include in its programme schedule, special airtime reserved for fisheries communities to express their views.

The presentation team is made up of youth volunteers who had earlier been trained in several areas through the support of the SFLP. These areas include presentation techniques and studio management, local development and programme scheduling.

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).

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

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Côte d'Ivoire: Projects to continue beyond 30th September 2006

SFLP¹ projects in Côte d'Ivoire, namely the Pilot project on inland fisheries co-management and Assomlan² community project are scheduled to end on the 30th of September and 30th of October respectively. The activities of these projects will however not end here.

The activities undertaken by the Pilot Project in its co-management component (setting up functional institutions) will be continued by the Fisheries Department. Those relating to capacity building in fisheries will continue to enjoy the support of NGO *Matrice*, while the HIV-AIDS component will be consolidated by the NGO known as *Renaissance santé Bouaké* (RSB). A network of partners including the Professional Training Development Fund (*le Fonds de développement de la formation professionnelle* - FDFP), UNICEF and UNAIDS will support these field activities.

The Assomlan community project is being supported by *Inades-Formation* Côte d'Ivoire, which has some budget allocation for the training of managers of the Solidarity and Development Fund of the village in 2006. *Inades-Formation* International is also willing to provide some support.

Furthermore, the government has made a budget allocation in its 2007 budget for the functioning of the SFLP National Coordinating Unit. This is to enable the NCU to continue its activities in support of the fishing communities of Lakes Kossou and Assomlan.

Last but not the least, contacts have been made with the National Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reinsertion Programme (*Programme national de démobilisation, de désarmement et de réinsertion* - PNDDR) to envisage the possibilities of including the fishing communities around Lake Kossou (a conflict zone) in the implementation of its community reinsertion component.

The SFLP provides an update on fishermen's migration trends in West and Central Africa

The Regional Coordination of the Pilot Project on participatory fisheries in coastal zones organised a workshop on the migration of fishermen in West and Central Africa in August 2006. The workshop, which was held in Nouakchott (Mauritania), brought together participants from Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal, the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (*Commission sous-régionale des pêches* - CSRFP), and the Regional Support Unit (RSU) of the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihood Programme (RSU) based in Cotonou.

The objective of the workshop was to present a summary of the studies on the migration of fishermen in Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal initiated by the Pilot Project Coordination.

All the studies highlighted the migration of fish workers between the different countries as a phenomenon that has taken place from time immemorial and migration within each country as one which is quite high. They also presented the typology of migratory trends and their causes and impact, as well as the profile of the fishermen concerned. The studies furthermore analysed the problem related to the participation of migrant fishermen in the fisheries management and development process.

At the end of their deliberations, participants recommended that the Project Management Teams ensure that the findings of the studies are widely disseminated in each country.

¹ The Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme.

² The two projects are being supervised by the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme.

Joint meeting on the Pilot Project on participatory fisheries management in coastal zones

Countries participating in the SFLP³ Pilot Project on participatory fisheries management in coastal zones (Congo, Gabon, Guinea and Mauritania) held a consultative meeting in Nouakchott, Mauritania in August 2006. Resource persons from the sub-regional Fisheries Commission (*Commission sous-régionale des pêches* - CSRP) and the Regional Support Unit (RSU) of the SFLP based in Cotonou also participated at the meeting.

The meeting was declared open by Mohamed Abderrahmane Ould ABEID, the Permanent Secretary of the Mauritanian Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime economy, in the presence of his counterpart from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development, Ndiaye Abou Souleymane and Ahmeda Ould Mohamed Ahmed, the Programme Officer and Assistant to the FAO Representative in Mauritania.

The meeting made it possible to review the activities undertaken as part of the Pilot Project, to evaluate the outcomes achieved and changes that have taken place, as well as to identify the major lessons.

The Project Management Teams of the four countries implemented the activities scheduled in their respective workplans. Most of these activities, which focused mainly on capacity building for fishing communities (organisational development, adult literacy programmes, training), as well as on issues relating to policies and institutions, are to continue till the end of December 2006.

Some striking changes have been observed at several levels where policies and institutions are concerned as well as in the area of vulnerability reduction in fishing communities.

Meeting of monitoring and evaluation focal points in Cotonou

The Monitoring Officer of the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) organised a meeting for the monitoring and evaluation focal points of countries participating in the Pilot Projects on participatory fisheries management in coastal zones and the one on post-harvest fisheries livelihood from the 28th to the 30th of August 2006. Seven of the eight countries (Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Chad, Cameroon, Gambia, Senegal) involved in the new participatory monitoring and evaluation system being implemented since June 2005 were represented at the meeting. The only monitoring and evaluation focal point absent at the meeting was the one from Mauritania.

The meeting deliberated on three points including (i) the process used in setting up the participatory monitoring-evaluation system in the different countries; (ii) the results obtained, and (iii) the major lessons learned.

The Regional coordinators of the Pilot Projects of the Programme as well as the RSU team participated at the meeting. The meeting provided a forum to share and review the participatory monitoring experience of the different countries. It also provided the opportunity to identify the aspects of the exercise that are likely to yield results, and from which lessons can be drawn, especially as they relate to the involvement and responsibilities of the fishing communities in the monitoring process.

³ The Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme.

Togo: Publicity for fisheries regulation in Lake Nangbéto

On the initiative of the National Coordinating unit of the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme in West Africa (SFLP), Togo, the publicity campaign for decree N°25 of 18th May 2006 on fisheries regulation on the Nangbéto artificial lake was launched by the Préfet of Ogou (Togo), on the 27th of July 2006,.

The launching ceremony was attended by representatives of fishing communities around the lake (fishermen, women fish processors, fish sellers, both male and female) Law and Order enforcement agents, and regional departments involved in the use and management of the lake.

The decree defines the period declared as the biological resting period during which there are to be no activities on the lake (15th of August to 15th November). Determined to ensure the enforcement of this decree, the communities have put certain measures in place. Prominent among these is the fact that they have identified areas around the lake where all fishing boats are to be parked during the biological resting period.

It may be recalled that the decree was signed by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries after a workshop organised to brainstorm on the conditions necessary for setting up a regulatory framework for the management of fishing activities on the lake in which representatives of the fishing communities and many other stakeholders involved in the use and management of the lake participated.

A new Coordinator for the SFLP

Kollavik Jensen has been appointed Acting Coordinator of the Coordination Unit of the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) in Rome. He replaces Benoît Horemans, who has been promoted to the post of Coordinator of the FAO sub-regional Office for Central Africa and FAO Representative in Gabon.