



# INFO-FLASH

## *the SFLP... on the move...*

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### The activities of the Pilot Project on inland fisheries co-management end

The first Pilot Project implemented by the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme in West Africa (SFLP) since 2002 ended recently at the end of three years of activities. The main mandate of the project was to support the establishment of sustainable co-management systems for inland fisheries in order to help improve the livelihoods of inland fishing communities along Lakes Bagré and Kompienga in Burkina Faso, Lake Kossou in Côte d'Ivoire, Lake Volta in Ghana, and Lake Selingué in Mali.

The end of the project was marked with a closing workshop from the 26th to the 29th of June 2006 in Sélingué, Mali. The workshop brought together representatives of NCU's<sup>1</sup>, the management teams of countries participating in the project, and the experts of the RSU<sup>2</sup> of the SFLP. The objective of the workshop was to analyze the results obtained, as well as the lessons learned in each of the four countries involved in the project.

The participants at the workshop expressed their satisfaction with the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) used to back up the project intervention strategy since among other things; it created an avenue for taking the concerns of the fishing communities into consideration.

Where future prospects are concerned, participants at the workshop stressed the need to improve on the documentation of lessons learned by fully exploiting the reports of the impact studies conducted in each country. They also came up with proposals and recommendations for future interventions aimed at poverty reduction in fishing communities in West and Central Africa.

### The Pilot Project on the improved livelihoods in post-harvest artisanal fisheries speeds up the pace of its activities

The Regional Coordination of the Pilot Project on livelihoods improvement in the post-harvest sub-sector organized a regional workshop in Banjul, The Gambia, from the 29<sup>th</sup> of May to the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2006. This workshop facilitated reflections on the project, and also served as a forum to update participants on its short to medium term activities. It must be noted that this Pilot Project involving Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia and Senegal was launched in November 2004.

At the end of the workshop, participants noted that the implementation of activities stuck closely to the work plan, and that the monitoring-evaluation system was very functional. A lot of effort is currently being made to consolidate achievements made, and to document the lessons learned. A way forward was also defined for the project in order to ensure sustainability for the interventions when the project ends in December 2006 as scheduled.

1 National Coordinating Units of the SFLP

2 Regional Support Unit

#### 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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The workshop brought together all the Project Management Teams (PMT) of the four countries involved, as well as representatives of the beneficiary fishing communities, project partners, and experts of the RSU of SFLP.

### **20 fishing communities in the Chad-Nigeria Basin to be connected to mobile telephone services.**

In April 2006, Mr. Mohammed and the fisheries officers of the Cooperative Unions of Doro Baga and Daban Massara fishing communities in Nigeria contacted three major mobile telephone operators (MTN, V-Mobile and Glo) to invite them to their fishing communities to study the possibility of providing their community with mobile telephone services. Only one operator responded to their request by sending a mission to the field in June 2006.

After the study, the operator responded favorably and work on the installation of equipments is ongoing today. Based in Baga, the equipments are expected provide mobile telephone coverage possible over a 34km radius. What this means is that 20 fishing communities will have access to mobile telephone services. The Cooperative Unions will be responsible for training their members on how to use cellular phones. They also plan to set up a micro-credit system to facilitate the purchase of these cell phones by their members.

Mobile telephone services will improve the fisherfolk's access to market information, information exchange, and contact with partners. It is also expected to improve the quality of life of these communities that are located in a land-locked area of Nigeria.

### **SFLP disseminates its results in Portsmouth and prepares a new regional programme**

During the third IIFET<sup>3</sup> conference titled "Rebuilding Fisheries in an Uncertain Environment" organized in Portsmouth (United Kingdom) from the 11th to the 14th of July 2006, the SFLP was invited to facilitate a special session on small-scale fisheries. The objective of the session was to disseminate some of the results obtained by the Programme on poverty reduction in fishing communities in West and Central Africa after six years of activities.

This provided SFLP representatives the opportunity to demonstrate to participants how poverty reduction efforts can be combined with wealth creation in fishing communities, through the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources. With this objective in mind, during the first sessions of the conference, they presented four papers on (i) human rights and property rights: strategies for achieving both the Millennium Development Goals and responsible fishing in small-scale fisheries in West and Central Africa fisheries; (ii) the contribution of fisheries to the national economies of West and Central African countries; (iii) the impact of fish trade on development; (iv) making co-management work for both poverty reduction and responsible fisheries: lessons from coastal and inland waters of West and Central Africa how to use co-management to reduce poverty while at the same time promoting responsible fisheries.

The SFLP was represented at the conference by its Coordinator, three experts from the Regional support Unit, and two international consultants.

While this conference was going on, the SFLP officers created time to hold a meeting with representatives of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the WorldFish Center to further pursue on-going discussions on the establishment of a regional programme to succeed the SFLP when it closes shop in

<sup>3</sup> International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade.

March 2007. The discussions ended with NEPAD reaffirming its willingness to support the new regional programme which perfectly aligns with its Action Plan for fisheries. NEPAD is already talking to some potential donors including DFID<sup>4</sup> and SIDA<sup>5</sup> to obtain their agreement to provide financial support for the new Programme. The NEPAD officials also reiterated their readiness to give wide coverage to the results obtained by the SFLP in other countries in the African continent that did not participate in the SFLP.

By obtaining the patronage of NEPAD an important stage has been scaled in the process to enhance the achievements of the SFLP. The next stages in the process will require (i) the information of SFLP National Coordinating Units (NCU) and the compilation of their comments on the Concept Note of the new Programme, and; (ii) the involvement of the different regional economic commissions and organizations involved in fisheries management.

## Two Departures and one Arrival at the RSU

### Departures:

**Günter Heidrich**, the I/C Officer left the Regional Support Unit of the SFLP on the 31st of May 2006 at the end of his contract with the Programme. As specialist in communication strategy, Gunter was responsible for organizing the information-communication network covering all SFLP participating countries. He was also in charge of monitoring the implementation of the information and communication strategy of the Programme.

**Akambi Lassissi** has been on a six-month separation leave since the 18th of June 2006. Information Assistant, Mr. Lassissi was directly responsible for the production of the Programme's *Liaison Bulletin*.

### Arrival:

**Joël Gallard**, former SFLP Team Leader is on a support mission to the RSU. After a two-week stay in June 2006, he returned as a consultant on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 for a period of three months. This mission, an initiative of the Programme Coordination in Rome, is part of the preparation process for the final evaluation of the Programme.

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<sup>4</sup> The Department for International Development of the United Kingdom

<sup>5</sup> The Swedish International Development Agency