



# INFO-FLASH

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

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## Strengthening Community projects

In all, seventeen project proposals have been approved by the Regional Support Unit (RSU) of the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP). These are projects that were initiated or extended after the meeting of the National Coordinators of the Programme held in Dakar, Senegal in November 2005. The activities of the projects will end latest September 2006, to give the NCUs time to write their final reports and draw lessons from their experience before the Programme ends.

### List of Community Projects approved by the RSU in 2006

Countries	Titles
Benin	Development of Income Generating Activities for households affected by HIV/AIDS in Hio and Ayiginnou
	Support to develop line fishing for the vulnerable members of the Beninese national Union of small-scale coastal fishermen and related activities ( <i>Union Nationale des pêcheurs marins artisans et assimilés du Bénin</i> - UNAPEMAB).
Burkina Faso	Support to the four neighborhood Radio stations around Lake Bagre.
Cameroon	Strengthening of the co-management process and the women's association in Mape.
	Strengthening of the co-management process in Maga.
Cape Verde	Strengthening of the capacities of the Technical and Social Centre ( <i>Centro Technico e Social</i> - CTS) of Pedra Badejo.
Congo	Development of the diversification activities for households affected by HIV/AIDS in Makotipoko and Base-Agip.
Cote d'Ivoire	Strengthening of the self-organization capacities of the Assomlan community.
Gabon	Support to develop small-scale fisheries activities and to disseminate the results obtained through the community projects in Milembie and Ebel Abanga.
Gambia	Support to gender-sensitive and pro-poor microfinance in Tanji.
Mali	Support to Radio Wassoulou and Radio Baya.
Niger	Follow-up of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sub-Programme of the Rural Development Component of the Poverty Reduction Strategy
Nigeria	Improving Cooperative Union capacity in Tiga dam, Rurum community
	Improving Cooperative Union capacity in the Daban Masara lake fishing community
Democratic Republic of Congo	Support to strengthening the umbrella organization of Pool Malebo.

### 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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## Preparations for the final evaluation of the SFLP in progress

As a prelude to the final evaluation of the Programme scheduled to end in February 2007, the Regional Support Unit (RSU) hosted members of the evaluation team from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2006. The team included Steve Cunningham, representing the donor, DFID, and Erin Holleran from the FAO Monitoring-Evaluation Bureau. The mission worked with the RSU experts and the Pilot Projects Regional Coordinators to finalize the Terms of Reference, and to identify the countries to be visited. A regional workshop will be organised in January 2007 and the different stakeholders will be invited to discuss with the evaluation team and share lessons learnt from the Programme.

Since priority is to be given to the countries participating in the Pilot Projects of the Programme, the nine countries to be visited by the evaluation team between now and December 2006 are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea and Senegal.

## Congo: Validation of study on the contribution of fisheries to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy

The national management team for the Pilot Project on the "Participatory fisheries in coastal zones" in Congo organized a national workshop in Brazzaville from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2006 to validate the study on the contribution of fisheries to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. The outcome of the workshop was dispatched to the Permanent Secretariat of the Poverty Reduction National Committee (*Comité National de Lutte contre la Pauvreté* - CNLP) so that it can be taken into consideration in the second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

During the opening ceremony of the meeting, the Permanent Secretary, representing the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, pointed out that the *"workshop is a springboard for the fisheries sector which was overlooked in the provisional PRSP, in spite of its importance in local and national economies, and also in food security."*

The workshop was attended by 50 participants representing the Presidency of the Republic, the Ministries in charge of Fisheries, Planning, Territorial Administration, Decentralization, Primary and Secondary Education, Technical and Professional education, Higher educational institutions, Trade and Economy, Research Bureaus, the CNLP, NGOs and associations, fishing communities, the FAO Representative office, the Regional Support Unit (RSU) and the National Coordinating Unit (NCU) of the SFLP.

## Togo: Definition of a fisheries management regulatory framework at Nangbeto

The National Coordination Unit of the SFLP in Togo, in collaboration with the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, organized a workshop from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2006, during which the draft decree on fisheries regulations and the Internal Regulations of the national committee responsible for the management of fisheries activities around the artificial lake at the Nangbeto dam was adopted. The decree is to be submitted for the approval and signature of the Minister of State for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

Held in Nangbeto, the meeting was organised within the context of the implementation of the community project on "Support in the auto-promotion and development of the three communities around the artificial lake". The community project started in July 2005 with the main objective of preparing the ground for the establishment of a fisheries co-management system for the lake. Participants at the meeting included representatives of the Ministries in charge of fisheries, environment, territorial administration, national defence and security, delegates of fishing communities, APPA, the NGO providing support to the communities, the FAO Representative and SFLP.

## SFLP-UEMOA partnership

The SFLP and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (*Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine* - UEMOA) have initiated a partnership arrangement, the objective of which is to boost efforts aimed at reducing poverty in West African fishing communities. Within the context of this partnership, a working meeting presided over by the Special Regional Food Security Programme (SRFSP) was held at the UEMOA Headquarters in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

## Cote d'Ivoire: Validation of the co-management plan for Lake Kossou

The workshop organized to validate the co-management plan for Lake Kossou in Cote d'Ivoire was held from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2006 at Yamoussoukro in Cote d'Ivoire. Present at the workshop were 130 participants including the Minister of animal production and fisheries resources, the FAO Representative in Cote d'Ivoire, political and administrative authorities of Yamoussoukro, fishing communities, elected officers and administrative authorities of the six departments around the lake.

On the occasion, the Minister of animal production and fisheries resources, Dr. Alphonse Douiti, recalled the weaknesses of the centralized management of fisheries, and reiterated his readiness to provide support to the participatory management of fisheries resources, because it promotes social cohesion and wealth creation.

## A Policy Brief on adult literacy programmes in fishing communities

The fifth set of SFLP Policy Briefs has just been published. It focuses on SFLP interventions in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Mali. The Policy Brief demonstrated very clearly that functional literacy helps to improve the livelihoods of fishing communities.

The Policy Brief examines literacy status and practice in fishing communities, and evaluates literacy needs in the fisheries development process. Furthermore, it draws attention to the advantages of literacy in improving fisheries management, and shows how adult literacy programmes can be useful in drawing on existing knowledge and practices. It offers suggestions on how government policies and strategic partnerships can respond to the efforts to increase fishing communities' access to adult literacy programmes and education.

The briefnotes are available on the SFLP website: [www.sflp.org](http://www.sflp.org)

## Six West African countries create a Sub-regional Fisheries Commission

The Directors of Fisheries of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo met in Cotonou from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2006. During this meeting they approved the creation of a fisheries commission for the West-Central zone of the Gulf of Guinea. This is to be legalized through the signing of a ministerial declaration. Ghana has offered to host the headquarters of the Commission while Cote d'Ivoire has agreed to provide the General Secretary.