



INFO-FLASH

the SFLP... on the move...

Issue 47 – October/November 2006

Final evaluation of the SFLP: end of field visits

The field visit phase of the final evaluation mission of the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) ended in November 2006. In all, nine countries were visited. They include Benin, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Cape-Verde, Congo, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea and Senegal.

The main objective for visiting these countries is to evaluate the outcomes of the interventions of the Programme from the point of view of the primary beneficiaries (fishing communities) and their partners, in terms of their impacts on national policies and the livelihoods of the fishing communities, as well as to identify the lessons that can be learned (successes and failures) from the experience. Also assessed were the measures being taken in the different countries to ensure continuity for the Programme's activities, and to consolidate the achievements.

Fishing community members stressed in particular, the originality of the Programme's intervention methodology to which they fully subscribed, and which focused mainly on capacity building. They shared with the evaluation team, the changes that had already taken place as a result of the awareness raising activities and training sessions organised.

The authorities of some of the countries informed the evaluation mission that the activities initiated by the SFLP in support to fishing communities to ensure the sustainable improvement of their livelihoods will be pursued beyond March 2007 by an appropriate unit to be set up within the Fisheries Department.

The final evaluation mission noted the positive and negative sides of SFLP interventions. One positive aspect is that the Programme's implementation mechanisms and modalities were well understood and well implemented. Also noted was the good quality of work done among women, who have come to manifest a real awareness of their role.

The evaluation mission is however not very convinced about the ability of some socio-professional organisations that were established in some countries to function independently. It would seem as if some still expect assistance, and still expect their needs to be met, especially in the area of fisheries management.

The evaluation mission's report is being prepared and will soon be presented for discussion with the SFLP team before finalisation.

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.

Reproduction and dissemination of this document in electronic or hard copy is encouraged.

Visit our Web Site
www.sflp.org

Infoflash@sflp.org



The SFLP strengthens collaboration with the CECAF and the IFCA

The SFLP participated at the eighteenth session of the Commission for East and Central Atlantic Fisheries (CECAF) held in Douala, Cameroon, from the 3rd to the 5th of October 2006, and at the fourteenth session of the Inland Fisheries Committee for Africa (IFCA) organised from the 22nd to the 24th of November 2006 in Accra, Ghana.

Efforts being made with the assistance of the SFLP to integrate the relevant principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the policies and legislations of the member countries of these two commissions, and the progress made in evaluating the contribution of fisheries in the national economies were well appreciated.

The CECAF session was officially opened by the Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal industries, in the presence of the FAO representative in Cameroon. The Minister stressed the importance of the session, pointing out that it was being held at a time when the over-exploitation of fisheries resources all over the world has become a source for concern, especially in the CECAF region.

The SFLP is expected to play an important role in the CECAF activities by, amongst others, participating in the future reflections of the commission and by providing information on the results and lessons learned from the activities it undertook in the different countries.

The opening ceremony of the IFCA was presided over by the Minister of Fisheries of Ghana. Present at the occasion were the FAO Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Africa. During this meeting, the SFLP presented a paper on its experience in inland fisheries co-management and contributed to the presentation on the evaluation of inland fisheries in Africa.

The SFLP experience demonstrated that fisheries co-management offers the best option for the sustenance and reconstitution of fisheries resources in lakes and ponds. It also showed that these objectives can only be achieved if central government transfers control and property rights to multi-stakeholder groups, comprising the users of the resource and the local communities. The Programme's experience shows how the reconstitution of fisheries resources and poverty reduction are interconnected and can be addressed simultaneously by strengthening both the co-management systems and the livelihoods of the users of fisheries resources.

The IFCA was informed about the activities undertaken by the SFLP on HIV/AIDS in fishing communities and the preparation of a regional project in this area in collaboration with the WordFish Centre.

Ghana: Training on the evaluation of post-harvest losses in Accra

The Fish Utilization and Marketing Service (FIU) of the FAO organised a workshop on the assessment of post-harvest losses in Accra, Ghana from the 30th October to the 4th of November 2006. The objective of the workshop, which brought together 19 participants, was to equip them with the skills required to assess losses in the small-scale fisheries sector.

The SFLP participated in this meeting to share with participants, its experience on the assessment of post-harvest losses within the context of the Pilot Project on post-harvest fisheries livelihoods.

Three types of post-harvest losses were dealt with during the workshop. They include physical losses, quality losses and market force losses. The definition of the concept of "market force losses" gave rise to a lot of discussions, and participants could not reach a consensus on this. While recognising the

importance of the law of supply and demand in these forces, the participants requested for more time to reflect on this concept with a view to finding a clearer and more concise definition.

Nevertheless, it was generally agreed that the different losses result from the bad conditions in which the fish products are handled, processed, stored and transported. In terms of impact, the losses significantly affect the livelihoods of the post-harvest fisheries stakeholders.

Côte d'Ivoire: promising future for SFLP projects

In Côte d'Ivoire, the SFLP Pilot Project on inland fisheries co-management was implemented on Lake Kossou. However, because of the socio-political situation of the country, it was limited to three out of the five districts in the area (Yamoussoukro, Tiébissou and Bouaflé). On the basis of the results obtained and the adoption of the co-management plan, the National Coordinating Unit (NCU) has come up with a preliminary project for the co-management of the whole lake. It is hoped that with the support of the FAO Representative Office, this project will be approved for inclusion in UNDP's Programme in Côte d'Ivoire for 2007.

The tangible results recorded by the community project in Assomlan, especially with regards to the consolidation of Solidarity and Development Funds is beginning to attract the attention of the local government (the General Council of Adjake) which considers it to be a useful instrument in the promotion of local development. The Council is very interested in promoting the initiative. After visiting the project, Inades-Formation International undertook to support the project for 2007. This international NGO will provide funding assistance to project management team to be used to enhance their skills and to promote transparent management.

The World Food Day: The SFLP promotes itself in Bénin

The SFLP participated in the official activities to mark the celebration of the 26th World Food Day on Monday the 16th of October 2006 in Ouidah, Benin.

The Regional Support Unit of the Programme seized this opportunity to promote the SFLP through the exhibition of some of its publications and photographs illustrating the contribution of fisheries to food security and fresh fish availability. The exhibition was well appreciated by visitors.

The event was attended by Beninese authorities, among which were the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and his counterparts from the Ministries in charge of higher education and communications, the Technical Adviser to the President of the Republic on communication matters, the Commissioner for the Atlantique District, as well as the Mayor of the city of Ouidah. Also noted was the presence of eminent personalities and elders of Ouidah, representatives of civil society organisations, and many students.

On this event to mark the World Food Day, the SFLP Team Leader, acting for the FAO Representative in Benin delivered the message of the Director General of the FAO.