

# "Info-Flash" the SFLP ... on the move ...

Issue 15 ~ January 2002



## Welcome to the SFLP Info-Flash

This means of communication is forwarded monthly through Internet to the National Coordinating Units, FAO Representations, DFID, FAO Fisheries Department and any person interested in the work of SFLP

The overriding objective of this **SFLP Info-Flash** is to provide the 25 member countries with the most up to date information on the Programme.

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

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## News from National Coordination Units

### Togo

National Coordinator Togo, A.A. Sonhaye, Operations Officer, K. Sedzro, and I/C Focal Point, A. Piake paid a working visit to the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) Regional Support Unit (RSU) in Cotonou on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2001. A meeting was held with the RSU technical staff to discuss training needs in participatory methods, community projects proposals, the preparation of pilot projects and National Coordination Unit (NCU) contributions to the SFLP monthly Newsletter (Info-Flash) and the Quarterly Liaison Bulletin.

The NCU has been actively involved in the creation of the "Association pour la Promotion de la Pêche Artisanale", one of the first fisheries Non-Governmental Organizations in Togo. This NGO is expected to play an important role in helping communities to carry out their projects by providing them advice and assistance.

### Côte d'Ivoire

In the context of a SFLP community project, and as a follow-up to the study conducted by a team of researchers (biologist and socio-economist) on the Aby lagoon since September 2001, a network of thirty fishermen has been set

up to mark locations where crabs can be found in the area. These fishermen have received training on how to collect information on the catches, cost and marketing of crabs.

In collaboration with NCU-Côte d'Ivoire, the Ivorian Agronomical Sciences Association (AISA) conducted a study on the sustainability of the livelihoods of the Assinie fisheries community. The community is located in a region characterised by intensive shrimp fishery, serious coastal erosion, diminishing width of the river mouth and a drastic degradation of mangroves. After the field study, a participatory meeting was organised with the village authorities, during which the decision was taken to set up a multi-stakeholder committee to come up with solutions to the problems they had identified. This committee met in the second week of January 2002 to draw up a set of strategic actions.

### Congo

Three months after starting the Agip Base community project, NCU-Congo undertook a field mission to monitor community project activities, by measuring progress and achievements through indicators defined with the community. The team noted several advances, such as the active contribution

of the NGO to the implementation of the community project, the adoption of a document on the organisation and

attitude of the community towards the suspension of shark fishing by the administration.



NGO «Alliance Homme Environment Afrique» and the AMSAC-Ba community project management committee discuss an implementation strategy in Pointe Noire (Congo).

### Burkina Faso

NCU-Burkina Faso organised a meeting to adopt the programme of activities for the year and explore possibilities for establishing partnerships. The NCU contributed to the finalization of the report of a study conducted on participatory monitoring of fisheries co-management on lakes Bagré and Kopinga, and to the production of an information booklet on co-management. The NCU also assisted ten fisheries communities to formulate their community projects, participated in monitoring of the Sandogo community project and organized a meeting to harmonize the different stakeholder views on a request made about intensive fisheries.

responsibilities of the Management Committee, the regular consultation between the NGO, community leaders and local administrative authorities, as well as the positive change in the

Plans for the remainder of the first quarter of 2002 include continued support to fisheries communities on project formulation and implementation, the organization of meetings to publicise the co-management information booklet and exchange of information with NGOs and other agencies and institutions to promote partnership on a wider scale.

## RSU Missions and Activities

RSU Team Leader, B. Horemans, Aquatic Resources Officer, J-C. Njock and Monitoring Officer, M. Kébé went to headquarters in Rome from 21st to 25th January 2002 to attend two meetings. The first was a Seminar organized by SFLP in order to present an account of SFLP achievements to date to a mixed audience drawn from FAO HQ and DFID staff. Presentations were given by SFLP Coordinator, R. Coultts and RSU Team Leader, B. Horemans. The second was the launch Workshop of the FAO-DFID Livelihood Support Programme (GCP\INT\803\UK) at which the SFLP Coordinator, R. Coultts represented the Programme and made a presentation about linkages between SFLP and other projects, departments of FAO and international organizations.

During their visit to Rome, the RSU group also took the opportunity to develop contacts with different FAO departments interested in SFLP activities.

As a follow-up to the series of training courses on Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) Sustainable Livelihoods Approach, (SLA) Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIP) the technical studies conducted in the Mali in 2001, RSU Planning Officer, C. Breuil went to Sélingué from 22nd to 25th January 2002 to attend a Workshop for developing the identification process for a participatory management system in the fisheries sector there.



Think-tank session on expectations from the Guidelines.

## SFLP Consultants

Communication consultant, G. Heidrich, is preparing user-friendly guidelines which will explain the formulation of community projects and their relevance to critical policies, institutions and processes. This policy guidance and awareness tool will clearly state the results expected from an SFLP community project, especially how these projects inform policy- and decision-makers on the impact of field-demonstrated improvements of policies, institutions and processes that favour sustainable fisheries livelihoods, and how to apply principles from the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) to ensure sustainability and equity in the fisheries sector.

Using lessons learnt to date, the consultant worked in close consultation with a panel from selected SFLP countries and Regional Support Unit technical staff from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> January to finalise the guidelines. The selected panel included K. Angaman (NCU-Côte d'Ivoire), E. Bagamboula (NCU-Congo), H. Zerbo (NCU-Burkina Faso), B. Johnson (NCU-Benin), T. Djedjebi (Oxfam Quebec-Benin), I. Déguéno (NGO Amitiés Ensoleillées-Benin) and K. Sissoko (UK Save the Children-Mali).

## Imminent Events

A National Coordinators' meeting has been scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> February 2002 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso to further discuss the pilot project process and to assist the NCUs to identify the countries that will be involved in the first pilot project. About a month later a planning Workshop composed of multi-stakeholder teams from participating countries will

follow to develop the logical framework and prepare the terms of reference for the design team.

A workshop on the SFLP communication strategy for community projects is to be held in Cotonou at the beginning of March 2002. Six countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger) will participate at the first workshop.

## New Community Projects

The Regional Support Unit has recently approved more community and institutional support projects. They are:

**Burkina Faso:** Promotion of fisheries activities on the Boalin reservoir.  
**Benin:** (i) "Regulation of the meshes used in beach seining" and (ii) Support in the development of alternative activities for fisheries communities", both on Aïdo marine community;  
**Ghana:** Four community projects related to beach seining activities for Katech and Adina fisheries communities.  
**Togo:** (i) Improved livelihoods of beach seining dependent

communities; (ii) Monitoring of the biological and socio-economic impact of beach seine.

**Guinea Bissau:** Institutional support for the participatory redefinition of the national policy on the management and development of sustainable artisanal fisheries.

**Mali:** Support Kabio and Sahouna women to develop their fishery activities.

**Cameroon:** (i) Support to Mapé Dam fisheries communities in participatory management and (ii) Support to revenue-generating activities of Mapé women.

## Update of NCU addresses

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