

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



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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participants on the reasons behind the continuous decline in Tiga dam productivity, the disappearance of some fish species from the lake and the need to protect the dam's fisheries resources. Discussions in the local language (Hausa), facilitated by five resource persons focused on aquatic fauna and flora conservation, fisheries regulations, environmental and social changes, fisheries development and practices, participatory approaches and responsible fishing practices.

Working sessions ended with the recommendations to: (i) set up a surveillance team to monitor and control fisheries activities on the dam to curtail bad practices; (ii) regulate the size of fishing gear to protect juveniles, and (iii) set up a loan recovery committee to facilitate repayment of loans granted to members.

Awareness material, e.g. posters, stickers and pamphlets to discourage bad fishing methods have since been produced and widely disseminated within the communities. The formulation of a community project is ongoing and plans are underway to set up a monitoring, control and surveillance team and a loan recovery committee.

Sao Tome & Principe

The Angolares Fisheries Community in Sao Tome & Principe received additional support from the Adult Literacy Programme of the Ministry of Education through a community project assisted by the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihood Programme (SFLP). Eighty eight members of the community have been successfully trained and the decision has been taken to extend the duration beyond 8 months so that more fisherfolk can benefit from the programme. In addition, NGO Marapa (Mar Ambiente e Pesca Artesanal) and the community project have started constructing two solar driers for the processing of fish to be sold in neighbouring communities.

Mauritania

The Mauritanian Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy (MPEM) and the Association for the Promotion of the Mauritanian Mutual Credit Scheme organised a National Seminar on fisheries management at Nouadhibou from 16th to 19th February 2002. One hundred participants, including fisheries professionals, fisherfolk representatives, decision and policy-makers attended the Seminar. Also present were representatives of research and surveillance

institutions, neighbouring countries, development partners and international organisations. Particular attention was given to ways of ensuring the sustainability of fisheries resources through appropriate policies and management systems. The seminar was jointly sponsored by the French Development Agency (AFD), MPEM and the National Fisheries Federation.

Nigeria

NCU-Nigeria recently organised a training workshop on resource management for two hundred members of fisheries co-operatives and local government representatives around the Tiga dam (Kano Government) in northern Nigeria. The workshop's objective was to sensitise



Nigeria NCU representatives discuss with traditional leaders of a fisheries community in northern Nigeria

European Union & West Africa

The Directorate General for Development of the European Community is currently looking at the contribution of fisheries to poverty reduction in West Africa. To support the discussions of the Working Group set up for this purpose, SFLP contracted the Centre for the Economics and Management of Aquatic Resources (CEMARE) in UK to prepare a working paper on major development issues in artisanal fisheries in West Africa.

In close collaboration with the SFLP RSU team, CEMARE produced a paper which (i) reviewed and analysed relevant documents on the impact of past and current fisheries policies on the livelihoods of artisanal fisherfolk, (ii) reviewed the general status and major trends in the region, (iii) identified possible priority issues for action. The draft working paper was discussed at a Regional Seminar held in Dakar from 14th to 15th February 2002. The meeting identified the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the fisheries sector in the region. Important themes of relevance at sub-regional and regional levels were also discussed. The results of the meeting will be discussed by the Working Group in Brussels on 6th March 2002.

FLASH NEWS

Burkina Faso, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana to implement the first SFLP Pilot Project

□ Burkina Faso hosted the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) National Coordinators Workshop on the Pilot Projects design in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 4th to 5th February 2002. The Workshop was facilitated by P. Pelletier, Consultant and its objective was to agree on a methodology to select the countries to participate in SFLP Pilot Projects and discuss some aspects of their implementation. The first Pilot Project "*Policy and institutional development for co-management in inland fisheries livelihoods*" identified at the November 2001 NC meeting and approved by the SFLP Steering Committee was used as an example.

A delegation of the Regional Support Unit comprised of B. Horemans, Team Leader, C. Breuil, Planning Officer, J-C.



A member of a fish processors association in Ouagadougou welcomes the SFLP/NCU team.

Njock, Aquatic Resources Officer, M. Kébé, Monitoring Officer, K. Holvoet and F. Turay, Project Officers participated in the meeting.

Based on agreed selection methodology and criteria, as well as their presented proposals, Burkina Faso, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana were selected by the other participants to undertake the Pilot Project. A planning meeting of multi-stakeholders from the four countries involved in the first Pilot Project is scheduled to take place in Cotonou (Benin) from 12th to 15th March 2002. The Pilot Project logical framework and the terms of reference for the design team will be prepared by the participants of this meeting.

□ After the meeting, Burkina Faso and Ghana NCUs organized excellent visits for SFLP Coordinator, R. Coutts, to visit on-going community projects at Boalin, Sandogo, Moree and Katech, as well as proposed sites for Pilot Project implementation on Kompienga, Bagre and Volta Lakes. Meetings were held with the Minister in charge in each country

F. Turay, Project Officer and J-C. Njock, RSU Aquatic Resources Officer, accompanied him on the field visits in Burkina Faso which were personally guided by H. Zerbo and K. Kabore, NC Burkina Faso. A. Bortey and D. Yeboah, NCU Ghana guided all the visits in Ghana, where meetings were also held with the FAO Regional Office for Africa with overall arrangements by A. Jallow, Fisheries Planning Officer.

Uganda

The Integrated Lake Management Project (DFID - Govt. of Uganda) hosted a visit from R. Coutts, SFLP Coordinator and N. Macpherson, DFID Snr. Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Adviser to observe and discuss the work being carried out on fisheries co-management in Lakes George and Kyoga in the environment of rapid decentralisation being undertaken by the Govt. of Uganda. These processes, through both the Ministry for Local Government and the Dept. of Fisheries, have considerable relevance for the first SFLP Pilot Project.

Gabon and Equatorial Guinea

Gabon and Equatorial Guinea both received visits from F. Turay from 12th to 23rd February 2002. While in Gabon, he facilitated the formulation of the country's first community project in line with SFLP guidelines and oriented the NCU on how to establish new partnerships. In Equatorial Guinea, the Project Officer assisted the newly restructured NCU to strengthen its capacity in fisheries planning and its links with other key partners.

Senegal

Senegal was the venue of the meeting of the "Working Group on the contribution of fisheries to poverty reduction in West Africa" which took place in Dakar from 14th to 15th February 2002. At the meeting were delegations of the European Community (EC), FAO headquarters, the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP), the West African Monetary and

Economic Union (UEMOA), the Regional Fisheries Committee of the Gulf of Guinea (COREP) and SFLP National Coordinator sub-region representatives (K. Kabore of Burkina Faso, E. Bagamboula of Congo, A. Konan of Côte d'Ivoire, and M. Thiam of Senegal, respectively representing the land-locked, southern, central and northern countries). The RSU was instrumental in planning the meeting and Team Leader, B. Horemans, Planning Officer, C. Breuil, and Monitoring Officer, M. Kébé, assisted in it.

Niger

Niger received a visit from K. Holvoet, RSU Projects Officer, from 17th to 23rd February 2002 who was there to familiarise herself with the activities in three fisheries communities. In Tabalak, she and the NCU Monitoring officer, H. Talatou reviewed the request for a community project. They analysed the institutional context, explored strategies for a literacy programme and identified activities to strengthen the community's savings and credits scheme. In order to ensure that the Talabak community benefits from lessons learnt from the experience of the Tafouka community project, an exchange visit between them is envisaged.

The Projects Officer also held a meeting with the Niamey women fish traders and visited some NGOs with solid experience in adult literacy (VIE) and micro-credit (KOKARI, ANN).