

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

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## 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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objective of the visit was to assess beach seine activities at the Kodjoviakopé beach and clarify certain details relating to the community project on the promotion of participatory management of fisheries to be undertaken by the Biova Fishermen's association. The team held extensive discussions with the Management Committee and some members of the association. They also met with two NGO representatives, A.



RSU/NCU team discuss details of the beach seine community project with the Biova fishermen's Association (Lomé Port, Togo)

### Congo

From 25<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2002, NCU-Congo (Brazzaville) benefited from the assistance of the Regional Support Unit (RSU) Planning Officer, C. Breuil in the elaboration of an implementation methodology and plan for two institutional support activities. These are Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIP) adjustments to enhance fisheries livelihoods through the establishment of a consultative committee and the integration of artisanal fisheries in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

He worked closely with the National Coordination Unit (NCU) to define the nature, objectives, approach, and timing of the exercise. The RSU Planning Officer took the opportunity of the visit to make contact and create synergies with development partners and national, bilateral and multilateral institutions (FAO, World Bank, UNDP, the European Union, Ministry in charge of fisheries, and the National Poverty Control committee). He also visited the Agip Base community project in Pointe Noire where he held a meeting with the Management Committee.

### Republic of Guinea

Fourteen months after the inception of SFLP supported Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) project in Guinea, the Bongolon MCS Base reports that there has been a considerable reduction in the incursion of industrial fishing trawlers into the artisanal fishing zone.

Inspired by this successful experience, plans are underway for a delegation of Cameroonian artisanal fisherfolk to visit a fisheries community in Guinea to share their experience in the implementation of a MCS community project. The exchange visit will enable the Cameroonian fisherfolk representatives to draw some first-hand lessons from Guinea's successful experience in this area before embarking on a similar community project.

### Togo

NCU-Togo represented by Operations Officer, K. Sedzro, and I/C Focal Point, A. Piaké, conducted Regional Support Unit (RSU) team: Community Organisation Officer, M. Kuyateh, Project Officer, F. Turay, and Communication Assistant, K. Olomu on a field visit on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2002. The

Akossou of ICAT (Institut de Conseil et d'Appui Technique) and K. Dovonon of APPA (Association pour la Promotion de la Pêche Artisanale), and paid a courtesy call on the FAO representation.

### Benin

Benin hosted two Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) workshops this month: the Pilot Project planning process workshop (12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2002), and the launching of the SFLP Communication strategy for communities workshop (18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2002).

Present at the first Pilot Project planning workshop were National Coordinators, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) and other fisheries association representatives of the four core countries (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Mali). Also present were R. Coutts, SFLP Programme Coordinator, M. Verbanck, Administrative/Finance Officer, and F. Pittaluga, Livelihood Security, Vulnerability and Monitoring Officer. PIP Specialist, B. Blake facilitated the

workshop with the support of Programme Coordinator, Team Leader and the RSU team.

The purpose of the workshop was to develop a viable framework for the design and implementation of the inland fisheries co-management pilot project with the multi-stakeholder delegations of the 4 countries. Participants agreed on an outline logical framework, an implementation mechanism, an action plan for the detailed design process, and an implementation schedule. It was also agreed that (i) the pilot project framework must embrace specific national priorities in a regional context; (ii) a Project Coordinator (consultant) and Management Team (full time) are appointed to ensure cohesion and collaboration between partner countries, and (iii) poverty profiling baseline studies are carried out, the preliminary results of which will inform the national planning process. Participants also recognised the need for a monitoring system to ensure that the objectives set are met. A field mission in the four countries is scheduled from 16<sup>th</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> May to start off the detailed design of the pilot project.

□ The first in the series of SFLP communication strategy workshops for communities was launched in Benin on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2002. The objective of the workshop was to: (i) inform the six selected countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger) on the different aspects of the strategy; (ii) design an appropriate Information, Education and Communication (IEC) project for each selected country in support to NCU activities, and (iii) define a monitoring plan and technical support system for IEC projects. Delegations made up of five participants from each country included the I/C Focal Point, two NGO representatives, and two IEC resource persons. Communication consultant, G. Heidrich and SFLP I/C Officer, K. Kourkoulotis, facilitated the workshop.

Two IEC regional coaches (CESPA from Mali and INADES-International from Côte d'Ivoire) presented their experience in the production of IEC tools and their relevance, impact and



**Workshop activities alternated between information delivery, participatory group work and technical advise: Congolese participants draft the outline of their IEC project.**

added value contribution to the development process. RSU staff also contributed to orientate the discussions in line with the IEC projects objectives: (i) community empowerment, (ii) building up of capacities and skills, (iii) creating sustainable partnerships and (iv) informing policies and processes.

Team Leader, B. Horemans drew the attention of participants to the important role played by IEC projects as a support to inform decision-makers on field-demonstrated PIP interventions in favour of sustainable fisheries livelihoods,

generate information for all stakeholders and disseminate evidence-based best practices and lessons learnt from community projects. It is expected that the 6 countries will soon finalize their IEC projects and send them to the RSU for approval.

□ The Akpéyédjé fisheries community of Aïdo beach in Ouidah, (about 35 kilometres from Cotonou) entertained a visit from the same RSU team that visited Togo (M. Kuyateh, F. Turay, K. Olomu) on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2002. They were conducted on the visit by Fisheries Department staff, A. Gbaguidi, the head of Audit and Monitoring Unit, V. Akpatchossou, coastal artisanal fisheries officer, and R. Gbaguidi, Researcher. The objective of the visit was to follow up on the progress of activities in the implementation of the two approved community projects on beach seine there. The team met the management committee and discussed with members who were highly motivated. Already, they have purchased some fishing gears and a new boat from the sum released by the Beninese government in anticipation of the arrival of the approved funds. The visit made it possible to clarify certain issues and review decisions to move the project forward.

### Côte d'Ivoire and Mali

The NCU's of Côte d'Ivoire and Mali were hosts to J-C Njock, RSU from 26<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2002. As previously done in Ghana and Burkina Faso by the Programme Coordinator, the Aquatic Resources Officer was in Abidjan and Bamako to formally discuss the selection of the two countries in the first SFLP pilot project with their respective governments and FAO representation, who will be closely involved with the management of the project. He briefed them on the principles behind the pilot project, its implementation process and expectations from each country.

The authorities of both countries expressed their pleasure at being selected, noting its relevance to their National Poverty Alleviation Programmes and fisheries development efforts. They agreed on the need to cooperate fully in its implementation to ensure the success of the project, and individually expressed the hope that the pilot project will further reassure fisheries communities of the sustainability of the approach. Details of the composition of the project steering committee, financial management and the role of the NCU in its implementation which were also raised will be settled in the imminent detail design mission to each country.

### Congo

J-C. Nguingui, a regional consultant in participatory diagnostic and sustainable livelihoods analysis has been recruited to look at the possible ways to involve communities in the preservation of natural resources in the Conkouati-Douli National Reserve located about 200km from Pointe Noire (Congo). In close collaboration with RSU Aquatic Resources Officer and the National Coordinator Congo, he will: (i) analyse fisheries and forestry policies and other related matters which affect Conkouati; (ii) assist the NCU in conducting PRA to identify a community project aimed at diversifying the activities of the Conkouati fisheries communities and; (iii) assist the fisheries associations and professional groups to building up their skills for co-management.