

"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 interesting by 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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African Republic (CAR) attended also by Chadians, and in Mali. Two resource persons from Mauritania will attend the Mali session and will organise upon their return training session in PRA/SLA in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. It is expected that these exercises will strengthen the NCU's capacities to assist fisheries communities in the identification of small projects and the elaboration of Community Action Plans.

- As a follow-up to the recommendations of the survey conducted with the Mapé reservoir community, RSU Aquatic Resources Officer, J-C. Njock, undertook a mission to Cameroon from the 10th to 24th March 2001 to oversee the participatory diagnostic exercise which will enable the identification of specific training and information activities that will promote co-management in the Mapé community. During the mission he worked in close collaboration with O. Njifonjou, from the Fisheries and Oceanographic Research Station of Limbe and J-C. Nguingui, IUCN Co-management Project Coordinator. The mission also provided the opportunity to strengthen the NCU capacity by training

News from NCUs

Benin

NCU-Benin has adopted a new strategy aimed at reinforcing field activities to improve the small project formulation and technical capacity-building process of grass roots communities. Within this context, NCU-Benin organised an SLA/PRA Workshop for the Mono (southwest

Benin) Fisheries Department officers, from 20th to 22nd February 2001. This workshop was facilitated by B. Johnson and B. Houndekon, NCU officers, and is expected to help the Fisheries Department assist communities in small project identification and planning using SLA/PRA.

Ghana and Senegal

As part of the studies on the impact of the Policies, Institutions and Processes on fisherfolk livelihoods the NCUs of Ghana and Senegal organized their National Workshop to present the preliminary results of their respective studies. Almost 70 participants were present in each seminar.

Consultants, were also present in Ghana and Senegal, respectively. During the seminar the preliminary results of the studies were presented by the PIP national teams, and discussed and validated by the participants.

The RSU Planning Officer, C. Breuil was accompanied by M. Kebe, Monitoring Officer for the PIP National Seminar in Senegal (29-30 March) and by K. Kourkoulotis, I/C Officer, for the PIP National Seminar in Ghana (10-11 April). B. Blake and P. Failler, both SFLP

The objectives of the studies were to identify (i) the PIP which impact most significantly on the livelihoods of the fisheries communities and (ii) entry points where changes in the policies and processes through which they are applied, might bring sustainable benefits in terms of poverty reduction and livelihoods improvement.

RSU Missions and activities

- Various PRA/SLA training activities will be organised in the region between April and May under the supervision of the RSU Community

Organisation Officer, M. Kuyateh. These sessions will be held in Congo with the participation of NCU members from Gabon, in Central



Stakeholders at the Mapé participatory diagnostic exercise in Cameroon some officers of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA) in the participatory identification and formulation of small projects using SLA/PRA, and to hold discussions on other issues relating to SFLP activities in the country.

❑ On leaving Cameroon, J-C. Njock visited Equatorial Guinea from 14th to 16th March 2001 to assist the National Coordination Unit in the identification of its most urgent requirements. At a meeting with M. Ncogo, the National Coordinator, some decisions were taken to facilitate the implementation of SFLP activities in the country. A meeting with the Fisheries Department authorities offered the opportunity to present SLA/PRA intervention strategies, and to clarify the kind of assistance that the RSU can provide to the NCU and fisheries communities in the country. By the end of the mission, training in PRA/SLA has been identified as one of the most urgent needs of the NCU

❑ The RSU Associate Professional Officer, E. Corcoran, undertook a mission to Ghana on 2nd April to discuss the draft report for the Sustainable Livelihoods analysis of beach seining communities with the National Consultant Doris Yeboah. J-C. Njock visited Sedzro M. Kossi, National Consultant for Togo, on 4th April, for the same purpose. The reports for all three countries involved (Ghana, Togo, Benin) will be presented at a 2-day meeting tentatively scheduled for 10 and 11 May in Cotonou. During this meeting the proposed methodology for a community-based and participatory study of the socio-economic and biological impact of beach seining will also be discussed.



Community Action-Plan in progress in a Ghanaian village

❑ As a follow-up to the recommendations of the first mission in December 2000/January 2001 to identify and mobilise Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in SLFP activities, J. Monan, consultant specialising in NGOs, will

undertake a second mission from 28th April, working in close collaboration with M. Kuyateh, RSU Community Organisation Officer. The objective of this second mission is to design and organise appropriate training programmes for NCUs. The team will organise the first series of training for Anglophone countries in Ghana from 14th to 25th May 2001 and assess participants' impression of the course with a view to standardising SFLP training through the production of a training manual.

❑ Fisheries Planning Consultant, A. Palfreman and RSU I/C Officer, K. Kourkouliotis, are to undertake a mission to Guinea, in response to the request for assistance by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Advice was requested as to how the artisanal fishing sector might be encouraged to participate more actively in the market economy with the context of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. During the first phase scheduled to start on 17th April, the mission will identify the constraints impeding the commercial development of the artisanal sector and propose solutions to the weaknesses identified. They will hold discussions with stakeholders to assess the extent to which Policies, Institutions and Processes affect the development of the artisanal fisheries sector. The team will also identify case studies in selected communities to analyse issues, and identify entry points for possible SFLP intervention. Stretched over a period of 4 weeks, the second phase will analyse the preliminary results of the case studies and organise a national workshop during which the results will be presented. The conclusions and recommendations of the workshop will form the basis for the preparation of a specific set of actions aimed at promoting private initiative in the artisanal fisheries sector.

❑ Director of Infopêche, A. Tall has been recruited by the RSU as a consultant. He will analyse national and regional trade of fish products between West African countries, and identify possible ways of reducing or eliminating the tariff and non tariff barriers hampering it. The consultant will also come up with strategies to sensitise regional and sub-regional institutions on the need to establish more appropriate policies that will better meet the needs of artisanal fisheries. The results will be presented at the Regional Workshop on Fish Products Marketing in West Africa to be organised, by a partnership of NGOs "International Collective in Support of Fish Workers" (ICSF), CREDETIP and CNPS, and the SFLP in Dakar, Senegal from 30th May to 1st June.

Latest small projects approved

Côte d'Ivoire

Small project to build up the organizational capacity of the Assomlan Community on Aby lagoon.



A PRA/SLA Session at Assomlan, Aby lagoon in Côte d'Ivoire

Guinea Bissau

Small project to build up the organizational capacity of the Sonaco Fishermen's Association.