

"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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Central African Republic NCU members organised a meeting which gathered together a representative of the fisheries NGO "Valorisation des Ressources Locales" and fishermen associations' representatives from 6 villages around Mbali lake. The RSU Project Officer worked closely with them to look into the possibilities of creating a partnership network during the execution of community projects. In order to facilitate

Chad - In search of viable partners

NCU-Chad is currently exploring possible partnerships with savings and credits institutions, and how to develop an appropriate fisheries credit policy strategy. The RSU Project Officer assisted the NCU with ideas on this task in N'djamena. The visit also provided her the opportunity to hold discussions with fishmongers' cooperatives and fishermen's associations in N'djamena, and to meet with representatives of the Ere community project (280km south east of N'djamena).

Cameroon - Co-management launched in Mapé

The SFLP National Coordination Unit - Cameroon organised a workshop to launch the Mapé fisheries community project on co-management from 11th to 14th March 2002 at Magba (Foumban province). There were twenty participants including government and local administration officials, traditional leaders and fishermen from six villages. The objectives were to analyse the characteristics of the man-made Mapé Lake in a participatory manner, to exchange ideas on the principles and procedures for co-management, to define the planning, implementation and monitoring process to adopt, and to set up a temporary management committee. The workshop was facilitated by *Réseau Arbres, Forêts et Communautés rurales*, a national NGO with experience in forestry co-management.

Members of the management committee were elected during the workshop, and mandated to produce a document on co-management background in the dam. They will also recruit and train facilitators for the organisation of awareness-raising campaigns to mobilise the communities. It was also the occasion for the Cameroon fisherfolk delegation who visited Burkina

Faso in June 2001 to provide a feedback of their experience to their colleagues.

The Regional Support Unit (RSU) Project Officer, Katrien Holvoet who was present throughout the workshop held a working session with the community's project management committee on how to include a participatory monitoring system. The Maga and Garoua community project proposals were also discussed and meetings were held with two NGO's (Canadel and Strategies) specialising in organisational development.



Fisherfolk from Mapé visiting colleagues in Komienga, Burkina Faso

Central African Republic - Network potentials?

discussions and obtain a clearer view of issues and the existing opportunities for co-management of the Mbali lake, the group used some participatory rapid appraisal (PRA) tools to analyse the situation. This generated extensive discussions about which sustainable livelihood development strategies to adopt for the activity. The NCU is now expected to make the necessary modifications and finalise the community project proposal.

Mali - new community project launched

NCU-Mali launched a new community project on 9th April 2002 to provide support to women fish processors and traders in Kabio and Sahouna fisheries communities (Mopti area). The community project was identified after a diagnostic exercise with the two villages which were selected during a training session on sustainable livelihoods analysis facilitated by the NGO "Opération Pêche Mopti" (OPM). Assistance will be provided through training in organisation and management techniques, construction of improved ovens, the establishment of an operating fund, and the development of an Information,

Education and Communication strategy to raise funds. NGO "Action pour la Formation et l'Auto-promotion Rurale" (AFAR) will implement the project under NCU supervision.

Officials of the local administration and representatives of the NCU and fisherfolk attended the launching ceremony. Also present were the national communication team and journalists from Radio Mopti who covered the event.



A fishmonger hawking fish in Bamako (Mali)

Guinea Bissau – some changes, some action

A new Director of Artisanal Fisheries, O. Mendes Viegas has been appointed to replace D. Balde as SFLP National Coordinator of Guinea-Bissau. Also, a local journalist, R. Semedo, has been recruited as the new Information and Communication Focal Point.

The NCU is pursuing its efforts to sensitise major fisheries stakeholders and the direct beneficiaries on the objectives, principles, approaches and activities of the SFLP Programme. The success of the exercise is evident in the multidisciplinary and representative membership of the NCU which is now actively involved in organising a National Fisheries Conference. It is also currently finishing some proposals to SFLP for community projects and institutional support.

Ghana – a more representative NCU

In its effort to reflect the multidisciplinary and holistic sustainable livelihoods approach (SLA), NCU-Ghana co-opted two officers from the Ministries of Economic Planning, and of Local Government and Rural Development to fill the vacant seats in the inland and marine fisheries sectors. This decision was taken in response to the outcome of the Policies Institutions and Processes (PIP) impact study conducted in 2001. Moreover, an experienced Chief Fisherman in western Ghana who had earlier been sponsored by the Department of Fisheries for a study tour on the management of lake fisheries in Malawi, was also selected for membership. These nominations are expected to make the NCU membership more representative, and to provide opportunity to further promote CCRF and SLA principles in the country.

Benin: Revised SFLP training manual tested

The NCUs of Benin, Ghana, Togo and Mauritania organised national training workshops on the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) and Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) in April 2002. The objective was to test the efficacy of the SFLP Training Manual, the first draft of which had earlier been used to train trainers in representative SFLP participating countries between May and October 2001.

The NGO consultant, J. Monan arrived in Cotonou on 22nd March 2002 to start the 4-week mission, and together with RSU Community Organisation Officer, M. Kuyateh worked with the NCUs of Mauritania and Senegal. Their mission was mainly to monitor the practical application of the manual and contribute to the capacity building of civil society organisations for more active participation in the improvement of the sustainability of fisheries livelihoods

Burkina-Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Mali Pilot project formulation team starts work

Work has begun on the detailed design of the first Pilot Project. SFLP consultants R. Gillett and B. Tournier, arrived in Cotonou after a 2-day briefing session at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The RSU team provided them with additional information and documentation from the 11th to 15th April 2002 before they started fieldwork. The design team will spend 9 days in each country, Burkina Faso (Bagré and Kompienga Lakes), Côte d'Ivoire (Lake Kossou), Ghana (Volta Lake) and Mali (Lake Selingue).

The key task of the design team is to develop the detailed workplan and proposal for the Pilot Project based on the aspirations of each country, while at the same time ensuring a basis for regional integration. Within this context, the consultants will work closely with the national design teams appointed by each NCU, in full consultation with stakeholders, in order to clearly determine the respective role of the project management teams and Pilot Project Co-ordinator, assist in the prioritisation of activities, whilst helping each national team to prepare a process approach, 3-year framework with budget. Monitoring and evaluation systems will also be determined.

Mauritania – training session

The revised SFLP training manual has also been used at Nouakchott: RSU Community Organisation Officer, M. Kuyateh worked with the NCU-Mauritania from 7th to 11th April 2002 with the purpose of observing how the national trainer who facilitated the workshop used the training manual in practice. Fifteen fisheries stakeholders (government and NGO officials) attended the workshop, which was held at the Fisheries Department premises. Topics discussed were similar to those dealt with at the Bohicon workshop in Benin.

At the end of the workshop it was recommended that the entire manual be made available to participants and that the training be continuous in order to enhance the performance of NCU partners. A regional consolidation workshop is envisaged for July 2002 during which national trainers will give their final appraisal of the manual, and a twelve-month training plan will be drawn up based on the country's vision.

Senegal

On his way to Mauritania, the Community Organisation Officer made a brief stop in Senegal where he met representatives of the Department of Fisheries to discuss and plan the organization of a training course in sustainable livelihoods analysis using PRA tools.