

"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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News from NCUs

Cameroon

A PRA/SLA workshop on conflict resolution organised from the 12th to 22nd March 2001 in the Mapé Fishing community brought together representatives of Scientific and Technical Research Institutes and the Tikar Plain Rehabilitation Project, government officials from the different sectors of the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Forests and the National Electricity Authority, and forty fishermen of different nationalities. The objectives of the workshop were to help the Mapé community draw up a Community Action Plan and promote participatory management of the Mapé lake. Participants were trained for this purpose on how to analyse livelihoods of rural communities using PRA/SLA and two small projects had been identified by communities by the end of the exercise. The first project is to develop the participatory management of the Mapé fishery sector and the second is for the improvement of fish processing methods. Both are in the process of being finalised by the NCUs before consideration by the SFLP. Also, NCU-Cameroon is being assisted by SFLP to conduct a participatory diagnostic exercise in the Maga fisheries communities and among women

fishmongers in Garoua. This was carried out between 23rd and 28th April 2001 and resulted in the identification of three small projects that will be presented to the SFLP for approval.

Mauritania

The first PRA/SLA training session in Mauritania was held at Hotel Houda, Nouakchott, from 23rd April to 7th May 2001. Sixteen participants drawn from the NCU, NGOs and fishermen's groups attended the workshop which was facilitated by two Mauritians and two Malians who had participated at the recently concluded Mali PRA/SLA session. The training session was followed by practical PRA/SLA activities with the Blawakh community, the objectives of which were to build up the capacity of the participants in PRA/SLA. The exercise ended with an action plan being prepared by the community and their identification of small project proposals. A similar activity is scheduled to take place in Nouadhibou in the very near future.

As part of the preparations for the National Seminar on Fisheries Management scheduled for October 2001, the Mauritania NCU will embark

on a series of PRA/SLA activities with inland artisanal fisheries communities to identify the major issues for the improvement and sustainability of their livelihoods and any constraints which



Participants at a PRA session at Nouakchott, Mauritania

need to be resolved. The results of these PRA/SLA exercises will be presented at the National Seminar and small projects that will be beneficial to the livelihoods of artisanal communities

will be proposed. Expected outcomes of the Seminar include recommendations for: (i) the sustainable and participatory management of resources essential to livelihoods; (ii) improved living standard for the fisheries communities and; (iii) technology transfer with and within rural communities.

Gambia

The *Daily Observer*, a Gambian newspaper, covered the inauguration of the Tanji Fishing Community small project funded by the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods. The newspaper reports that the small project in question will be of great benefit to this poor fisheries community as it is expected to improve their financial management skills and improve their access to credit. Present at the occasion were O. K. L Drammeh, Director of Fisheries and National Coordinator of NCU-Gambia, M. Njie, NCU Officer, and representatives and members of the community. The Director of Fisheries took the opportunity to highlight the participatory process used in the identification of the project and explained the advantages offered by the sustainable livelihoods approach.

RSU Missions and activities

❑ RSU Team Leader, B. Horemans, Planning Officer, C. Breuil and I/C Assistant Officer A. Lassissi travelled to Senegal and The Gambia from 16th to 27th April 2001 to attend the two sub-regional workshops on the impact of Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIP) on artisanal fisheries. The first, organised specifically for Francophone countries of the SFLP northern sector place at Novotel Hotel, Dakar from the 18th to 20th April. Another for Anglophone countries was held at the Atlantic Hotel in Banjul, Gambia, from the 23rd to the 25th of April 2001. About sixty delegates from 14 SFLP countries attended these Workshops. The importance of PIP to the SFLP was emphasised



Participants at the SFLP Sub-regional PIP Workshop in Banjul, Gambia.

by the presence at the Gambia workshop of U. Wijkstrom, Chief D. MacGurck Environmental/Natural Resources Adviser DFID London, A. Jallow, FAO RAF and R. Coutts, SFLP Coordinator. The workshops centred around the methodology and the results of the PIP case studies conducted in Senegal and Ghana. Participants at the working group sessions came up with proposals for the modification of PIPs considered most crucial to the improvement of the livelihoods of artisanal fisheries communities. On-going and future activities in the different countries were then reviewed in the light of these proposals. The Workshop made recommendations on the production of a PIP study methodology manual for distribution to all NCUs. Training and social science awareness activities would also be organised in order to build up NCU capacity in institutional analysis. The documented results of the working groups are to be prepared for the RSU. These will help orient future SFLP activities in the sub-regions and serve as a reference point for subsequent SFLP support to NCUs PIP needs. The Anglophone

workshop also recommended that FAO Fisheries Department should assist in a comprehensive review of policy and legislation affecting artisanal fisheries communities in SFLP countries. The Workshops concluded with warm and hearty applause in appreciation of the efforts of the Senegalese and Ghanaian NCUs in undertaking the case studies and for consultants B. Blake and P. Failler for their role in facilitating them.

A similar Workshop for Francophone countries of the SFLP southern sector is scheduled to hold in Libreville, Gabon, from 19th to 21st June 2001.

❑ A 2-day meeting was organised by the Aquatic Resources Unit of the RSU as part of the SFLP technical support to Benin, Ghana and Togo in the evaluation of the impact of beach seining on the livelihoods of fisheries communities in the three countries. Coordinated by J-C. Njock, RSU Aquatic Resources Officer, the meeting took place at the RSU Conference room in Cotonou from 10th to 11th May 2001. It was attended by resource persons, D. Yeboah, (Ghana), A. Gbaguidi (Benin), and K. M. Sedzro, (Togo) who presented the results of the case studies conducted in their respective countries. Also present were G. Hosch, APO FAO-RAF and RSU technical staff. The meeting first reviewed and harmonised the results of the case studies and came up with a proposed methodology for a community-based and participatory study of the socio-economic and biological consequences of beach seining for the fisheries communities. Another meeting has been scheduled for early June for a feedback on the results and methodologies retained.

❑ As a follow-up to the mission undertaken in January/February in Benin, Cameroon, Gambia and Mali, J. Monan, NGO consultant-specialist and M. Kuyateh, RSU Community Organisation Officer, together undertook another mission to Ghana from 14th to 25th May 2001. The objective of this second mission is to test the training tools developed to enable NCUs identify suitable NGOs for field activities. These materials should help the NCUs in their training in SLA. Participants' impression and other information collected will then be used to improve the training manual to be produced for dissemination to all SFLP countries. The mission will also examine ways to further integrate NGOs in SFLP activities and organise training for NCUs to further sensitise them on the role of NGOs and the importance of a more collaborative approach.

Review mission

❑ The DFID/FAO joint annual review mission team led by J. Campbell, IMM UK consultant, and A. Bortey (Ghana) and A. Thiaw (Senegal) regional consultants, started their work at the RSU in Cotonou on 30th April 2001. Information was collected and discussions held with the technical units on the different on-going activities and future plans. These provided the review mission with a background of what to expect on their 2-week field mission. Between 2nd and 19th May 2001, the team visited selected NCUs and small projects in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Fasso, Senegal, and Gambia. The review mission, which will report to a joint DFID/FAO panel in June 2001, aims primarily to determine to what extent the Programme has

applied the sustainable livelihoods approach, and the potentials of SFLP methodologies and strategies to accomplish set objectives, especially as they relate to structures and processes at international, national and local levels. In other words, how SFLP outputs are matching up to the purpose of the Programme. SFLP impacts have also been examined through first-hand evaluation of on-going small projects. RSU Monitoring Officer, M. Kébé accompanied the team which was joined in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire by A. Jallow, Fisheries Planning Officer FAO-RAF. SFLP Team Leader, B. Horemans met the review team in Banjul for a debriefing session before the end of the exercise.

Programme Coordination Unit

❑ The SFLP Coordinator R.Coutts prolonged his visit after the PIP Workshop in The Gambia to visit coastal and inland fishing communities. He was accompanied and guided by M.Njie, National Coordination Officer, Gambia. Coastal communities at Bakau, Brufut and Tanji were all paid a visit and at Tanji the Programme Coordinator (PC) was able to meet with participants of the small project and members of their committee who were undergoing their financial management training. It was also an opportunity to view landings on the beach and



Fisherfolk at the beach in a Gambian fisheries community

processing activities, as well as sample some of the smoked products. The SFLP community-based management training

in Tanji should complement well the large JICA infrastructure project there. The trip inland followed the course of the Gambia river along its southern bank as far as Jarreng. At Jarreng, the chief fisherman Gibbi Sey was happy to discuss the well documented community participation in the management of the seasonal “Konokono” *Clarias* fishery. The fish landings and sites of previous development projects at Tendaba and Bintang Bolong were also visited.

Other Matters of Interest

❑ A. Neiland, Director of CEMARE Portsmouth University, well known for his long-term, on-going work on traditional management of artisanal fisheries in northern Nigeria and the Chad basin visited the RSU to discuss collaborative work in preparation for the forthcoming SFLP-CEMARE workshop on “Poverty, Small-Scale Fisheries and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries” which will be held in Cotonou, Benin in November 2001.

A mission led by M. Ba of FAO Investment Centre in Rome was in Benin for preparation of a proposed IFAD-sponsored project for “Participatory Development of Inland Artisanal Fisheries in Benin”. It is hoped that the brief encounter that this mission had with the SFLP Team Leader in Cotonou and the Programme Coordinator in Rome would strengthen the participatory aspects of the proposal and encourage stronger linkages with SFLP through NCU Benin for the policy development aspects of the project.

Imminent Events

❑ A **Workshop** on “Problems and Prospects for the Development of Artisanal Fish Trade in West Africa” will be held in Dakar, Senegal from 30th May to 1st June 2001 followed by:

❑ **Fish Fair** “*Louma Jiggeen ni* - Women’s fish a market”, the West African Regional processed fish market will be held on 2nd and 3rd June 2001 at the Place de l’Obélisque, Dakar. These events are organised by a partnership of International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), Centre de Recherche pour le Développement des Technologies Intermediaires de Peche (CREDETIP), Collectif National des Pecheurs Artisans du Senegal (CNPS) and Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP).



West African Regional Fish Fair in Dakar, Senegal

Latest small projects approved

❑ The SFLP has approved two small projects in Côte d’Ivoire:

- Crab fisheries management on the Aby lagoon;
- Capacity building of the Assomlan community in self-organisation.