

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

Issue 9 ~ June 2001



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.

Reproduction and dissemination of this document – in electronic or hard copy – is encouraged.

[To contact SFLP
by Internet](#)



□ As a follow-up to the activities launched by SFLP in response to NCU-Mali's request for assistance in the operationalization of the National Strategy for Poverty Alleviation in the fisheries sector, C. Breuil, RSU Planning Officer, and A. Palfreman, Fisheries Planning Consultant will be undertaking another mission to Mali in early July to review case studies coordinated by the NCU and participate in the national seminar.

□ The Aquatic Resources Unit of the RSU has been working in conjunction with NCU-Benin and the FAO Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information Mapping System (FIVIMS) national consultant, J. Senahoun, to develop a methodology for profiling vulnerability

News from NCUs

Cameroon and Burkina Faso

Four fishermen and one fish processor from the Mapé reservoir in Cameroon visited the fisheries communities of Kompienga and Bagré reservoirs in Burkina Faso from the 2nd to 8th June 2001. They were accompanied on the trip by the Director of Fisheries and SFLP National Coordinator in Cameroon, and the Head of the Bankim station. The purpose of the visit was to obtain information and exchange experiences on fisheries management with their colleagues in Burkina Faso. The field visit covered fishing villages and a fish market and enabled stakeholders to discuss extensively among themselves, and with relevant technical and administrative services. Issues discussed revolved round legislation, community organisation, fish preservation, processing and marketing techniques and conflict management. The Cameroon team left with several well-formed ideas on how to manage their aquatic resources in a sustainable manner.

Sierra Leone

The NCU Sierra Leone has been re-organized following the appointment of

M. Gbondo, the former I/C Focal Point as SFLP National Trainer, after a recently concluded Trainers Workshop in Ghana. The National Coordinator remains A. B. C. Jones while I. Turay replaces M. Gbondo as Focal Point for the Unit.

Nigeria

The PRA/SLA exercise conducted in selected fishing communities from different parts of Nigeria has led to the identification of a great diversity of issues and some ideas for small projects. The NCU plans to enlist the services of an NGO member of the NCU to train and organise communities in credit management and simple accounting procedures. Follow-up activities in group management training, resource management and control, advocacy and monitoring, and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) are also being proposed for the Tiga dam small project when it starts. Also, a NCU meeting was held recently to deliberate on how to improve the formulation of small projects in line with SFLP practice and criteria.

RSU Missions and activities



Vulnerability profile mapping exercise in session in a fisheries community

and poverty at the local level. An exercise to test and analyse this methodology was undertaken in six selected water bodies in Benin including

Lakes Tohou, Ahémé, Nokoué, the Porto-Novo and the coastal lagoons, and the Ouémé River basin. The work involved a one-day brainstorming session with

local resource persons (extension staff of fisheries rural development, public health, teaching and local administration department, and representatives of relevant fisheries or fish traders' associations) to obtain a holistic view of the poverty/vulnerability profile of the area. These meetings provided information on the location of the most vulnerable communities and reasons for their situation, as well as a better understanding of stakeholders and their vulnerability to poverty. The 2nd phase involved an in-depth study of 2 villages in 2 of the selected water bodies for a period of 5 days. In order to obtain a more detailed vulnerability/poverty profiling of the community, focus groups discussed livelihood strategies, the different levels of poverty and prosperity in the village, and the characteristics of the different groups. This exercise is intended to help the NCU in the identification of the target groups whose livelihoods would benefit from a participatory management of Benin's inland fisheries. The SFLP is also looking into the possibility of promoting the use of this brainstorming method as a relatively rapid and low cost tool for NCUs to conduct initial poverty profiling to better target their activities. A report is being prepared and the RSU will be organising a series of follow-up activities in the next few months. F. Pittaluga, FAO consultant at Headquarters (ESAF) is expected to visit the RSU from 8th to 13th July to review the results of the poverty profiling work, make recommendations for the final report, discuss methodologies used and the organisation of a training workshop and other follow-up activities.

□ Aquatic Resources Officer, J-C Njock undertook a mission to Gabon from 17th to 19th May 2001 to organize the 3rd sub-regional Workshop on the impact of Policies, Institutions and Processes on the livelihoods of artisanal fisheries communities. The Workshop which took place in Libreville from 19th to 21st June 2001 was attended by representatives from 11 SFLP countries and facilitated by members of the Senegalese team who undertook the PIP study in their country, the RSU team and P. Failler, SFLP consultant.

□ In the context of the participatory fisheries management in Sélingué, consultant P. Morand was also on mission in Mali. Some of the activities scheduled for the forthcoming months include: (i) an exploratory PRA/SLA exercise and analysis of the livelihoods of the communities, (ii) a study and analysis of PIP impact on the participatory management of fisheries, using SLA (iii) the identification of an institutional framework and measures. By the end of the exercise, the NCU would have obtained a better understanding of the community's social structure, local aquatic resources exploitation and management practice, as well as the people's perceptions and aspirations, towards the identification of the vital entry points that will help set up and consolidate participatory fisheries management in their community. The RSU will assist the NCU to draw inferences for the development of PIP in support of livelihoods strategies which involve participatory fisheries management.

DFID/Programme Coordination Unit

□ After the Dakar Workshop, (see Special Issue) T. Barton (DFID) accompanied M.Thiam, (NC Senegal) and R.Coutts, (SFLP PC) to the fish landing beach and processing sites at Hann near Dakar where she was able to discuss first-hand with traders and processors.



T. Barton, of DFID chats with some fish-traders in Dakar

Following the Fish Fair in Dakar, (see Special Issue) M.Thiam (NC Senegal) guided R.Coutts, SFLP PC on an excellent itinerary to demonstrate several artisanal fisheries landing and processing sites. Coastal communities and sites visited were Lompoul, several beaches around St. Louis and Kayar where the striking feature is the scale of the artisanal operations. Inland, visits were made to local government offices at Keur Momar Sarr, to nearby Gew on Lake Guiers and to the Parc National des Oiseaux, a World Wildlife Heritage wetland site for migratory birds where a fascinating potential exists to involve the impoverished fisher-farmer communities of the arid countryside surrounding the park in participatory conservation of the wildlife and ecosystem, as well as management of the fisheries, whilst evolving supporting PIP at local and central government level. At each place visited fishermen, fish traders and processors, government officials, and at one point even the local gendarmerie, were all keen to give their opinions and information.

Consultants

□ The recent missions undertaken in several countries by NGO consultant, J. Monan, and Community Organisation Officer, M. Kuyateh, to increase the involvement of the civil society in SFLP activities has led to the drafting of a training manual which was tested in a workshop held at Aburi, Ghana in May 2001 for the Anglophone countries. The manual includes modules on the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach, Gender issue, the project cycle and participatory methods. Participants from the five countries (The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria) included fisheries officers, NGO representatives, university lecturers and fisherfolks. National trainers were selected from each country to disseminate the content of the manual at the national level. The final version of

the manual will be translated into French and Portuguese and similar workshops for Francophone and Portuguese speaking countries will be held during the second part of the year.

□ J. Wilson, SFLP planning consultant, was in Guinea Bissau from 25 April to 7 June to assist the government in planning the Sustainable Livelihood Approach to artisanal fisheries in preparation for their National Fisheries Conference which will be organized in Bissau in September 2001. He was assisted in his work by the NCU members and two national consultants, D. N'djai and M. Sané, and N. Lenselink, FAO FIIT Associate Professional Officer.