

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

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SFLP Info-Flash

This Newsletter 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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Benin - RSU Guidelines for NCUs

A "Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) Guidelines for the preparation of community projects" has been produced to enhance the skills of National Coordination Units (NCUs) and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) partners in community project formulation and implementation. The manual provides guidance on the successive stages to be considered in the design of community projects and their linkages with policies, institutions, and processes that affect fisheries communities' livelihoods.

Ghana – Poverty profile, Institutional support and Communication actions

NCU-Ghana hosted FAO Fisheries Department Livelihood Security, Vulnerability and Monitoring Officer, F. Pittaluga, consultant, M. Dacosta and RSU Project Officer, K. Holvoet from 26th May to 2nd June 2002. The objective of the mission was to train the NCU and local team on how to conduct Poverty Profiling in selected villages in the Upper Volta region where the Ghana component of the first SFLP Pilot Project is to be sited.

Sample villages in Kpandu, Jasikan, Asuyogyaman, Manya krobo, Afram plains and Sere were interviewed during the poverty profiling. As well as the need to rationalise the poverty profiling and Pilot Project implementation strategy, the exercise highlighted the urgent need to address the peculiar vulnerabilities of women and the role of gender in decision-making and access to resources. This element is expected to inform the country's Pilot Project plan.

The RSU Project Officer also provided advice on the finalisation of the institutional support proposal to build up the organisational capacity of the fisheries management committees of Adina and Katech, two poor fisheries communities currently benefiting from support in beach seine regulation and livelihoods diversification. The fishermen have started the production of larger mesh nets and testing will start in the next fishing season.

K. Holvoet was joined on 31st May by RSU Communication Assistant, K. Olomu, who accompanied her on a field visit to Moree. In addition to following up on the community projects, the Moree women fish-processors group involved in the woodlot/credit community project, and the fishermen's group involved in the MCS community project information were interviewed. The possibilities of starting another woodlot and planting more vegetables were explored, but a lot would depend on the reimbursement of the loans taken so far. The Communication Assistant also reviewed certain aspects on the NCU's access to Internet and contribution to SFLP information network with the NCU Focal Point.



Two women hard at work on their woodlot

To ensure a participatory process and a product well adapted to fieldwork, user-representatives drawn from four NCUs (Benin, Burkina Faso, Republic of Congo, and Côte d'Ivoire) and three NGOs, Amitiés Ensoleillées and Oxfam-Québec (Benin), and UK Save the Children (Mali) formed part of a panel that contributed to its elaboration.

The guidelines take into consideration the two years experience of Regional Support Unit (RSU) in support to NCUs for community project formulation, and uses field examples to illustrate sustainable livelihoods principles. It is now available in French and will soon be disseminated to SFLP francophone countries. The English and Portuguese versions will be available by July 2002.

Benin

National Women Fish Traders Association hold General Assembly

The opening ceremony of the General Assembly of the national women fish traders group, *Association Nationale des Mareyeuses, Mareyeurs et Assimilés du Bénin* (ANM), was held in CODIAM (Cotonou) on 24th May 2002. All the Departments of the national territory (Mono, Atlantique, Ouémé, Zou, Atacora and Borgou) are represented in the 24-member executive bureau. The NCU initiated the idea based on the need for better coordination in the sector identified by the fisherfolk themselves, and worked closely with NGO *Mutuelle des Jeunes Chrétiens pour le Développement* (MJCD) to provide advice during its constitution.

The Special Adviser from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP) represented the Minister as chairman of the occasion. The welcome speech, made by V. A. Gomez, the President of the executive bureau of the association recounted the achievements of the group through SFLP support. These include: (i) visits to fish-landing sites and meetings with fish traders; (ii) the installation of some co-ordination units at Departmental and local levels, and (iii) the production of the legal documents of the association. Also present at the occasion was E. Dossou, the chairman of national artisanal fishermen's Association, *Union Nationale des Pêcheurs Marins Artisans du Bénin* (UNAPEMAB). It is expected that this will give fisheries communities the necessary clout to influence policies, institutions and processes in the sector at all levels.

Congo (Brazzaville)

Follow-up and consultative visits

NCU-Congo (Brazzaville) was host to RSU Projects Officer, K. Holvoet from 8th to 17th May 2002. The NCU team including National Coordinator, E. Bagamboula, and Focal Point, M. Mkaya conducted the Project Officer on a field visit to Makotipoko (north of Brazzaville) to contribute to the re-formulation of the Makotipoko community project based on the new SFLP Guidelines and to Pointe-Noire.



Fish sellers wait for fish at the Makotipoko landing site (Congo Brazzaville)

The field visits made it possible to hold extensive discussions with the two NGO's overseeing the projects: *Alliance Homme Environnement d'Afrique* (AMEA) and *Association de Développement Communautaire de Makotipoko* (ADCM). Among issues discussed were possibilities of launching other community projects in Makotipoko based on lessons learnt in community organisation, Community-Based Organizations/Government relations, co-management, etc. They also reviewed participatory monitoring activities and indicators and the NCU work plan.

She also followed up on the Agip Base community project to provide support in the organisation of socio-professional groups in the community. The regularisation of 6 out of the 8 groups representing the Agip Base fisheries community is ongoing. Also, after negotiations, the European Union financed *Project d'Appui aux Populations Déplacées* (PPOD) has agreed to take over the training of the communities in fish processing.

The RSU Projects Officer reviewed closely with the NCU and communities, the two project proposals prepared on the basis of results of the participatory rural appraisal exercise conducted in the Conkouatti wildlife reserve earlier in the year. One is on the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of the marine zone of the reserve, and the other on livelihoods diversification.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Collaboration explored

The NCU of the Democratic Republic of Congo received a visit from RSU Project Officer, K. Holvoet from 17th to 22nd May 2002. The National Coordinator, K. Mino-Kahozzi accompanied her to Kingabwa, Kingole and Maluku where some community projects have been proposed. The new Guide was used to review the community project proposals and to analyse possible linkages between communities and local institutions. The proposed community projects are to be revised and finalised before onward transfer to the RSU for approval.

Meetings were also held to discuss a possible network with Congo Brazzaville in the execution of community projects along the Congo River and water bodies shared by the two countries. This is expected to promote closer working ties between the two NCU's. Other future activities of the NCU were discussed, including the possibility of an exchange visit to Benin to share their experience in the establishment and management of an umbrella organisation and a Savings and Credit Scheme for the artisanal fisheries sector, and obtain information on the distribution/marketing of treated mosquito nets from the NGO in charge. Development partners like USAID, the Canadian Embassy and Oxfam Quebec were also contacted to inform them about SFLP activities in the country. Reactions were generally positive and they were well disposed to establish partnerships in relevant areas.

Sao Tome and Principe

New National Coordinator

The National Coordinator of Sao Tome and Principe, G. do Rosario, has been promoted to the post of Fisheries Adviser in the Ministry. His function as Coordinator has been taken over by E. Nascimento.

FAO Rome

Poverty in fisheries

A Joint Working Party meeting on Poverty in Small-Scale Fisheries took place in FAO Rome from 10th to 12th April, as part of a 3-year normative study being undertaken by the FAO Fisheries Policy service in conjunction with SFLP. About 20 representatives from FAO HQ, DFID, CEMARE, and other invited experts, as well as members of the National Coordinating Units of Cote d'Ivoire (K. Angaman) and Cameroon (O. Njifonjou), attended the meeting. Projects Officer, F. Turay

participated on behalf of the RSU and person experienced in PRSP in his own country Sierra Leone.

Recommendations focused on (i) the development of Code of Conduct guidelines on poverty alleviation; (ii) better integration of artisanal fisheries into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP); (iii) poverty assessment methodologies, and (iv) research gaps. It was generally agreed that there was an urgent need for research to obtain a better understanding of the characteristics and extent of poverty in fisheries communities, and the dynamics of poverty.

On another front, the publication as a book of the proceedings of the SFLP-CEMARE workshop on Small-Scale Fisheries, Poverty and Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries is being negotiated with a publisher.

Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria and Senegal *Fisheries research report validated*

The multidisciplinary national research teams of Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria and Senegal gathered at GL Hotel in Cotonou from 12th to 14th June 2002 to validate the report of their studies on the contribution of research in improving the livelihoods of artisanal fisheries communities conducted in their respective countries. The workshop was attended by 25 participants including K. Hussein and J. Zoundi, the international consultants who coordinated the study, and Y. Sankare of NCU-Côte d'Ivoire who made a special presentation on the Aby Lagoon participatory research project experience.

Facilitated by the RSU Aquatic Resources Officer, J-C Njock with the support of Monitoring Officer, M. Kébé, plenary sessions provided opportunities for the different national teams to present their findings and exchange views on the role of fisheries research in poverty reduction. Each team also worked in group sessions to formulate their advisory notes to policy makers in their different countries on priority issues identified. The presentation of these notes revealed that most had a number of recommendations in common. These include: (i) the need for fisheries research to be based on the request of the communities; (ii) the need for more funding for fisheries research, and (iii) the need for more consultation in the policy-making process. Participants also unanimously recognised the potentials of a sub-regional network/cooperation for promoting fisheries research and information exchange. National teams are expected to finalise their recommendations as soon as possible and take necessary steps to move actions on the priorities identified forward in their respective countries.

Benin, Togo, Nigeria, Gambia, Gabon and Sao Tomé & Príncipe *SFLP database update*

RSU Monitoring Officer, M. Kébé worked with Gambia NCU from 17th to 24th May 2002, and Monitoring Assistant, G. Gnakadja with NCUs of Benin (17th to 5th April), Togo (6th to 11th May), Nigeria (13th to 17th May), Gabon (18th to 21st June) and Sao Tomé & Príncipe (21st to 28th June), to gather available information from specialised institutions in the countries to update the SFLP data base. Information was collected on physical assets, macro-economic situation, production level, and practices, as well as the Policies, Institutions and Process (PIP) governing the fisheries sector. This will soon be available on the SFLP website.

The NCUs and community representatives of the countries visited worked to review and provide clarifications on the participatory monitoring system of community projects, as well as financial reports.

Côte d'Ivoire *Exchange visit*

IFAD recently approved the financing of a study on the policies, strategies and development programme for artisanal fisheries in Côte d'Ivoire. At the request of the NCU, the SFLP sponsored an exchange visit to Benin for a 4-man delegation from 3rd to 7th June 2002. They included K. Konan, the Deputy Director of Artisanal Fisheries and Fisheries Production, I. Diarra, Deputy Director of Research and Planning in the Ministry of Agriculture, C. Djiakariya, the Head of Research and Monitoring at the Fisheries Production Department, and C. Gropa Bada, the Deputy Director of Inland Fisheries. The objective of the visit was to obtain information on the IFAD project formulation process from NCU Benin, also beneficiary of a recently approved IFAD-funded fisheries projects which incorporate the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach in their design and application.

The team worked closely with the RSU Monitoring Unit and NCU-Benin from whom they obtained necessary documentation and information. During their visit to the Cotonou Port fish-landing site, they were able to obtain additional information with NGO Oxfam Quebec and the representatives of the Beninese national fishermen's union.

Imminent events

- Consolidation Workshop on the SFLP Training Manual is scheduled from the 8th to 13th July 2002 (Cotonou, Benin) for trained and selected national trainers that participated in the first part of the in-country training sessions.
- The Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme wishes to inform you that the fourth Steering Committee meeting of the Programme will be held from 29th to 31st July 2002 in Cotonou, Benin. The major points of discussion will be the first Pilot Project, the likely themes of other Pilot Projects and the 7 year budget revision and any associated programme restructuring.