

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



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News from NCUs

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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of a meeting of NCU-Congo members on 7th June 2001, which concluded by stressing the importance of PIP to the livelihoods of fisheries communities. It was agreed that every effort be made to give PIP a central place in small projects identification process in future. Two similar PRA/SLA training sessions are scheduled for the northern and southern zones of Brazzaville. A brainstorming session is also to be organised specifically for NGOs and Civil Society Organisations to encourage the NCU to be more versatile and flexible, and to achieve the holistic and cross-sectoral approach recommended by the SFLP.

Mauritania

A Web designer training was organised by the SFLP for Mauritania from 2nd to 9th July 2001, following the request for assistance in this skill. The training took place at the RSU in Cotonou and provided guidance for M. O. A. Mahmoud, Mauritanian computer specialist from the Department of Sea Resources Management and Research (DEARH) in the

Chad

As a follow up to the training received by members of the NCU-Chad, the NCU conducted a series of field surveys in many fisheries communities in the country using PRA/SLA tools. These surveys resulted in the identification of potential small projects to help improve livelihoods. These cover the areas of monitoring and surveillance, alternative livelihoods activities, erosion, fish preservation methods and improved fish-smoking ovens and boat construction.

M. H. Taga has been replaced by M. B. Barka as National Coordinator of NCU-Chad and during the hand-over process, the two officers visited a number of fisheries communities in the country so that the incoming coordinator could acquaint himself with them and their small project initiatives.

Gabon

Gabon recently hosted the last in the series of three sub-regional Workshops organised by the SFLP to sensitise participating countries on the role of

Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIP) in livelihoods. It is expected that each the twenty-five countries that participated in the workshops will go on to apply the recommendations in their own national studies to determine major PIP issues in their respective countries. This will be a further step towards improving policies, institutions and processes which support sustainable livelihoods strategies among the poorest fisheries communities in the sub-region.

Congo

After the PRA/SLA workshop organised in April at Pointe-Noire by the SFLP for NCU members of Gabon and Congo, the NCU-Congo embarked on a series participatory diagnostic activities using PRA/SLA, aimed at producing a community action plan. This led to the identification of two small projects, one of which is to promote fisheries communities at the Agip Beach Base in Pointe-Noire. This project has since been approved for financing by the RSU.

The outcomes of the Pointe Noire workshop also led to the organisation



Fishworkers discuss their community action plan in a Ghanaian village

construction of a web site. He was trained using the RSU Intranet and SFLP Website. Technical aspects of systems connection, protection techniques and web site development were dealt with during the training. It is expected that the

DEARH will now develop their own website which will promote artisanal fisheries communities' livelihoods in Mauritania.

Ghana

NCU-Ghana has completed the second stage of the SFLP-initiated study on the environmental and socio-economic impact of the beach seine on the livelihoods of fisheries communities in Ghana, Togo and Benin. Workshops were organised in Denu (Volta and Greater Accra), and Cape Coast (Central and Western regions) on 26th and 28th June 2001, respectively to validate the results of the studies and seek a consensus on the main issues raised. Participants at

the workshops included developmental and environmental NGOs, government officials and fish workers drawn from all the coastal districts where beach seining is practised. The workshops were fully participatory and technical presentations by resource persons, D. Yeboah, A. Bortey and D. Quaynor, led to discussions, group work and plenary sessions on the application of the participatory research methodology, as well as entry points for SLA intervention in beach seine communities. A feedback meeting on this was held with the RSU in Cotonou from 23rd to 24th July 2001 to launch the third phase of the exercise (see *RSU Missions and activities*).

RSU missions and activities

□ M. Kébé went to Sao Tomé from the 24th to 30th June 2001 to conduct a detailed examination of NCU-Sao Tomé activities, and particularly to assess progress made so far on the small project in Angolarés. It was also the opportunity to review the implementation of participatory processes and the role accorded it in the identification and formulation of small projects for the improvement of the livelihoods of other fisheries communities.



I/C Focal Point and Angolares fishworkers at a working session

□ RSU Planning Officer, C. Breuil was in Burkina Faso from 7th to 14th July 2001 to provide technical assistance to NCU-Burkina Faso in the preparation for a Technical Workshop to support the development of a co-management system on Lakes Bagré and Kompienga for improved fisheries livelihoods. RSU Monitoring Officer, M. Kébé joined him there from 11th to 18th July to attend the National Workshop. M. Kébé took the opportunity of his visit to Burkina Faso to assist the NCU and fisheries communities there to establish indicators that will enable them to monitor the progress of their participatory management system and the improvement it brings to their livelihoods.

From Burkina Fasso, C. Breuil went to Mali to monitor the implementation of, and provide further advice on the National Strategy on Poverty Alleviation (NSPA) in fisheries using SLA., whilst also consolidating the basis for participatory management on Lake Sélingué. NSPA consultant, A. Palfreman joined him there on 16th July to follow up on the work being done with fisheries communities

by the NCU. The results of this work were presented during the National Workshop held in Mopti from 25th to 27th July 2001.

□ From 23rd to 29th July 2001, A. Palfreman was joined in Mopti by RSU I/C Officer, K. Kourkouliotis, both attending the National Workshop. K. Kourkouliotis will use the visit to hold further discussions with CESPA on the identification of possible areas of co-operation in the development of multi-media and information, education and communication (IEC) tools for fisheries communities. From there, he moved on to Guinea from 29th July to 4th August 2001 to work with I/C Consultant, G. Heidrich (see *Consultants*).

□ RSU Aquatic Resources Officer, J-C Njock travelled to Côte d'Ivoire from the 29th of July to 4th August 2001. Working closely with M. K. Angaman, the National Coordinator of Côte d'Ivoire, he was able to review the strategy for the survey on fisheries, poverty and co-management on the Aby Lagoon. He also used the opportunity of the visit to monitor the progress of the small projects in Assomlan.

□ Following the recommendations of the May 2001 meeting on participatory monitoring of the biological and socio-economic impact of beach seining on the livelihoods of fisheries communities, representatives from Ghana, Togo and Benin met again at the RSU in Cotonou from 23rd to 24th July 2001. D. Yeboah, F. Nnuko (Ghana), K. M Sedzro, Y. Accakpo-Addra (Togo), A. Gbaguidi and T. R. Gbaguidi (Benin) were joined by the RSU Technical Unit and Monitoring Unit. Discussions centred on the reactions of fisheries communities and civil society organisations to the first conclusions of the studies. Guidelines were drawn up for the formulation of viable small projects on livelihoods diversification and mesh size regulation.

□ F. Pittaluga (ESAF FAO Rome) visited the RSU from 8-13th July to review the poverty profiling exercise undertaken by J. Senahoun (Consultant) and E. Corcoran (Associate Officer, RSU). He and the RSU team held detailed discussions on the pilot work for poverty and vulnerability profiling carried out in inland fisheries communities in

southern Benin. F. Pittaluga assisted the team to adapt the profiling to respond more specifically to SFLP information needs and looked into the possibility of developing an appropriate poverty profiling tool for use by NCUs in their respective countries. Lessons used in the development of the methodology were drawn both from the pilot study in Benin and from the national poverty profiling work conducted by ESAF in Guatemala.

The cost-efficiency of the profiling exercise in providing detailed information on poverty and vulnerability in fisheries communities within a short period was acknowledged. Its potential as a tool for use by the RSU, NCUs and external organisations was emphasised. Areas of application may include the identification of key PIP needs, the orientation of interventions in the field and the selection of key indicators in fisheries communities.

Consultants

□ G. Heidrich, Information and Communication (I/C) planning consultant started a two month mission on 1st July 2001 with K. Kourkoulitis, RSU I/C Officer. The mission is expected to take him to five countries in the region in order to: (i) develop a social and educative communication programme using IEC and multimedia tools for fisheries communities through a participatory process; and (ii) design an institutional (micro-macro linkages) communication programme that could influence policies and processes, through the dissemination of evidence-based best practices and lessons learned from small projects. The countries involved in this work include Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Niger and Sao Tome and Principe.

Based on the I/C strategy of the RSU, the consultant will also make recommendations on how to increase awareness for SFLP, SLA and CCRF among the different stakeholders' groups.

□ RSU Administrative and Financial Officer, A-M. Ouffoue undertook a mission to three SFLP countries for a period of two weeks. Her first stop was in Ghana from 25th to 27th July, from where she moved to Abidjan from 28th to 31st July, ending up in Guinea from 31st July to 4th August. The objective of her mission was specifically to verify NCU and small projects' accounting systems, and to train two officers, one from the NCU and another from the community implementing a small project, in the SFLP accounting system. This exercise is aimed at facilitating NCUs' and small projects' budget monitoring process. She was accompanied on the first part on the mission by RSU Monitoring Officer M. Kébé who was to cover the technical aspects relation to the monitoring system of the NCU activities.

□ Towards the end of July NGO consultant, J. Monan, visited the RSU to prepare for his next mission to Ivory Coast with RSU Community Organisation Officer, M. Kuyateh. This is another in the series of tests of the training being developed to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between NCUs and NGOs in sustainable livelihoods activities. Eight francophone countries including Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, Mali and Burkina Faso, are taking part in this exercise in Abidjan (6-17th August 2001).

Data base consultant D. Njamen, was on a 1-month mission to Cotonou from 6th July 2001 to assist the RSU Monitoring Unit reorganise and optimise the management functions of its data base. During his visit, he entered all information available on the 25 countries, identified missing information, prepared an updating protocol, trained the data base Manager and worked closely with the local consultant in charge of the Intranet and Web Site.

Upcoming events

- SFLP Training workshops to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between NCUs and NGOs in sustainable livelihoods activities in:
 - Douala (17th-28th September 2001)
 - Sao Tomé (16th-26th October 2001)
- CEMARE meeting – preparations for the two SFLP-CEMARE Workshops 12th-15th and 19th-22nd November 2001 are ongoing.

New Projects

- Congo: Assistance in the establishment of a self-help structure for the fisheries communities at Agip Base in Pointe-Noire.

Participants at a workshop examine freshly smoked fish in a congolese fisheries community



This edition of Info - Flash covers the months of July and August.