

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

Issue 2 ~ October 2000



Welcome to the SFLP Info-Flash

This new means of communication will be forwarded monthly through Internet to the National Coordinating Units, FAO Representations, DFID and to the Fisheries Department of FAO.

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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FIELD VISITS

A field mission was carried out from the 11-15th September 2000 to conduct a livelihoods analysis in Kinto, Benin. This was made up of a multidisciplinary team including members of the National Coordination Unit (NCU), the Regional Support Unit (RSU), and a technical expert from the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA). The objective of this mission was to analyse the impact of water hyacinths on the livelihoods of fishing dependent communities. Findings show that the problem of water hyacinths is no longer

of high priority when compared with other major problems faced by the communities. However, where there is need for physical control measures the support of the Dutch funded programme "Programme d'Aménagement des Zones Humides" (PAZH) may still be obtained. The mission also provided a good opportunity for the NCU to learn how to use the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) tools in the analysis of the livelihood of fisheries communities.



Sélingué reservoir, Mali

Further to a request from the NCU of Mali, C. Breuil, Planning Officer and K. Kourkouliotis, Information and Communication (I/C) Officer undertook a joint mission to Mali, from the 24th September to the 1st October 2000. The request was for institutional support for the development of a participative fisheries management plan for the Sélingué dam.

The mission's objective was to carry out an assessment of the framework and general context of fisheries management planning at Sélingué, and on this basis propose a programme of action for the development of a co-management plan. It was also used as a forum to obtain support for I/C follow up activities, and to finalise a low-key awareness development action for the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). This aspect of the mission was the responsibility of K. Kourkouliotis, who was also to analyse the general outline of a communication strategy for participatory fisheries management in Sélingué.

During their stay in Mali, the mission noted that the SLA has attracted a lot of interest from development partners involved in poverty alleviation programmes. The adoption and implementation of its principles (people centred, multi-sectoral, participatory, holistic, etc.) would make it easier to reach a consensus and to reinforce cooperation between partners (bilateral and multilateral) in the drawing up of a programme of action for the implementation of the National Strategy for Poverty Alleviation for the fisheries sector.

M. Kébé, head of the Monitoring Unit, carried out a field mission to Guinea from the 9th - 16th of September, to start off an action aimed at involving marine artisanal fishing communities in the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) system. This activity was initiated in 4 countries (Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea and Ghana) where case studies will be undertaken. Two consultants (one specialist in MCS and one sociologist) per country will be recruited for this purpose.

M. Kébé will within the same context undertake a mission to Senegal and Mauritania from the 10th to the 21st of October and C. Breuil, will travel to Ghana from 11th - 14th of October 2000 to initiate this activity.

M. Kébé and J-C Njock, Aquatic Resource Management Expert, undertook a joint mission to Niger from the 16-24th

of September. This mission facilitated the (i) collection of information that will help improve the aquatic ecosystems in small water bodies and (ii) the preparation of the training workshop for NCU members scheduled for the 25th September to the 12th October 2000 on the use of the PRA. M. Kuyateh, Community Organisation expert, will run this workshop.

I/C UNIT NEWS OF THE RSU

P. Tohouegnon, RSU librarian, was at the 'Institut Français pour l'Exploration de la Mer' (IFREMER), Brest, France and the FAO Headquarters in Rome, for training on library management and information research organization. During the training, Tohouégnon worked mainly with J. Collins (FAO) and J. Prod'homme (IFREMER). By the end of the training, Tohouégnon (i) had become familiar with the latest reference tools that will facilitate a more user-friendly library management style; (ii) had identified and located information sources that the RSU could exploit for the development of SFLP activities; (iii) had drawn up a strategy for the dissemination of information and documents produced by

the SFLP to the fishing communities of SFLP member countries and other interested parties.

K. Kourkouliotis will travel to Rome (FAO) from 16-20th October 2000. During this mission he will work with various departments of FAO on matters relating to information technologies, the development of awareness tools and materials, the design of an interactive sustainable livelihoods database, the development of a communication strategy in fisheries management including co-management mechanisms and finally contribute to the creation of permanent links for information dissemination.

Forthcoming meetings

- 11th Session of the Committee for Inland Fisheries in Africa (CIFA), Abuja, Nigeria, 24th-27th October 2000
- 1st Session of the Scientific Sub-Committee of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), Abuja, Nigeria, 30th-31st October 2000
- 15th Session of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), Abuja, Nigeria, 1st-3rd November 2000
- Workshop on Group Negotiation of Fisheries Agreements, organized by the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, Praia, Republic of Cape Verde, 30th October - 4th November 2000
- Symposium on Dynamics of Fisheries Management in West Africa, organized by the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, 20th - 23rd November 2000
- Symposium on Artisanal Fisheries in West Africa: Evaluation of an Experience of Regional Cooperation / Prospects and Proposals for a New Type of Partnership, organized by WADAF, Cotonou, Benin, 27th-29th November 2000

NCU E-mail addresses

The publication of a list of email addresses available to date was considered necessary to facilitate contact between NCUs. This list will be updated with the final address of each NCU.

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