

# "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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□ SFLP Aquatic Resources Officer, J-C Njock, and Associate Professional Officer, E. Corcoran were in Guinea from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September 2001 to attend a workshop organised by the Fisheries Information and Analysis System (FIAS). The objective of the workshop was to discuss and highlight issues of fisheries research and the sustainable use of the natural resources of the marine environment in West Africa. They also met with Mrs M.Y. Barry, SFLP national consultant on poverty profiling among fisheries communities in Guinea and were able to monitor the NCU outputs.

□ After the Aburi (Ghana); Abidjan, (Cote d'Ivoire) and Douala (Cameroon) sessions, the last sub-regional Workshop of the series was organised by the SFLP

### Niger

Fishermen from Téra in the western part of Niger, and NGO "Poissons pour vivre" visited Tafouka to study the management method adopted since April 2001 by the SFLP community project. NCU-Niger reports a considerable improvement in fish quality and fisherfolk revenue following the adoption of improved "Altona" ovens.

Meanwhile the National Coordinator, the Operations Officer and other NCU members are assisting the Tafouka community with the monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes of their on-going projects. The reporting and feedback procedures adopted at the Libreville workshop on Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIP) are also being thoroughly implemented.

### Congo

A management committee has been established for the proposed Agip Base (Pointe-Noire) fisheries community self-help support project. In collaboration

with NGO, "Univers de femmes" and representatives of the community, NCU-Congo also conducted a participatory diagnostic exercise at Makotimpoko (360 km from Brazzaville) from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2001, leading to a project proposal. Furthermore, the NCU has identified some Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIP) that could improve fisheries livelihoods in the country. One priority is the involvement of fisherfolk representatives in the Fisheries Councils to be established under the recently adopted Marine Fisheries Law. SFLP is looking at ways to facilitate an exchange visit with another country in the region.

### Cameroon

The South-West Development Authority (SOWEDA) is implementing a marine fisheries surveillance programme in collaboration with NCU-Cameroon. The SFLP has been approached to facilitate an exchange visit with another country of the region where fisherfolk are also involved in surveillance activities. This request is being examined by the RSU.

## RSU Missions and Activities



Fishmongers select fish at a landing site in Guinea

in Sao Tome from 16<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2001 for Lusophone countries, to improve the methods and strategies for cooperation used by NCUs in their partnerships with NGOs. Participants included NCU members, NGO representatives, government officials, and resource persons from participating countries. Course trainers were I. Ndjai of Guinea Bissau and M. Kuyateh, SFLP Community Development Officer.

□ SFLP Planning Officer, C. Breuil, undertook a mission to Senegal from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2001 to attend a seminar on fisheries capacity management organised by the FAO Fisheries Department in collaboration with the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission. The Planning Officer made a presentation of the SFLP and its contribution towards the management of fishing capacities in the artisanal sector. He also took the opportunity of his stay in Senegal to discuss community projects proposed by the NCU.

□ SFLP Aquatic Resources Officer, J-C Njock, organized a planning workshop on Research in Support to the Sustainable Livelihoods of Fisheries Communities in Cotonou from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2001. Representatives of Research Institutes, NGOs and NCUs from six selected countries - Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria and

Cameroon - participated in the workshop which was designed and facilitated by K. Hussein of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and J. S. Zoundi, Head of the Research-Development Unit of the National Environmental and Agricultural Research Institute (NEARI) in Burkina Faso.



Working session in progress at the RSU Conference room in Cotonou

Based on the experiences of the different countries, the workshop was able to: (i) define the respective roles and responsibilities of study partners, and (ii) draw up a methodology

and an analytical framework to study the linkages between research and fisheries resources users. The studies are to be conducted during the next 6 months.

□ From 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2001, the SFLP RSU Team Leader, B. Horemans, participated in the workshop of the EU funded project "Sustainable Development of African Continental Fisheries: a regional study of policy options and policy formation mechanisms for the Lake Chad Basin" which was held at CEMARE, Portsmouth, UK. It was an opportunity to review the results obtained and to identify follow-up activities in Chad, Nigeria and Cameroon which could receive SFLP support. From there he moved on to FAO, Rome to attend a meeting of the SFLP Task Force and participate in discussions about the processes for implementing SFLP pilot projects.

□ SFLP Monitoring Officer, M. Kébé, traveled to Mauritania from 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2001 to assist the NCU in planning a sustainable livelihoods analysis of the inland fisheries. The objective of the mission was to assist the NCU in the elaboration of a methodology that will give due consideration to SLA principles and to the recently developed approach to assess PIP impact on fisheries communities' livelihoods. M. Kébé then moved on to Guinea to monitor small community projects involving Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS).

### Consultants

K. Hussein and J. S. Zoundi, (see above) are undertaking a 6-month assignment to study SFLP activities towards research in support to SL. The objective of the assignment is to analyse on-going and scheduled activities of selected research centres in the area of artisanal fisheries, and assess linkages between research centres, decision-makers and fisheries communities. They will work closely with Aquatic Resources Officer, J-C. Njock and Monitoring Officer, M. Kébé, in assisting selected countries to (i) assess the information needs for fisheries co-management, (ii) identify priority areas for data collection and (iii) design a participatory and cost-effective system for the collection, processing and analysis of key data. The first phase

of the exercise will run from October to end of March 2002, and the second from April to June 2002.

□ Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIP) consultant, B. Blake, undertook a mission to RSU to explore ideas for the processes involved in future pilot projects and to prepare guidelines for their formulation for the next Programme Steering Committee meeting planned for early December in FAO HQ. The outcomes of his mission and recommendations were fully explored by a meeting in FAO headquarters involving FIP, TCDM, SFLP PCU and the RSU Team Leader.

### Programme Coordination

□ SFLP Programme Coordinator (PC), R. Coutts visited the RSU, Cotonou from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2001 to review RSU technical activities and prepare for the forthcoming National Coordinators' and Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meetings. During his stay, he held a series of meetings with the RSU team and four consultants to discuss in particular, the processes for design and implementation of pilot projects in participating countries. Other issues discussed include the SFLP

I/C strategy and recommendations, follow-up activities for the PIP and Fish Fair, the FAO fisheries legal review, aspects of the 2002 work plan, and the possible agenda for the next PSC. Some on-going and community project proposals were also reviewed and the PC was also able to have a look at the SFLP website and database under construction. The website will be fully operational by the end of the year.

### Regional Events

Two separate but identical FAO/DFID workshops on Small-scale Fisheries, Poverty and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, are to be organised in Cotonou by CEMARE in collaboration with the SFLP in November 2001. Participants at the workshop will include five representatives of policy makers, NGOs and fisheries organisations from each of the twenty-five SFLP countries. The two workshops will be held back-to-back, the first from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2001 for Mauritania, Cape Verde, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, and the second from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2001 for Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger Chad, Central

African Republic, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Sao Tome & Principe. The main objective of the Workshop is to provide an overview of the current understanding of poverty and poverty alleviation in West African artisanal fishing communities, with particular reference to the SLA and CCRF.

These Workshops will also be an opportunity for members of the NCUs of the 4 sub-regions to meet amongst themselves and with SFLP staff to report on progress and advise on lessons learnt in anticipation of the sub-regional representatives role at the PSC meeting scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> December 2001.