

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

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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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In Senegal and Mauritania, M. Kébé assisted the NCUs in the preparation of case studies on fisherfolk participation in Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS). He contributed to the selection and subsequent briefing of the national consultants who will carry out the studies. He also seized the opportunity to brief the NCUs on small projects using SLA and PRA tools.

In the same context, C. Breuil, Planning Officer, travelled to Ghana from the 11th -14th October 2000 to brief the selected local consultants on the MCS case studies. A meeting was also arranged with A.



FIELD VISITS

M. Kuyateh, the Community Organization Officer of the Regional Support Unit (RSU), undertook a three week mission to Niger from the 25th September - 12th October to train members of the National Coordination Unit (NCU) and selected resource persons from Francophone countries in Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) methods for the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA). After the training, a case study using PRA and SLA was carried out by the National Coordinating Unit (NCU) in the Tafouka community where two small projects were subsequently identified for possible funding.

M. Kuyateh will carry out another training course in Cape Coast, Ghana from the 23rd November - 2nd December 2000 for Ghanaian and Nigerian trainers.



A. Lassissi, the RSU Information Assistant, travelled to Central African Republic and Chad from the 30th September - 14th October 2000. He worked in close collaboration with the National Coordinators and the Information/Communication (I/C) Focal Points on I/C matters. He also assisted the I/C Focal Points to organize their work to cover the responsibilities agreed upon during the I/C planning Workshop.

M. Kébé, the RSU Monitoring Officer was on mission to PRA Session Guinea Bissau, Senegal and Mauritania from the 3rd - 21st October 2000. In Guinea Bissau he went on field visits with members of the NCU to assist them in a rapid participatory diagnosis of fisheries communities in the war-torn country. The NCU is expected to pursue this activity and assist these communities in identifying and formulating small project proposals.

Tetebo, the IT-MCS (Intermediate Technology MCS) consultant recruited by the FAO Fisheries Department to coordinate the activities of the two studies. The reports of the case studies in Senegal, Mauritania, Ghana and Guinea should be available before the end of year.

K. Kourkouliotis, the RSU Information/Communication Officer, travelled to FAO Headquarters, Rome from the 16th-23rd October 2000. During the mission he worked with staff of different technical Departments on the development of (i) a regional Information System on

artisanal fisheries including Database Management Systems and appropriate linkages with other relevant information sources, (ii) an Information/Communication strategy to promote and disseminate throughout the region and worldwide using various types of communication tools (awareness materials, multimedia techniques, information technologies, etc.).

Following a request from the Benin NCU for support in evaluating the status of traditional fishery management systems, E. Corcoran, APO, visited sample villages in Ouémé, and Mono prefectures in the latter part of October. During this mission, she worked together with A. Gbaguidi (Department of Fisheries - Benin) to ensure efficient use of the questionnaires designed for the purpose. By the end of the exercise the NCU will have a good overview of the traditional fisheries management structures and processes in the inland waters. This is intended as a first step towards the effective participation of stakeholders in fisheries management to eventually improve their livelihoods.

J-C Njock, the RSU Aquatic Resources Officer, travelled to Ghana from the 12th -16th November together with representatives from Benin and Togo. The planning meeting was organized to prepare and coordinate a field study to be undertaken in the three countries on the ecological and socio-economic impact of beach seines on the livelihoods of fisheries dependent communities. The results of the study should be useful to improve participatory fisheries management in coastal waters.



Beach seine

The RSU has recruited the services of D. Njamen (11th November - 10th December 2000), a Computer Programming Consultant from Cameroon to help with the design and creation of a user friendly database that will incorporate SFLP relevant information on the 25 participating countries. This database will start with currently available information and be regularly updated and augmented by the I/C Focal Points.

MEETINGS

R. Coutts, SFL Programme Coordinator, B. Horemans, RSU Team Leader, and J-C. Njock, RSU Aquatic Resources Officer undertook a mission to Abuja, Nigeria from the 21st October - 4th November 2000 to attend the 11th Session of the Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA), the 1st Session of the Scientific Sub-Committee of the Fisheries Committee for Central Eastern Atlantic (CECAF) and the 15th Session of CECAF.

All SFLP National Coordinators had been invited to participate in the CIFA Seminar and 23 participants from 22 NCUs managed to be present.

R. Coutts moderated the debate during a seminar held during the CIFA Session on the "Management of Inland Aquatic Resources and Structural Adjustment Policies in Africa". In this context, a SFLP consultant, B. Blake, presented a key paper on "Structural Adjustment Policies and Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods in West African Inland Fisheries" which will be published in the SFLP Field Report series.

Before the CIFA meeting, on 23rd October, the second meeting of the SFLP National Coordinators was organized in Abuja. It was the occasion to make a quick assessment of the activities since the first National Coordinator meeting held in April 2000 in Cotonou. During the meeting the following important matters were discussed: (i) the quarterly progress reports; (ii) the contributions of NCUs to the SFLP Liaison Bulletin and Info-Flash; (iii) the Internet connection status; (iv) the transfer to the NCU of the operating budget; (v) the present situation of small projects (identification process and ongoing projects); (vi) the development of initiatives and relationships with fisheries communities and professional organisations.

The participants were also informed about the next Programme Steering Committee meeting scheduled to take place end January 2001 and the joint DFID/FAO Review Mission in May 2001.

IDENTIFIED SMALL PROJECTS

This month the RSU approved the funding of three more Small Projects:

- (1) Support to the Tafouka fisheries communities to enhance fish productivity (Niger)
- (2) Re-inforcement of organisational capacities of Tafouka fish mongers, including improved fish processing, conservation and distribution system, and promotion of fish consumption by the local population (Niger)
- (3) Development of awareness material and organisation of sensitisation activities on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries with the Mopti and Ségou fisheries communities (Mali)