



Welcome to the

## SFLP Info-Flash

This new means of communication will be forwarded monthly through Internet to the National Coordination 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.

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## Benin, Ghana, The Gambia, Niger and Sao Tomé and Príncipe Gender Survey to take off soon

A series of case studies on gender issues is soon to be conducted in Benin, Gambia, Ghana, Niger and Sao Tomé. The objective of this exercise is to promote a better understanding of the issues that make women more vulnerable and factors that constrain their involvement in the management of community-based fisheries associations. The exercise also aims to promote a better understanding of how a guided analysis of gender issues can contribute to making planning, execution and monitoring of community and institutional support projects more gender-sensitive.

Within this context the SFLP organised a meeting to launch the process in Cotonou from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2002. Participants at the workshop included national consultants from the five countries selected: D. Yeboah (Ghana), S. Njie (The Gambia), I. Mamane (Niger), M-O. Barros (Sao Tome and Principe), C. Gnimadi (team leader, Benin), and RSU Officers.

Information drawn from the participatory appraisal of ongoing community projects in the five countries was used to prepare a methodology adapted to its particular situation.

A toolkit was produced during this exercise which will be adapted to provide support in the implementation of the case studies to ensure the full participation of stakeholders at every stage.

The survey stage of this process is to start, in all countries, in early December 2002. The consultant's reports will then be used to produce a framework on how to incorporate gender issue in the design and implementation of community projects.



An adult literacy class for women in session in Tafouka (Niger)

## Gabon – seeking partnership

The National Coordination Unit (NCU) of Gabon has identified some possible partners in the implementation of the Pilot Project on Participatory Coastal management. These include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), NGO World Promus, some ongoing environmental and forestry projects, as well as development partners (JICA, French Cooperation (AFD), Spanish Cooperation, etc). The NCU will contact these partners with a view to getting them involved in the design process.

Preparations for the poverty profiling exercise, which precedes Pilot Project design, started with a series of meetings organised by the NCU's planning and design team. Some priority issues of regional relevance were identified. These included the sharing of experiences on conflict resolution, participatory surveillance, integration of environmental issues in community actions using consultation mechanisms, and dissemination of lessons learnt.

The Pilot Project site has been narrowed down to 8 coastal fisheries communities in Cocobeach in the Noya Department (northwest of the country). Some decisions were also taken on how to effectively incorporate SLA principles and the elements of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in the design process.

Meanwhile, the NCU's field visit to the Milembié community project was timed to witness the take-off of the project. The mission noted the high participation level of mostly literate stakeholders in the training sessions and was able to obtain their views and share their aspirations from the project directly. Trainers were also observed using the learning-by-doing approach promoted by the SFLP. The mission commended the Milembié community's efforts to set up a participatory monitoring system and encouraged them to review the process from time to time, share lessons and modify it as they go along. NGO *World Promus* is expected to provide some support in planning and implementation.

### **Sao Tome and Principe – NCU action plan for 2003**

The NCU of Sao Tome and Principe organised a meeting from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2002 to plan the activities for 2003. It was agreed that the NCU should concentrate on strengthening its capacity to lobby decision-makers in order to draw their attention to the fisheries sector. They also plan to establish contact with more development partners and to disseminate and promote appropriate technology to fisheries stakeholders. This effort is to be formalised through community and institutional support projects, exchange visits and other initiatives coordinated by the NCU.

As a first step to moving the plan forward, the NCU visited the African Development Bank, (ADB) the UNDP and the Sustainable Livelihoods Project for Adolescent Girls (three-year UNDP project to help young girls in income-generation and entrepreneurship). The ADB project team responded very positively to the suggestion of the NCU working closely with some of its new projects specifically targeting households headed by women in fisheries communities in order to reduce their vulnerability to shocks. Planned activities include an adult literacy programme and the improvement of women's access to resources. The project is scheduled to take off in the early 2003.

Other development partners contacted included NGOs such as Zatona-Adil who are involved in development and mobilisation of fisheries/farming communities, Marapa who specialise in technology transfer and market organisation in small-scale fisheries and Gieppa, the umbrella organisation for fishermen and fishmongers associations. All partners contacted expressed their willingness to collaborate with the NCU in the improvement of the livelihoods of poor fisheries communities in the country.

The NCU also undertook a field visit to the Angolares fisheries community project where a meeting was held with members of the fishermen's and women's associations (MenNgai and Ngopa). The opinion of most members was that progress has been slow on the project because of the conflict resulting from the diversity of social groups represented in the association membership. However, the deep freezers purchased earlier are being well managed and the positive results of the adult literacy project were encouraging. At the time of the visit, all parties were eager to settle their differences in order to prepare their action plan for the next 3 months which is expected to include training on fish processing and marketing.

### **Central African Republic – Training in co-management**

In spite of the recent political unrest in the Central African Republic, a training session on co-management of Lake M'bali was recently held. Regional consultant, M. Bingombe, facilitated this conference. Unfortunately, the NCU office was raided during the disturbance and some equipment was lost. An administrative process has however commenced to assess the damages and consider the possibility of making the office operational again.

### **Chad – Capacity building for communities**

Sixty women fish processors/traders and 24 fishermen were recently trained on the construction of Chorkor ovens, as part of the activities lined up for the community project to strengthen the capacities of the Ere fisheries community. Other training sessions focused on the fisheries regulations in force and the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). The objective was to make the fishermen more professional and to help them better appreciate the need to improve their fishing practices to ensure the sustainability of their livelihoods. Trainers at these sessions included NCU member, M.K. Tandjilé and Operations Officer, M. Le Naimian. Participation was high and the outcome was encouraging. The NCU therefore plans to explore possibilities for partnership with GTZ in the area of training in the organisation and management of natural resources.



**Participants at a training workshop construct a Chorkor oven in Apibase (Chad)**

In another development, Ere fisherfolk were trained to use a more practical and cost-effective technology in the construction of planked canoes. The materials used were obtained from nearby towns, Bongor and Kélo, which made the idea very attractive to the fishermen. Moreover, the new boats were much cheaper to construct and could carry more load than the monoxyl-based boats formerly used. Since then 5 such boats have been built and the fishermen are very satisfied with the results. This exercise was followed by training on financial management to develop their capacity to run a credit scheme which is expected to provide them with the funds they need to rent boats and purchase fishing gear.

### **Sierra Leone – Validation of policy intent documents for fisheries**

The SFLP will, in partnership with the FAO Regional Office, provide financial and technical assistance to the new Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) to formulate its interim statement of policy intent. In this context, RSU Project Officer, F. Turay represented the SFLP at the meeting to launch the process on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2002. The meeting was held at the Permanent Secretary's Office, MFMR in Freetown. Before going to Sierra Leone, the Project Officer held discussions with the Senior Fisheries Officer and the Sierra Leone Desk Policy Officer at the FAO Regional Office in Accra (Ghana).

During the first meeting of the Policy Statement Advisory Committee (PSAC), whose mandate is to provide guidance to the formulation process, the members present discussed and approved their terms of reference, as well as those of the lead national consultant. PSAC members are made up of representatives of the government, private sector (banking, small-scale and industrial fisheries), the university and the FAO representative in Freetown. The Committee approved the appointment of Mr. N. Iscandri as lead national consultant and briefed him on expectations from the exercise. On the basis of the results of the above meetings, a draft concept note for the process of formulating the interim statement of policy intent was prepared. A Stakeholders Workshop will be organised by the MFMR in December 2002 to validate the draft interim statement of policy intent when completed.

#### **Nigeria – Workshop for fisheries data collector and enumerators**

The NCU of Nigeria organised a workshop for fisheries enumerators and data collectors at the Women's Multi-purpose Centre in Lafia, the capital of Nassarawa State. The objective of the workshop was to train participants in planning and data collection and included a field visit to Feferuwa fisheries community. The livelihoods of this predominantly fisheries community are based on the sale of a wide variety of fish species in a nearby town, Assakio. The visit was very timely because it fell at a period when the flood was receding and fish were plentiful in the lake. Participants were thus better able to appreciate first hand many of the complex issues involved in the collection of data and enumeration of the different species of fish.



**Representatives of NCU of Nigeria in discussion with members of Feferuwa community**

The strategic decision to site the workshop near Abuja, the home of the government, made it possible for representatives of various ministries to attend. The NCU seized this opportunity to introduce them, and other stakeholders, to the SFLP principles and activities in the country. The Feferuwa fisheries community benefited through the information they obtained on better fishing practices that will help to improve the sustainability of their livelihoods. Stakeholders were also better able to appreciate the importance of proper data collection processes in the development of the fisheries sector, and awareness was created of the potential for collaboration across sectors. It is hoped that participants from other sectors will explore possibilities for the application of the SLA in their development efforts.

#### **Benin – New National Coordinator**

Further to the appointment of J. Ouaké as the National Coordinator of the Small-Scale Fisheries Participatory Development Support Programme (PADPPA), A. Goré, the former head of the Office for Coastal Fisheries, has been appointed as the Director of Fisheries and SFLP National Coordinator. It is hoped that his contribution to the new post will further consolidate the improvements recorded so far in the livelihoods of fisheries communities.

#### **Pilot Projects Planning workshop**

The Planning workshop for the Post Harvest Fisheries Livelihoods was held from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of November at the Aledjo Hotel in Cotonou. Participants were drawn from government Ministries (planning, finance, fisheries), NGOs and the National Coordination Units of core countries (Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia and Senegal). Consultants A. Ward and K. Andersen facilitated it. A presentation was made on the basic principles of SLA to refresh the memory of participants. An overview of the Pilot Project objectives, design and implementation and what it should achieve were also reviewed.

Some of the outcomes of the workshop were: (i) a harmonised statement on the regional activities envisaged with a proposed working schedule; (ii) an outline of major activities at regional and national level, and (iii) an assessment of the implications of the strengths, weaknesses and vulnerabilities of participating countries on the outcome of the Pilot Project. On their return, NCU's are expected to promote, inform and further explore partnerships for its implementation.

#### **Output-to-purpose review of SFLP**

An Output-to-Purpose review (OPR) of the SFLP was undertaken from the 29<sup>th</sup> October to the 13<sup>th</sup> of November by DFID consultant, B. Blake. The aim was to review and assess the progress made by the SFLP in delivering key outputs since the first OPR in June 2001 and to determine the likelihood of achieving its purpose. The exercise identified key issues likely to limit overall progress and gave indications on strategies to address them.

The mission also reviewed the appropriateness of management arrangements and human resource strategy in the implementation of Pilot Projects. The range of issues to be covered by the Pilot Projects also received some attention. The exercise provides a basis for the key issues to be addressed by the next Mid-term evaluation mission planned for mid-2003.

#### **Expert Panel meeting**

As a follow-up to the initial analysis conducted by the RSU on the role of small-scale fisheries in poverty reduction in the sub-region, a panel of experts met in Cotonou from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of November to analyse the state of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) process in 10 countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana, the Gambia, Mauritania, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sao Tome &

Principe). The meeting also aimed to promote stronger links between the Department of Fisheries and the Ministry in charge of PRSP. Each country delegation comprised two members, one directly involved in the national poverty reduction, and the other from fisheries administration/planning. The FAO was represented by R. Willmann (Fisheries Development Planning Service – FIPP), A. Bockel (Agricultural Policy Support Service – TCAS), and J. Dijkman (GCP/INT/804/UK - Pro-Poor Livestock Policy Project).

The participants discussed: (i) the different definitions of poverty in the case of small-scale fisheries; (ii) general mechanisms, institutional arrangements, evolution and participatory processes involved in the PRSP; (iii) the contribution of small-scale fisheries to national economy (fish production, employment, revenues, food security); (iv) the extent of fisheries' integration in poverty reduction planning; (v) strategies for reducing poverty in fisheries, and (vi) mechanisms for fisheries' participation in national poverty reduction planning. The report of the meeting is in preparation.

### SFLP meets Japanese delegation

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2002, the RSU received a Japanese delegation made up of the two staff of JICA and six private consultants. The delegation, which was introduced by the staff of the Fisheries Department of Benin, was led by T. Katoh, Deputy Director of the Construction Division, Fisheries Infrastructure Department, Fisheries Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

The purpose of their visit was to introduce the project for the improvement of the Cotonou fishing harbour that is presently over-crowded and not responding to user needs. The mission would stay in Benin from the 6<sup>th</sup> of November to the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2002 to formulate a draft project proposal aimed at the improving of the harbours infrastructure. Their report will

be reviewed in Japan and discussed in March 2003 in Cotonou.

It was explained that SFLP is primarily aimed at developing social and human assets, but not infrastructure, which is usually requested from development partners. The RSU briefly presented the results of the community project, which developed the capacity of the organisations umbrella framework (UNAPEMAB) and the socio-professional sub-groups at the harbour. It was stressed that the Beninese government considers these institutions as essential partners. The only advice given was to hear from them what they really want since they will be one of the main beneficiaries from the project. Their full involvement at all stages of the project would be a sign of good management and sustainability in the project.

The delegation, which had earlier met the chairman of UNAPEMAB was highly impressed by the results of the community project and considered the fisheries organizations as a good foundation on which to build their own project.

### FAO/SFLP I/C mission

The RSU, in collaboration with the Information Unit of FAO (GII – Rome) undertook a joint field visit to ongoing community projects in Niger, Benin, Congo, Guinea and Ghana. The objective of the mission is to produce a booklet featuring the results and the impact of community projects in improving the livelihoods of the communities visited. It will also highlight the approach used in the implementation of community projects to create partnerships with local institutions and to inform policies at local, meso and macro levels. The mission also prepared radio scripts for Niger, Benin and Ghana. Information was collected through interviews with communities, local authorities, development partners and decision-makers. The booklet and radio scripts will be available on FAO ([www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)) and SFLP ([www.sflp.org](http://www.sflp.org)) web sites in January 2003.

### Imminent Events

- ADPES-NOVIB National Seminar on Credit Cooperatives in Mbour, Senegal from 11 to 12 December 2002
- SFLP-GTZ Workshop on *Enhancement of the resources through participatory management - lessons learnt and ways forward*, 12-14 December 2002, Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso
- 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA), 2 – 5 December 2002, Yaoundé, Cameroon.