

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



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## 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 interesting by 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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## SEASON'S GREETINGS

At the end of our first year of activities, the staff of Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme in West Africa wishes you all a happy, healthy and successful Year 2001.



## RSU's ACTIVITIES

A team of experts from Benin (A. Gbaguidi), Ghana (D. Yeboah), Togo (K. Sedzro) and SFLP Regional Support Unit (J-C Njock and G. Gnakadja) met in Accra, Ghana from 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November to develop a methodology to assess the socio-economic and ecological impact of beach seining on the livelihoods of

fisheries dependent communities. The results of a Sustainable Livelihoods analysis of selected fisheries communities that practice this fishing method to be undertaken in December/January will be used to design a participatory socio-economic and ecological monitoring system.



Fish sellers in a Beninese market

M. Kuyateh, RSU Community Organization Officer, and E. Corcoran, Associate Professional Officer, travelled to Cape Coast, Ghana from 19<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> December to train resource persons from Ghana and Nigeria in SL approaches and Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA). The practical exercises took place just outside Cape Coast in the Moree fisheries community where fisherfolk worked enthusiastically with the team to elaborate a realistic Community Action Plan. During the process two small projects were identified by the community in the area of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), and the provision of working capital. The trainees are



Participants at a workshop in Ghana

now in position to play the role of trainers in their respective countries.

A Regional Symposium on "Artisanal Fisheries in West Africa: Diagnostic - Prospects - Actions" organised by the West African Association for the Development of Artisanal Fisheries (WADAF) was held in Cotonou (Benin) from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2000. M. Kébé, RSU Monitoring Officer, presented a paper on the artisanal fisheries sector in West Africa with particular reference to the 16 ECOWAS countries. The Symposium offered participants an opportunity to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the sector and the opportunities for improving livelihoods of the many fisheries dependent communities in the region.

E. Corcoran attended a Project Training Course organised by FAO Headquarters in Rome from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November. Twelve participants from FAO and two from the World Food Programme attended the course, which familiarized them with

FAO procedures in project formulation. The course also offered the opportunity to promote the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach in the design of FAO programmes and projects.

J. Collins from FAO Fisheries Branch Library was on mission to Cotonou from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December to provide technical assistance to P. Tohouegnon, the RSU Librarian. The library management system is now running and will be fully operational by January 2001. They both thereafter visited the FAO Regional Office Library for Africa in Accra (Ghana) from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December to establish linkages between the two

libraries. During their mission in Accra the Fisheries Department requested technical assistance from the RSU to organize their library with the new documentation management system and train the library staff.

A consultant in Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), J. Monan, has been recruited to assist the Programme in identifying and mobilizing suitable and efficient NGOs to participate in the implementation of SFLP field activities. He is to work in close collaboration with M. Kuyateh and will start field visits to selected countries in January.

## POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES

Recognizing that policies, institutions and processes (PIP) are critical factors influencing the livelihood strategies and outcomes of fisheries communities, SFLP initiated a participatory study of the impact of PIP on the livelihoods of fisheries communities. Given the differences between Anglophone and Francophone administrative systems, the study will be carried out in Ghana and Senegal and the results presented and discussed during sub-regional workshops in English and French in April/May 2001.

The study is intended to contribute to the development of a methodology for participatory analysis of PIP, the identification of appropriate PIP entry points for improved livelihoods,

possibly in relation to CCRF, and come up with ideas for small and/or pilot projects.

The NCUs will be assisted in this exercise by the RSU Planning Officer, C. Breuil and two international consultants, B. Blake in Ghana and P. Failler in Senegal. C. Breuil visited Accra from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December to discuss the methodology and scheduling. The Team Leader, B. Horemans, visited Dakar for the same purpose from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December and introduced P. Failler who undertook a preliminary mission from 11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> December. The mission to Dakar was also an opportunity for B. Horemans to pay a courtesy visit to the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission and his Permanent Secretary, N. Bangoura.

## NEWS FROM THE NCUs

From 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November the NCU of Cameroon undertook a SL study of the fisheries communities of the Mapé reservoir. The study which documents the components of the SL framework will contribute to the elaboration of the management plan of the reservoir. The next step will be to assess through a participatory process (PRA/SLA) the expectations and commitment of the communities, and the training and information needs for the implementation of a fisheries co-management scheme.

Three members of the Gabonese NCU, Bidoungou-Boutchanga, V. Mbele, and R. Minko, conducted an awareness campaign in the fisheries communities of the Estuaire Province from 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November. The campaign was intended to clarify the objectives, goals and modalities of the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme and stress the relevance of the SLA and the CCRF in fisheries activities.

In Mali, the I/C Focal Point, S. Coulibaly, undertook a mission to Zignasso, a community located 12 km from Sikasso township, where he met the Zignasso Women's Association. This well-structured community based organization of 107 women operates on 3 small productive water bodies where diversified activities take place all year round. Some opportunities were identified to improve their livelihoods, in particular in the area of fish processing and marketing. A small project is expected to be submitted soon to the RSU.

The Congolese NCU held a meeting with Vili fisheries community at Agip-base beach near Pointe-Noire to present the Programme and discuss opportunities for the improvement of fisherfolk livelihoods. The community requested assistance

in developing their organizational capacities. This recommendation is to be followed up by the NCU.



Village meeting in Congo

The NCU of Benin started a study on the traditional lagoon fisheries management system in October 2000. Data processing is in progress and a short workshop will be organized in January 2001 to review the results and select some villages where a SL analysis would be carried out to identify potential synergies between traditional and so-called "modern" fisheries management systems.

M. Njie, I/C Focal Point in The Gambia, travelled to Freetown, Sierra Leone from 22<sup>nd</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup> December to strengthen NCU's capacities to work with fisheries communities using the PRA/SLA tools and principles for participatory identification and formulation of small projects. At the end of the exercise, members of the NCU team showed delighted and demonstrated skills and ability to undertake similar activities in other fisheries communities.

## PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE

The second meeting of the SFLP Programme Steering Committee will take place in Cotonou from 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2001. It will review the progress made by the Programme since the first meeting in May 2000 and examine the proposed work plan for the January - June 2001 period.