

"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 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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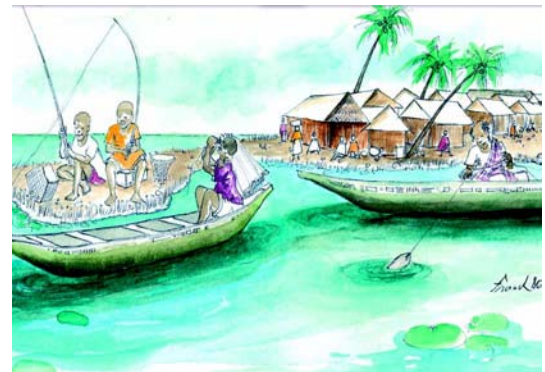


Togo

NCU-Togo has recently been providing support to the Biova Fishermens' Association to finalise two community project proposals. Some members also paid a visit to the Marine Fisheries Cooperative Union (UNICOPEMA) to sensitize them to the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

At the end of the second year of the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme, its staff wishes its readers in participating countries and beyond a Happy and Prosperous Year 2002!



News from National Coordination Units

Burkina Faso

As a follow-up to the series of training-for-trainers organised within the sub-region, the NCU-Burkina Faso has elaborated a training programme for fisheries stakeholders. Proposed themes include sustainable community-based practices using participatory methods, monitoring and evaluation techniques for SFLP community projects, NGO management strategy, institutional support, IEC etc. Issues relating to gender and sustainable livelihoods will also receive special attention. The programme is expected to start in February 2002.

Sierra Leone

The African Development Fund (ADF) has approved a loan to finance an artisanal fisheries development project in Sierra Leone. This is to be achieved through the provision of institutional support and the promotion of a more rational management of fisheries resources. The project is to be executed by the Sierra Leonean Department of Fisheries. It is expected that the NCU will create partnerships and interact closely with the ADF Programme to identify actions using SLA and applying CCRF principles.

Benin

NCU-Benin is currently assisting fishmongers, mainly women from both coastal and inland fisheries, to create a national association with SFLP support. The objective of this institutional support which started in October 2001, is to create and strengthen local institutions capable of developing partnerships with the fisheries administration and other institutions to improve the livelihoods of fishmongers in the country.

The activities lined up include the strengthening of organisational management and communication skills of the executive members of the bureau. An NGO has already been identified to assist the Association in the execution of the project.



The new fish mongers Association in Benin discuss the need to establish viable partnership relationships

SFLP-RSU Missions and Activities

- ❑ RSU Team Leader, B. Horemans was at the FAO Headquarters in Rome from 5th to 7th December 2001 to contribute to the SFLP Programme Steering Committee (see article below). This was followed with a visit to the European Commission DGDEV in Brussels to discuss collaborative work.
- ❑ RSU Aquatic Resources Officer, J-C Njock attended a seminar, on the management of artisanal fisheries in Sub-Saharan Africa (10-11 December), held in Ghana from 10th to 14th December 2001, and an expert consultation meeting on small-scale fisheries management in Sub-Saharan Africa (12-

14 December). Both were organised by the FAO Regional Office for Africa. Participants included representatives of fisheries administrations and research institutions from Africa and abroad, International Development Agencies and FAO. J-C Njock presented a paper on the role of fisheries in the sustainable improvement of the livelihoods of fisheries communities in West and Central Africa, emphasising the SFLP point of view. The meeting ended with the recommendation that co-management arrangements should be empowered by appropriate legal frameworks and national development policies.

❑ RSU Project Officer, K. Holvoet was also in Ghana from 10th to 15th December 2001 to familiarise herself with the activities of the NCU. She visited the Adina fisheries communities where a participatory beach seining research study and assistance in livelihood diversification has been proposed.

The women of the community expressed their particular interest in livelihoods diversification opportunities in order to increase their income. During her visit, the Project Officer also discussed and provided assistance to the NCU in the reformulation of some community projects proposals.



Adina fisheries community Management Committee (Ghana) identify opportunities for diversification in the community

SFLP Consultants

❑ NGO consultant J. Monan was at the SFLP-RSU from 5th to 10th November to finalise the SFLP Training Manual with RSU Community Organisations Officer, M. Kuyateh. He also reviewed the selection criteria to be used in assessing the status and commitment of NGOs before communities become involved with them. Such criteria include the possession of a legal registration certificate from the government, a written constitution to show that the NGO is accountable to an external body, and most importantly, proof that the NGO has experience

it claims. The NGOs will also be expected to allow inspection of their Annual Accounts and to provide the name of their auditors.

❑ Policies and Institutions specialist B. Blake was in Cotonou at the end of the month to assist the RSU undertake the revision of the SFLP logframe and subsequent preparation of the 2002 annual work plan.

SFLP Steering Committee Meeting

❑ Present at this meeting were: N. Macpherson, DFID representative; B. Satia and A. Jallow, FAO Rome and FAORAF Accra representatives; R. Coutts, Programme Coordinator; and the National Coordinators representing the sub-regions, i.e. K. Kaboré (Burkina Faso, land-locked), E. Bagamboula (Congo, South). Unfortunately, K. Angaman (Cote d'Ivoire, Centre) and M. Thiam (Senegal, North) could not attend due to travel problems but their reports were made available to the PSC. I. Kollavick-Jensen from FAO Rome, J. Ouaké from Benin, the host country of the RSU, M. Verbanck, SFLP Administrative and Finance officer, and B. Blake, SFLP consultant also attended the meeting.

Progress reports of SFLP activities in participating countries were presented by the sub-regional representatives and various areas of concern discussed. The Programme Coordination Unit and the Regional Support Unit also each gave an update of their activities. Following the recommendations of the Output-to-Purpose Review mission conducted earlier in the year, a revision of the Programme logical framework had been undertaken. The changes were discussed and agreed upon by the PSC. Based on the revised framework the draft 2002 workplan was presented and agreed upon. Discussions on the proposed method for pilot project design and implementation were thorough and consequently the meeting extended into a second day.

The meeting acknowledged the influential role played by the SFLP in the development of strategic aspects, particularly: (i) the prominence given to Policies, Institutions and Processes by stakeholders, (ii) the assistance to several countries in the integration of fisheries into national Poverty Reduction Strategies; (iii) the contribution to the design of IFAD-funded fisheries programme in Benin and Cote d'Ivoire

Key issues discussed at the SFLP Steering Committee meeting held in Rome from 6th to 7th December 2001 are as follows:

- the links between the Fisheries Department and wider networks and institutions with capacity in poverty analysis and social policy should be promoted;
- the rate of implementation of SFLP community projects needs to be accelerated and their quality improved in order to maximise the efficient utilisation of approved annual budgets;
- efficient and punctual use of the SFLP budget demands timely implementation of pilot projects;
- suitable management and/or consultancy arrangements, as well as the appropriate selection of countries must be promptly agreed upon to ensure timely implementation of pilot projects;
- a proposal by FAO Fisheries Department for a 3-year programme to strengthen the normative work programme in support of member countries' efforts to alleviate poverty in fishing communities and to enhance the contribution of the fisheries sector in national poverty reduction strategies and programmes was approved. Two of the expected outputs are technical guidelines on CCRF and poverty, and a Technical Paper on Fisheries and Poverty.
- monitoring needs to be generally strengthened at all levels and the way to assess the SFLP impact on policies and institutions, including impacts on FAO itself, introduced;
- SFLP should encourage stakeholders' links with local governments for their involvement in natural resource management, and promote the relevance of decentralisation to poor people's access to resources; the DFID-Uganda fisheries management project is cited as a successful example.