

"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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the northern zone from 22nd to 31st July 2001, also with the financial support of the RSU. Participants at the 10-day Workshop included 15 representatives of artisanal fisheries communities. The opening ceremony was attended by representatives from the public and private sector such as Wilaya, the State Secretariat for Women Affairs, and NGOs. The objective of the training was to build up the capacity of participants in PRA/SLA towards the elaboration of a community action plan.

National consultants, S. M. O. Abdellai (NCU/DEARH) and D. A. Bocar, (NCU/NGO Mauritania 2000) facilitated the training. An exploratory PRA exercise was conducted at the Nouadhibou port over a three-day period to determine

Cameroon

The National Coordinator accompanied four fishermen and a woman fish processor from the Mapé reservoir on an exchange visit to Kompienga and Bagre reservoirs in Burkina Faso from 2nd to 9th June 2001. The Cameroonian delegation obtained first-hand experience of the Burkina Faso fisheries sector organisation and management through the practical sharing of experiences with their Burkinabé counterparts. The team also visited Diamanga and Tounga fishing camps where they were able to assess their organisation and management systems. They also went on fishing trips with their Bukinabé counterparts and discussed areas of direct concern. It is expected that they will share this rich experience with their colleagues on arrival back home. They left Burkina Faso on 9th June 2001 with many ideas on how to improve the Mapé fisheries community's organisation.

Senegal

After a series of workshops conducted in different parts of Senegal to introduce the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme, NCU-Senegal assisted artisanal fishermen groups in the Loumpoul fishing centre in the Louga

priority issues and subsequently to draw up a Community Action Plan. The practical exercise also provided the opportunity to sensitise fisherfolk about the SFLP and its objectives.



Elaboration of a Community action plan during a PRA/SLA exercise

region to elaborate a community action plan. This was preceded by two missions respectively to conduct and validate a participatory sustainable livelihoods diagnostic exercise. It led to the identification of activities aimed at the sustainable improvement of livelihoods through improved management of inshore resources. A request for SFLP assistance is in preparation.

Burkina Faso

The SFLP is currently assisting UCN-Burkina Faso in the implementation of the national fisheries co-management strategy on Lakes Bagré and Kompienga. The preliminary results of this activity have shown the urgent need for each partner to have the same level of awareness and understanding of issues. This is why the RSU is supporting national experts in the preparation of an information brochure on fisheries co-management, which will then be translated into the local languages of the area for wide diffusion.

Mauritania

As a follow up to the PRA/SLA training Workshop held for the southern zone in Nouakchott earlier in the year, NCU-Mauritania organised another session for

Benin

As a follow-up to the sub-regional workshops on Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIP) organised by the SFLP, NCU-Benin has proposed an Institutional Capacity and Policy Development project to support the creation of a nation-wide Fishmongers' Association. This request was accepted and the process quickly started.

Within the framework of the Beninese government's poverty alleviation strategy in rural areas, the Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries addressed a request to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for technical assistance in

the identification of the Artisanal Fisheries Participatory Development Support Programme. This programme is expected to focus mainly on the rehabilitation of water bodies, and the development of non-fisheries income-generating activities, in order to reduce poverty and curb the tendency towards the further degradation of the living conditions and income of the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the country.

On the basis of the April-May 2001 identification mission, and in view of the recent involvement of the African Development Bank (ADB) in a study of fisheries sector, IFAD contacted ADB to find out if they were interested in co-financing the new Programme.

Further to the support provided in the first mission, the SFLP was approached by IFAD to assist the joint IFAD/ADB pre-evaluation mission organized in August - September 2001. The SFLP made the services of RSU Monitoring Officer, M. Kébé, available to the mission to help in integrating SLA into the new Programme. Community organisation and Information/Communication experts also contributed their share.

Mali

A livelihoods analysis was conducted in the Sélingué dam from 27th May to 19th June 2001. This was followed by the identification of actions aimed at consolidating the basic principles of participatory fisheries management. The results of the exercise gave some indication of the kind of support that the SFLP could offer to: (i) ensure that fisheries communities benefit fully from the new legislations through their application in order to firmly establish the institutional conditions for their participation in fisheries management; (ii) improve the organisation of post-harvest and fish trade activities and (iii) support relevant national institutions and socio-professional organisations to improve the monitoring and defence of fisheries sector interests at the highest policy-making level.

Also with a view to consolidate the basic principles of participatory fisheries management, an exploratory PRA/SLA exercise and complementary surveys were conducted in several communities in Sélingué. The preliminary results have highlighted the need for an institutional analysis, which is being undertaken by a national consultant.

Administrative Changes at NCU level

New National Coordinators have been appointed in the following countries:

- **Ghana:** G. Anyane, has been replaced by E. Anang, Director of Fisheries.
- Email contact address: ncusflp@ghana.com
- **Chad:** H. Taga has been replaced by B. Barka, Deputy Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- Email contact address: ucn-pmedp@intnet.td

RSU missions and activities

□ A Workshop was organised in Douala, Cameroon from 17th to 28th September 2001 to improve the cooperation methods and strategies used by NCUs in their partnerships with NGOs. Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Niger, the Central African Republic,



the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Chad were represented at the Workshop. Participants included four NCU members made up of two NGO representatives, two government officers, and one resource person from each of the participating countries.

□ Three working groups on the artisanal fisheries, small pelagics and demersal species were constituted last year in Abuja under the Scientific Sub-Committee of the Fisheries Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF).. A consultative meeting on the artisanal fisheries working group was held with the SFLP support in Cotonou from 19th to 21st September 2001 to orient the future technical and scientific activities of the working group. Participants came from ten CECAF countries: Senegal, the Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Sao Tome. Also present were B. Samb, Chairman of the CECAF Scientific Sub-Committee, A. Jallow, Fisheries Planning Officer, FAO-Regional office for Africa, and N-J. Njock, RSU Aquatic Resources Officer.

Consultants

□ The 2-month mission undertaken in five countries by the Information and Communication (I/C) consultant, G. Heindrich ended in August 2001. The report of the exercise is in preparation and will be forwarded with a questionnaire to the 25 participating countries for their approval and to help in the preparation of sub-regional Workshops. The report proposes an I/C strategy including an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) project in support of small projects and NCU activities in each country.

If adopted by the NCU the different phases of the IEC project would involve: i) information collection by NCUs in each country; ii) organisation of four sub-regional I/C workshops; iii) national Workshops for feedback and elaboration of national IEC activities; iv) design of an IEC project in each country; and v) the IEC project performance evaluation.

The report also proposes a review of the mandate and profile of I/C Focal Points, in line with their new responsibilities.