

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



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.

Please feel free to contact SFLP at any time you have any information on events in your country.

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### Niger – Three new Community Projects take off

The NCU of Niger recently organised a meeting with the new National Coordinator, A. Harouna, who has replaced S. Seyni, who has recently been promoted to the post of Secretary-General of the Ministry. Issues discussed included the monitoring and follow-up exercise conducted after the missions by H. Talatou (NCU Operations Officer) and N. Mamane (Fisheries Department Statistics Officer) to some water bodies in the Tahoua region in February 2002. The aim of the exercise was to record lessons learnt and the success of the Tafouka community project for use in the formulation of a larger scale development project proposal to be submitted for partnership with other development partners working in the region.

Meanwhile, the three community project proposals for Tabalak and Niamey have been approved. In view of the increasing number of community projects, the NCU plans to look into the possibility of posting a full-time staff member to oversee their implementation and the general running of the National Coordinator Unit (NCU).

NCU members also came together from 29 to 30 August 2002 to formulate the terms of reference for a targeted Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIP) study on small-scale fisheries. The meeting was attended by M. Naandi, M. Garba, M.M. Kaibo (National Fisheries Association), M. Idrissa (NGO *Poisson pour la vie*) and A. Tinni (*Association des Jeunes Pêcheurs Professionnels - AJPP*). The objective of the study is to contribute to the development of PIP which have a significant impact on the sustainable management of the natural resources and livelihoods of fisheries communities. Special attention will be given to the strategies and institutional mechanisms for the full and active participation of stakeholders in fisheries co-management, and the incorporation of some relevant elements of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in the rural management code.

### Mali – Exploring linkages and strengthening partnerships

The Mali NCU organised a field mission to the regions of Sikasso and Mopti from 13 to 23 July 2002. The fisheries communities visited included Selingué, where meetings were held with local development representatives from the Selingué Development Board (*Office de Développement de la Région de Sélingué - ODRS*) on opportunities for marketing fish products. They also had particularly pertinent discussions with the fisherfolk of Carrière, who are partners in the forthcoming Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) Pilot Project in the country. Other organisations in the region that may be able to collaborate in the implementation of the Pilot Project were identified. These include the NGO, *Save the Children UK*, development research and rural economic institutes, and the Arab Development Bank's integrated project on fisheries resources development.

In the Mopti region, the Management Committee and members of women's associations in Kabio and Sahouna shared their experiences from three months of their community project with the mission. The NGO, *Association*

*pour la Formation et l'Auto-promotion Rurale (AFAR)*, is currently training the women in strengthening linkages with extension services, savings and credit organisations and adult literacy programmes.



### Cameroon – Regional cooperation

The National Coordinators of the 5 countries within the Lake Chad Basin (Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria) attended a meeting organised by the SFLP in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in July 2002. The objective of the workshop, coordinated by the Centre for the Economics and Management of Aquatic Resources (CEMARE), was to prepare a study on the contribution of fish marketing to improving the livelihoods of fisheries communities in the Lake Chad Basin. Presentations on the different marketing systems were reviewed, experiences exchanged, and discussions held on how an information system on fish marketing can be set up. The SFLP has approved institutional support for each of the 5 countries to conduct further studies in each of their respective countries (see *New projects*). The studies are expected to contribute to a better understanding of the network, structure, and impact of fish marketing on the livelihoods of fisheries communities in the Lake Chad Basin and even further a field in the region.

### Congo Brazzaville and Democratic Republic of Congo - Exchange visit to Benin

Representatives of the NCU of Congo (Brazzaville) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) paid an exchange visit to the NCU of Benin from 18 to 21 August 2002. The delegations comprised representatives of fisherfolk and NGOs (*Alliance Homme-Environnement d'Afrique - AMEA, Soutien et Encadrement des Pêcheurs Artisanaux au Congo - SEPAC, Association de Développement de Communauté de Makotimpoko - ADCM, Univers des Femmes, and Action pour la Sécurité Alimentaire et le Développement - ASAD*). They visited, amongst other places, the port of Cotonou, where they were able to discuss the benefits of the different community projects and details of the management and operations of the fishers' association Savings and Loan Scheme directly with stakeholders, both individually and in groups.



They also had the opportunity to visit a project which produces treated mosquito nets, where J. Hounsou, representative of Echoppe, a local NGO (handicraft promotion and credit schemes), provided them with all the essential information on production inputs and methods, importation procedures, the distribution system and the sale of the treated mosquito nets.

By the end of their visit, the delegation had drawn up a plan to maintain regular and direct contacts with the Benin NCU in order to exchange ideas and experiences, and had clear ideas on how the two countries can work together to ensure the success of similar projects, which they could also extend to a wider cross-section of the most vulnerable groups in the Pool Malebo, Makotipoko and Agip Base fisheries communities in Congo. These issues will be further discussed at the feedback meeting which they plan to organise as soon as they get back to their respective countries.

### Burkina Faso – Enhanced fisheries

A workshop was organised in Ouagadougou from 11 to 14 August 2002 to validate the report of the SFLP study to assist in the preparation of a fisheries enhancement development strategy to improve the livelihoods and food security of fisheries communities. Lessons drawn from the Sandogo and Boalin community projects are also to be taken into account in the preparation of the strategy.

Whilst noting the constraints facing the development of enhanced fisheries in Burkina Faso, the report highlighted the important role of fisheries enhancement in the economic activities of the communities, compared to the predominance of farming and livestock activities around the water bodies, and in spite of the weak organisation of the communities. One of the study's major recommendations is the integration of fisheries enhancement activities into the Special Food Security Programme (SFSP). The outcome of the study will form part of the SFLP contribution to a GTZ/SFLP-financed regional workshop on enhanced fisheries to be held in Bobo Dioulasso in December 2002.

### IIFET Conference 2002

With the aim of improving regional capacity, the SFLP sponsored the participation of M. Deme (CRODT Senegal), K. Angaman, National Coordinator of Côte d'Ivoire, O. Njifonjou (SRHOL/IRAD Cameroon) and F. Turay, RSU Projects Officer, at the eleventh biennial conference of the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET) 2002, on the theme *Fisheries in a Global Economy*.

The IIFET is an international group of economists, government managers, private industry members, and other parties interested in the exchange of research and information on marine resource issues. The conference was held at the Victoria University of Wellington Functions Centre in New Zealand from 19 to 22 August 2002.

K Angaman and O. Njifonjou presented a joint paper on *Fisheries co-management and poverty alleviation in the context of the sustainable livelihoods approach: a case study of the fisheries communities of Aby Lagoon in Côte d'Ivoire*. The presentation by M. Deme, regional consultant, was on *Environmental and socio-economic impact of the trade liberalisation and development policies for sustainable management of the Senegalese fishery sector*, while that of the RSU Projects Officer was on *Community projects in the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme in West Africa*.

## **Angola – Efforts at conflict resolution**

The NCU of Angola is currently reviewing a series of community project proposals in line with the new SFLP Community Project Preparation Guide. In order to deal with some of the issues raised in earlier proposals, the NCU has established new links with NGOs (*OXFAM*, *CARE-Angola*). They plan to conduct joint field visits with representatives of the NGOs in the near future to look at the implementation of some community development activities.

Discussions between representatives of selected small-scale fisheries communities, the Government MCS Department, and the *Instituto de Desenvolvimento da Pesca Artisanal* (IPA) showed a willingness to improve coastal fisheries management, particularly in reducing conflict between small-scale and industrial fishing through co-management. The EU-Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC) MCS Programme is a strong potential partner for coastal fisheries co-management initiatives in Angola.

## **Guinea (Conakry) – MCS monitoring and partnership seeking**

The NCU of Guinea (Conakry) organised a field visit to the Bongolon and Koukoude fisheries communities between 8 May and 8 June 2002 to record the changes perceived by stakeholders as a result of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) community project implemented there. During the visit, the communities listed among the positive results: (i) fewer incursions by industrial trawlers into zones reserved for small-scale fishers, leading to less conflict between them; (ii) increased production and income; (iii) the development of partnerships with national fisheries institutions in MCS activities; and (iv) recognition of the fisheries communities' role in MCS in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

Other communities along the coast have heard about the results of the community project and have requested for more information from the NCU. The NCU is planning to produce a video documentary on these outcomes. The next stage will be a forum to be organised early next year for all stakeholders to provide feedback on the outcome of the community project, and possible linkages between other donors, regional MCS institutions and the SFLP Pilot Project on coastal artisanal fisheries management.

## **Benin – National Coordinators' Meeting**

The National Coordinators' meeting to select the core countries for the two Pilot Projects was held at the Aledjo Hotel, Cotonou, from 16 to 18 September 2002. National Coordinators of 21 out of the 25 SFLP countries participated or were represented. Only those of Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Cape Verde and Sierra Leone were unable to attend. The SFLP Coordinator, R. Coutts, and the Regional Support Unit (RSU) team were also fully involved.

The 11 countries which presented their candidature for the two Pilot Projects made presentations and provided documents to support their eligibility. Participants were given the opportunity to express their concerns, ask questions and clarify details at every stage of the selection process, all of which assisted them in selecting four core countries for each Pilot Project. By the end of the workshop, Senegal, Gambia, Cameroon and Chad had emerged as core countries for the Pilot Project on *Post-Harvest Fisheries Livelihoods*, while Guinea, Mauritania, Congo Brazzaville, and Gabon were selected for Pilot Project on *Participatory Coastal Fisheries Management, including MCS*. The selected countries are to prepare the necessary fieldwork before the Planning workshops (see *Up-coming events*).

Long-standing issues in the NCU/RSU working relationship were also reviewed in a frank and exhaustive manner in order to develop a more mutually proactive and responsive partnership for resolving poverty, vulnerability and other issues in the small-scale fisheries livelihoods their respective countries.

## **African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Fish II Programme in the offing?**

FAO consultant, P. Manning, attended the National Coordinators' meeting and took the opportunity to introduce the European Union - African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries Fish II Programme.

He briefed participants on the project design process and its probable implementation, pointing out that the contribution of countries in the region at this stage would help to make up for the limitations experienced by ACP Fish I. The National Coordinators suggested that the SLA and the CCRF should be taken into consideration in the project design, and partnerships established with regional institutions in its implementation.

## **SFLP/LSP Sub-Programme on Natural Resource Conflict Management explores linkages**

The Natural Resource Conflict Management Officer of the FAO Livelihoods Support Programme (LSP), E. Nielsen, visited the RSU on 26 September 2002 to present the LSP, obtain information on the SFLP's work, and explore specific areas of collaboration between the two Programmes. Some immediate areas of collaboration were identified among ongoing SFLP activities in Ghana. Also discussed was how Pilot Projects in particular could benefit from lessons learned by the LSP.

The LSP will run for 5 years (2002 – 2007) and this sub-programme will mainly involve intensive training in conflict management. The process to be used for the exercise is based on the SL principles, a fact that further underlines the potential for collaboration with the SFLP. The programme design is on-going and training is scheduled to start in February 2003.

## **CECAF Scientific Sub Committee Meeting**

The second session of the Scientific Sub Committee of the Fisheries Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) met at the Spanish Institute of Oceanography in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain from 23 - 25 September 2002. The meeting was chaired by Samb and FAO Regional Office Accra, represented by Alhaji Jallow, provided the secretariat. FAO FIPL, FIRM and SFLP also participated. The Session was attended by 30 delegates from 17 Members of CECAF, and by observers from Angola, Namibia and the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Co-operation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO). In the two-year period since the first meeting, the working groups on Pelagic, Demersal and Artisanal Fisheries have put together key scientific and socio-economic management advice to be presented to the Committee (CECAF) 22-24 October 2002.

## Up-coming events

- **Planning workshops for Pilot Projects (Post Harvest)**, scheduled for 5 to 7 November 2002, and (*Participatory Coastal Fisheries Management*), 29 to 31 October, 2002.
- **Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)** 22-24 October 2002 Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain hosted by the Spanish Institute of Oceanography.
- **The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council international conference** from 19 to 22 November 2002. The forum is aimed at reducing the incidental catch of sea turtles and seabirds in long line gear, and comparing and discussing first-hand experiences. Interested long line fisherfolk from around the world are invited to attend. Travel assistance is available for those who need it (hotel, airfare costs, etc). For more information and registration brochures, please visit [www.wpcouncil.org](http://www.wpcouncil.org), or e-mail [Lucinda.Knapman@noaa.gov](mailto:Lucinda.Knapman@noaa.gov), or call (808) 522-5341.
- **Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa XIIth Session** 2-5 December 2002 Yaounde, Cameroon
- **A workshop to review and share** the experience of the *Projet de Gestion de Pêche de Sud-Ouest (GPSO)*, financed by the SFLP and the GTZ, is to be held in Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, 12-14 December 2002.

## New SFLP Community Projects

- **Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Niger, and Nigeria:** Institutional support for a *Study of the Contribution of Fish Marketing to Livelihoods in the Countries of the Chad Basin*.
- **Congo Brazzaville:** Support in strengthening the self-help activities of Makotipoko fisheries community and in the wide dissemination of the CCRF.
- **Congo Brazzaville:** Support in the diversification of the livelihoods of fisheries communities around the Conkouati-Douli National Reserve and in the co-management of the fishing zone in the marine area of the reserve
- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** Support in the diversification of the livelihoods of the Pool Malebo fisheries community, the establishment of structures to oversee the management of resources, and to organise and strengthen the capacities of self-help associations promoting health and economic activities.

