

SECTION 1

THE MAIN REPORT

REPORT OF THE SIXTH LIAISON OFFICERS MEETING

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Sixth Liaison Officers Meeting of the "Programme for the Integrated Development of Artisanal Fisheries in West Africa" was held in conjunction with a Workshop on Fisherfolk Organizations at the International Trypanotolerance Center (ITC) at Kerr Serign near Banjul, at the kind invitation of the Government of The Gambia from 1 - 5 February 1993.
2. Mr. O.L.K. Drammeh, Director of Fisheries in The Gambia welcomed the Liaison Officers and requested Dr. E. Bayagbona, FAO Representative for The Gambia, to address the participants.
3. On behalf of the Director General of FAO, Dr. Edouard Saouma and the Assistant Director General ad interim of the Fisheries Department, Dr. W. Krone, Dr. E. Bayagbona thanked the Government of The Gambia for hosting the session. Dr. Bayagbona stressed the importance of artisanal fisheries in the region, the need for promoting regional collaboration, paid tribute to DANIDA, the donor agency for the IDAF Programme, and called on other donor agencies to help the programme.
4. He also reiterated the role of an Advisory Committee of which the Liaison Officers are to IDAF and asked that due consideration be given to providing realistic orientations to the various issues particularly the propositions for the formulation of a third phase of the Programme as detailed in the agenda of the meeting.
5. The session was declared open on behalf of the Government of The Gambia by Mr. Ebou Manneh Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment.
6. The Liaison Officers Meeting was held from 1-2 February 1993 after the opening ceremony mentioned above. The meeting was attended by Liaison Officers of eighteen countries among the twenty associated with the Programme. Zaïre and Liberia were unable to attend. A much enlarged forum participated at the workshop from 3-5 February 1993. The list of participants is given in Appendix 1 of this report.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. Mr. O.L.K. Drammeh Director of Fisheries, The Gambia was by unanimous consent elected Chairman of the meeting with the Liaison Officers of Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria as rapporteurs.
8. The agenda, which appears in Appendix 2 was adopted. Appendix 3 contains the list of documents submitted to the session.
9. The IDAF team served as the Secretariat for the meeting.

ITEM 3. REPORT OF THE FIFTH LIAISON OFFICERS MEETING AND ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION

10. The Participants noted the actions taken by the Programme in response to the recommendations formulated during the fifth Liaison Officers Meeting. They felt that the recommendations have been satisfactorily implemented.
11. The Committee also noted the importance of the IDAF Newsletter and congratulated the Programme for the efforts undertaken to improve the contents and presentation of the Newsletter. It insisted that the Newsletter should serve as a vehicle for exchange of information and experiences and also as a publicity organ to enable the Programme to obtain the support of Governments and attract the attention of potential donors. The participants recommended that, if necessary, the Programme should type manuscripts of reports/articles sent to its Headquarters for authors who were unable to type their articles and that the Programme should also ensure adequate editing of articles so that the authors and the Programme will be proud of the quality of the publication. The Secretariat observed that the Programme anticipates receiving articles on a wide range of subject matter on artisanal fisheries and that such articles should not be more than four typed pages. Photographs, diagrams or drawings preferably a good print with adequate contrast to illustrate the article should also be enclosed.
12. The participants also appreciated the fact that study tours are an essential strategy in the work of IDAF, and agreed with the Secretariat that such study tours had not generally been taken seriously by some beneficiaries. In this light, if the Programme should pursue and develop this activity, it is indispensable to demonstrate their usefulness. Consequently, the Committee recommended that the writing of a high quality report after a study tour be made obligatory. The Programme would provide guidelines for the writing of such reports.

ITEM 4. PROGRESS REPORT 1 APRIL 1991 TO 31 DECEMBER 1992

13. The participants discussed document IDAF/VI/93/3 entitled "Progress Report 1 April 1991 to 31 December 1992". The Liaison Officers felt that in general the realizations are in line with the needs of the sector. However, certain participants regretted that their countries were not mentioned as the Programme did not undertake activities in their countries. In the endeavor to benefit from the Programme's interventions they wished to know the criteria by which the Programme undertakes activities. The Secretariat stated that there were several possibilities:

- a. the Liaison Officer's Meeting, which defines the needs and Programme of Work of IDAF;
- b. requests introduced by national authorities during duty travel by experts of the Programme; and
- c. official requests sent to IDAF by governments or associated projects.

14. Participants remarked that in the past Liaison Officers were not always associated with activities undertaken by IDAF in their countries. The Committee recommended that henceforth Liaison Officers be directly associated with activities of IDAF.

15. The participants indicated their attachment to study tours which permit the exchange of experiences. Due to the scarcity of funds for the rest of the second phase, it was recommended that other financial sources such as national projects be sought to undertake such activities if possible.

16. With regard to the Report of the seminar on credit for artisanal fisheries organized in collaboration with the EEC and which took place in Abidjan in September 1991, the Meeting was informed that it is the responsibility of the Regular Programme in FAO Headquarters in collaboration with the EEC to publish the proceedings. However, if this was not done before March 1993, IDAF plans to publish a Working Document of the five presentations which it made during the seminar.

17. The Secretariat indicated that some activities such as fishing trials on Centolla species in Sao Tome and Principe, elaboration of a fishing gear Catalogue for Congo as well as the setting up of a network of "researchers" on fishermen's migrations, that were planned in collaboration with other projects could not be realized during the period under review for reasons beyond its control.

ITEM 5. SUMMARY OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EVALUATION OF IDAF PHASE II

18. The participants noted the information provided in document IDAF/VI/93/5 and in particular appreciated the recommendation of the Evaluation Mission with regard to the status and role of the Liaison Officers. The Secretariat reiterated that on the request of IDAF, Liaison Officers have formally been designated by the Competent Authorities -usually the Minister- in charge of fisheries in their respective countries. Furthermore, they are henceforth closely associated with the activities of IDAF. The Programme systematically sends to Liaison Officers and their alternates IDAF publications, and requests their active contribution of articles to the Newsletter. Liaison Officers will also be informed of the different contacts established by experts of the Programme for specific subject matters or initiatives undertaken by the Programme in their countries.

19. The participants recommended that staff of the Programme while on duty travel in their respective countries should endeavor under the guidance of Liaison Officers to meet highly placed officials of the fisheries sector.

20. The participants stated that it would have been highly appreciated if the Evaluation Mission visited more than three countries, and if Liaison Officers were associated with the Evaluation of IDAF-Phase II. The Secretariat regretted that this was not possible in view of budgetary constraints and the fact that the new process of designating Liaison Officers had only then been initiated by the Programme.

21. In the endeavor to provide effective support to Liaison Officers, some participants suggested for national level meetings that bring together Liaison Officers, IDAF, and National projects. The Secretariat intimated that this would be studied on an individual basis.

22. Some Liaison Officers indicated that the integrated approach and the setting up of Fisheries Development Units was at the base of the IDAF philosophy. They regretted that the Evaluation Mission had given the impression in its recommendations that IDAF should abandon this strategy. The Secretariat pointed out that the recommendation is not to abandon this strategy but rather to expand it to cover other elements.

23. The participants strongly pointed out the importance which they attach to the recommendation concerning follow-up work on migrant fishermen, particularly with regards the status, rights and obligations of migrant fishermen in their host countries.

24. Some apparent contradictions in the evaluation report were pointed out by the Liaison Officers.

- a. *The regional character of the Programme is cited as a major strength, but the geographical coverage was said to be too ambitious.*

The Secretariat explained that this is better understood as the Evaluation Mission recommended that activities be tailored to the specificities of each of the sub-regions.

- b. *The results obtained at the sub-regional office in Guinea were considered to be positive yet the mission recommended a phasing-out of this office.*

It was pointed out that efforts would be made to complete activities already begun, but that the programme needed a unified critical mass at its Headquarters. Furthermore, the sub-regional office was dependant on Associate Professional Officers (APOs) whose financing was not certain.

- c. *The Programme activities were too vast, yet in the new strategy assigned to the Programme more elements are proposed.*

It was pointed out that the mission recommended that the Programme should not actively seek involvement in activities not directly related to the fisheries sector, and to extend its activities to aspects related to development planning and institutional strengthening, thus resolving the apparent contradiction.

25. Finally, the Liaison Officers considered that the results of the mission were very positive and heartily thanked the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark for her continued support to the IDAF Programme.

26. The meeting endorsed the recommendation that DANIDA seriously consider the possibility of funding an IDAF Phase III.

ITEM 6. PROGRAMME OF WORK JANUARY - DECEMBER 1993

27. The Secretariat presented an overview of IDAF's proposed Work Programme for 1993 (document IDAF/VI/93/4) and asked for comments, observations and recommendations.

28. A number of Liaison Officers commended IDAF on the quality of the documents, and expressed general agreement with the thrusts and orientations of the proposed Work Programme.

29. Participants also remarked that the work programme was very ambitious. It was suggested that IDAF should concentrate on a limited number of well-chosen activities, with long term impact and multiplying effects.

The participants recommended that the information system be revamped in order to diffuse results, and that Systematic self-evaluation of IDAF activities be pursued.

30. A large number of Liaison Officers stressed the need to lay emphasis on fish processing and marketing. The participants recommended that collaboration between IDAF and the EEC Regional Programme for the Utilization of Fishery Products be reinforced.

31. An equally large number of participants drew attention to their concern with safety at sea and Cap Vert, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, and Sao Tome and Principe requested IDAF's assistance with respect to this problem.

32. The IDAF Regional Fellowship mechanism was very well accepted, with participants specifically expressing their satisfaction with this initiative. The participants recommended that adequate publicity be given to this strategy, so that many countries and specialists in the region may be involved.

33. The participants noted the need for study tours within the region which aims at reinforcing the competence of personnel within the region and also expressed the wish to see inter-project meetings organized.

34. Several countries requested assistance with their systems for gathering fisheries statistics and expressed satisfaction with the proposed joint IDAF/CECAF Sub-Regional Workshop on the subject for the Central Gulf of Guinea.

35. Nigeria and several countries requested that training workshops on the use of Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) techniques and methods in conducting baseline studies be organized in their countries.

36. Concern was expressed about the status rights and obligations of migrant fishermen in their host countries and the Programme was asked to continue work in this area.

37. Guinea and Nigeria requested IDAF assistance in carrying out economic evaluation/feasibility studies on different types of fishing boats.

38. Côte d'Ivoire expressed interest in collaborating with IDAF in elaborating a fishing gear catalog in that country.

39. Participants underlined the need to pay specific attention to activities directly related to women.

40. Gabon volunteered to be one of the pilot countries for an in-depth study on the situation of the artisanal fisheries sub-sector.

41. Finally, the participants expressed their contentment to be seriously consulted about the substantive content of the Work Programme for 1993

ITEM 7. IDEAS FOR THE FORMULATION OF A PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR IDAF PHASE III

42. The Secretariat presented document IDAF/VI/93/6 pointing out that the Tripartite Evaluation Team of IDAF Phase II had recommended that in keeping with the Concepts and Strategies that the Programme promotes, Liaison Officers be intimately associated in the formulation of IDAF Phase III.

43. The Liaison Officers strongly endorsed the recommendation of the Evaluation Team that there should be a Phase III of the IDAF Programme focussing on sustainability of the actions undertaken. The organization of the proposed programme into the three themes of sustainability and socio-economic issues, technology transfer, and planning and management received their full support.

44. A number of delegations expressed their uneasiness with the Evaluation Team's recommendation to "abandon" exclusive reference to an integrated approach was worded, and hoped that the language used in the final proposal for Phase III would be less open to misinterpretation. They underlined the importance they attach to the integrated aspect of IDAF's approach.

45. Several countries requested that the phrasing in the section "Sustainable Management and Development of Fishery Resources" be slightly modified to accomodate their strong interest in the management of coastal mangrove areas for maximum fish production.

46. The Committee felt that sub-dividing the region into North, Central and South segments was a good way to help closely adapt IDAF's activities to their somewhat different needs and priorities.

47. The members strongly expressed their desire to participate in the formulation of the Phase III project proposal and agreed with the idea that each of the three sub-regions choose one member from among themselves to represent them in the Working Group for the formulation of the Phase III proposal.

48. The Liaison Officers of The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Cameroon were chosen as representatives for their respective sub-regions.

ITEM 8. OTHER MATTERS

49. Liaison Officers vividly expressed appreciation to the financing agency DANIDA for continuing its interest in the project.

50. The Government of The Gambia was thanked for its hospitality.

ITEM 9. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

51. The Liaison Officers adopted the present report and asked the Secretariat to ensure its finalization and proceed with its distribution.

ITEM 10. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

52. IDAF's Sixth Liaison Officers Meeting was declared closed by Mr. A. Samba, Assistant Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment.