

For immediate release: October 7, 2008

Saving a West African manatee

Background:

In April 2008, the inter-village association for the management and exploitation of Wendou Kanel pool (in Matam region, North Senegal) and the Kanel County Fisheries Department joined efforts to rescue a West African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) trapped by low water levels in a former branch of the Senegal River. Wetlands International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) provided funding for the ceremony and produced the documentary.

Key events:

- See the film, which retraces the day's events from the opening ceremony, with local authorities and high-level State officials, to the capture of the manatee and its subsequent release in an area better adapted to its survival.
- Through this short film learn more about the manatee. The many narrative accounts given by Thiouballo fishermen and local fisheries department representatives provide greater insight into the habits of this shy creature whose numbers are steadily declining.
- The Director of Continental Fisheries and Aquaculture in Senegal expressed his strong interest in seeing measures implemented to conserve this species.
- Produced by Wetlands International (Dakar), 2007, French, English subtitles, 10 min.

When: 7 October, 2008, at 11:00-11:15 in Room 450

Spokesperson:

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About IUCN

IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges by supporting scientific research; managing field projects all over the world; and bringing governments, NGOs, the UN, international conventions and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

The world's oldest and largest global environmental network, IUCN is a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists and experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. IUCN's headquarters are located in Gland, near Geneva, in Switzerland.

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