

Project Update: May 2011

The project started by an exploratory field visit and some meetings with services, departments and NGOs working in wildlife conservation in southern Bénin.

Since April 2011, data have been collected on *Trichechus senegalensis* distribution, ecology, behaviour, ethnozoology and threats in Ouinhi district through focus group discussion, semi-structured interviews using a questionnaire and participant observations.



Left: Head of manatee captured by people of SEGNON village. Right: Manatee captured in Slré Lac by local people of SEGON and kept in the village into a small pond where the animal is regularly fed and water is renewed.



Left: Stroking the captured manatee. Right: Local people of Segon village curiously looking at the manatee capture in Slré Lac, for many of them, it was the first time they were seeing manatee.



Left: Meeting with stakeholders (Fishermen, farmers, local people, NGO working for manatee preservation) to explain the objectives of the project. Right: Nature Tropical NGO acts in Ouinhi district to protect manatees by initiating soya production.