



## **Amazonian manatee calf rescued by the Mamirauá Institute**

The orphan Amazonian manatee calf rescued this past July in a community of Aranapu Channel, Solimões river (some 100 km from Tefé, AM), Mamirauá Sustainable Development Reserve (MSDR) is in good health. Given its recovery, he may be moved to the natural environment, in the Amanã Sustainable Development Reserve as early as January next year.

The rescue was conducted by the “Conservation and Sustainable Use of Aquatic Resources of the Flooded Forests of Mamirauá and Amanã” team, of the Mamirauá Institute for Sustainable Development (MISD), funded by Petrobras through its Environment Program.

The male calf is presently in a 4.000 l-tank, in a floating house on the Tefé Lake, and is cared for daily by a team of 5 professionals and several helpers. Food offered includes a milk formula and aquatic plants collected in the lake. The animal is also under veterinary care, as it arrived with several cuts and scratches, and a deep harpoon wound on the back, which is now healed. Piti Aranapu, as the animal is known, has gained 9 kg since his arrival (now at 44,5 kg) and grew from 114 to 127 cm.

In August, the veterinarian Magnus Machado Severo, national coordinator for the Coastal Manatee Project of the Aquatic Mammal Center (CMA) travelled to Tefé, with the support by the Overbrook Foundation. The objective was to evaluate the animal’s condition, including a clinical examination, biometry and blood analysis.

MISD’s proposal is to transport the animal to the natural environment as soon as it is deemed apt for that. The animal will be installed in a semi-natural



tank, for a gradual adaptation followed by definitive return to the wild. The return depends on its complete recovery, but it is already possible to foresee that this process will start in January. “We also intend to adapt a belt-mounted radio-tag to the animal’s tail, such that its movements and readaptation may be monitored over time”, said Miriam Marmontel, coordinator of MIDS’s Aquatic Mammal Group. The recommendation derives from the experience of the Group, that for the past 14 years has been conducting research with manatees in the mid-Solimões area.

Piti was accidentally entangled in a fishing net on June 30th. Taken to the community, it was placed in a tank with a metal mesh. Following the call of a volunteer environment agent, who works at MSDR, the animal was given to the MISD’s Aquatic Mammal group and taken to Tefé, AM, where MISD is located.