



Fifty Adanson's Mud Turtles released at the Tocc-Tocc Community Natural Reserve, Lake Guiers, Senegal

The conservation committee of the Tocc-Tocc Community Natural Reserve and African Chelonian Institute are pleased to announce the release of fifty juvenile Adanson's mud turtles (scientific name *Pelusios adansonii*) at Tocc-Tocc Community Natural Reserve located on January 4, 2017. Tocc-Tocc Reserve is located on the northeastern side of Lake Guiers near the town of Richard Toll, Senegal.

This release will help boost the wild population of this declining species, protected by Senegalese law (article D36 of the code of hunting and protection of the Fauna), and it is notable for several reasons. The release was the first time this type population management activity has been carried out for the Adanson's mud turtle anywhere in the specie's range. Additionally, Lake Guiers is the only remaining place in Senegal where the species exists, so it is very important for their survival. The turtles were born in captivity during the summer of 2016 at **The Rhodin Center /African Chelonian Institute** in Ngaparou, at the turtle protection and breeding station near Mbour, Senegal, West Africa. After a five-month growth and head-start stage, 50 juvenile turtles reached an average size of 68 mm long, 51 mm wide and weight 45 grams. The young turtles were ready to be released into their native wild environment.

The populations of the five villages on the Tocc-Tocc Reserve have been engaged for several years in unprecedented conservation progress. Tocc-Tocc Reserve is now Senegal's [fifth Ramsar site](#), a prestigious designation for wetlands area of international importance. The exceptional natural heritage which constitutes Lake Guiers and its adjacent area, is managed with the help and supervision of public authorities (National Parks Service, Water and Forestry Service, and Ronkh Commune).

Photos from our very successful turtle releases at Tocc-Tocc Reserve in northern Senegal. People from all 5 villages that created the reserve attended and everyone had fun letting the baby turtles go! We plan to make this an annual event to increase the population of this vulnerable turtle.





Thank you to our sponsors for funding this work:

