



saving data saving lives

MARCH 2008 Issue

IEDRO 

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See who's asking about us now.

*(where are the palm trees ?)*

● *read about:*

SENEGAL

International Data Rescue Organization

# IEDRO

## République du Sénégal

“Un Peuple, Un But, Une Foi”



courtesy of Radosław Botev.



“One People, One Goal, One Faith”

Senegal is located in Western Africa, south of Mauritania. Mali (eastern) and Guinea and Guinea-Bissau (southern) are Senegal's other neighboring African countries. The capital city of Dakar is located on Les Mamelles" a 350 foot high cliff on the Cap-Vert peninsula . One kilometer south of Dakar at the Pointe des Almadies is the most western point of continental Africa.

Nestled within Senegal lies the country of Gambia, surrounded on three borders by Senegalese land. Only the western tip of Gambia reaches the shores of the Atlantic Ocean with the Gambia River guiding the country inland approximately 300 kilometers or 186 miles.

The Senegalese landscape consists mainly of low rolling plains rising to foothills in the southeast. Senegal's highest point is 584 m (1926 ft) and its lowest where land meets the Atlantic Ocean. The Senegal River runs along the northern border. The climate is tropical, hot and humid with the rainy season from May to November. Dakar's annual rainfall is about 600 mm (24 in) with temperatures maxing at an average 27 °C (81 °F). Senegal's dry season (from December to April) is dominated by hot, dry, harmattan wind with the lowest temperatures of about 17 °C (63°F). Harmattan is a dry and dusty West African trade wind that blows south from Sahara into the Gulf of Guinea. As it moves over the desert the harmattan collects fine dust particles. Dust and sand can be blown right across the Atlantic to the North American continent Tambacounda in the south eastern corner can get as high as 54 °C (130 °F). Tambacounda is renowned for its rich djembe and dance culture.



Senegal has a population of nearly 13 million (CIA, July 2008) with mainly 70 percent living in rural areas. Between 1989 and 1991 over 20,000 Mauritians entered Senegal fleeing ethnic persecution (World Refugee Survey 2008). N'dioum and Dodel became their home away from home with others staying close to the Mauritanian border along the Senegal River. In January 2008 many Mauritanian refugees began to return to their homeland under a tripartite agreement between Senegal, Mauritania and the UNHCR . Senegal hosted refugees from Liberia, Sierra Leone, and other countries.

The main religion is Islam practiced by about 95 percent of the country's population. French is the official language but several ethnic languages are also used. Wolof, Pulaar, Portuguese Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Kriol, and Portuguese are spoken throughout the country. Food processing, mining, cement, artificial fertilizer, chemicals, textiles, refining imported petroleum, and tourism are Senegal's primary industries. Fish, chemicals, cotton, fabrics, groundnuts, and calcium phosphate are the major exports.

The average life expectancy of a Senegalese adult is about 58 years. Health risks include food and waterborne diseases (bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever); vectorborne diseases (Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, dengue fever, malaria, Rift Valley fever, and yellow fever); schistosomiasis – a water contact disease and the respiratory disease meningococcal meningitis (CIA 2008)

Learn about IEDRO's Senegal Project: go to <http://www.iedro.com/Senegal.htm>



# *International* data rescue news

*"Thank you to all our active  
volunteers for their commitment  
and hard work."*

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## Brief Updates

### Strip chart digitization

Ed received the strip chart program sent to IEDRO from the Director of the Peruvian National Meteorological Service. Ed continues to work on developing formats within which to store the rescued data.

### Website Development

DeAnn and Jean-Paul continue to move the web site development forward. The volunteers section will be updated with biographical information showing the diversity of backgrounds and talents that all our volunteers share with us.

### Tanzania

The letter to Tanzania has been drafted and sent to the new Director General of the national meteorological agency. We hope to have another project going there soon.

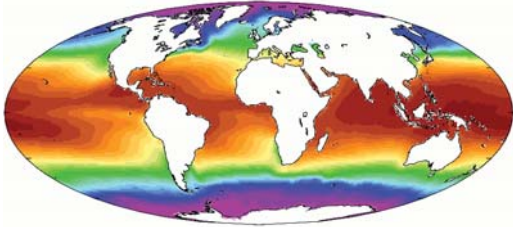
### Volunteer Handbook

Mike Walker has produced two policy statements which will be incorporated into the IEDRO volunteer handbook.

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# Welcome Our newest Meteorologist

Susan Callis



Welcome to our newest volunteer: Susan Callis, a former colleague of Rick. Susan recently retired from the National Weather Service and has joined IEDRO as our newest volunteer. Susan is a degreed meteorologist and has worked in both operations and research and is back with NOAA as a government contractor.

## International Interest in Data Rescue *working together with one goal*



IEDRO continues to receive much worldwide interest about data rescue. Recent requests for IEDRO's assistance have come from El Salvador, Azerbaijan, the Philippines, Turkey, Guyana and Sri Lanka.



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## International Data Rescue News

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