

## The Amazonian Manatee – an aquatic gentle giant

The Manatee had an extinct cousin named the Steller's Sea Cow and is now unfortunately also endangered. Its worldwide population is over 13,000. They live between 50 and 60 years. However, boats, fishing nets, habitat loss and pollution can impact their lifespan.

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### **Habitat**

Manatees live in warm waters and shallow rivers. They usually stay in bays, estuaries and coastal waters. They like to be near power plants, which warm the waters.

### **Appearance**

The Manatees' colour varies from brown to grey. It has 2 small front flippers, a flat horizontal tail and small eyes. They see and hear quite well, and have whiskers on the tip of their nose. The Amazonian Manatee usually weighs around 420kg and is around 2.8m long.



## Food

Manatees are herbivores and mostly eat sea grass. They enjoy fresh water plants. Their main activity is rest and feed.



## Did you know?

You can find Manatees in 3 different places around the world:

- Amazon river (South America)
- Florida (USA – North America) and West Indies
- West Africa

There is another specie called the Dugong. It lives in warm coastal waters from East Africa to Australia, including the Red Sea, Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean.

Watch on [Google Earth](#) some interesting videos I have found on Manatees around the world.

