

IUCN SSC Otter Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



Nicole Duplaix

Chair

Nicole Duplaix ⁽¹⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

Syed A. Hussain ⁽²⁾

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ Oregon State University, Fisheries and Wildlife, Corvallis, OR 97331, US

⁽²⁾ Wildlife Institute of India, Post Box # 18, Dehra Dun - 248001, India

Number of members

320

Social networks

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/OtterSpecialistGroup

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/iucn_otterspecialistgroup

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/IUCN_OSG

Websites:

www.iucnosg.org

www.himalayanotternetwork.org



Mission statement

The Otter Specialist Group (OSG), founded in 1974: (1) provides leadership for the conservation of all 13 otter species; (2) determines and reviews on a continuing basis the status and needs of otters, and promotes the implementation of necessary research, conservation and management programs by appropriate organizations and governments; (3) communicates the status and conservation needs of otters and promotes the wise management of otter species.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Capacity building

■ Scientific meetings

i. Planned and led the 13th International Otter Congress, Singapore, July 2016.

Communications

■ Agreements

i. Launched Nepal Otter Network. (KSR #29)

■ Communication

i. Published Southeast Asian Otter Manifesto. (KSR #28)

ii. Published OSG Bulletin twice a year. (KSR #28)

■ Research activities

i. Published 1st Otter Trade Asia Report. (KSR #32)

Conservation action

■ Scientific meetings

i. Participated in the Nepal Otter Network Meeting, January 2017.

Acknowledgements

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Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: Red List reassessment of 13 species.

Bolster work at national scales

Proposal development and funding: publish Global Otter Conservation Strategy.

Communications

Communication: publish two issues of OSG Bulletin per year.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: expand otter projects of South Asia and the African Otter Network.

Scientific meetings: (1) review the draft Global Otter Conservation Strategy at the Otter Conservation Planning Workshop, Singapore, September 2018; (2) plan and prepare the 14th International Otter Congress, Chengdu, China; (3) participate in 2nd Nepal Otter Network meeting; (4) participate in the Conservation Planning Specialist Group Meeting, Bangkok, October 2018; (5) lead "The Eurasian Otter in the Alps: towards a common strategy across boundaries" meeting, October 2018; (6) participate in the Congress of Zoology, Bogota, Colombia, December 2018.



Giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*), Endangered, Brazil
Photo: Nicole Duplaix

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

By the end of 2020, we envision a substantial advance in reducing the extinction risks of the four otter species in Asia, our current high priority, and three species in South America. We published the Asian Otter Conservation Manifesto in 2016 and have been developing our Global Otter Conservation Strategy, which will be completed in late 2018. The Plan will list regional conservation priorities for each species and the budgets required, which will help us accelerate project funding and implementation by 2020. We published our second report on the Illegal Otter Trade in Asia in 2018, which expands our targeted conservation actions and communication programs in the region. In South America, we are actively expanding our efforts to bolster national initiatives and programs for three endangered otter species in Brazil, Peru, Chile and Argentina with targeted field research, local assistance from NGOs and national parks.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 3/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Capacity building (1 activity)
 - Communications (4 activities)
 - Conservation action (1 activity)
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Main KSRs addressed: 28, 29, 32

KSR: Key Species Result