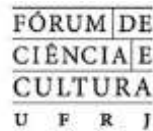


IUCN OSG 12th International Otter Congress

11-15 August, 2014 – Rio de Janeiro, RJ – Brazil

Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro – Fórum de Ciência & Cultura



2nd Circular

Dear otter enthusiasts,

This is the second circular of the **12th IUCN OSG International Otter Congress** in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

As mentioned in the first circular, the meeting will take place 11-15 August 2014 at Fórum de Ciência e Cultura of Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). It brought together scientists, practitioners and policy formers from all parts of the world. For more information, please access the web site of the congress (<https://sites.google.com/site/ottercongress>). These are both exciting and challenging times for conservationists and we expect XII IOC to be an event that will be remembered as a milestone for otter conservation!

We are pleased to announce that registration is now open! Early bird fee will be available until April 15th. The fee includes coffee breaks, welcome party cocktail, and all conference presentations (programme overview). On Saturday 16th all interested people will have the opportunity to participate in a tour (not included in the registration fee) and visit magical Serra dos Órgãos National Park at Teresópolis (more information below). We also have news on information on Post-Conference tour and accommodation booking, with good options very close to the event.

So register today and join us this August in the Marvelous City!

Organizers

Description

The event is the main meeting of the Otter Specialist Group (OSG) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). IUCN is a nonprofit organization that is responsible, among others, by the definition of the degree of threat to most species on the planet. This conference is important to discuss conservation status and future strategies for the 13 otter species that exist around the globe and to have threats to their conservation mitigated.

Dedicated exclusively to the discussion of ecology, biology and conservation of otters, the Otter Congress is carried out every three years and for the first time will occur in Brazil.

As an opportunity to share concerns, concepts, taxonomy, ecology and study skills among otter researchers, this congress is the most appropriate place to discuss all these issues. The event will be held for five consecutive days, mainly based on oral and poster presentations on various topics related to otters.

Historically, the International Congress of Otters is held alternately between the different continents of occurrence of the 13 otter species. The last three were conducted in North America in 2004 (Frostburg, USA), Asia in 2007 (Hwacheon, South Korea) and Europe in 2011 (Pavia, Italy). So, now it's the time of South America. Through a partnership between the Brazilian Society of Mastozoology (SBMz), Graduate Program in Ecology and UFRJ IUCN Otter Specialist, consolidated the project promote the XII International Otter Congress in the city of Rio de Janeiro, the main tourist spot in the country and with enough infrastructure that allows easy movement of participants, and possessing excellent hotel infrastructure.

The theme of the XII IOC in 2014 will be "An Action Plan for the Future", in order to set feasible goals to allow the conservation of 13 existing species of otters. As the species have different characteristics and conflicts, it is necessary to understand what is a common problem for all species and what is specific to each and also the development of different action plan is indispensable.

The choice of the city couldn't be more appropriate. The partnership of IUCN OSG, Sociedade Brasileira de Mastozoologia (SBMz) and Graduate Program in Ecology of

Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) allowed us to hold the Meeting in Rio de Janeiro.

Brazil is recognized by its incredible biological diversity, with more than 640 mammalian species, including two species of otter: the giant otter *Pteronura brasiliensis* and the neotropical otter *Lontra longicaudis*. Atlantic Forest, where Rio de Janeiro is situated, is an important hotspot of biodiversity, and also has a lot of endemic species, many of them threatened with extinction. Once more than 70% of Brazilian human population lives in Atlantic Forest region, the biome is severely fragmented, with less than 10% of its territory being pristine/preserved areas.

As a venue to share concerns, concepts and techniques among professional otter researchers, this 12th International Otter Congress, with the theme of “An Action Plan to the Future” is the place to discuss all those issues. We hope to welcome otter enthusiasts with different interests in biology, conservation and management of otters of all over the world.

For more information, please go to the website of the congress (<https://sites.google.com/site/ottercongress>) or our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ottercongress>).

We hope to see you all next year in Rio de Janeiro!!

Location and Dates

The location of 12th I.O.C will be the “Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (www.ufrj.br). The Congress will be at Fórum de Ciência e Cultura (<http://www.forum.ufrj.br/>), situated at Praia Vermelha Campus (Av. Pasteur, 250 / 2nd floor – Urca). The Congress will begin with the registration on Sunday, August 11th, and will end on Friday, 15th. An optional field trip is being planned after the Congress on 16th to Parque Nacional da Serra dos Órgãos (Serra dos Órgãos National Park). More information below.

Organisers

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Scientific Programme

The official language of the congress will be English. The Congress will focus on various aspects of research and conservation, and will include daily conferences and sessions in the morning, and oral and poster sessions on the afternoon.

The abstracts of the submitted papers will be published in a special edition of IUCN Otter Specialist Group Bulletin

(<http://www.otterspecialistgroup.org/Bulletin/IUCNOSGBull.html>)

Schedule

**OSG Otter Congress XIII - An Action Plan for the future
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil August, 2014**

Hour	1st day (Aug, 11th)	2nd Day (Aug, 12th)	3rd day (Aug, 13th)	4th day (Aug, 14th)	5th day (Aug, 15th)	6th day (Aug, 16th)	
09:00		Conference (Anna Roos)	Conference (Klaus Koepfli)	Conference (Mark Stanley Price)	Conference (Jordi Ruiz-Olmo)	Field Trip Serra dos Órgãos National Park OK Depart on 8:00 AM	
09:30		Break	Break	Break	Break		
10:00		SESSION 1 Conflicts	SESSION2 Genetics Taxonomy Isolated populations (Juan Valqui, Carol Ribas)	SESSION 3 Field Techniques and Modeling (Anna Loy, Lorenzo Quaglietta, Caroline Leuchtenberger)	OSG Continental meetings		
10:30		Asian Trade Bushmeat					
11:00		Ecotourism Fish					
11:30		Farming (Juliana Quadros/ Helene Jacques/Padma de Silva /Tom Serfass /Max Sepulveda)					
12:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
12:30							
13:00							
13:30		Reception	Continental recent findings and reports	Oral presentations	Latin American Otter Database (Rob Williams)		OSG Continental meetings results
14:00					IUCN Red List Updates (Hussain)		
14:30				Oral presentations	Oral presentations		Oral presentations
15:00							
15:30							
16:00	Opening Plenary (Nicole Duplaix)	Break	Break	Break	Break		
16:30	World view	Oral presentations	Oral presentations	Oral presentations	Oral presentations		
17:00	Conservation: Fisheries Collapse, Asian otter crisis, OSG Action Plan (Jim Estes)						
17:30							
18:00	Opening Cocktail				Closing Speech (Nicole Duplaix)		
18:30							
19:00							
19:30							
20:00							
20:30							
21:00				BANQUET (Churrascaria) / AUCTION	Closing party		
21:30							
22:00							
22:30							
23:00							

Registration

Registration is now open. All participants must register on-line at

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MnYEkyv2_XcRZ_aUrdRvJkZ_w558nq64bYC8n4_9ZtyY/viewform)

Early bird fee will be available until March 15th. Register today and warrantee your place in the Congress.

All information about dates, prices and categories are listed below and are included in the Congress site at <https://sites.google.com/site/ottercongress/registration>

Registration costs as follows:

	Professional	Devel. Country Professional	Student or SBMz Professional	SBMz Student /Accompanying person
Early Registration (before 15 March 2014)	US\$ 200	US\$ 150	US\$ 120	US\$ 100
Normal Registration (15 March 2014 to 31 May 2014)	US\$ 250	US\$ 180	US\$ 140	US\$ 125
Late Registration (after 1 June 2014)	US\$ 300	US\$ 220	US\$ 170	US\$ 150

To register, please, use the daily currency to convert to money of your country.

BRAZILIANS

Bank: Banco do Brasil (number of the bank in Brazil is 0001)

Agency: 0287-9

Bank Account: 74921-4

CPF (if necessary): 053389697-50

Name: Marcelo Lopes Rheingantz

FOREIGNERS

The first one is to transfer/deposit directly to the meeting bank account using swift code and IBAN numbers.

SWIFTCODE: BRASBRRJSB0 (note that the last one is the number zero)

IBAN: 001028790000749214

The second option is to use paypal, where you need to register yourself, but can pay with different options, as credit cards.

Abstract submissions

The deadline for abstracts is **April 15th, 2014** and notifications of acceptance or review will be sent to the corresponding author by **May 15th, 2014**.

Aiming to allow a detailed and careful revision of the texts by the reviewers, the abstracts must be max 400 words long, including title and authors. We will publish an abstract book all in .pdf. Abstracts must be in English and include text only (no pictures, tables or graphics). The files must have title, authors, affiliation, keywords (maximum 5, with species and biome), introduction, methods, results and discussion. The file must be in .doc or .docx extension. Abstracts must be submitted electronically using the online abstract submission system. You will find the model of abstract below in the file attached as .docx and .pdf format.

Please note that at least one presenter for each accepted abstract must register for the congress and pay the registration fee **by April 15th, 2014**. Abstracts without a registered presenter by this date will be removed from the congress programme and materials.

Each registered attendants may present two contributions as first author (one oral and one poster)

Accepted abstracts will be included in the abstract volume that will be posted in the congress web page and in the conference cd.

The authors can choose to give their presentations orally or in a poster, during the poster section. The scientific committee will evaluate the work submitted and decide on the acceptance or not, with no possibility of review of the decision. In case of the number of submissions for oral presentations exceed the time and sections available, the scientific committee will decide which will be presented orally. The others will be relocated to the presentation in poster form.

The responsible of each oral presentation must give its .ppt, .pps, .pptx extension 24 hours before its performance to the congress desk, to test if any problem occur. The presentations will be limited to a maximum of 10 minutes, time that will be securely

maintained by the congress organization. After the oral presentation, there will be five more minutes for questions of the public.

Posters must have 120 cm height and 90 cm width maximum. The poster presentation will occur during the afternoon coffee break during the entire meeting, but the exposure of each poster will depend on the number of posters.

Abstracts that do not follow the rules outlined in the size and formatting template files, or that are based on a research in progress whose preliminary results do not allow that proposed objectives have been achieved, abstracts that does not clearly present the rationale and relevance of the objectives or abstracts whose methods are not suitable for the proposed objectives will not be accepted.

So, please, write it carefully.

Accommodations

Please see through the link below the list of hotels and hostels suggested by the organizing committee. We tried to concentrate them to facilitate the logistic during the meeting.

All hotels and hostels options are included in the map

<https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=z8dPT48uUrM.kaU60zkluPns>

If you put the mouse above the name of the hotel/hostel, you can find more information about it, including the link to the website and regular prices.

Post-congress field trip to Serra dos Órgãos National Park

Date: August 16th, 2014

Price: US\$ 45,00 (includes bus transport, entrance fee, water and a light lunch)

Duration: 1 day

The post-congress field trip can be scheduled in advance, until July, 10th.

The Serra dos Órgãos National Park (PARNASO) was created in 1939, being the third oldest national park in Brazil. Its name derives from the peculiar shapes of the mountains around, which resemble an organ pipe (*órgão*, in Portuguese). It covers nearly 20.024 ha of Atlantic Forest (global biodiversity hot spot) in the Serra do Mar mountain range, Rio de Janeiro State.

In our tour, we are going to visit the main headquarters of the park, located in the municipality of Teresópolis, 90 km northeastern Rio de Janeiro city. This Protected Area is region of occurrence of the Neotropical otter *Lontra longicaudis*. Although occurring there, this otter is very difficult to see in Atlantic Forest, so we will look for neotropical otter signs in rivers surrounding Teresópolis headquarters.

PARNASO offers several trails – most of them are short and can be hiked in a few hours, making it possible to explore more than one during the day. It is also possible to swim in natural pools and small waterfalls along trails. Picnic areas are available. In PARNASO visitor Centre there is a small permanent exhibit about the park, and also a gift shop.

Expected temperatures can be between 11-24 degrees Celsius in August during the day. Participants should wear comfortable outdoor clothes, and bring swimming suits if weather conditions are favorable. Although rains are not common this time of the year, it is recommended to bring raincoats or waterproof jackets. Other recommended items are proper closed shoes (tennis or hiking boots), sunscreen, hat, and insect repellent.

More information about the park can be obtained just in portuguese at <http://www.icmbio.gov.br/parnaserradosorgaos/>

Post-Congress Tour to Cantão State Park at Tocantins (17-22 August)

We are defining the details about suggestions on flights from Rio to Palmas and what will be done in each day and soon we will bring new information about the post-congress tour.

About Cantão State Park Ecosystem

Running along 2.627 kilometers in the heart of Brazil, crossing five Brazilian states, the Araguaia River is one of the 30 largest rivers in the world. Larger than the Ganges or the Colorado, its water discharge averages 6.172 cubic meters per second - three times that of the Nile. In the course of its waters, lies the largest freshwater island in the world, the 2 million-hectare Ilha do Bananal. The island is home of 20 native Karajá-Javaé and Ava-Kanoero Indian reserves, and of a 180.000-hectare National

Park. Adjacent to the National Park lies the 90.000-hectare Cantão State Park, one of the most pristine sanctuaries for the Amazonian “igapó”, or flooded forest, in Brazil.

The region known as [Cantão](#) lies in the northernmost part of the Bananal Island’s alluvial plains. Araguaia River and Ilha do Bananal are large frontiers between three biomes: to the East of the river lies the State of Tocantins, with its typical Cerrado vegetation of central Brazil, consisting of extensive native grasslands and pastures with scattered bush, palm tree and gallery forests; to the west of the Araguaia, in the State of Pará, the tall Amazon forest ends abruptly at the river’s edge; and towards the Southwest the Araguaia meets the Pantanal, in the State of Mato Grosso.

The 90.000-hectare Cantão State Park is located between Latitude 9-10S and Longitude 50W. In the State of Tocantins, a fairly well preserved sample of Cerrado reaches the edge of Rio do Côco, the park’s limits to the east. On the other side, in the State of Pará, the west bank of the Araguaia marks the sharp end of the Amazon dry land rainforest. Here, large portions of the forest have given place to pasture and farms. The shallow lakes formed during the dry season are the main characteristic of the alluvial plains of Cantão, congregating cayman, jabiru and other aquatic birds typical of the Pantanal, which co-exist with hoatzins and other birds typical do the Amazon.

All through the wet season, the Araguaia floods the grounds of Cantão State Park. During the dry season, the water recedes to the riverbed, leaving behind hundreds of isolated lakes, which serve as reproductive and nursing grounds for several species of Amazon fish. Cantão alone hosts 800 out of the 1100 lakes in the region, and is often referred to as the “nursery of the Araguaia”, with more species of fish than in the whole of Europe. Such abundance of fish has turned Cantão’s igapós, lakes and canals into one of the best habitats for aquatic predators such as the pink dolphin, the giant otter, the black caiman, pirarucú fish and the jaguar, known to be the most aquatic feline.

Thus the ecosystem of Cantão State Park is comprised by a unique combination of animals and plants from three major biomes: the Cerrado, the Pantanal and – predominantly – the Amazon flooded forest. This distinguishing feature makes Cantão one of the most important protected areas within the Brazilian Amazon. Significant populations of Neotropical otters and giant otters live in the

wetlands of the central Araguaia river, and in particular within Cantão State Park, which with its 843 oxbow lakes and extensive flooded forests and marshlands is one of the best habitat patches for this species in Brazil.

Tour to Cantão

After the Congress, we are organizing a tour to Cantão State Park. We will depart from Rio de Janeiro on 17th, August to Palmas, Tocantins. After everyone arrives in Palmas, Instituto Natureza do Tocantins (Naturatins - <http://naturatins.to.gov.br/>) will provide transportation from Palmas to Caseara, where is its Central Office. Naturatins will also provide simple accommodations in its dorm rooms (for those will be necessary bring bed linen). For people who wants more confort, there are some hotels with breakfast and wi-fi included near from the Park Central Office. Naturatins will also allow us to get in into the park and will provide boats and fuel in river incursions.

Instituto Araguaia (<http://www.araguaia.org/cantao/Home.html>), will provide the first lunch.

Each participant must pay his/her airflight (Rio-Palmas and Palmas-Rio) and must bring bed linen (in the case of being in the park dorms) and will also be responsible for its own meals. We can buy food provision in city center and there are cheap restaurants and fast-foods too.

The field trip will length 4 days in park visiting, and we will depart from Casear to Palmas on 22nd, August and immediately back to Palmas and Rio/São Paulo.

More information with Marcelo Rheingantz (mlrheingantz@gmail.com) and Silvana Campello (institutoaraguaia@araguaia.org).

Regards,

Organizing Committee