



**16<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL**



**OTTER**

**CONGRESS**

**24-28th February 2025, Lima, Peru**



The Otter Specialist Group (OSG) is part of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and has been leading global otter conservation since 1974

The aims of the IUCN SSC OSG, as set out by the IUCN, are to:

1. Provide leadership for the conservation of all otter species (Lutrinae).
2. Determine and review on a continuing basis the status and needs of otters, and promote the implementation of necessary research, conservation and management programmes by appropriate individuals, organisations and governments.
3. Make known the status and conservation needs of otters, promoting the wise management of otter species.

Every four years, the OSG organises an International Otter Congress (IOC), bringing together experienced and new researchers from all over the globe to update knowledge and create strategies to pave the way for the future of otter conservation.

# Monday 24th of February

**07:00–07:45**

Official congress bus transfer from Miraflores to Universidad Científica del Sur (UCSUR)

**07:45–08:45**

Participant check-in at the Auditorium “Pabellón 0”

**08:45–09:15**

**Opening ceremony and welcome remarks**

- *Nathaly Vargas* - Universidad Científica del Sur
- *Nicole Duplaix and Anna Loy* - IUCN SSC OSG Co-Chairs

**09:15–10:00**

**Opening Lecture**

Gonzalo Medina Vogel - Long standing otter research and conservation in Chile

## Session 1 – Success Stories

**Chair – Nicole Duplaix**

**10:00–10:30**

**Invited Speaker:** Klaus Koepfli

How genetics and genomics have enriched our understanding of otter biology and phylogeny

**10:30–11:00**

coffee break & silent auction

**11:00–12:00**

poster session and silent auction

**12:00–12:15**

*Vera de Ferran, Pablo César Hernández-Romero, Klaus-Peter Koepfli, Eduardo Eizirik* – The new otter *Lontra annectens* (Major, 1897): Cryptic Species and Speciation Processes in the Neotropical Otter (*Lontra longicaudis*) complex

**12:15–12:30**

*Daisuke Waku and Hiroshi Sasaki* – Phylogenetic relationships of otters lived/living in the Japanese archipelago

**12:30–12:45**

*Alejandro E. J. Valenzuela* – *Lontra felina* in Argentina. Discussion of its presence in the country

**12:45–13:00**

*Anna Loy* – Fall and rise of the Eurasian otter in Europe. When shared rules make the difference

**13:00–14:30**

lunch

Program

Monday  
24th of February

## Session 2 – *In-situ* and *Ex-situ* Conservation Planning and Action

**Chairs – Shawn Larson and Tom Serfass**

<b>14:30–15:00</b>	<b>Invited Speaker:</b> <u>Tim F. Shickora</u> From exhibition to conservation pillar – how the International Giant Otter Alliance makes the world’s <i>ex-situ</i> population relevant to conservation
<b>15:00–15:15</b>	<u>Karin Schwartz</u> – The One Plan Approach for otter conservation: integrating <i>ex-situ</i> and <i>in-situ</i> conservation action
<b>15:15–15:30</b>	<u>Laura Rodríguez Medina</u> – Maintenance and management of neotropical otter under human care in Mexico
<b>15:30–15:45</b>	<u>Ng Wai Pak, Tee Thye Lim, Pazil Abdul Patah and Woo Chee Yoon</u> – The status and conservation effort of hairy-nosed otter in Malaysia
<b>15:45–16:00</b>	<u>Robert B. Wallace et al.</u> – Identifying spatial conservation priorities for the giant otter ( <i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i> )
<b>16:00–16:30</b>	<b>coffee break &amp; silent auction</b>
<b>16:30–16:45</b>	<u>Pablo César Hernández-Romero and David A. Prieto-Torres</u> – The new species <i>Lontra annectens</i> in the face of climate change in Mesoamerica
<b>16:45–17:00</b>	<u>Sanjan Thapa and Rajesh Sada</u> – Nepal Otter Conservation Action Plan: progress update
<b>17:00–17:15</b>	<u>Aleksei Oleinikov</u> – Conservation of otters in Kazakhstan
<b>17:15–17:30</b>	<u>Jooseong Kim, and Sungwon Hong</u> – Spraint density of the Eurasian otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) is an accurate indicator of its population status in urban areas
<b>18:00–19:00</b>	Official congress bus transfer from Universidad Científica del Sur (UCSUR) to Miraflores

# Tuesday 25th of February

**08:00–08:45**

Official congress bus transfer from Miraflores to Universidad Científica del Sur (UCSUR)

## Session 3 – Emerging Threats and Trade

**Chair – Caroline Leuchtenberger**

**09:00–09:15**

*Anna Roos and Katarina Loso* – Monitoring otters in Sweden over 50 years, with an update on PFASs in otters 1970–2020

**09:15–09:30**

*James L. Bodkin, Erin U. Foster, Shawn E. Larson* – How the maritime fur trade influenced our understanding of the biology and ecology of sea otters

**09:30–09:45**

*Oswaldo Eric Ramírez-Bravo, Martha Anahí Güzado-Rodríguez, Pablo Hernandez-Romero, Isaac Meza-Padilla, and Roxana Iveth Salas Picazo* – Assessing the illegal trade of otters in Mexico: insights from social media, seizure records, and expert perspectives

**09:45–10:00**

*Chloe Hawthorn and Elizabeth Chadwick* – Using Eurasian otters as sentinels of freshwater chemical pollution: insights from biomonitoring of PCBs and PFASs

**10:00–10:15**

*Caroline Leuchtenberger* – The impact of fires and drought on giant otters

**10:15–11:00**

coffee break & silent auction

**11:00–12:00**

poster session and silent auction

**12:00–12:15**

*Carlos Calvo-Mac, Macarena Barros-Lama, Gonzalo Medina-Vogel* – Pathogen Exposure in the southern river otter (*Lontra provocax*) and marine otter (*Lontra felina*) in Chile

**12:15–12:30**

*Greice Gonchoroski, Mariana M. Furtado, Lívia de A. Rodrigues, Gabriela R. Duarte, Thales Freitas, and Caroline Leuchtenberger* – Evidence of canine pathogens in giant otters (*Pteronura brasiliensis*): A study from the Pantanal wetlands, Brazil

**12:30–12:45**

*Adi Barocas, Alejandro Alarcón Pardo, Romina Camus, Claire Marr, David Macdonald* – Impacts of artisanal gold mining on giant otter populations and neotropical freshwater ecosystems

## Tuesday 25th of February

**12:45-13:00**

*Sanjan Thapa, Dibya Raj Dahal, Sujan Deshar, Ashish Kapali, Rajesh Sada* - Threats to the smooth-coated otter in the Karnali river, Nepal

**13:00-14:30**

lunch

### Session 4 - Conflicts and Coexistence

**Chair - Gonzalo Medina Vogel**

**14:30-15:00**

**Invited Speaker:** Silvio Marchini

The rise of coexistence as a new paradigm in understanding and managing human-wildlife interactions

**15:00-15:15**

Kerine Y. L. Leong and Max D. Y. Khoo - Singapore's Urban Otters: from conservation success to management dilemma

**15:15-15:30**

Caroline Leuchtenberger - Ecotourism with giant otters in the Brazilian Pantanal

**15:30-15:45**

María Camila Latorre-Cárdenas, Pablo César Hernández-Romero, Carla Gutiérrez-Rodríguez, and Luciana Porter-Bolland - Evaluation of the human-otter conflict in central Veracruz, Mexico: recommendations for mitigation

**15:45-16:15**

coffee break & silent auction

**16:15-16:30**

Samara Bezerra Almeida, Livia Rodrigues, Caroline Leuchtenberger - Leveraging public policy for the conservation and monitoring of giant otters (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) in Cantão State Park, Tocantins, Brazil

**16:30-16:45**

Roberto Dávila Orozco - Study of the Neotropical otter *Lontra longicaudis* as a tool for sustainable wetland management

**17:15-17:45**

Official congress bus transfer from Universidad Científica del Sur (UCSUR) to Miraflores

**19:30-21:00**

**Youth Circle Mentor Mixer**  
(Hotel Las Palmas in Miraflores)

## Wednesday 26th of February

**08:00–08:45**

Official congress bus transfer from Miraflores to Universidad Científica del Sur (UCSUR)

### Session 5 – “How to”: Advanced Techniques for Otter Monitoring and Research

**Chairs: Joanna Alfano and Carlos Calvo**

**09:00–09:30**

**Invited Speaker:** Elizabeth Chadwick

Cardiff University Otter Project: thirty years of monitoring using otters found dead

**09:30–09:45**

Simone Giovacchini, Pushpinder Sing Jamwal, Livia Chavko, Cecilia De Sanctis, Enrico Mirone, Mirko Di Febbraro and Anna Loy – Eurasian otter connectivity analysis and range dynamic in central Italy

**09:45–10:00**

Shawn Larson, Amy Olsen, George Esslinger, Dan Monson, Joe Eisaguirre and Joe Tomoleoni – Current methods and challenges of monitoring sea otter population recovery

**10:00–10:15**

Hiroshi Sasaki, Muhammad Iqbal Md Jamaluddin, Md Nor Shukor, Pazil Abdul-Patah, Daisuke Waku, Muhammad Abu Bakar Abdul-Latiff and Badrul Munir Md-Zain – Habitat preferences of hairy-nosed otter in peninsular Malaysia

**10:15–10:30**

Frederick Kistner, Assaf Ben-David, Sky Alibhai, and Zoe JeweLotte II – From Erlinge to AI: how novel technologies are revitalizing the ancient art of otter tracking

**10:30–11:00**

coffee break & silent auction

**11:00–11:15**

Mariela García-Sánchez, Jose Pablo Huertas-Vásquez, and Manuel Santiago-Plata – Activity patterns of neotropical otters in two unique mesoamerican regions

**11:15–11:30**

Tom Serfass, Bridget Amulike, Jan-Reed Smith, and Sadie Stevens – Latrine use by spotted-necked otters: applications for improving survey efficiency and enhancing viewing opportunities at Rubondo Island National Park, Tanzania

**11:30–11:45**

Hiroshi Sasaki, Takeshi Sekiguchi, Daisuke Waku, Md Nor Shukor, Pazil Abdul-Patah, Mohd Lokman Ilham-Norhakim, Muhammad Abu Bakar Abdul-Latiff and Badrul Munir Md-Zain – The spread of hybridization between small-clawed and smooth-coated otters in peninsular Malaysia

# Wednesday

## 26th of February

**11:45–12:00**

*Jooseong Kim and Sungwon Hong* - Spraint density of the Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) is an accurate indicator of its population status in urban areas

**12:00–12:15**

*Huerta-Santander Tamara, Hinojosa Iván A. and Pizarro Cristóbal* - Habitat use of the marine otter *Lontra felina* (Molina 78), in the locality of Colcura, Biobío Region, Chile

**12:15–12:30**

*Charlotte Stoffels, Sébastien Cambier, Tom Wirtz, Muriel Mercier-Bonin, Arno C. Gutleb and Jean-Nicolas Audinot* - High-end microscopy techniques to localize PFAs in tissues

**12:15–12:30**

*Ankit, Tharmalingam Ramesh and Riddhika Kalle* - Seasonal dynamics and riparian habitat quality influence the spatial and temporal ecology of sympatric Asian otters in the southern Western Ghats

**12:30–14:30**

group photo & lunch

**14:30–15:30**

### **Workshops and Round Table** (parallel sessions)

- Necropsy Workshop - run by Anna Roos, Simon Rohner and Elizabeth Chadwick
- eDNA Workshop - run by Simone Giovacchini and Anna Loy
- Round Table with Peruvian government representatives - run by Joanna Alfaro and Carlos Calvo

**15:30–16:00**

coffee break & silent auction

**16:00–17:30**

*Workshops and Round Table continued*

**18:00–19:00**

Official congress bus transfer from Universidad Científica del Sur (UCSUR) to Miraflores



# Thursday 27th of February

**08:00–08:45**

Official congress bus transfer from Miraflores to Universidad Científica del Sur (UCSUR)

## Session 6 – Red and Green Status Assessment

**Chair: Anna Loy**

**09:00–09:30**

**Invited Speaker:** Magdalena Cygan

Measuring Otter Recovery and Conservation Impact with the IUCN Green Status of Species

**09:30–09:45**

Shawn Larson and Riley Pollom – Sea otter, *Enhydra lutris*, conservation legacy and potential for recovery, the IUCN Green Status assessment

**09:45–10:00**

Anna Loy, Pushpinder S. Jamwal and Syed A. Hussain – The Green Status of the Eurasian otter

**10:00–10:30**

silent auction results!

**10:30–11:00**

coffee break

**11:00–13:00**

Nicole Duplaix, Anna Loy, and Caroline Leuchtenberger  
**Round Table: IUCN SSC Otter Specialist Group Strategic Plan 2026–2030**

**13:00–14:30**

lunch

## Session 7 – Education, Communication and Networking

**Chairs: Margherita Bandini and Arno Gutleb**

**14:30–15:00**

**Invited Speaker:** Arno Gutleb

38 years of the IUCN SSC OSG Bulletin

## Thursday 27th of February

**15:15-15:30**

*Tom Serfass, Sadie Stevens, Jan-Reed Smith and Bridget Amulike* - Spotted-necked otters and Rubondo Island National Park, Tanzania: the process of developing an ecotourism flagship

**15:15-15:30**

*Alfredo Ñ. Claverie, Christopher B. Anderson, Luciana Riccialdelli, and Alejandro E. J. Valenzuela* - Socio-ecological approach to research and conserve the Southern river otter (*Lontra provocax*) in Tierra del Fuego Archipelago

**15:30-15:45**

*Simone Giovacchini et al* - A 25 years best practice example of how citizen science and government organisations can collaborate with otter population monitoring

**15:45-16:00**

*Trevor McIntyre and Margherita Bandini* - The African Otter Network: conservation and education efforts and research outputs over the past decade

**16:00-16:30**

coffee break

**16:45-17:00**

*Margherita Bandini* - Launching #ShareSavvy, the new Social Media Campaign

**17:00-17:15**

*Max Khoo and Simon Rohner* - **Presentation of the Otter Youth Circle**

**18:00-19:00**

Official congress bus transfer from Universidad Científica del Sur (UCSUR) to Miraflores

**20:00-22:00**

**16th IOC Social Dinner**  
(Restaurant "La Candelaria")

# Friday 28th of February

**08:00–08:45**

Official congress bus transfer from Miraflores to Universidad Científica del Sur (UCSUR)

**09:00–09:30**

Nicole Duplaix - The Otter Specialist Group: the first 50 years. What comes next?

**09:30–10:00**

Anna Loy Nicole Duplaix - What Now?

**10:00–10:30**

Caroline Leuchtenberger and Tim Shikora - Outcomes from 3rd The Giant otter Workshop

**10:30–11:00**

coffee break

**11:00–12:00**

poster session

**12:00–13:00**

Nicole Duplaix and Anna Loy - **Final Recommendations and The World Otter Manifesto 2025**

**13:00–14:00**

Official congress bus transfer from Universidad Científica del Sur (UCSUR) to Miraflores

Program

**Monday 24th of February**

**11:00 - 12:00**

*João Henrique do Amaral Guerreiro, Gabriel Brutti, Livia A. Rodrigues and Caroline Leuchtenberger*

**Wildlife associated with giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) in Brazilian Pantanal**

*Caroline M. DeLong, Deirdre Yeater, Heather M. Manitzas Hill, and David B. Hamilton*

**Manyotters!: a pilot study on long-term memory in otters using puzzle feeders**

*Mara Cecilia Llontop García Zapatero, Andrea Alosilla-Velazco Horna and Vanessa Milagros De La Cruz Yauri*

**The Secret Life of *Lontra felina*: nocturnal records and use of an artificial breakwater by the marine otter at Playa Valdivia in the district of Asia, Lima-Peru**

*Camila Diaz-Mancilla, Carlos Gonzales, Gonzalo Medina-Vogel and Carlos Calvo-Mac*

**Renal agenesis: necropsy findings in a huillín (*Lontra provocax*) from the Chiloé Archipelago, Southern Chile**

*Roberto Huanaco Pujáico, Romina Tapia Huaman, Karla Pozo Torres*

**Elaboration of a management and conditioning routine in giant otters for breeding under human care**

*Shogo Muraq et al.*

**Identification of otter feeding habits and conflicts with paddy field stakeholders in Perak, Malaysia**

*Katherine Foree*

**Effects of Major Flooding on Giant Otters - the relationships between water quality and site usage within the lake post flood.**

*Ankit, Tharmalingam Ramesh and Riddhika Kalle*

**Seasonal dynamics and riparian habitat quality influence the spatial and temporal ecology of sympatric Asian otters in the southern Western Ghats**

**Tuesday 25th of February**  
**11:00 - 12:00**

Patricio Méndez Moya

**Survey of the Southern River Otter (*Lontra provocax*) in High Conservation Value Areas**

Nicole Delgado-Parada, Gabriela Molina-Maldonado, Gonzalo Medina-Vogel and Carlos Calvo-Mac

**Potential distribution of the huillín (*Lontra provocax*) in the middle and lower basin of the Chadmo river, X Region, Chile**

Jose Pablo Huertas-Vásquez, Mariela García-Sánchez and Manuel Santiago-Plata

**Exploring behavioral patterns of neotropical otters in communal latrines**

Camila Diaz-Mancilla, Carlos González, Camilla Solari-Romkema, Beatriz Sotomayor, Nicole Delgado-Parada, Carla Soto, Carlos Calvo-Mac and Gonzalo Medina-Vogel

**Necropsy findings: first record of rodent in southern river otter diet and its link to rodenticides in Southern Chile**

Marlene Thomas and Ursula Siebert

**A flood of pictures – monitoring of Eurasian otters in Germany**

Simon Rohner, Emily O'Rourke, Anna Roos, Sarah du Plessis, József Lanszki et al.

**Too good to go – how otters found dead serve conservation legislation**

Adriana B. Vallejos, Alejandro E. J. Valenzuela and Martín Kowalewski

**Distribution and Habitat Use of the Neotropical Otter (*Lontra longicaudis*) in the Northwest of Corrientes Province, Argentina**

Antonia Hennicke, Jana Klink, Dominik Nachtsheim and Ursula Siebert

**Potential suitable habitats for the Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra* in Germany**

**Friday 28th of February**

**11:00 - 12:00**

*Gabriel Brutti, Caroline Leuchtenberger, Livia Rodrigues and Silvio Marchini*  
**Giant otter's image in the context of the YouTube digital platform**

*Camilla Solari Romkema, Carlos Calvo-Mac, Andrés Ugarte and Gonzalo Medina-Vogel*

**Diet composition and ecological insights of sympatric populations of marine otter and american mink in the Valdivian coastal zone, Chile**

*Maria Paula Coello Sarmiento, Stephanie Johnson-Padilla, Gonzalo Medina-Vogel, Carlos Olavarria and Carlos Calvo-Mac*

**Co-occurrence between marine otter (*Lontra felina*) and peruvian scallop aquaculture (*Argopecten purpuratus*)**

*Alexis Santibañez, Erwin M. Barría, Macarena Barros-Lama, Carlos Calvo-Mac, Cristina Coccia and Gonzalo Medina-Vogel*

**Presence and genetic characterization of canine parvovirus and distemper in domestic dogs and endemic and invasive mustelids in south-central Chile**

*Pablo César Hernández-Romero and Ximena Luna-García*

**Now there are two species, but what do we know about the otter *Lontra annectens* (Major, 1897): a review of the current knowledge and gaps to be addressed**

*Beatriz Sotomayor Illezca, Carla Soto Ampuero, Francisca Alvarez Soto and Gonzalo Medina-Vogel*

**Traffic mortalities of the southern river otter and road-passes**

*Alexis Santibañez, Erwin M. Barría, Macarena Barros-Lama, Carlos Calvo-Mac, Cristina Coccia and Gonzalo Medina-Vogel*

**Sanitary implications of the interspecific co-occurrence of a domestic and wild mammal assemblage from Central-Southern Chile**

*Shawn Larson and Riley Pollom*

**Sea otter, *Enhydra lutris*, conservation legacy and potential for recovery, the IUCN Green Status Assessment**

# Organisation

## Organising Committee

*Joanna Alfaro, Margherita Bandini, Carlos Calvo Mac, Nicole Duplaix, Max Khoo de Yuan, Shawn Larson, Caroline Leuchtenberger, Anna Loy, Gonzalo Medina Vogel, Simon Rohner*

## Scientific Committee

*Joanna Alfaro, Carlos Calvo Mac, Nicole Duplaix, Arno Gutleb, Pablo Hernández-Romero, Max Khoo de Yuan, Shawn Larson, Caroline Leuchtenberger, Anna Loy, Jeffrey Mangel, Gonzalo Medina Vogel, Marcelo Rheingantz, Anna Roos, Karin Schwartz, Tom Serfass*

## Volunteer Team

*Roberto Gabriel Sánchez Almaguer, Elsa Arely Rocha Ortega, Luna García Ximena, Adrian Eduardo Custodio Uribe, Bernardet Zavala De La Cruz, Irina Gorel Cerna Chihuahua, Joshimer K Rodriguez S, Lizzett Vega Pisconte, María Paula Coello Sarmiento, Mariana Antonella Castillo Stagnaro, Nelly Giannina Peña Cutimbo, Pilar Piscoya Torres, Ruben Alejandro Torrejón Zegarra, Sandra Márquez Alvis, Stephanie Johnson Padilla, Vanja Arrese Dávila, Sebastián Callirgos, Claudia Espinoza, Ángela Fernández.*

# Organisation



Peru

