



**16TH INTERNATIONAL
OTTER
CONGRESS**

24-28th February 2025, Lima, Peru

Program



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

Monday
24th of February

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

Chairs – Shawn Larson and Tom Serfass

14:30–15:00	Invited Speaker: <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
15:00–15:15	<u>Karin Schwartz</u> – The One Plan Approach for otter conservation: integrating <i>ex-situ</i> and <i>in-situ</i> conservation action
15:15–15:30	<u>Laura Rodríguez Medina</u> – Maintenance and management of neotropical otter under human care in Mexico
15:30–15:45	<u>Ng Wai Pak, Tee Thye Lim, Pazil Abdul Patah and Chee Yoong Woo</u> – The status and conservation effort of hairy-nosed otter in Malaysia
15:45–16:00	<u>Robert B. Wallace et al.</u> – Identifying spatial conservation priorities for the giant otter (<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>)
16:00–16:45	coffee break & silent auction
16:45–17:00	<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
17:00–17:15	<u>Aleksei Oleinikov</u> – Conservation of otters in Kazakhstan
17:15–17:30	<u>Sanjan Thapa and Rajesh Sada, Nicole Duplaix</u> – Nepal Otter Conservation Action Plan: progress update
18:00–19:00	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

Chloë Hawthorn, Emily O'Rourke 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

11:00–12:15

poster session and silent auction

12:15–12:30

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

12:30–12:45

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

12:45–13:00

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

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)

Program

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 *Lontra annectens* 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

12:30–14:30

group photo & lunch

14:30–15:30

Workshops and Round Table (parallel sessions)

- Necropsy Workshop - run by *Anna Roos, Simon Rohner Chloë Hawthorn 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

Program

Thursday 27th of February

15:00-15:15

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

izzy Humphries, Jason Palmer, Margherita Bandini and Lauren Harrington - Launching #ShareSavvy, the new Social Media Campaign

17:00-17:15

Max Khoo and Simon Rohner - **Introducing 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)

09:00–10:00

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

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

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

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

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, Vania Arrese Dávila, Sebastián Callirgos, Claudia Espinoza, Ángela Fernández, Daniel Caridad Mora.

Organisation



Peru



Credits

Program Authors

Pablo César Hernández-Romero
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Cover Photos

Lontra longicaudis - Nicole Duplaix
Lontra felina - Edrey Belmar
Pteronura brasiliensis - Luis Espin



Credits