

otterreview

the International Otter Survival Fund

2017



Cover photo © Karen James

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IOSF
INTERNATIONAL OTTER SURVIVAL FUND



*'leading the way in
otter conservation worldwide'*

You can donate at the Otter Shop

From Paul...



We are delighted to say that 2018 will mark 25 years of IOSF – that is 25 years of caring for otters worldwide. In that time we have supported projects in 44 countries and helped cubs in 33 countries, as well as in the UK.

To mark this milestone we are having a special appeal to totally revamp our otter facilities on the Isle of Skye. You will find more about this on page 9.

Some of the most exciting news this year was to hear that wild otters were found in Japan for the first time in 38 years. This was on the island of Tsushima, which lies between South Korea and Japan, and it happened by chance when Dr Izawa, from Ryukyu University, set camera traps for wildcat and captured the otter. Otters were declared extinct by the Japanese government in 2012 and IOSF was part of a team looking into the possibility of a reintroduction programme on Hokkaido island, in north Japan. Clearly efforts will now be directed to Tsushima to investigate otter numbers and distribution, and conservation measures will need to be put in place to expand this population and make it safe for the future.

This just goes to prove that more background scientific work has to go into base-line surveys. In 1998 the hairy-nosed otter was thought to be

extinct in Asia but populations are now known in Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia, although populations are isolated and vulnerable. Hairy-nosed otters were present in northern Myanmar (Burma) and may still be there, but we need confirmation.

IOSF wants to do more work in these countries to discover more about the otters. This is why we hold workshops to train more researchers. The next will be in Laos, also bringing together people from Myanmar and China, which are key areas as trade routes for illegal furs. Originally planned for December, it will now take place in February 2018.

We would like to thank every one of our supporters and followers. There has to be a special thanks to those of you who have been with us on our 25-year journey and we look forward to continuing this with you.

The Year at a glance

OCTOBER

William Mgombo acts quickly after a poacher kills an otter in Tanzania and the poacher is taken into custody by the police

NOVEMBER

Otter survey of the River Dee, Aberdeenshire by Andy Rothwell: report in the IOSF Journal Volume 3

DECEMBER

First Otter Oscar winners announced

JANUARY

Report on otters in the Eastern Rumph District of Malawi

FEBRUARY

Changuita, a marine otter cub, arrives at the rescue centre of Chinchimén in Chile

MARCH

First photographic evidence of Maxwell's otter, a sub-species of the smooth-coated otter, is taken in SE Iraq

APRIL

Meeting with Prof Padma de Silva to discuss development of the Asian Otter Conservation Network

MAY

OTTER, Journal of the International Otter Survival Fund, launched on World Otter Day, 31 May

JUNE

IOSF appoints new Education and Research Officer and four regional co-ordinators for Asia

JULY

IOSF's Paul and Grace Yoxon attend the Royal Garden party in Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh

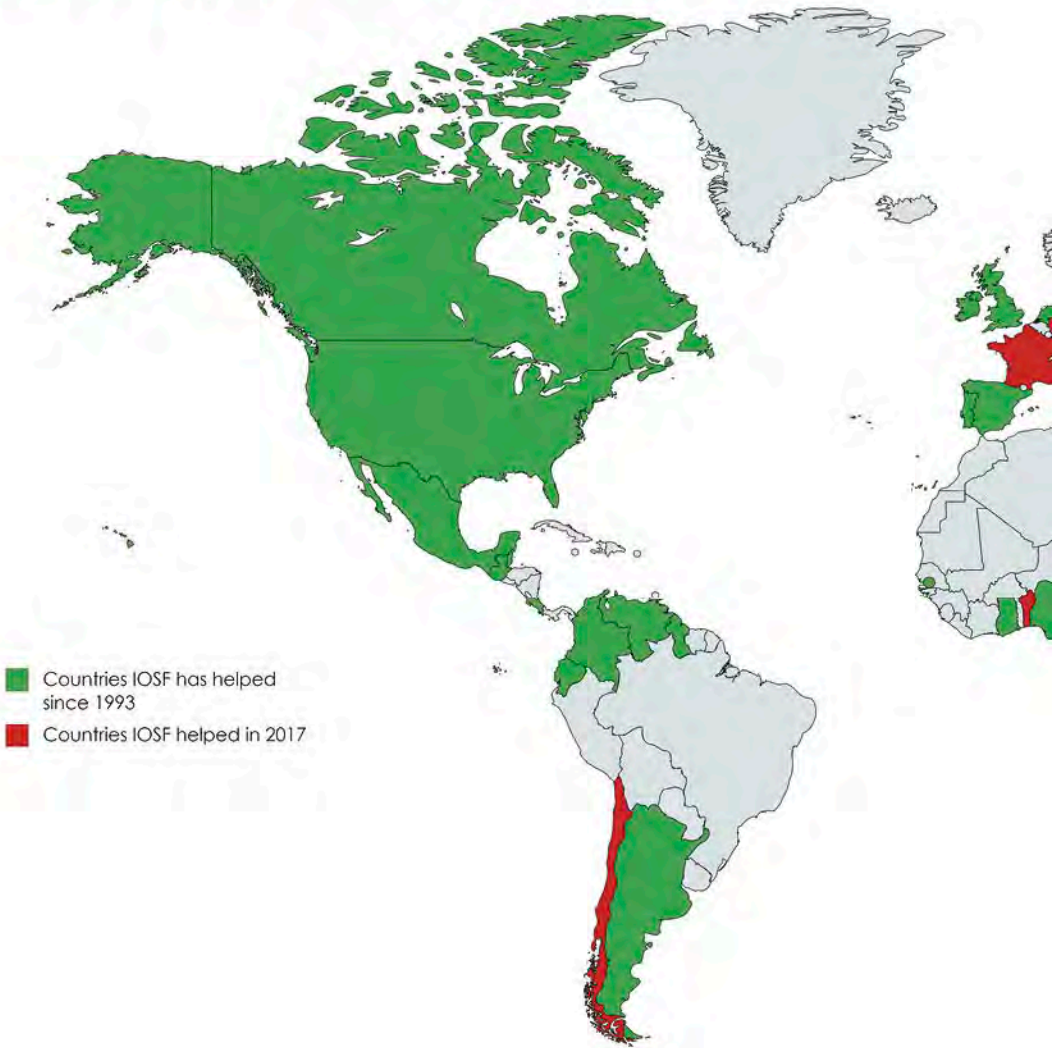
AUGUST

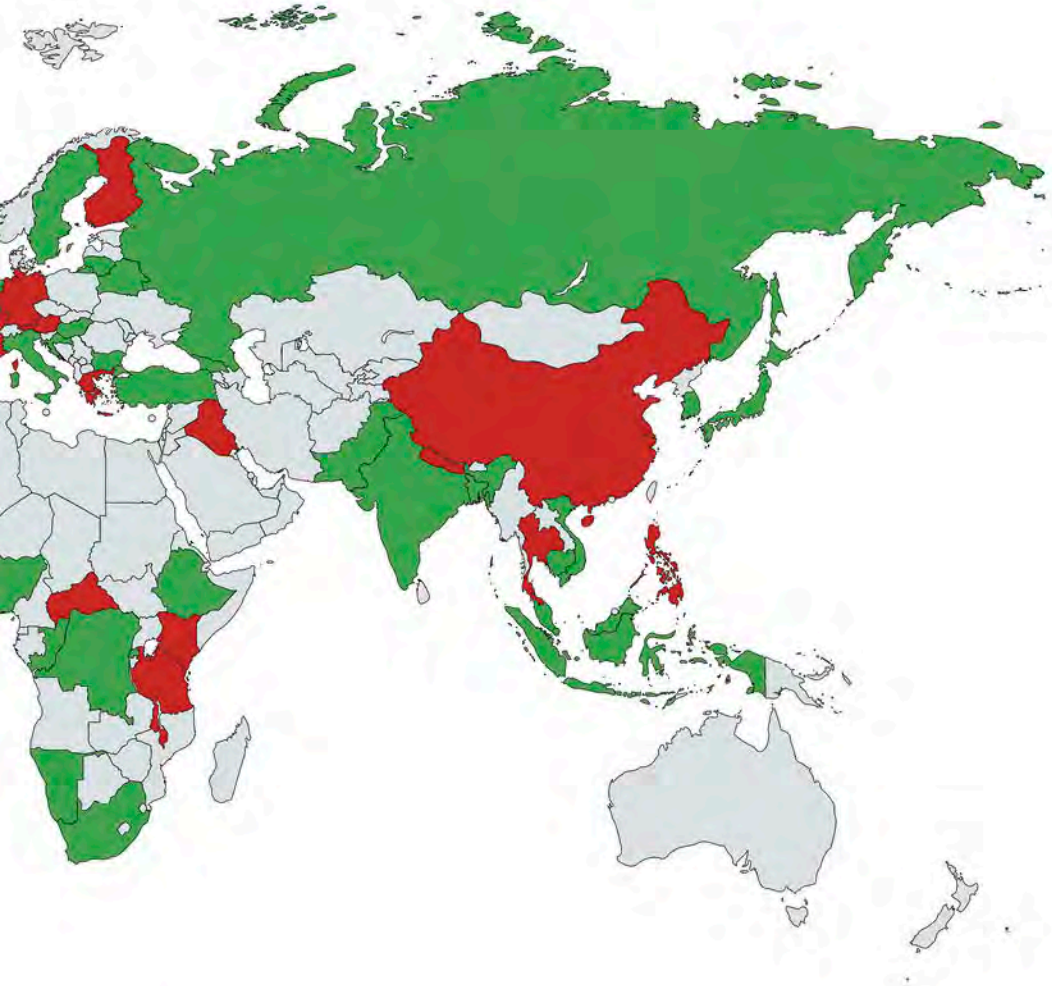
Japan announces discovery of wild otters after an absence of 38 years

SEPTEMBER

Karen James announced as winner of the IOSF photo competition (see our cover image)

IOSF global activity map





IOSF Resources online

Created with mapchart.net ©

Our short video is now available in eight languages and you can download it from the resources page at www.otter.org: German, Spanish, French, Swahili, Nepalese, Chinese, Japanese, and English. We welcome you to use this video to promote otter awareness and if you think you can help with other translations, please get in touch.

World Otter Day – 31 May 2017

Every year since 2014, IOSF has been holding World Otter Day on the last Wednesday in May. The aim is to create more awareness of otters, their habitats and their conservation, and to raise funds to support more conservation projects worldwide.

Each year, more and more people have become involved and social media has been a great asset in spreading the word. Caring people all over the world have joined in – individuals, zoos, schools, libraries, universities, NGOs and governmental people, in many countries including Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Tanzania, Uganda, Benin, Ethiopia, China, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Japan, USA, Chile, Australia and, of course, the UK.

This year, IOSF offered three grants of £100 each towards the cost of putting on an event for World Otter Day. We wanted to spread the grants as far as possible, so one each was chosen from Benin, Nepal and the UK. In addition, the African Otter Network sponsored a second grant to Africa so we were able to make four awards:

NEPAL – Balam Awasthi of Tribhuvan University: An Otter Conservation Awareness Rally from Siddhanath Science Campus to Mahendranagar city by students carrying placards telling about the importance of otter conservation.

BENIN – Aina Fatai, Amis de l'Afrique Francophone-Benin: Public awareness for



21 teachers and over 300 children from the Sô-Ava Centre public primary school, Lake Nokoué, a RAMSAR site, using IOSF resources to show the importance of conservation of the otter and its habitat and the benefit to the community.

Sponsored by Anna Dorian of Vibrant Reiki, a long term supporter of IOSF. Anna was an environmental educator herself for many years and one of her favourite topics for the kids was, of course, otters!

BENIN – Patrice Bada, African Mobile Nature: Created an information panel in French and Arabic to be sited at the Benin/Niger border to inform fishermen, sellers of animal parts, authorities and police, about the value of otters, which are very threatened in Benin.

Sponsored by the African Otter Network

UK – Amy Corcoran and Erin Tschiderer: Session with children from Reay Primary School, London, with a fun talk about otters, including the different species, threats, their ecological importance, and what we can do to help. The children created a collaborative temporary mural about otters.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who took part in World Otter Day 2017 - from organising events and fundraising, to sharing and retweeting on social media. We were thrilled to see #worldotterday trending. 😊

Here are just a few more events which took place on World Otter Day:



Audubon USA

#WorldOtterDay



Wetlands Month in USA



Children in Benin learning about otters



Nancy Jensen, USA



Otter watching on Skye



Exploris Aquarium, N. Ireland



Marching for otters in Nepal



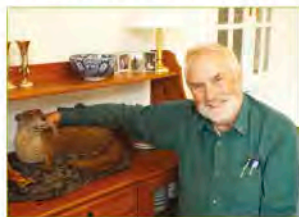
Bedjarn fundraising in Australia



Japan's zoos raising awareness

And a date for your diary –
IOSF's World Otter Day for 2018 will be on 30 May

Raffle Winner



© Allan Stewart

The World Otter Day Grand Raffle 1st prize winner was Allan Stewart from Edinburgh. His prize was a splendid wooden otter sculpture by Mike Wood.

Walk 4 Wildlife

Two of our local schools took part in the Schools Walk 4 Wildlife and donated their sponsor money to the otters. Both of these schools only have a few pupils and the response was magnificent.



© Struan Primary School

Struan primary school has just four children and they raised a fantastic £430!



© Raasay Primary School

The six children in Raasay primary school managed to raise almost £100 - another great effort.

It is great to get the support of our local schools in this way - so thanks to all the children and their parents, friends and teachers for helping to make this such a success.

Supporter Renewal Rates

Increase the value of your gift to IOSF: giftaid it

UK and EEC Countries:

Adult: £24.00 per year
Child: £13.00 per year
Family: £34.00 per year

All other countries:

Adult: £30.00 per year
Child: £15.00 per year
Family: £40.00 per year

Life Membership (all countries):

£350.00

If you are paying by standing order, please ensure you are paying the correct amount.

25 Year Otter Hospital Appeal

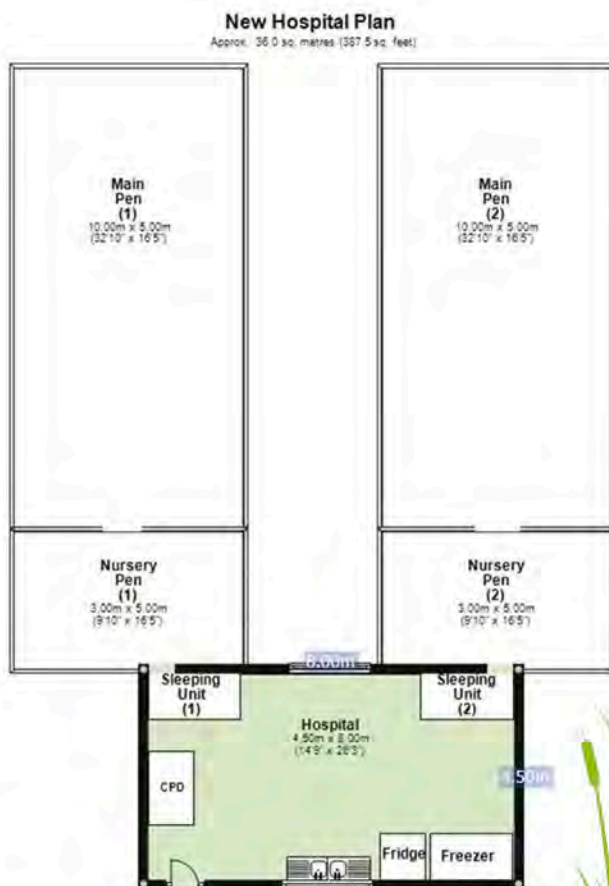
Our otter rehab facilities have been in use since the beginning of IOSF and have been used to care for nearly 200 otters. We treat our otters in three stages:

- **Indoor cub unit**
- **Nursery pen where they have access to a small pool**
- **Large pens where they are prepared for release**

In spite of regular maintenance our facilities do now need upgrading and replacing. The cub units will remain in the hospital as this allows the animals to have intensive care. However the hospital needs a new roof and floor and other essential work. On the croft we intend to build new nursery pens which can open into the main enclosure so the animals are only moved once from the hospital cub units. At present each stage involves catching them and moving them, so this will reduce stress. We will also have improved facilities on the

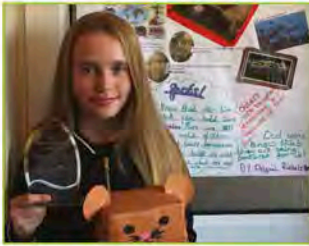
croft, including a treatment room and space for freezers, food preparation, etc. as shown in the plan.

We always welcome your support and if you would like to help with this exciting new project you can send a cheque marked "Hospital" on the back or make a donation online at www.ottershop.co.uk



Otter Oscars

The first ever Otter Oscar award winners were announced on 5 December 2016 and the winners were:



Children:

Abigail Rickels, England: for her poster and money box to collect donations for otters.



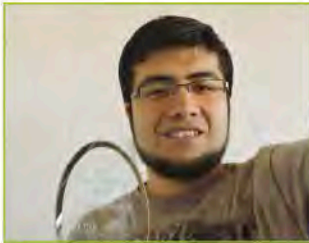
Young People:

Caitlin Beth Gillespie, Scotland: A member of St Modan's Eco Club, Caitlin researched the otter and its ecology to create an informative poster.



Community Achievement:

William Mgomo, Tanzania: for visiting primary and secondary schools near the Liparamba Reserve.



Research:

Dr. Pablo César Hernández-Romero, Mexico: for his research into the ecology and conservation of the neotropical otter in six protected areas.



Special Award:

Budsabong Kanchanasaka, Thailand: has spent a lifetime working on otters, particularly in her home country of Thailand and has been an essential part of the IOSF team providing training workshops in Asia.



Photography:

David Jeffrey Chard, Wales: for his photograph entitled "scent marking".



Group or Organisation:

University of Wyoming Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, USA – Since 2001 over 250 students have taken part in 31 otter surveys carried out twice a year on a river in Rocky Mountain National Park.

African Otter Network

In May 2017, Jan Reed-Smith, who helped us to organise the African training workshop in 2015, went to Tanzania and met up with William Mgomo, a participant at the workshop. He has initiated a programme of visits to schools and fishing communities in the Nyasa District, which resulted in him being awarded the Otter Oscar for Community Achievement.

William wants to establish otter clubs in primary and secondary schools, to encourage children to care for otters and conservation and carry out practical projects such as cleaning litter off the beaches. By talking to fishermen and fish farmers he can find out how they perceive otters and tell them how otters are ambassadors to a healthy environment. William persuaded one fish farmer to remove a trap set for otters and together they will test methods to keep otters

out. During his travels, William looks for otter signs to gather more information about otter distribution in his area.

In Kenya, we are working with our good friend, Peter Nyamenya, and KISTOC (Kisumu Science Teachers Otters Conservation Development Group). KISTOC started in 2004 as a non-profit organisation and has a membership of 26 science teachers from various schools in the area. They work with local communities, tour guides, NGOs and schools creating awareness and doing practical conservation by restoring bankside vegetation of Lake Victoria.

They are now extending their work and held a seminar on 3–4 August in Kisumu to train 40 more teachers. The next phase is to carry out more school visits and practical conservation on Lake Victoria with this newly



©KISTOC

Workshop held by KISTOC 2017

expanded team of teachers.

We are grateful to the Lush Charity Pot for helping to fund these educational projects in Tanzania and Kenya.

In December 2016, Hetherwick Msiska did an otter survey in the eastern Rumphu district, Malawi, and met a man who showed him a hat made of otter skin, which he claimed was made in 2008. Two days before Hetherwick's arrival someone killed an otter which he threw back into the river. Apparently people find otter meat tasty and a short time later another otter was killed and the skin is with the otter hat man. Clearly more education work is needed.

Nominations for the next Otter Oscars are now open and you can find more information at

http://www.otter.org/Public/News_StopPress.aspx.

You can nominate yourself or someone, young or old, amateur or professional, who has done a lot for otters. Nominations must be received by Friday 24 November and results will be announced on 1 December 2017.

Asian Otter Conservation Network

In April there was a meeting with Prof Padma de Silva, IOSF's Asian co-ordinator and Chair of the Asian Otter Conservation Network, to discuss how we can develop otter work in Asia. There are many very positive people and we want to actively encourage them to become more involved. So it was agreed that Regional Co-ordinators should be appointed whose roles would be:

- To encourage more interaction between people in their region
- To identify priorities in their region
- To develop more education material appropriate for their region and throughout Asia
- To co-ordinate research work so that information is shared and there is minimal repetition of work

We are delighted that the following people have agreed to be Regional Co-ordinators:



Aad Aadrean, Indonesia – South-east Asia

Aad has been studying otters in Indonesia since his Bachelor's degree in 2008 and he attended the Indonesian workshop in 2013. He is currently a Doctoral student of the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Kanazawa University, Japan, and a Lecturer in the Biology department at Andalas University, Indonesia. He is very concerned about the illegal trade in otters.



Jyoti Bhandari, Nepal - South Asia

Jyoti Bhandari is Assistant Professor at Tribhuvan University, Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, Nepal and co-ordinator of the Nepal Otter Network. Since 2006 she has been working on the conservation and awareness of otters in Nepal.



Ling-Ling Lee, Taiwan - East Asia

Ling-Ling Lee is a professor of the National Taiwan University with a research interest in mammal ecology and is working on conservation research of Eurasian otters in Kinmen island of Taiwan.



Omar Al-Sheikhly, Iraq - Middle East

Omar is an assistant teacher in the department of Biology in Baghdad University and has been working on otter conservation in Iraq since 2005. He has participated in many field expeditions especially in the Iraqi marshes, where the rare endemic subspecies of Smooth-coated Otter (*L. p. maxwelli*) exists.

We would also like to develop a toolkit of resources relevant to the regions that can be used throughout each area. We already have our IOSF video in various languages on our website, but we also want to produce artwork templates for posters, handouts, etc.

Nepal Otter Network

On 14 January 2017 members of the Nepal Otter Network had a meeting in Kathmandu to share experience and identify research and conservation priorities. Attendees were shown the IOSF Nepalese otter identification cards which are available on our website. They agreed priorities for research and conservation, including a study of the market and consumption of otter parts from illegal trade in Nepal and neighbouring countries.

The full report can be found in the IOSF Journal Volume 3.

Otter News on Pdf

Help IOSF to put more money into otter conservation by reading your OtterNews online.

If you are happy to do this please email us at enquiries@otter.org quoting your sponsorship number, and reduce our printing and postage costs.

If you prefer, we are still happy to send out a printed copy to you.

Education

UK

New Education and Research Officer

In June 2017 IOSF welcomed a new member of staff, Ben Yoxon, who joined our Skye team as Education and Research Officer. Of course, the name will be familiar as he is the son of founders Grace and Paul Yoxon, and so he has grown up with otters.



Ben Yoxon

Ben has always had an interest in wildlife and the environment and is also a keen sports coach for local children. He has travelled widely and in addition to our Eurasian otter he has seen giant otters, sea otters and North American river otters in the wild and was fortunate enough to visit Pursat, the hairy-nosed otter, at the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre, Cambodia.

Ben is working with our web designer, Dougi Lapsley, to develop interactive educational material and has taken over the children's website, TEAM OTTER (www.loveotters.org). In the future we plan to develop a programme of visits to schools and other groups, but he has already started with a visit to Struan School on Skye, following their Walk for Wildlife.

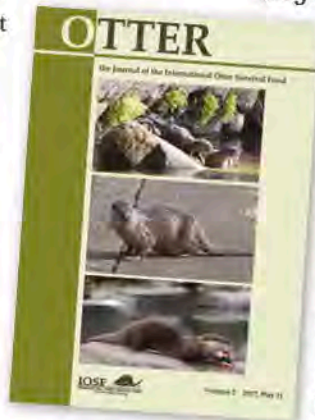
INTERNATIONAL

OTTER, Journal of the International Otter Survival Fund

In 2000, IOSF organised the first European Otter Toxicology Conference on the Isle of Skye which was followed by a second conference in 2003, entitled 'The Return of the Otter in Europe – Where and How?'. The proceedings of both formed the first and second issues of the IOSF Journal.

It was agreed by the Board that IOSF should produce an annual peer-reviewed scientific Journal and the first issue in this format was published in May 2017. OTTER, the Journal of the International

Otter Survival Fund is available both in print and digitally through the Otter Shop (www.ottershop.co.uk). It contains a broad spectrum of contributions from all over the world: Nepal, China, Tanzania, Iraq and Scotland, and an updated report on the illegal trade in otters. It also contains information and reports on the global work of IOSF.



Anyone wishing to submit a paper for Volume 4 should contact enquiries@otter.org for a copy of the Journal guidelines for authors. The deadline for the receipt of papers is 1 February 2018

Otter Rescue and Rehabilitation

UK

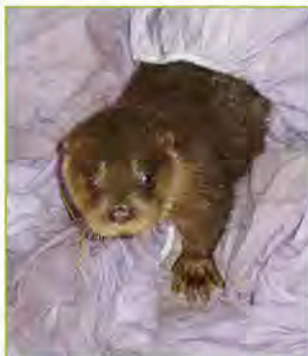
In the current year we have received seven otters – five cubs and two adults. Sofi was found just before Christmas along the road from our Otter Hospital and she was joined in January by Noelle from Peterborough – no-one nearer was able to take her! These two are together in an enclosure and progressing well.

Three more cubs also arrived but did not survive. One from Lochalsh died the same day. The other two were brothers from NW Scotland and both died suddenly – we await the post mortem findings.

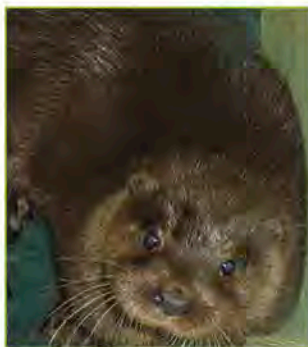
Sadly, both adults were thin and weak and also died – one was an old male, who had clearly come to the natural end of his life.

Two cubs received earlier in 2016, Kerr and Ganga, were released in March and July respectively.

Although we concentrate on otters, we also receive other wild animals and birds, such as hedgehogs, seabirds and various small birds. This year has been busier than usual with bats, particularly from the south



Sofi, soon after her arrival



Noelle looking cute



Ganga, snug in her nest box

of Skye, possibly due to the wet summer we have had. One bat was found outside the Co-op in Broadford and it turned out to be a Daubenton's bat, which has only been found on Skye once before, back in 1995.

INTERNATIONAL

We also receive requests for help with otters from abroad. This year we have been helping with a smooth-coated otter cub in Thailand, a spotted-necked cub in the Central African Republic, a marine otter cub in Chile and two Eurasian otters in France.

In the last Annual Report we told you of cubs in Germany, Finland and Greece and we are delighted to say that the German cubs have already been released.



Kerr's release

Research

UK

Skye otter population monitoring project



Skye otters captured on camera

The Skye otter monitoring project which began in 2014 continues but due to the poor summer weather we have not been able to complete the field work. This should be completed in the next few weeks and a report will be included in a future e-update. Spraint analysis is also being done to allow comparison in diet with previous studies.

In 2007 we began our camera trap monitoring at a site in south Skye and this year we have obtained some excellent footage of a mother and two cubs. Such long-term research is useful not just for monitoring but also for other behavioural information.

Otter Post Mortems

Cardiff University continue to carry out post mortems on otters from Scotland and samples are collected for

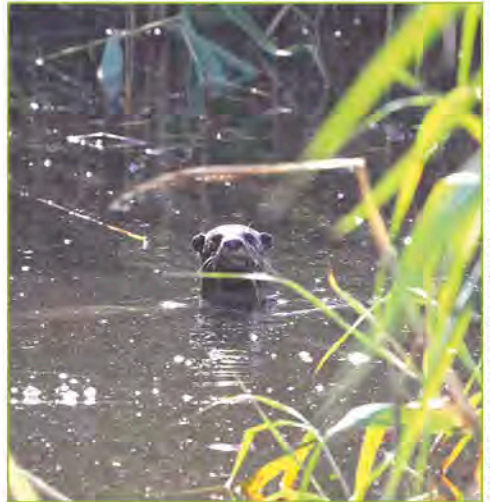


further analysis. This work is vital in order to examine the health of otters in the UK, especially in view of the fact that they are living much shorter lives than otters in parts of mainland Europe.

INTERNATIONAL

China: In January 2017, Lai Nga Yee, WWF Hong Kong, a participant at the workshop last September, obtained camera trap photos of two otters at the Mai Po Nature Reserve. In July, both Yee and Sharne McMillan, another workshop participant who is doing her PhD in Hong Kong, got photos of a mother with two cubs. They hope to collect samples for DNA testing.

Iraq: Both Eurasian and smooth-coated otters are present in Iraq but became very rare after the Iraqi marshlands inundation



*Iraq's smooth-coated otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli*) at Al-Edheam marsh*

© Khidher A. Al-Kanani, Iraqi Ministry of Health and Environment, 2017

in 2003. In early 2017 photographic evidence of both was obtained. In January, Bruce McLennan and Bob Zook sent us photos of a Eurasian otter at Mosul dam. At the end of March the first photo of a wild adult Maxwell's otter, a sub-species of the smooth-coated otter (*L. p. maxwelli*), was taken in SE Iraq.

The report on these findings can be found in the IOSF Journal Volume 3.

Japan: The Japanese otter was officially declared extinct in 2012 and in 2014 IOSF was invited to a workshop as part of a feasibility study into reintroducing otters to the Shiretoko National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Hokkaido.

In August 2017, the Japanese Ministry announced that a video of an otter was taken in February 2017 on the island of Tsushima, between the Korean peninsula and Japan. It was taken by Dr Izawa, from Ryukyu University, who was studying the Tsushima wildcat. DNA analysis of two faecal samples confirmed it was a Eurasian otter similar to the Korean population, but it is not yet known if this is a remnant individual of the 'Japanese otter' or an animal from Korea.



Wild otter captured on camera trap on the Japanese island of Tsushima

Royal Garden Party



Paul & Grace Yoxon of IOSF at the Royal Garden Party, Edinburgh

Paul and Grace Yoxon were delighted to be invited to the Royal Garden Party held at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh on 4 July. Although they are more likely to be seen in a pair of wellies and waterproofs while feeding the animals, they donned their finery to attend the event. Unfortunately the weather was not at all summery and it was very cold. Paul said: "We were very honoured to represent IOSF at this prestigious event. It is a tribute to the great work done by otter researchers and carers everywhere and to the tremendous help of our supporters."

Conservation

UK

Dead otters at the side of the road are always a sad sight and we are often asked for advice on how to prevent such needless deaths: it isn't easy and solutions have to be appropriate to the road. Culverts and pontoons can be fitted at bridges, but if the road is quiet enough it is possible to use wildlife warning reflectors.

Environmental Action Killin (EAK) were worried about the number of otters killed on the A827. They approached Stirling County Council, who were very supportive of installing wildlife warning reflectors and are willing to consider installing culverts when doing future road works.

Thanks to all involved through EAK, Robertson's Acharn Biomass Plant who were keen to help, and the local branch of the Scottish Wildlife Trust for covering the cost of reflectors.

INTERNATIONAL

Proposed Otter Cull in Austria

At the beginning of the year we were horrified to learn that Lower Austria was planning an otter cull in response to pressure from fish farmers and anglers. This is in spite of the fact that as a member of the European Union, Austria is bound by the European Union Fauna and Flora Habitat Directive, which gives the otter full protection.

It could be argued that the Directive does actually allow for the possibility to reduce numbers of a species listed in Annex 4, such as the otter, but there are very strict preconditions and these have not been



© Diana Limjoco

Turtle Bay area where otters' lives are threatened

met. Furthermore the conservation status of otters in the area where 20 otters are to be killed is still unfavourable, so they must receive full protection under Lower Austrian Law (Artenschutzverordnung).

We immediately joined the campaign against this by petitioning and writing to members of the Austrian government and EU and many of our followers did the same. We are very grateful for this

The latest information we have is that there are still plans for the cull is to go ahead, although the administration does not give any information on when, where or how many.

We are keeping a close eye on developments and will provide updates as we get them, through our e-news.

The Philippines: Some readers will know of Diana Limjoco, who hand-reared two very young Asian small-clawed cubs. Diana is a great supporter of IOSF but doesn't only care for her otters – she is committed to preserving the environment of Turtle and Binunsalian Bays on the island of Palawan, where there is a proposed development which will destroy the area. The bays form an established marine sanctuary and were declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. There is, of course,

a wild population of Asian small-clawed otters.

You can help Diana to protect this wonderful environment. Find out more and sign her petition at <http://save-turtlebay-palawan.blogspot.co.uk/>

Illegal trade



© SCORPION

Otter available for sale

Thailand: In February, Police at Don Meung airport in Thailand arrested a Japanese man trying to smuggle 20 live wild animals, including 12 otter cubs, in his suitcase. The suspect said he had bought the animals to be raised as pets in his home. It seems that otters are becoming more popular as pets in Japan. A new café, where people can handle otters amongst other animals, has opened in Kobe and this will increase demand.

IOSF's Illegal Wildlife Trade Fund

IOSF has been working to reduce trade in otters either for fur or pets for many years and our report on the fur trade in 2008 was updated to include pets in 2014. This can be downloaded on our website (www.otter.org).

Our Asian workshops train people to work in otter conservation and public awareness to help reduce the problem but we are looking to fund work in Indonesia on the illegal pet trade. Of the four species of otter in Indonesia only the Eurasian and hairy-nosed are protected, while smooth-coated and Asian small-clawed otters have no legal protection. Most pet otters are Asian small-clawed, which are largely taken from the wild and the mother is killed as she tries to protect them. Many of these pets die due to improper care and so a new animal is bought and the cycle continues.

Zoos and circuses keep otters in atrocious conditions when out of public view, but when 'performing' they are 'cute', which also increases demand for pets. So we are working on a project to monitor the pet trade and use of otters in circuses and zoos, including conditions under which they are kept. The Indonesian law for wildlife protection is being revised and so we need to encourage the government to add the other two species of otter to the protected list, based on this data.

IOSF has launched a special Illegal Wildlife Trade Fund, which will initially fund this work in Indonesia. If you would like to help you can send a cheque marked 'Illegal trade' on the back or make a donation online at www.ottershop.co.uk

Otters on the Internet

We receive regular notices about items in the media concerning otters. You can keep up to date with these reports on our website: www.otter.org/Public/News_OtterNews.aspx

IOSF On Board 'The Hebridean Princess'

John Noorani has been a supporter of IOSF since the beginning and he also enjoys cruising around the Scottish islands on the MV Hebridean Princess. At the end of the trip he offers fellow passengers copies of his excellent wildlife and landscape photos and suggests they make a donation to IOSF. He has raised over £2,000 for us in that way. So, many thanks to John.

When the ship called at Dunvegan on Skye in June, John kindly arranged for Paul and Grace to visit the vessel and have a tour round. Following our visit we sent a copy of our World of Otters book for the library, which is used by the passengers.

We would like to thank Captain Heaton and all of his crew for giving us such a warm welcome.



© John Noorani

*Paul & Grace Yoxon aboard the
Hebridean Princess with John Noorani*

Help IOSF

**Never underestimate what
you can do**

Often we want to change something but feel that we are powerless to do anything. But we should always take a simple step forward as it WILL make a difference.

We recently read about a man called Jadav Payeng, who lives on the island of Majuli in the river Brahmaputra in India. The island used to have a great forest habitat but as the people cut down the trees it turned to desert and was being rapidly eroded by the river. In 1979 Jadav was only 17 but he started a life-time's commitment to plant trees every day and since then he has created a jungle of nearly 1400 acres – almost twice the size of New York's Central Park. As the forest developed the wildlife began to return, including elephants, tigers and rhinos!

This has nothing directly to do with otters, of course, but the fact that this young man took on his task and achieved such a major change to his environment shows we can all achieve positive things – even small steps are better than standing still.

A simple thing you can do is, download and print the IOSF leaflet from our website homepage, and share it with friends, put it in libraries, shops, etc. This is also available in German. Or share our posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Conserving otters and their habitat is a win-win situation – we all need clean water and land, and together we can all take steps to protect them.

Payroll Giving



payroll giving
in action



giving online

Donate to IOSF through Payroll Giving

Payroll Giving is a flexible scheme which allows anyone who pays UK income tax to give regularly and on a tax-free basis to the charity of their choice. You can now use this system to donate to IOSF.

Payroll Giving donations are deducted before tax so each £1.00 you give only costs you 80p, and if you are a higher rate tax payer it only costs you 60p. For example, if you donate £5 per month it costs the basic rate tax payer £4.00 (the taxman pays the rest!) Payroll Giving (also known as Give As You Earn or workplace giving) is a valuable, long term source of revenue, providing a regular income to IOSF to help us budget and plan ahead more effectively.

For more information go to
www.givingonline.org.uk/International-Otter-Survival-Fund_2623/index.html

Social Media

Use social media to raise awareness of otters. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, share our posts and tell us what you are doing to help.

Other ways you can help

Check out our Fundraising Pack
www.otter.org



You can donate something through our Amazon Wish List www.amazon.co.uk

amazon

Turn your old car into a donation for otters through Giveacar www.giveacar.co.uk



Search the internet through www.everyclick.com



Earn FREE donations for IOSF when shopping online:



www.giveasyoulive.com

Easyfundraising.org.uk

easyfundraising
org.uk

www.thegivingmachine.co.uk  The Giving Machine

Evergreen Insurance Services
evergreeninsuranceservices.co.uk/international-otter-survival-fund/
Evergreen will give up to 25% of their commission income at no cost to you.



Are you in America? Contact us through enquiries@otter.org to donate through CAF America



PASS IT ON

Recycle your otter news by passing it on to friends and family; your local library or school; doctor's surgery or hospital; vet's waiting room, etc. Don't waste it, spread the word.

Thanks

There are always so many people who help us in our otter conservation work.

Some work on the ground carrying out research and surveys or doing education and public awareness campaigns. Some donate and buy goods from our Otter Shop. And some simply tell others why they love otters and how important they are. Each person is doing something positive to help no matter how small they think it is. We can't thank everyone individually but please be assured that we really do value your help.

You have read about some of the magnificent things being done earlier on and we do have to make a special mention of the following: Daniel Allen, Anna Dorian of Vibrant Reiki, Wolfgang and Traudl Gettmann and their otter Nemo, Budjarn Lambeth in Australia, Daphne Neville, John Noorani, Jonathan P Tyler

As ever, we are grateful to Jackie West, Andrew Cameron, and Andy Rothwell on our Board, who give so much of their time to help and advise. Padma de Silva is our Asian co-ordinator and Chair of the Asian Otter Conservation Network. She always gives her full support, help and advice on all Asian otter issues. Jan Reed-Smith is responsible for the African Otter Network and she supports the various people working on that continent. We also want to thank Dr Samantha Holland, our copy-editor for the Journal.

And to the various organisations who have so kindly supported our work:

Action for the Wild (Colchester Zoo), Anderson Rogers Foundation, BP Foundation, Ernest Cooke Trust, The Beryl Evetts and Robert Luff Animal Welfare Trust, The Barry Green Memorial Fund, Henderson Charitable Trust, Lush Charity Pot, Marchig Animal Welfare Trust, Alice Noakes Memorial Charitable Trust, Nurtured by Nature, Rainford Trust, The Rufford Foundation, Sea Life Trustees Ltd, Trelis Charitable Trust, Late Miss Eileen Margaret Tyler's Charitable Trust, Roger Vere Foundation, Martin Wills Fund.

"Sometimes it is a challenge to change the perceptions of people toward otters. The perception is a heritage from their grandfathers and grandmothers, and it needs time and regular visits to explain tradition compared to science and ecology. I believe one day they will change and take Otter as the Environmental champion."

~ William Mgomo, Tanzania

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ABOUT IOSF

IOSF is one of the world's leading otter conservation organisations and is the only UK charity solely dedicated to the protection and care of all 13 species of otter, based on over 20 years of scientific research in the UK and around the world.

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IOSF is regulated by The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

Who's who at IOSF

Patron: Julian Pettifer - Presidents: Dennis Furnell, Laurence Broderick

Advisory Board: Andrew Cameron, Jackie West, Andy Rothwell

Head of Operations: Dr Paul Yoxon - Education and Research Officer: Ben Yoxon

Co-ordinator: Janet Wildgoose – Development Officer: Helen Stephenson

Asian Co-ordinator: Prof Padma de Silva

Asian Regional Co-ordinators:

SE Asia: Aad Adrean, Indonesia - South Asia: Jyoti Bhandari, Nepal

East Asia: Ling-Ling Lee, Taiwan - Middle East: Omar Al-Sheikhly, Iraq

Journal copy-editor: Dr Samantha Holland

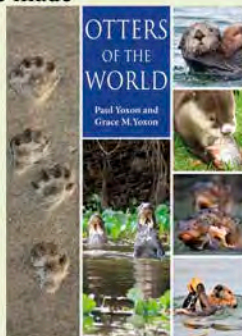
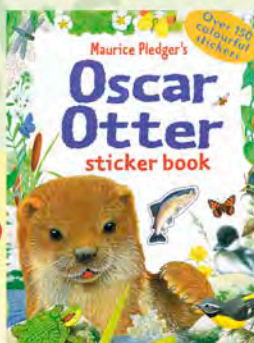
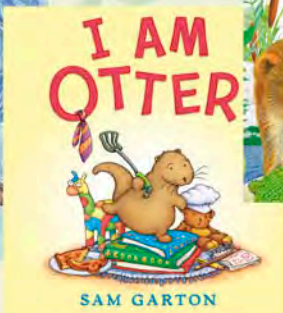
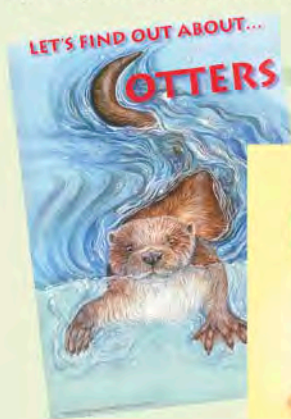
A NOTE WHEN WRITING:

Could we please ask you to give us your sponsorship number whenever you write as it does help us to find your records more quickly. Thanks.



Otter Shop

We have an exciting selection of otter-themed gifts and goods, with something to suit every pocket and occasion. To see our full range visit www.ottershop.co.uk or follow the links on our website www.otter.org. Sales enquiries and orders can also be made by telephone (01471 822487).



Christmas Card: pack of 10 with envelopes. Greeting: With Best Wishes for Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

1 pack £5.99

