



Otter News No. 126, November 2021

Join our IOSF mailing list and receive our newsletters -
Click on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/p3lrsmx>

[Please share our news](#)

GOOD NEWS FOR CETACEANS

Yes of course, IOSF focuses on otters but we could not ignore the huge problem facing whales and dolphins from the destruction of unexploded ordnance which remain in UK waters (See our July e-update). There are still over 350,000 such devices left over from the First and Second World Wars!

These present a real danger to the construction of offshore wind farms but the problem was that they were simply blown up. This was not only destructive to the surrounding seabed but the extreme noise was also a real threat to cetaceans. In 2015 over 1,200 harbour porpoises were found to have suffered permanent hearing loss following 88 explosions in the North Sea. It is also believed that it can lead to mass strandings as in 2011 at Kyle of Durness in NW Scotland when 39 long-finned pilot whales beached just after such explosions. There is also the possibility that it may effect otters if the explosions are nearshore.



Of course we want to encourage more renewable energy sources but there is an alternative option called low-order deflagration, which has been used by the Royal Navy and other military organisations since 2005. The explosive burns out from the inside of the bomb or mine and this has been found to be up to 100 times quieter than normal detonation.

AND THE GREAT NEWS IS that this week the UK Government announced that it has updated its policy guidance to ensure that quiet, environmentally-friendly disposal techniques should be prioritised for offshore munitions disposal. Of course we still need to see the details of how they will ensure compliance but it is a huge step forward to protect our marine wildlife.

POSITIVE STEPS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Plastic to fuel

This next story may not be directly otter-related, but it is important and will help us all.

We are all aware of and appalled by the amount of plastic within the ocean and all want to do something to reduce it. There are major efforts to remove it but this isn't a perfect solution either. Fuel hungry ships go to "plastic islands", fill up, return to port and return to get more rubbish. This does reduce the amount of plastic but it isn't ideal, given the inefficiency in terms of fuel use.

But what if there was a better idea? Scientists are working on a way that these ships can use the plastics they collect to create fuel and become self-sustainable. This means there will be less "wasted" time going to and from port and more time to address the issue. It is estimated, that one ship with the HTL converter equipment could be self-sustainable. Although the process isn't ideal either as some carbon dioxide is created, this is less than that produced by ships currently using conventional fuel.



This idea can let the problem become the solution and potentially help reduce the need for new fuel oil to be excavated in the future.

<https://www.zmescience.com/science/plastic-to-fuel-approach-ocean-cleanup-2678356/>

Sea otters can play a part in fighting Climate Change

IOSF has said for a long time that saving otters is more than just a sentimental luxury. Their place at the top of the food chain, creating a balanced and thriving environment, maintaining biodiversity and other factors, means that they are fantastic indicators to a healthy environment.

The sea otter is the perfect example of this and their history really emphasises their importance. As many of you will know, the demise of sea otters at the height of the fur trade, led to the reduction of the biodiversity-rich kelp forests that they inhabited and, unknowingly, served to protect. The otters' insatiable appetite keeps kelp-hungry species under control and maintains the balance within these important ecosystems. The loss of otters, meant a boom in species such as sea urchins, and the loss of kelp!

Otter populations in California once numbered 20,000 but dropped to just 50! However, since conservation efforts ramped up, they have increased back to a modest 3,000. Urchins however, have thrived and increased by around 10,000% resulting in a loss of up to 95% of kelp forests and what is left is "Urchin Barrens", home to urchins, and not an awful lot else.



Protecting kelp forests helps biodiversity, protects otters from predator attacks, provides fish with a "nursery" to live and breed and encourages other sea mammals such as sea lions into the area too.

So, with the return of otters, how does that help fight Climate Change exactly? Well, the otters will help to reduce urchin populations and protect the kelp once more. With large kelp forests, we see a reduction in carbon in the earth's atmosphere, one of the world's major greenhouse gasses. So, increased otter populations help kelp to recover, reducing the amount of carbon in the air. It is believed that if kelp forests were fully efficient just in California and Alaska alone they could counter the carbon emissions of 5 million cars!

It is a similar story in Elkhorn Slough, with seagrass. The otters are controlling crab populations which is helping eelgrass to absorb more sunlight. This in turn led to an increase of 600% of eelgrass in the area, meaning more biodiversity and more carbon capture.

So, in short, we love otters and are working hard to conserve them. But their conservation is so much more important than simply protecting them alone!

<https://www.wired.com/story/the-cutest-way-to-fight-climate-change-send-in-the-otters/>

UK WATER QUALITY IMPROVING???

We are often told that the reason that the otter population has allegedly increased is that the water quality in UK has improved. And yet a recent article in the Independent states that "Sewage discharges into UK's rivers and beaches soar by 88% in 12 months". So can we really believe that the water quality is so much better?

According to campaigners, Surfers Against Sewage (<https://www.sas.org.uk/>), Southern Water is named "by far the biggest culprit amongst water companies" with nearly 2,000 sewage discharge notifications out of a total of 5,517 around the country. What is worse is that this is almost certainly



an underestimate as some companies only provide data during the bathing season and then only for coastal waters – what about all the discharges in winter and into rivers and other freshwater bodies. One excuse they will give is that these companies are providing more information so cases will go up – but not by that much.



And yet our elected MPs decided not to vote for a legal duty being imposed on water companies not to pump untreated sewage into watercourses. Not only is this a disgusting practice but it is very harmful to the environment as sewage contains so many potentially dangerous viruses, bacterial and chemicals. This effects the entire aquatic ecosystem and indeed in 2020 thousands of fish died in Iraq due to a pollution incident involving sewage.

According to the Independent article “Dr Toby Willison, director of environment and corporate affairs at Southern Water acknowledged that the company recognised it had to do better. He said: “We share the passion and commitment of Surfers Against Sewage’s to protect our precious coastal water and the 700 miles of coastline in our region. We know our performance has to improve and we are driving a step change in investment spending £2bn to cut pollution incidents by 80 per cent by 2025.”

Is this really good enough? And did you notice that it says they want “to protect our precious coastal water and the 700 miles of coastline in our region”. No mention of freshwater incidents there.

Campaigners like Surfers Against Sewage have to pressurise the government to acknowledge they have a duty to protect ALL our water sources – coastal and freshwater.

In an interview with the BBC in March 1989 Margaret Thatcher was asked about the disposal of sewage at sea (<https://www.margaretthatcher.org/document/107445>). She said “Well, it should be treated sewage that goes out, treated, all of it. I think you will find that it is treated sewage in this country and obviously even the treated sewage it is not really getting far enough out and that is why we still have one-third of the beaches that are still not as clean as we would wish and that is why I indicated we have a programme which should be complete by 1995, £1.4 billion for that particular means to get it all clean.” She was wrong of course as we knew that there was still raw sewage going out into Broadford Bay on Skye then.

But it’s all ok now as it was sorted in 1995! Clearly not as all these years later and despite the huge amounts spent these companies are still saying the same and sewage is still being dumped.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/sewage-pollution-southern-water-rivers-b1963778.html?r=68873>

TEAM OTTER



Team Otter Broadford has been busy at work!

The high school group have been working hard on two campaigns. The first, run by the “Iron Man”, is focused on reducing the number of crisp packets going to landfill by turning them into survival blankets for the homeless this winter. This, in turn, helps those in need but also helps our environment at the same time. The kids have created posters, approached local outlets to collect packets and then they clean and process them ready to be sent off for use. A really positive and practical project.



They are also working on a fundraiser for TeamSeas who remove litter from the ocean. For every one GB pound raised (actually one US dollar) they will remove one pound of rubbish. So, actually, for every pound donated it will be more than a pound of litter.

The younger club have been making bird feeders for our small garden birds during the winter. The older members of the primary group have also been helping the high school group by setting up collection stations for crisp packets in different areas.

On Thursday 4 November, five members of Team Otter Broadford (Archie, Jude, Ruairidh, Henry and Dougall) joined the beach clean arranged by Portree High School at Camasunary Bay, near Elgol, on the Isle of Skye. It is a stunning area but the bay is renowned for collecting ocean debris and has always been a problem area. We set off just after 10am from the Camasunary walk car park and took just over an hour to reach our destination.



The plan was to clean until about 3.30pm before walking back but the whole team worked so well that we filled the skip by 1.30pm, collecting a total of 1.2 tonnes of litter!

Although it was a great effort, there is still more to be done and plans are in hand to go back and finish the job. A scary thought that such a small bay, on a small island can collect that much rubbish.

Archie, Ruairidh, Henry, Jude and Dougall were superb all afternoon. They never stopped, despite walking miles and shifting so much debris to the boat on the shore which transferred it to the skip at Elgol pier. They did themselves proud.

Although it was a job well done, we would rather this wasn't necessary. Everyone needs to do more to reduce plastic use and litter.

Thank you to Portree High School for arranging the beach clean, MOWI for helping take the stuff out of the bay, and all the helpers at Elgol Pier.

The kids are so passionate and are doing so much to help their own environments, and those further afield too. We are very proud of our Broadford kids.

For more information on Team Otter check out our website (www.loveotters.org) or Facebook. If you are interested in forming your own Team Otter Club contact Ben@otter.org.



IOSF OTTER OSCARS

Well the nominations for the IOSF Otter Oscars 2021 are closed and the hard decisions will now be made as to the winners. These will be announced at the beginning of December.



NEWS FROM THE SANCTUARY

Everything is always changing at the Sanctuary. DJ and Louis are now back in the wild on Skye where they belong. We couldn't release them back in Broadford as the village is too busy with people and so they went to a nice secluded beach. There was a bit of hesitation as we opened their cages but then DJ, always the braver of the two, stepped out to see where he was. Louis quickly followed and then they went off to hide so that they could explore properly in peace.



DJ and Louis off to explore



Oliver hiding in the long grass

Since our last e-update we received another otter, Oliver, through Blue Highlands Bird Rescue. He had nasty head wounds and was severely underweight. But it wasn't long before he had recovered from his injuries and gained weight again so he was ready to take his place back in the wild.

Holly (below left) is a wee gem although still quite small for her age. But it seems that our Holly doesn't like wintry weather! One morning it was very cold with strong winds and hail showers. Normally when we go to feed she will grab a fish and run up to hide in the vegetation to eat. But not that day. She grabbed her fish and rushed back into her sleeping box to eat in the warm!!



Bealltainn (above right) is also a wee beauty. Now that it is colder we see her more often in her sleeping box and she is taking vegetation in for bedding.

Our latest addition is Storm (right) who arrived from the northwest of Scotland near Stoer. He had been found beside a fast flowing burn (stream) after particularly heavy rains and somehow must have been separated from his mother. He is doing very well but has shown us that he is from a freshwater area as he rarely eats in the day. He had been weaned him from trout on to white fish tails but went back to trout when he was teething as it was easy for him to eat. Now he is back on the white fish and eating two whole fish a day!



As you know we will take any wild animal or bird in need of help. A while ago our vet phoned us about a buzzard which had been involved in a collision with a vehicle. There appeared to be no serious injury and so it was really a case of feed it until it was ready to go. It took a few days for it to eat itself and then it started to flex its wings. We had to wait a while for the strong gales to ease and then enjoyed watching as it flew off to its old haunts.



But that wasn't the end of our buzzard escapades. The very next day the vet called about another one found in similar circumstances by the road near Cluanie dam on the mainland. Again there is no wing damage but already it is showing signs of wanting to fly, so hopefully this one too can be released soon.

The two barn owls were released back to the barn where they were hatched. One hid to begin with but the other one was up and out and flying while being mobbed by crows. The owner of the property is keeping an eye on them and we know that at least one is still around.

If you would like to support our cubs in the Sanctuary you can send a cheque marked "Hospital" on the back or make a donation online at www.ottershop.co.uk

MYSTERY FUR LOSS IN EURASIAN OTTERS

At the beginning of September, the Otter Network NE were alerted to a strange loss of fur in a female otter and her cub that are regularly monitored on trail cameras on a nature reserve north of Newcastle upon Tyne. Throughout August the female had been seen with two cubs, then one went missing and the trail camera showed images of the female and the remaining cub with patches of fur missing. There did not appear to be any wounds that would indicate fighting and the fur loss was limited to the torso with the head, limbs and tail seemingly unaffected. You can clearly see the bald patch on the photo of the cub below:





Photo – Christopher Wren

Then a few days later a large solo otter (probably a dog otter) was picked up on the cameras with similar patches of fur loss. All the animals appeared to be otherwise in good health.

We did wonder if it could possibly be mange but there is very little in the literature to suggest that Eurasian otters are susceptible to that. So IOSF contacted various people including vet Romaine Pizzi, who has a lot of experience with otters and he agreed that it was unlikely to be mange.

Over the next few weeks, the female and cub were seen again on camera and the fur seemed to be starting to regrow. Images captured at the beginning of October showed them almost back to normal and a post on Facebook yesterday showed the cub following the mother and both looked in great condition. Romaine said that the fact that they recovered so quickly and always seemed to be in good health probably ruled out mange. So what caused this fur loss therefore remains a mystery.

If anyone has any experience of similar fur loss please contact us at enquiries@otter.org
www.theotternetwork.co.uk

PERUVIAN OTTER

The albino neotropical otter cub from near Iquitos, Peru, is still doing well and is growing quickly. He had been rescued by a fisherman while still very young and he has creamy white fur, which makes him look almost hairless when wet.

When asked for pictures, Marvin, of Arca Zoologica y Zoocriadero, stated “It is very hard to take a good picture as it never stops moving”. We understand that, Marvin!



But when he did manage to send some photos and we posted them on Facebook they went “viral” and over 10,500 people have seen the post.

Unfortunately, as many of you will know, this otter cannot be released because he would stand out to human hunters and predators. Eventually he will move into a large enclosure to live as wild a life as possible. As he is so unique he is doing a really good job of raising awareness for otters in general.

Photo credits: Arca Zoologico y Zoocriadero



OTTER FAMILIES FIGHT IN SINGAPORE

We are sure most of you will be familiar with the groups of smooth-coated otters living in Singapore. Some people enjoy watching their antics but others aren't so keen when they decide to take a swim in their private swimming pools.



Things in nature are not always kind and some of the groups in the city do fight and some of these fights can be particularly vicious. According to a Facebook post by Ottercity the 'Zouk aunty' family in Marina Bay appears to have got into a fight with three adult otters on 11 November. During the fight two young cubs, known as Ah Girl and Ah Boy, were badly injured and despite efforts to rescue them they both died.

Ah Girl was spotted dragging her hind legs to try and keep up with the family, who protected her from possible rescue by the Otter Working Group, vets from the Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES) and Mandai Wildlife Reserve. Next morning she was found dead in the holt and was described as lying in "a peaceful and comfortable position as if she was in a nice, deep sleep".

Our friend Sivasothi, known as the Otterman in Singapore, told us "The Marina Bay area is highly contested with at least four groups in the area, with the Bishan family dominant, although they were not involved in this incident. So inter-group territorial fights and cub mortalities in the losing smaller groups have been occurring for some years.

This situation was different though as concerned volunteer otter watchers (members of the public) had been keeping an eye on the family for four months, and even directed traffic to allow them to cross the road safely. So it was very tough for them to see the pups of this non-dominant family suffer a natural but harsh fate.

SAD NEWS FROM HUNGARY

The Petesmali Vidrapark in Hungary has announced that Luca, the first resident of the Otter Park, has died – aged 23!! This is an incredible age for an otter, particularly when you bear in mind that most wild otters in England and Wales are dying at under four years old.

Luca had been a big favourite at the Park and naturally she was being very pampered towards the end. But it came to the point that they realised that she was in considerable pain and so they took the necessary step to ask the vet to put her to sleep.



Those of us who went to Hungary to help out at the Otter Park in 2013 saw Luca and the other otters in care at the Park. Although it is sad to hear of her death she lived to a ripe old age.



Luca with Márta Balogh at Petesmalmi Vidrapark © Márta Balogh

NEWS IN BRIEF

Concerns over mining plans in Chilean archipelago

The Humboldt archipelago is a natural treasure and home to a number of amazing and rare animals including 14 species of whale such as the bottle-nosed dolphin, thousands of birds and 80% of the world's Humboldt penguin populations. It also has the marine otter, which only lives on the coasts of Chile and southern Peru.

Three of the eight islands in the archipelago are a natural reserve but are under severe threats from potential mining plans on mainland Chile. There would be two open air mines, for copper and iron, and a substantial port which would slice into the archipelago's rich waters – not to mention the impact on terrestrial species.

Some local people are in favour of the mine because of potential jobs but many are worried that it poses a threat to their way of life. The community has survived sustainably in the area for years and one fisherman stated "For us the Dominga project is the destruction of our culture, our ancestral culture, the culture of the Chango people, the culture that has prevailed for 10,000 years living in these territories in an integrated and sustainable way with our environment."

People campaigning against the mine and associated constructions claim that the whole project should shock people as it is like "building a mine in the Galapagos Islands".

<https://batimes.com.ar/news/latin-america/mining-firm-eco-activists-battle-over-unique-chile-archipelago.phtml>

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/mining-firm-ecoactivists-battle-over-unique-chile-archipelago/news-story/ea530561c600479644de913d32680fe2>

Urban otters in India

We all know otters can be elusive, shy creatures but this isn't always the case. There are the urban smooth-coated otters in Singapore, and more recently in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), and it seems that a city in India may have to get used to their own urbanised otter populations.



A bird watcher visited a wetland in Coimbatore, a city in Tamil Nadu, India, and managed to spot a lone otter fishing. As yet it is unknown whether the otter was just passing through or had taken up residence but time will tell!

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/smooth-coated-otter-new-addition-to-coimbatores-urban-biodiversity/article36408920.ece>

More good news from India

The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change in India has designated the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ). This is to protect the sanctuary against any potential threats and help protect its vulnerable wildlife such as smooth-coated otters.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/177-sqkm-around-coringa-declared-eco-sensitive-zone/article36815224.ece>

Dead otters wash up on North Berwick beach

On Friday 27 November Storm Arwen hit Scotland and thousands of homeowners were left without electricity for nearly a week. In the aftermath two dead otters were found high up on the beach at North Berwick, Scotland. One was a youngster but there were no obvious signs of injury. Otters have been seen near the harbour and so it is likely to be these.

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/dead-otters-dolphin-wash-up-25569813>

Sea otter trackers

A number of organisations, including Monterey Bay Aquarium and NASA, are working on smaller, less-invasive GPS tracking devices for sea otters. The new designs would withstand the conditions of the marine environment and also the strength and power of otters' jaws, and offer minimum discomfort or nuisance to the individual animals. This will help scientists to understand otter behaviours specifically in relation to different climates and changes in environmental factors.

<https://www.foxnews.com/science/california-aquarium-agencies-work-to-develop-new-sea-otter-tracker>

Otter kills seagull

A tik-toker managed to video a North American river otter grabbing a seagull. Although otters do generally eat smaller fish and easier prey, they have been known to eat things such as birds and larger marine creatures. Indeed, we at IOSF have seen them take seabirds in the same way as this otter took the seagull.

The seagull, in Victoria, British Columbia, was totally unaware of the otter who was there and was gone within seconds. As @Johnthefisherman said "It's all part of the food chain, everything has to eat."

<https://washingtonnewsday.com/world/after-attacking-and-drowning-a-seagull-a-killer-otter-stuns-bystanders/>

Sea otter in Oregon

A lone sea otter has been spotted in Oregon State which was once part of their species range. It isn't unheard of, although quite rare, for males to wander down from neighbouring Washington State looking for mates but they usually don't stay for long and head back up north.

More recently, the lone otter was found at Cobble Beach at the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area and had to be taken into care at Oregon Coast Aquarium. It was very underweight and had limited mobility, poor fur quality and many puncture wounds which are believed to have been caused by a shark. It is still very early days in the otter's care and the next short while is critical but should things go well it is hoped that the otter will be returned to the wild.



Elakha Alliance are working to assess the possibility of a restoration programme for sea otters in Oregon through outreach and mitigation. Then hopefully these “stray” males will stay to populate otter rafts in Oregon. This would be great for otters, biodiversity in the area and, of course, help with climate change too – see item above.

https://mailchi.mp/elakhaalliance/november2021?fbclid=IwAR2yF9S66w-vyRbNfIO5iBB6lf_YZnfxfhOJqSHS6Th7mWb8h9WA5337TU8

Otter cake

Inspired by her love of animals, Kirsty Foulkes, 30, entered Cake International with a view of creating something otter-ly amazing. This was the first time the former chef had entered the competition and she made an amazing eating otter design to grab the bronze prize.

Amazing effort from Kirsty and if we'd been the judge, she would have got herself the gold!



https://www.facebook.com/KirstysCakesHamble/?ref=page_internal

<https://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/19716220.hamble-cake-maker-scoops-bronze-cake-international-competition/>

Otters feature in Worcester street art

A recent mural in the Worcester Paint Festival features otters by the street artist called Peachzz. She found street art in Sheffield's abandoned industries, expressing herself by splashing paint over forgotten walls. Now, an international graffiti and street artist, she has painted all over Europe and as far as Colombia and Mexico. Specialising in wildlife paintings and more recently experimenting with large scale portraiture, her work brings colourful joy to urban spaces. @.peachzz.

<https://www.peachzz.co.uk/walls>

<https://worcesterpaintfestival.co.uk/>



BOOK REVIEWS

Two great new books have been published:

We have a dream by Mya-Rose Craig

Mya-Rose Craig, also known as Bird girl, has published an inspiring book featuring 30 indigenous young people and people of colour who are campaigning to protect our planet. They all speak of their hopes and dreams for the future.

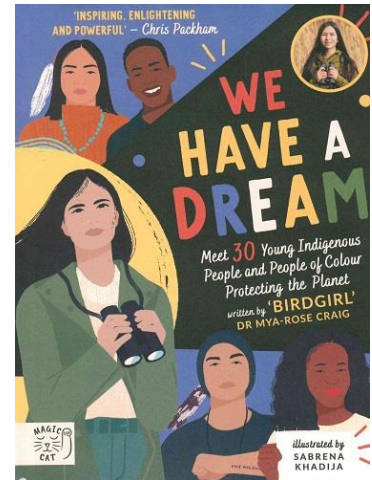


Included in the book is Sultan Ahmed who attended the IOSF Otter Training Workshop in Bangladesh in 2014. He is continuing to work in conservation in his country and is involved in the Global Youth Biodiversity Network to inspire others to “unite for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for a healthy environment.”

In her introduction Mya-Rose says “I spoke to thirty young campaigners from indigenous communities and communities of colour experiencing the start reality of our changing planet. Our conversations made clear a united dream:

- A dream for climate justice
- A dream for a healthy planet
- A dream for a fairer world for all”

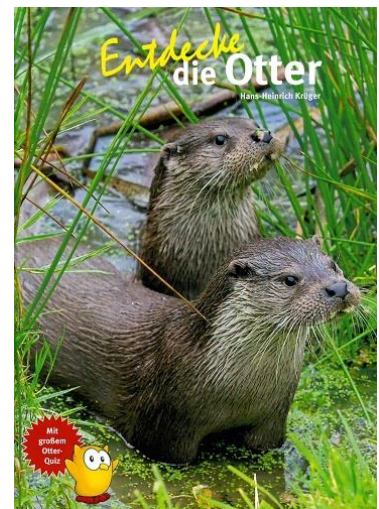
The book is published by Magic Cat Publishing (<https://www.magiccatpublishing.co.uk/collections/books>) and they have a number of other great books for all ages.



Entdecke die Otter by Hans-Heinrich Krüger

This beautiful book is part of a series of informative books on various species including bees, spiders, kingfishers, snakes, wolves and rhinos and also on different habitats such as coral reef and deep sea. It takes the children on a fascinating journey through the world of otters with otter expert Hans-Heinrich Krüger, who worked for many years with Aktion Fischotterschutz, Hankensbüttel, Germany.

Although it is listed as a children’s book it has plenty to interest adults who want to know more about otters. It is illustrated with many colour photographs and covers topics like the Mustelid family, what it means to live in water and on land, diet, otter senses, bringing up cubs, looking for otter signs, different species around the world. It also focuses on the important aspect of threats to otters and how to protect them. Finally it ends with a big otter quiz to see how much has been learnt.



It is published in German by https://www.ms-verlag.de/buecher/kinderbuch/entdecke-reihe/product/2723-entdecke-die-otter/related_product-36

However, if ordering from abroad the following websites may be helpful:

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Entdecke-die-Otter-Hans-Heinrich-Kr%C3%BCger/9783866594791>

https://www.hugendubel.de/de/buch_gebunden/hans_heinrich_krueger-entdecke_die_otter-41274533-produkt-details.html?fbclid=IwAR2JrW7b4UWJjK6DunMUH-dH_RnIX05ZTFZy70Yh7vDjx3bSQKXe-NcHJiY

HELP IOSF



Otter Shop Product of the Month

www.ottershop.co.uk

Become an IOSF Life Supporter

Our supporters are always valued by us as a crucial source of support for the work that we are doing, and those of you that become life supporters are highly appreciated.

For a one-off payment of £350 you can become a Life Supporter and give your long-term commitment to help secure a better future for otters in the UK and around the world.

We will send you a certificate showing your life supporter status and you will continue to receive full updates in our newsletters, on all of the work that we are doing.

<https://www.ottershop.co.uk/become-a-life-supporter-c2x9466694>

A LEGACY IS A GREAT WAY OF GIVING TO SOMETHING close to your heart and every gift will make a difference. After your family, have you ever thought of leaving something in your will to charity? Please consider remembering the International Otter Survival Fund in your will and help our work, protecting otters, to continue.

Including a legacy in your will ensures that your wishes are carried out, so it is important to discuss this with your solicitor. You can stipulate a specific restriction for its use, but remember that without restriction your legacy can be directed to where it is required most urgently.

Should you choose to provide a legacy for the International Otter Survival Fund in your will, we thank you and appreciate your support in this way.

This link http://otter.org/Public/HelpUs_Legacy.aspx will take you to our dedicated web page concerning making a Legacy.

Another way you help the otters is through our Amazon Wish List

https://otter.org/Public/HelpUs_WishList.aspx. These include items which we use regularly such as Hibiscrub, protective gloves, stationery, etc.



Please support IOSF and help to ensure that important conservation and awareness work continues.

UK taxpayers:

Increase the value
of your gift to IOSF:
giftaid it

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP - WHETHER YOU OWN A BUSINESS OR ARE EMPLOYED, does the company have a green policy/ support conservation? Then perhaps the company would like to consider becoming a Corporate Member with IOSF and supporting our work with otters.

You can find out more information on our website http://otter.org/Public/HelpUs_CorporateSponsorship.aspx



Thank You...

Thank you all for your continued support via many channels (direct donations, Facebook Fundraisers, sponsored challenges). It is inspiring.

Also, thanks to Alice Noakes Memorial Charitable Trust, The Animal Defence Trust, Dierenpark Amersfoort WP, Marjorie Cote Animal Charity Trust, The Michael & Shirley Hunt Charitable Trust, Monteith Solicitors, Nurtured by Nature, Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust and Sheila Thompson's estate

We can't do it without you

giftaid it



GIFT AID IS A SIMPLE WAY TO INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR GIFT TO IOSF - *at no extra cost to you.* If you pay tax in the UK, IOSF can reclaim the basic rate tax (25%) on your gift. So, if you donate £10, it is worth £12.50 to IOSF.

It is a simple process to sign up to Gift Aid - all you have to do is make a Gift Aid declaration. If you are donating online, just select the "Yes" option on the Gift Aid box on the donation form. Alternatively you can download and print out the Gift Aid Declaration on page 13 of our Fundraising Pack which can be found at:

http://www.otter.org/documents/IOSF_Fundraising_Pack.pdf

donr

Regular and secure giving to IOSF and otter conservation... at your fingertips.

Text OTTER 10 to 70085 to donate £10 (or change the amount to however much you wish to give)

You can donate monthly via our partners at the DONR giving platform that allows an easy and safe way method to give. This can be as little or as much as you can afford. Visit <https://www.donr.com/iosf> to find out more.



<https://giveacar.co.uk/charities/international-otter-survival-fund/>

Giveacar is a not-for-profit social enterprise that can turn your old car into cash for any UK charity. With free collection, your car will be auctioned or sold for scrap, depending on its condition, and the proceeds (minus our service fees) raised going to a charity of your choice.

Find out more at <https://giveacar.co.uk> or call 020 7736 4242

All photos are © to the name/s as indicated, otherwise ©IOSF



You can follow us on:



Keep Us in Mind

Raise **FREE** Donations... when you shop online. It's simple and costs you no more than your shopping. Visit one of our charity pages to discover how easy it is for you to help otters even more:



<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/iosf>



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/iosfund/>



<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/international-otter-survival-fund/>

Annual Supporters' Rates

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

Have you enjoyed reading this? Then please **SHARE** it with someone else and spread the word.



If you are reading this for the first time and would like to receive all IOSF mailings, click [here](#) to sign up. Please be assured that we will never pass on your details to any other party and you will only ever receive emails from us.

Discover Ways You Can Help

There are many ways in which you can raise money and awareness to help the otters in our **Fundraising Pack** or find out what some of our supporters have done over the years in the online **newsletters**.

International Otter Survival Fund
7 Black Park
Broadford
Isle of Skye IV49 9DE
Scotland

Email: enquiries@otter.org
Tel/Fax: ++(0)1471 822487



Charity Number SC003875

Join our IOSF mailing list. Click on this link:
<http://tinyurl.com/p3lrsmx>

www.otter.org

The International Otter Survival Fund
Working to Save the Worlds Otters

