



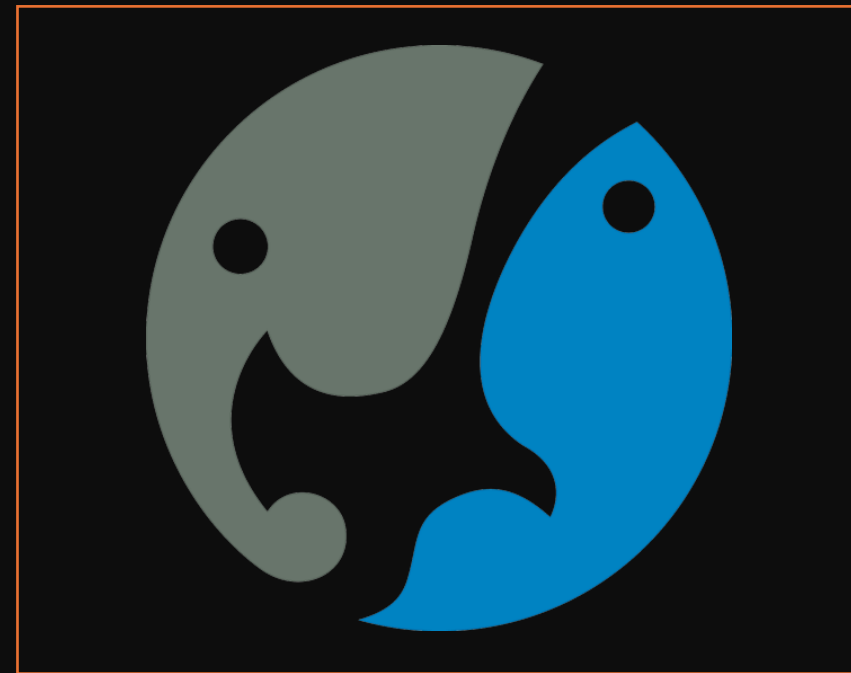
Who am i?

- Jason Palmer
- Curator for two UK ZOOS
- We hold 4 species of otter all of which are on EAZA programs

The logo for New Forest wildlife park features the text 'New Forest' in a bold, green, sans-serif font, with a green paw print icon to the right of the word 'New'. Below this, the words 'wildlife park' are written in a smaller, green, cursive font.

Role with EAZA SCT/WAZA

- Privileged to be EAZA species monitor for Asian Short clawed Otters, processing to become an EEP
- Smooth coated otter species committee
- Lutra lutra species committee.
- WAZA ISB holder for Asian Short Clawed otter





Dashboard

Overview

Overlays

Institutions

Aonyx cinereus

8552 Studbook Animals (3603.3559.1390)
744 Institutions / Currentness Date: 17/Sep/2024 ● ⚠

Aonyx / Otter
[+6 more](#)

2158

Living Animals In Studbook

[View List >](#)

8552

All Animals In Studbook

[View List >](#)

1

Suggested Animals

[View List >](#)

0

Pending Updates

[View List >](#)

Data Quality

0

High Priority

[View List >](#)

1

Medium Priority

[View List >](#)

0

Low Priority

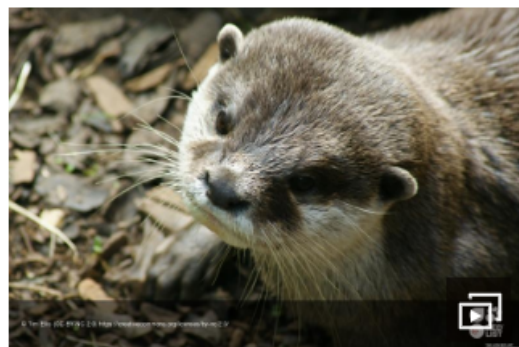
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IUCN SSC Otter Specialist Group management team member
Global species advisor for Asian short clawed otters
EAZA/OSG liaison

[Jump to Asian Small-clawed Otter: In detail](#)

[Translate page](#) | [Select Language](#)



Asian Small-clawed Otter

Aonyx cinereus

ABSTRACT

Asian Small-clawed Otter *Aonyx cinereus* has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2020. *Aonyx cinereus* is listed as Vulnerable under criteria A2cde+3cde.

[Download](#) | [Text Overview](#)

feedback

THE RED LIST ASSESSMENT [i](#)

▶ [Wright, L., de Silva, P.K., Chan, B., Reza Lubis, I. & Basak, S. 2021. *Aonyx cinereus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Spec...*](#)

LAST ASSESSED
19 February 2020



NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	< VULNERABLE >	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

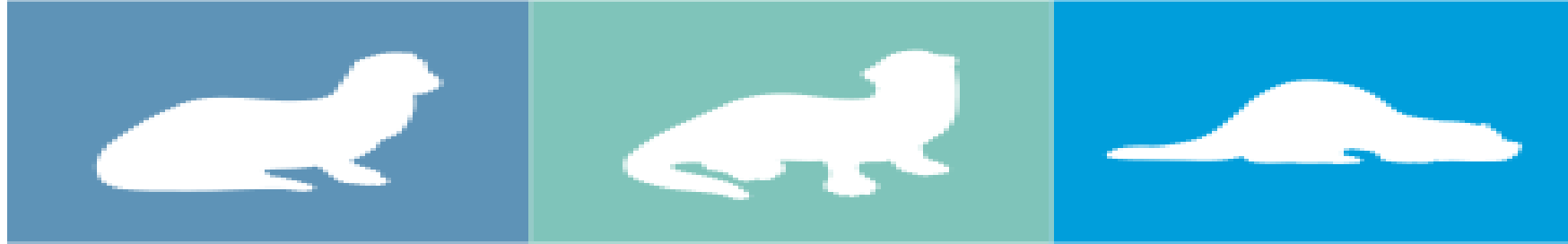


**IUCN red listed as ‘vulnerable’,
 population decreasing.
 >30% in 30 years (3 generations)
 estimated decline >30% over the next 30 years**



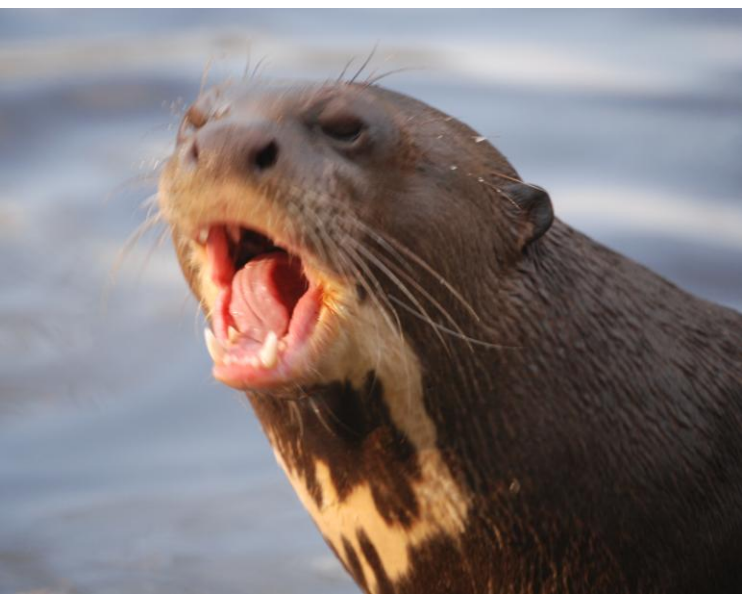
Pet otter trade, fur
trade,
otter 'cafes',
habitat loss.

Himalayan Otter Network



Asian short clawed otters *Aonyx cinereus*

The suitability of housing them in an educational facility





Three types of facilities have 'trouble' with:

1 farm parks

2 aquariums

3 colleges

U.K. colleges housing the species

- REASEHEATH
- CANNINGTON
- HADLOW
- ASKHAM BRYAN
- PENKRIDGE
- BISHOP BURTON
- LACKHAM
- SHUTTLEWORTH
- BCA BERKSHIRE



Pros and cons

• Positives

- Good DWA species
- Good exotic species to teach about complex captive needs
- Research opportunities
- Good studbook/ EEP species to be engaged with
- Good for enrichment idea for students

• Negatives

- Lack of experienced staff
- Lack of staff continuity
- Unsuitable enclosures
- Lack of knowledge of species husbandry and requirements
- Lack of communication
- Poor record keeping
- Knock on effect to students getting employment

licensing

- ZOO LICENSED OR
- DWA CATEGORY 1 SPECIES
- CITES ANNEX A SPECIES
- EAZA EEP SPECIES
- WAZA GLOBAL ISB SPECIES



Safe working practises

- Protected contact for both staff and students at all times.
- As a category 1 species, two otters may not be a threat to life but can cause severe injury.
- Groups of otters are potentially much more dangerous.
- Enclosures should always be constructed with isolation design for humans/ otters at all times



Enclosure design



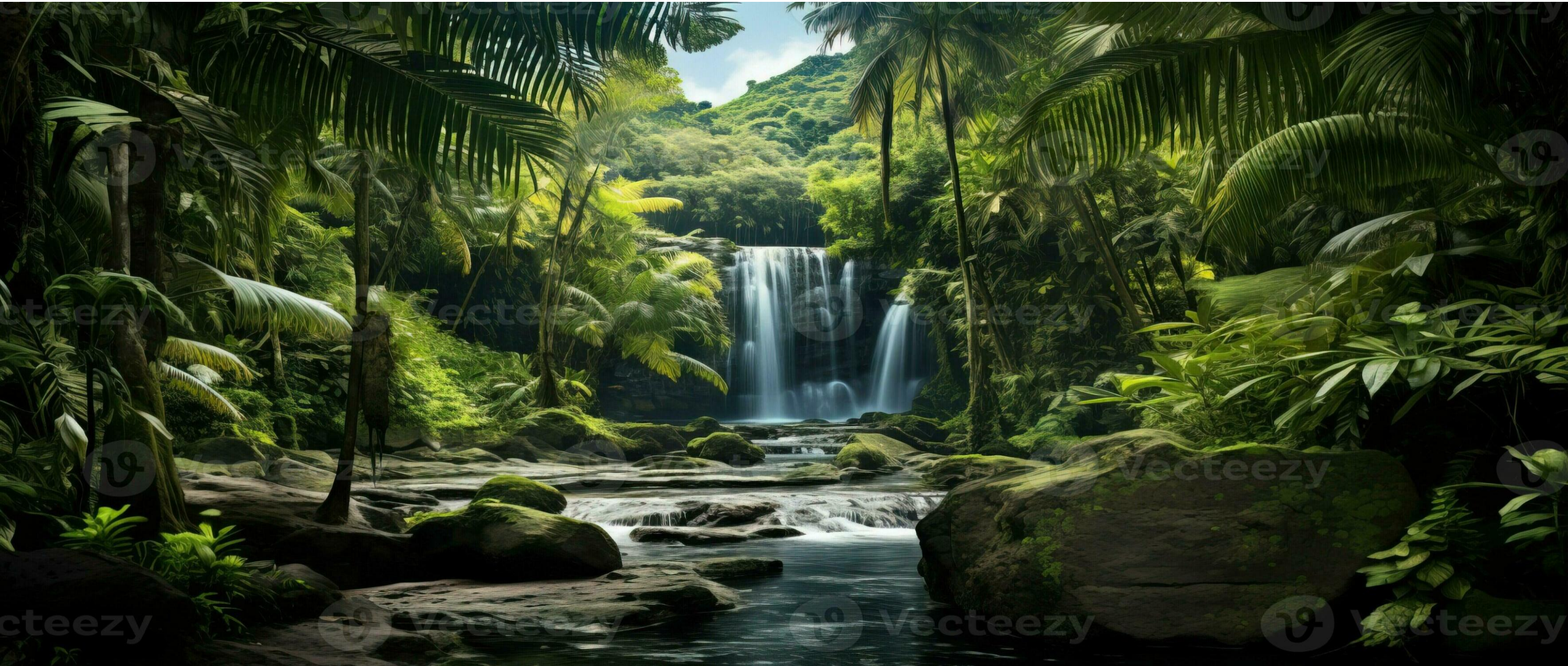
THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER



Typical Asian Short Clawed Otter habitat, Goa, India.



1/3 water to 2/3 land , with a shallow pool



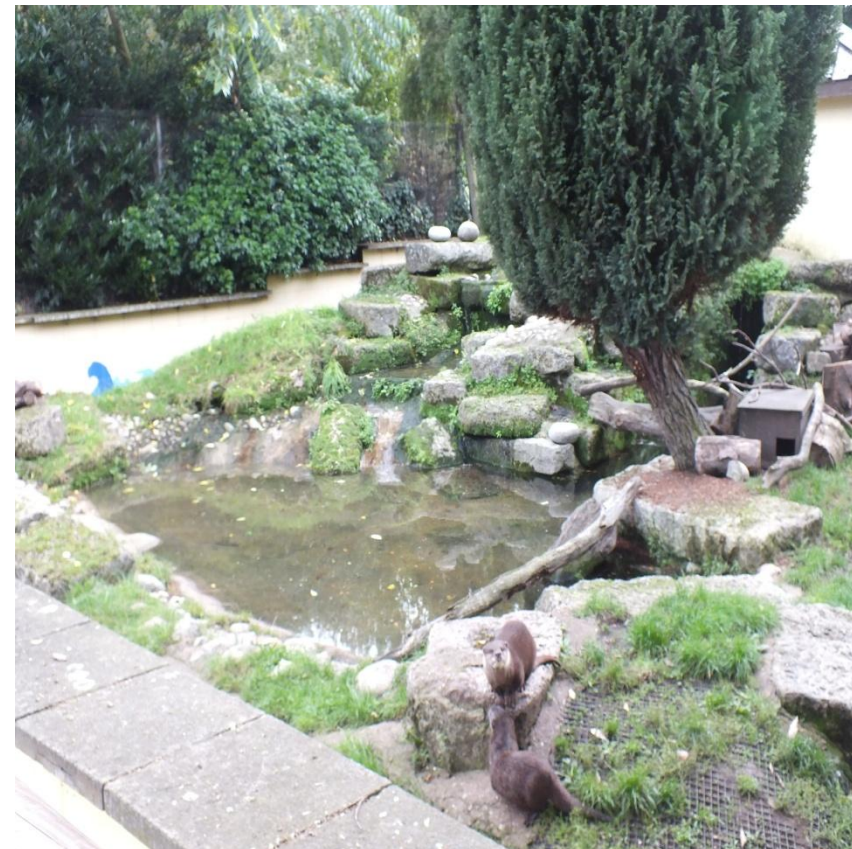
Enclosures at New Forest Wildlife Park

- **Multiple species held within the same fence design**





**Battersea Park Children's Zoo 1951- present.
Between 1990 and 2003 bred and distributed approx 55 ASC otters throughout the
U.K./Europe.**













Group social structure





Alpha Male



Alpha Female



First Litter! Between 1 and 7 cubs per litter can be born up to 2 litters a year



Things to remember

Breeding pair are monogamous and will pair for life

Breeding age averages from 2 years to 10/12 years approx.

Cubs should stay with the parents/ group until at least two years or until the next litter is matured.

Contraception of individuals will alter the group dynamics.

Removing individuals from the family group will alter the group structure.

Otters reaching sexual maturity at around 18 months/ 2 years will go through a 'phase'.

TO PAIR OR NOT TO PAIR



What's best to have?

- Please have a male/ female non breeding pair.
- Same sex pairs/ groups will more than likely break down at some point.
- If housing a 'pair' you must make sure you have isolation/ introduction facilities.



Introductions

- **Introductions of otters can be easy, or it can be impossible!**



Nutrition

-





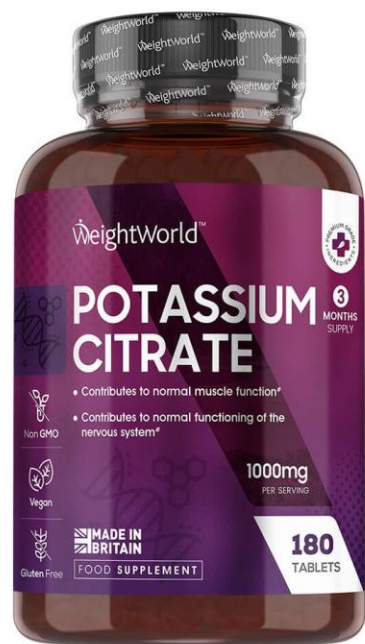
Cohesive diet and nutrition .

CORRECT DIET AND NUTRITION









Key points to take home....

- Highly complex social species.
- Possibly dangerous.
- Suitable dual enclosures required.
- Good DWA species for students to learn about.
- Dietary, medical, enrichment, social needs are complex.
- High level of external organization management and support.



Thank you for listening!

Jason Palmer

Jason@newforestwildlifepark.co.uk

Any Questions?

Reference sources:

- **Studbooks:** ZIMS for Studbooks for [EAZA/WAZA *Aonyx cinereus*]. [Palmer J], [26th June 2024]). Species360 Zoological Information Management System. Retrieved from <http://zims.Species360.org> [institution lists]
- **General ZIMS database reference:** Species360 Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS) (2024), zims.Species360.org.

