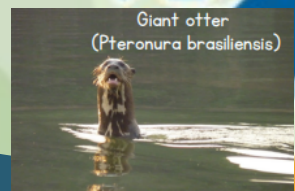


# The Lucky 13

Sea otters are found along the coastlines throughout the North Pacific Ocean. They are truly marine and will use their tummy as a table when cracking open clams and other prey. They are listed as Endangered with oil spills and human disturbances (among other things) being threats. They are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 with several groups aiding in their conservation including The Southern Sea Otter Research Alliance.



North American river otters live throughout Canada and much of the U.S. They will commonly slide or toboggan over snow or mud. They were hunted and trapped extensively for their fur in the 19th and 20th centuries, and in some areas are still hunted. While they have not recovered to the point of living throughout their entire historic range, conservation and reintroduction efforts have aided in population recovery.



Giant otters are found from Central to South America, from Venezuela to Argentina. They are the largest otter and are known for "periscoping" to show off their white throat patches. They have the most vocalizations of any otter species. They are listed as Endangered with habitat loss, pollution, and loss of prey being contributing factors of their decline. Several groups aid in their conservation including Save the Giants, Inc.

Neotropical otters are widespread throughout Central and South America. They have the longest tail of any otter, which gives them their scientific name. They were threatened by an extremely high hunting rate between 1950 and 1970, but are now protected in every country in which they are found. They are listed as Near Threatened.



Marine otters are found along the coasts of Chile and Peru. They are the smallest marine mammal and in Spanish are called gato marino or "marine cat". Their teeth are designed for slicing their prey instead of crunching. They are listed as Endangered. In the past they were extensively hunted both for their fur and due to perceived competition with fisheries. It is unknown how many marine otters exist in the wild or what habitats should be preserved to encourage their recovery.



Southern river otters are found in Southern Chile and Western Argentina. They have the smallest geographical range of any otter and live a mostly solitary lifestyle. Although they are labeled as a "river" otter, they can be found in both freshwater and marine water habitats. They are listed as Endangered with hunting for their pelts being a major contributor to their decline.



# The Lucky 13

Eurasian otters are found throughout Europe and Asia and also found in North Africa. They cannot hold their breath for long with average dives being only 30 seconds. They are listed as Near Threatened with poaching and habitat loss being threats (among others). They are protected in the UK and have been since the 1980's with a focus on decreasing pollution-thus increasing prey species and protecting their habitat.



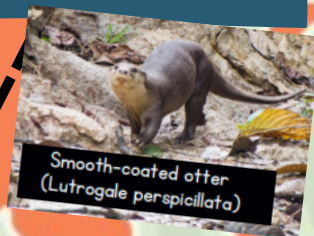
Eurasian otter  
(*Lutra lutra*)

Asian small-clawed otters are found in Southern and Southeast Asia. They are the smallest otter species and will grab food with their paws instead of their teeth. They are listed as Vulnerable. Their major threats include habitat destruction, depletion of food source, and illegal hunting. Research projects being conducted on this species help us better understand them and be able to argue for policy changes to conserve their populations.



Asian small-clawed otter  
(*Aonyx cinereus*)

Smooth-coated otters have a wide distribution through Asia. They have short, smooth fur and large, webbed feet. They have been recorded hunting together in a V-pattern. They are threatened by habitat loss due to construction of large-scale hydroelectric projects, poaching, and others. They have been protected in India under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The identification of wetlands and the creation of protected areas under the Ramsar Convention has helped halt degradation of their habitat.



Smooth-coated otter  
(*Lutrogale perspicillata*)

African clawless otter are found in Central to Southern Africa. They are born with tiny claws, but then lose most of these. They have less webbing, increasing dexterity in their paws to aid in grabbing food with them. They are listed as Near Threatened with habitat loss and human/wildlife conflicts being the main threats. Education of local communities is the main focal point of their conservation efforts.

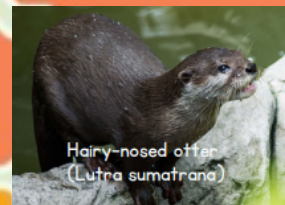


African clawless otter  
(*Aonyx capensis*)



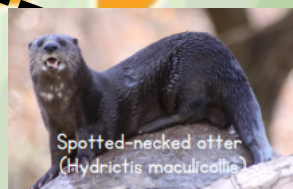
Congo clawless otter  
(*Aonyx congicus*)

Congo clawless otters are found in Central Africa in the Congo River Basin. They are also known as swamp otters. They have no webbing on their front feet with small blunt claws, but do have webbing on their hind feet. They are more terrestrial than other otter species and tend to eat a lot of worms which they dig out of the mud. They are listed as Near Threatened with habitat loss and degradation, overfishing and pollution being major threats. Research and camera traps contribute to establishing accurate habitat and range for the species, aiding in their conservation.



Hairy-nosed otter  
(*Lutra sumatrana*)

Hairy-nosed otters are found in Southeast Asia. The black part of their nose is hairy where most mammals have a moist and bare nose. They are threatened by human activities causing disturbances to their habitat such as fishing and cultivating crops. They are listed as Endangered though they were considered extinct in 1998. In 1999, some were found to be kept as pets, changing their status and have since been found in several areas.



Spotted-necked otter  
(*Hydrietta maculicollis*)

Spotted-necked otters are found throughout Africa, south of the Sahara Desert. They have white spots on their necks that are unique to each individual. They are locally known as fisi maji or "water hyena". They are listed as Near Threatened with major threats being negative interactions with humans and lack of prey. Community education and public awareness of the species aid in their conservation.