



Otter News No. 90, June 2018

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Click on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/p3lrsmx>

News from the Sanctuary

Well, the big news of the month is that Noelle is finally back in the wild. It took a while to catch her as she had dug herself a hole in the side of the pool to hide in and we couldn't get her out. But eventually, we found her out in the enclosure and got her into the release box. The release itself was wonderful and she slipped quickly into the water. She was as uncooperative as ever so that we didn't manage to get any decent photos but being able to watch her swim under water in the clear river was unforgettable.



Uisge has taken a leaf out of Noelle's book and knows how to avoid the camera. But he is eating well, which is always encouraging to see.



Mel (@Sarah Corrigan)

Yet another camera-shy otter is Mel, who keeps himself to himself in his enclosure. He always comes out at night to grab his fish but we did manage to take this snap of him recently.

But Aeris and Beatha are totally different (photo below). As I said last time, they love it when I put the hose on the pool which I've had to do every day recently because of the dry weather. The other day I caught sight of Beatha lying on her back playing with a stone on her belly – I've seen many videos of Asian small-clawed otters doing that but never a Eurasian. But there she was throwing this stone around between her paws! I also saw Aeris lying on her back so busily grooming her fur she was totally oblivious to me. Clearly this was a very important job.



Aeris and Beatha (©Sarah Corrigan)

Now that Noelle has vacated her pen, we have been able to do a lot of necessary maintenance work on it. Over the years the otters have extended the pool considerably by digging into the banks and sliding in to the water. So we wanted to reduce it back to its original size and at the same time remove the holes which Noelle had used to hide it. The pen has also been

reseeded as the winter weather and the otters running around, has had a big impact on the grass.

We are delighted to say that our fundraising target for the new facilities has been reached. We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed but have to say a very special thank you to Jenny Briggs who kindly donated to make sure we reached this target. We hope the building can go up in August so that everything can be finalised before the autumn sets in.

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

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:

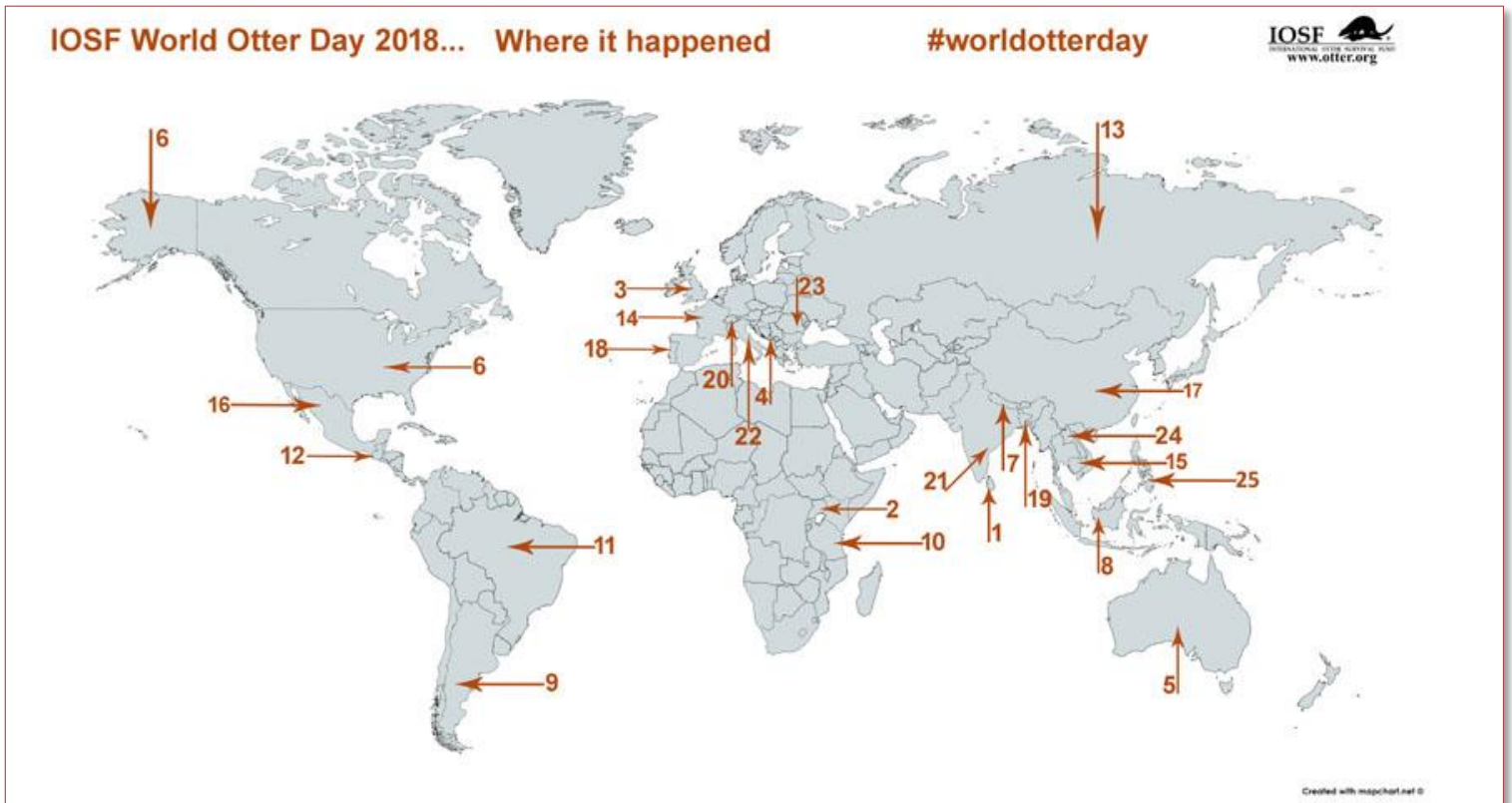
http://www.otter.org/documents/IOSF_Fundraising_Pack.pdf

Or, contact us on 01471 822487 and we will send you a form through the post.



This month we have so much to tell you about World Otter Day 2018 that we are going to devote the rest of this e-update to that.

There was a lot on social media – as we said last month, **#worldotterday** was tweeted over 66,000 times and it was trending No 1 until it was knocked off the top spot by Britain's Got Talent! It was also mentioned in newspapers in many countries including the USA, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Australia, Montenegro, India, Italy, Ireland, and, of course, UK.



You can see from our map that events have taken place in at least 25 countries. We want to say a huge **“Thank you”** to everyone who took part and helped to make it such a success. Your action, no matter how small, has helped to draw attention to otters and how important it is that we conserve them and their habitat.

Unfortunately we can't possibly tell you about everything which went on but here is a selection of various activities around the world.

Photographs courtesy of those involved in the following report of events.

Argentina, Bariloche, Patagonia

In San Carlos de Bariloche, Patagonia, they celebrated “Huillín Day” on June 15th to participate in the World Otter Day festivities. This was the first time that Argentina, with the Southern river otter (or Huillín as it is locally known), has been part of this international initiative dedicated to raise awareness about otter conservation and their environments in the communities living close to them.

300 children between 10 and 12 years old visited the exhibition in the Museo de la Patagonia where two biologists, working on the species, guided them along eight ‘otter stations’ that displayed the most important moments of an otter life cycle. The children were then shown habitat conservation issues that the



Huillin face in Argentina and around the city and how they can help.

Early in the evening, La Maroma offered a beautiful concert performing songs on local flora and fauna. Soy Huillín is one of the most popular songs! After the concert, group talks on the species and habitat restoration projects closed the day.

Nahuel Huapi National Park, Aves Argentinas and Bariloche Municipality organized the event. Nippon car and Toyota Argentina supported all the material printed for the exhibition and gifts for the children.

Bangladesh

Jagannath - a seminar was organised to celebrate World Otter Day 2018 at the Department of Zoology, Jagannath University with the help of the student volunteer organization Nature Study and Conservation Club (NSCC). Bisharga Das spoke about the importance, biology, facts and threats of Otter and what can we do to conserve them? Chief guest was Professor Dr. Bidhan Chandra Das of Rajshahi University and the program was chaired by Professor Dr. Abdul Alim, Chairman of Zoology, Jagannath University. Other faculty members and a crowd of 50 students attended the program.



Brazil

Sorocaba Zoo - held an IOSF World Otter Day event. Working closely with the local newspaper, the day was publicised to help raise awareness. They held special World otter Day talks around their enclosure and, as part of the event, they had a competition to name their latest otter. After a social media campaign, the otter is now called “Lontrina” which is an adaptation of the first half of the scientific name for the species “*Lontra longicaudis*.”



China

For Wetlands International - Southwestern Mountain - Civil Society promoted the IOSF World Otter Day across China through their social media platform and also prepared a post, with photos and text, about the otters from around the world.

Local NGOs - Shanshui conservation centre also released a post to celebrate World Otter Day. Here is a link about this post, in Chinese.

https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/jm6U7SFI_q3dU85-8VRVHA



Hengqin, Zhuhai

The Chimelong Ocean Kingdom celebrated World Otter Day with lots of activities for visiting children and families, to learn about otters and the problems they face including habitat loss and pollution.



A child reading fascinating otter facts (left) and an activity of conservation 'returning otters to their habitat' (right) © Chimelong Ocean Kingdom

Guatemala

Aurora Zoo - interacted with over 2,500 people during their 2-day World Otter Day event. As part of their celebration they had arts and crafts, face painting, education on otters and an artwork competition.

The winner of the competition was Diego André Flores Ovando, aged 8, with this superb painting.



© Aurora Zoo

India

Gujarat – Suthar Akshit of the Gujarat Ecology Society, presented an illustrated talk about otter conservation and the Smooth-coated otter population found there; so creating awareness among key stakeholders, such as the fishing community, researchers, the forest department and other law enforcement agencies, who may play an important role in otter conservation.

#OttersofGujarat <http://gujaratdesertecology.com>



© Mr. Viral Vadodariva

Italy

The Aquarium of Cattolica – has three Asian small-clawed otters, Eva, Martha and Constance. The Aquarium supported World Otter Day for five days during the otters' feeding hours, when the keepers spoke to the public, highlighting the threats and environmental issues affecting otters. These talks included subjects such as biology, behaviour, play, social and the feeding habit of lutrines.



©Acquario de Cattolica

Cattolica Aquarium will take advantage of the event's limelight to solicit donations to IOSF, International Otter Survival Fund, through its web and social channels, to which the facility itself will contribute.

<https://www.facebook.com/acquariodicattolica/videos/10155481998822197/>

Japan (images Kaiyukan Aquarium)

The Kaiyukan Aquarium in Osaka, celebrated World Otter Day with a tour of the otter exhibit for their visitors. This included a talk by the otter keeper about the reduction of habitats for river otters, smuggling, endangered species and the domestic breeding programme of river otters.



Special badges made with the World Otter Day logo, were given as gifts to those participating.

Montenegro

Skadar Lake - On May 30th, with the children's educational TV show, young reporters, TV Vijesti "Pčelice – Bees", Ninoslav Đurovic celebrated this Day. They visited an island on Lake Skadar to look for secondary signs of otters and place the camera trap (purchased with the World Otter Day grant). In the show we talked about the World Otter Day and IOSF as the initiators



of this day since 2014. We also mentioned that it was celebrated in over 20 countries with over 40 events.

This post was on TV News, the most watched local Television, and on the state website of RTCG and all the important portals, this day was marked.

<http://www.vijesti.me/tv/obiljezen-svjetski-dan-vidre-990969>

Nepal

Karnali River - Mr. Thark Bahadur Shah organised an event to raise awareness in a region on the Karnali River to educate local people about otter conservation. A three-month local fishing ban was implemented to help with the conservation of otters, as well as, dolphins, crocodiles and other wetland species. (photo right showing the poster which provided information about the project).



Kanchanpur - Balram Awasthi organised a cycle rally to raise awareness about otters between the Siddhanath Science Campus to Lalpur. There was also a collection of signatures in the Madan chowk of Mahendranagar city.

In this programme the Mayer of Bhimdatta Municipality Mr. Surendra Bista, the campus

Chief of Siddhanath Science Campus, Mrs. Bimala Shakya, the District Forest Officer Mr. Shiva Kumar Sharma, the president of Suklaphanta Bufferzone Management committee,,and head of Department of Zoology, Siddhanath Science Campus, Dr. Mahadev Bista, participated the event.



Cycling rally and collected signatures ©Balram Awasthi

Switzerland

Zoo De La Chaux-De-Fonds,

At the Zoo De La Chaux-De-Fonds an awareness raising event was held, as well as fundraising for IOSF. They celebrated the day by teaching visitors all about otters and their necessary conservation. Zoo De La Chaux-De-Fonds managed to raise almost £100 for otter conservation!
(Photo right ©Zoo De La Chaux-De-Fonds of display board about IOSF)



Tanzania

Sengerema, Mwanza – Oliver Katembo organised a celebration of World Otter Day with a group of activities in the local community and school.

There was discussion with community leaders to make them aware of the otters and their value to the environment, how to manage their livelihood and also protect the habitat in relation to climate change.

We shared a video with youngsters i.e. friends of otters at one selected primary school, with the aim of observing the otter's habitat, feeding, breeding and the species. Then discussed conservation ideas for the problems we observed.

Community education provision about otters and how to protect them which was done in a community open space.

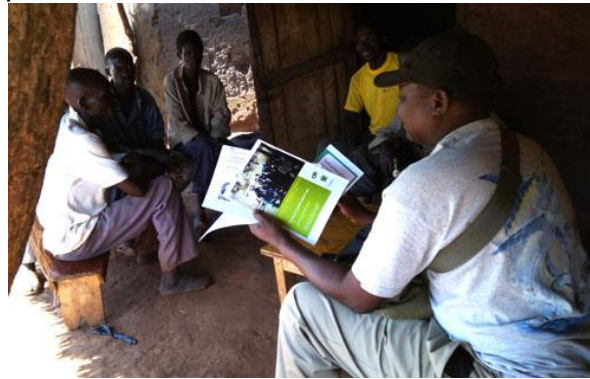


Uganda (Photos © Godfrey Lubanga)

Godfrey Lubanga works at the Murchison Falls NP and was awarded an IOSF World Otter Day grant to survey a 10km section of the Nile river east of Karuma, involving 10 members of the local community.



To launch the project Godfrey went with local fishermen in a dug-out canoe on the river. He met with them and discussed the work to be done. The presence of the Brown otter was confirmed.



USA

California - The River Otter Ecology Project in California chose to raise awareness with two presentations. The presentations emphasised the importance of otters in relation to wetland ecology.

They also had a TV spot which will do a lot to raise awareness for the species and their importance. The TV piece can be seen here <http://abc7news.com/pets-animals/california-river-otters-making-comeback/3540585/>

Texas - On May 30th The Texas Zoo joined IOSF's World Otter Day for the first time ever. The zoo hosted an event to educate the public about the silent extinction that is currently plaguing our world otter population and raise funds for the International Otter Survival Fund to help their conservation efforts.

The event was full of fun for all ages, with water slides, sprinklers, and otter crafts to tap into even the biggest of kids' playful, ottery side! Our two North American River Otters were highlighted as the guests of honour and were treated to all sorts of special treats, enrichments, and fun training sessions.

In all aspects, the event was a total success! Everyone had a blast and learned all about our furry friends, while raising £404.24! Texas Zoo staff are already excited about an even bigger and better event in 2019!

UK

Scotland

Auchingarrich - Auchingarrich held an event to raise awareness for otter conservation and IOSF. The event was received well by its visitors and did a great deal to help otters.

England

Hampshire - Waterlooville Library celebrated World Otter Day with an ottery event for children. Children learned all about otters, IOSF and had the chance to draw pictures and create masks for themselves (photo right). This event was great and managed to teach the future generations about all the otters of the world.



Berkshire - As part of her Delphic Challenge at school, Ava Thomas (age 10) organised a French pastry sale, and raised an amazing £94 for the International Otter Survival Fund selling eclairs, macaroons and lemon meringue pies.



Team Otter

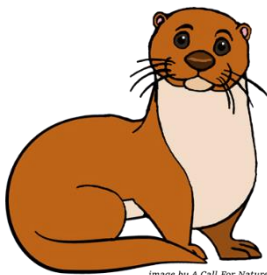


Image by A Call For Nature

As was reported last month in regards to World Otter Day, IOSF's education officer (Ben Yoxon) visited three schools on the Small Isles and Arisaig (on the nearby mainland) of North West Scotland.

These photos show Ben teaching the children about the importance of an otter's fur, at Isle of Muck Primary School (left), and with the school children on the Isle of Eigg (right).



And finally, remember that World Otter Day 2019 will be on Wednesday 29 May 2019

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>

Events

Visit our website to find out what might be happening in the otter world near you,

<http://otter.org/Public/Events.aspx>

Product of the Month - Otter Shop (on Twitter @otter_shop and Facebook)

Where all profits go to help otters www.ottershop.co.uk

Our 2019 Otter Calendar includes a full colour image of each otter species (one for each month plus the cover) and an otter fact, as well as information about the International Otter Survival Fund.

This A5 calendar opens to A4 portrait size and costs just £6.99 from the Otter Shop.

<https://www.ottershop.co.uk/iosf-2019-otters-endangered-calendar-c2x26461673>



Legacy

A legacy is a great way of giving to something close to your heart and every gift will make a difference. 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 webpage concerning making a Legacy.

Thank You



More 'Thank you's go to our supporting organisations and trusts: The Shirley Pugh Foundation for the Welfare of Animals, The Roger Raymond Charitable Trust, The Beryl Evetts & Robert Luff Animal Welfare Trust, The Mary Heap Charitable Trust and The St. Mary's Charity.

Also, The Tranquil Otter (Cumbria), Lush (cosmetics), our Facebook Fundraisers and everyone who has generously donated.

Corporate Membership

Whether you own a business or are employed, does the company have a green policy/ supports 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

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

You can follow us on:



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

*Increase the value
of your gift to IOSF:*

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Have you enjoyed reading this e-newsletter? Then please forward it to 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**.

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The International Otter Survival Fund
Working to Save the Worlds Otters