



Otter Survey

India is home to three otter species viz, Common otter, smooth-coated otter and the small clawed otter. They have been accorded legal protection under the IW(P) Act of 1972, while the IUCN Red list of threatened animals designate the status as critically threatened. Otters are suitable indicators of the health of a wetland ecosystem and play a major role as a top carnivore species, however not much attention has been given to understand their ecology. WWF India is currently conducting a country wide survey on otters for compiling information on their current status and distribution in protected and as well as outside protected areas. We are particularly keen to gather information from experienced people like you and would be grateful if you could spare your time to fill in the questionnaire given below. Many thanks for any help you can offer.

Kind regards,
Yours Sincerely,

Asghar Nawab
Senior Project Officer.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE FORM

- (1) Your name and address: (email address, if available):
- (2) Name and address of the *Protected Area* known to you:
(Latitude/longitude information is welcome, but not essential): *Lat*..... *Long*.....
- (3) Have otters ever been present in this area over the last 100 years? *Yes*..... *No*..... *Unknown*.....
If Yes, please state the source of information.....
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- (4) Are otters present in this area now? *Yes*..... *No*..... *Unknown*
- If Yes, can you name the prominent water bodies (river, stream, pond, lake or reservoir) where otters are regularly seen
- (5) Over the last 10 years do you think that otter numbers in this area have been: a. Stable.....
b. Increasing..... c. Decreasing d. Extinct e. Unknown.....
- (6) Do you have any information on the current otter population in this area: *Yes* *No*
- If Yes, please provide number of otter groups generally seen in the area *Or*
Try to guess if the otter population is: a. High b. Medium c. Low
- (7) Any factor (s) that may be threatening the otter population, or may have caused their extinction if otters are no longer present in the area: a. Illegal fishing activities using gill nets or dynamiting
b. Sand and boulder miming c. Extraction of shoreline vegetation d. ****Poaching**
- **Please elaborate**
- (8) Any other information, comment or survey contacts that you can provide us with will be highly appreciated
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For more information please contact anawab@wwfindia.net or write in to us at Freshwater & Wetlands Programme, WWF-India Secretariat, Pirojsha Godrej National Conservation Centre, 172-B, Lodi Estate, New Delhi-110003.