

Recommendations and Results
IXth International Otter Colloquium (IOC)
Frostburg/USA, June 4 - 10, 2004

The IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group (OSG) and the participants of IXth IOC agreed on the following results of IXth IOC and recommendations for further work in otter conservation:

For Latin America they recommend:

- to develop standard survey methodologies for all Latin American otter species and commence implementation, prioritising range border areas, corridor areas and threatened areas.
- to preferentially support the continuation of existing long-term research projects and to encourage new long-term work.
- to use otters as umbrella/flagship species in the conservation and management of aquatic environments, focusing on advocacy with government authorities and conservation organisations.
- to identify and understand new threats and implement management activities, in cooperation with government authorities and NGOs, to address the known threats.
- to expand education, communication and public awareness activities related to these species among indigenous, local and national stakeholders.
- to strengthen the role of zoos as centres of excellence for otter conservation education, research and *in-situ* conservation support, using management husbandry guidelines, cooperative breeding programmes (studbooks) and effective communication to achieve these aims.
- to encourage communication amongst and identify new OSG collaborators in all countries of Latin America

Specifically for the Neotropical Otter they recommend:

- to clarify the taxonomy of *L. longicaudis*;
- to evaluate the extension of conflicts between otter and fishermen and fish farm owners;
- to encourage long-term research and conservation projects in different hydro-ecoregions.

Specifically for the Marine Otter they recommend:

- to improve coordination regarding research and conservation of the species between range countries and disseminate the results of the studies carried out so far in Chile.
- to expand the research on the biology and ecology of the species, especially south of 42° S and in Peru.

Specifically for the Southern River Otter they recommend:

- to expand the research on the biology and ecology of the species, especially in the marine part of its distribution range.
- to broaden the watershed management activities to prevent habitat loss and to restore already impacted areas, using the Tolten River basin as an example.
- to work with government authorities, conservation organizations and local people, in Argentina and Chile, in order to mitigate the impact of poaching and agriculture on the species.