



Photo: Courtesy of Zoo Atlanta



Photo: Courtesy of Columbus Zoo

IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group: Otters in Captivity Task Force (OCT)
– Supporting quality captive otter care worldwide –

OCT Mission Statement:

The IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group Otters in Captivity Task Force (OSG OCT) promotes worldwide communication between individuals working with otters in captivity and all other settings.

For captive biologists:

All institutions holding otters should support in-situ and ex-situ conservation efforts for these charismatic species. Providing financial and or technical support for these efforts is crucial as is the proper captive care of these species. The OCT recommends that all captive facilities work together to further improved care and breeding success in the world's captive otter populations, including the development of, use of, and distribution of best care practices via husbandry manuals based on captive and field study experience. We support and encourage efforts being made to advance all of these goals by professional organizations such as the African Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Australasian Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums, European Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and many others.

For field biologists

The OCT encourages all *in-situ* researchers to become involved in some capacity with the zoos/aquariums working with otters in their range countries. This can take many forms including offering technical advice regarding behaviour or habitat requirements, offering to do informative talks for employees or zoo/aquarium members, or providing informative materials for use in fund raising.

For additional information please contact: Jan Reed-Smith, Chair – jrsotter@iserv.net or Leslie Wright, Vice-Chair - L.C.Wright@rl.ac.uk