The 14th International Otter Congress was held from 8th to 13th April 2019 at Sichuan Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve in China, which is listed in the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas. The event was co-hosted by IUCN SSC Otter Specialist Group, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, and Sichuan Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve. A total of 132 delegates from 29 countries/regions attended. There were 69 oral and poster presentations. A roundtable of experts gave recommendations for the conservation of otters of Sichuan Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve and the surrounding area, and Sichuan Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve made a declaration at the closing ceremony to better conserve its otters and biodiversity.

It wasn’t all work and no fun. The group made an excursion to the Tangjiahe Natural History Museum and a field trip to explore otter habitats within the Reserve. In the evenings, wildlife rangers led night safaris to see exciting wildlife such as Sichuan Takin, Chinese Serow, Tufted Deer, and some lucky participants even managed to see the resident Eurasian Otter! After the conference, some participants stayed behind to join our organized wildlife tours to look for the Giant Panda, Golden Snub-nosed Monkey, Golden Pheasant, Black-necked Crane and other iconic wildlife of the Sichuan mountains.