

# Asian Small-clawed Otter

*Aonyx cinereus*

RED LIST STATUS

**VULNERABLE**



These otters are often seen as an asset by local rice farmers, since crabs and snails are considered a pest in rice paddies.

**ALIAS:** oriental small-clawed otter, ash otter, short-clawed otter

**PREDATORS:** crocodiles, large carnivores, dogs

**THREATS:** habitat loss, poaching, overfishing, pollution, pet trade

**SIZE:** 65-94 cm (body 40-63 cm tail 25-35 cm); 2-5 kg

If you give an otter a piece of fish, the otter will reach for it with its mouth. Give a small-clawed otter a piece of fish and it will grab it in its hands! An extremely dextrous animal with reduced claws (hence the name) and diminished webbing between the fingers, this otter is probably the most charismatic and known in the world. Like its close cousin the smooth-coated otter, it is very social, forming large, dynamic, playful family groups. They form lifelong monogamous pairs and are very adaptable, living in fast flowing waters, pools of stagnant water, swamps, rice paddies, peat and mangrove forests. During their foraging trips they wander further from the water than other Asian species, looking for crustaceans, small fish, molluscs, insects and other invertebrates. They are the most trafficked otter species for the pet trade.