

Otter conservation plan for Latvia

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Public discussions on Conservation Actions

Three trials of public discussions were planned.

The first discussion took place on the 14th June 2017. All stake holders supposedly connected to the conservation of the otter in Latvia are addressed (**17 governmental institutions and NGOs**). All proposals and comments were recorded.

Second meeting takes place on 5th July. It is attended by international expert Dr. Andreas Kranz invited to facilitate discussions and to review the conservation goals and actions according to the best experience at the international level. Leading otter and wildlife management experts from Estonia and Lithuania are involved.

Final meetings will be organised after the complete compilation and drafting of the Otter Conservation Plan. The terms and agenda will be appointed and sent to the addresses of all contributors.

The Otter Specialist Group (OSG) was founded in 1974 and is part of World Conservation (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC). The aims of the Group, as set out by IUCN, are to:

- Provide leadership for the conservation of all otter species (Lutrinae).
- Determine and review on a continuing basis the status and needs of otters, and promote the implementation of necessary research, conservation and management programmes by appropriate organisations and governments.
- Make known the status and conservation needs of otters, and promote the wise management of otter species.

The Eurasian Otter is strictly protected under international legislation and conventions. It is listed on Appendix I of CITES, Appendix II of the Bern Convention, Annexes II and IV of the EU Habitats and Species Directives.

EU Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC

On conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora.

Direktīva par dabisko dzīvotņu un savvaļas faunas un floras aizsardzību

Conservation goal – to maintain the otters at a favourable population status, no target in terms of maximal numbers or amount of suitable habitats, however, no decline of carrying capacity and support to natural processes in freshwater and riparian ecosystems.

Guidelines to prioritize proposed conservation actions into three categories:

I – crucial actions – non-fulfilment could lead to species extinction from recent range and habitats or jeopardize international obligations;

apzīmē vissvarīgāko(ās) darbību(as), kuras(u) neveikšana tieši apdraud sugas saglabāšanu esošajās dzīvesvietās vai starptautisko saistību neizpildi;

II – important actions – fulfilment helps to achieve conservation goal within current reference period of the Action Plan, however its missing does not endanger species survival within recent range or habitat;

apzīmē svarīgu darbību, kuras veikšana palīdz mērķu sasniegšanai plāna darbības periodā, taču tās neveikšana tieši neapdraud sugas saglabāšanu esošajās dzīvesvietās;

III – significant action that is commendatory yet does not impact population survival at national level crucially.

apzīmē būtisku darbību, kuras veikšana ir ieteicama, taču kas nav vitāli nepieciešama sugas dzīvotspējīgas populācijas(u) saglabāšanai valstī).

1. Legalization of undeliberated kills
2. Lethal control (in problem sites)
3. CITES requirements
4. Damage prevention/mitigation
5. Damage compensation system
6. Habitat conservation
7. Monitoring methods
8. Networking among experts, countries, conservation issues (otters/amphibians, commercial land/NATURA 2000 sites etc.)
9. Awareness, public involvement

Important notes regarding planning of conservation actions

Assessment and reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, Reporting Format for the period 2007-2012

2.9 Conclusions (atbilstoši General Evaluation matrix) (assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)		LV eksperta atbilde/vērtējums	Paskaidrojums, kāda informācija/datu avoti izmantoti novērtējumos, kā dati interpretēti u.tml.
2.9.1. Range Izplatība	a) Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX) b) If CS is U1 or U2, use of qualifiers is recommended	Favourable (FV)	
2.9.2. Population Populācijas lielums	a) Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX) b) If CS is U1 or U2, use of qualifiers is recommended ⁵	Favourable (FV)	
2.9.3 Habitat for the species Piemērots biotops	a) Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX) b) If CS is U1 or U2, use of qualifiers is recommended ⁵	Favourable (FV)	
2.9.4 Future prospects Nākotnes perspektīvas	a) Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1)/ Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX) b) If CS is U1 or U2, use of qualifiers is recommended ⁵	Favourable (FV)	
2.9.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)	Favourable (FV)	
2.9.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	If overall CS is U1 or U2, use of qualifier '+' (improving), '-' (declining), '=' (stable) or 'x' (unknown) is obligatory		

Is it possible to control otter population by hunting in order to avoid/reduce damages to fish stocks?

Thank you for attention!

