

**Report on
World Otter Day 31 May 2017 celebration
in
Patan Multiple Campus**



**Nepal Otter Network
Kathmandu, Nepal
May 2017**

Foreword

The IUCN Otter Specialist Group has been kind to support Nepal Otter Network in celebrating Otter Day 2017. Nepal Otter Network have organized an one day workshop in Patan Multiple Campus for knowledge sharing on otters research among students, participants from different NGO and professor as well as lectures from Patan Multiple Campus.

The one day workshop includes presentations on current status of Otter researches in Nepal, Identification of two different types of Otter species found in Nepal and trade of Otters in Nepal.

Nepal Otter Network would like to thank IUCN-OSG for providing financial support for the grand success of World Otter Day 2017 celebration. We also thank IOSF for its support throughout the celebration.

We look forward to your support in the future as well.

Organising Team

Coordinator:- Mr. Purna Man Shrestha

Team Member:- Mr. Mohan Bikram Shrestha

Mr. Subarna Raj Ghimire

Mrs. Roshila Koju

Volunteer:- Ms. Sapana Khaiju

Ms. Binita Shrestha

Ms. Sandhya Sharma

Mr. Ananda Kumar Shrestha

1. Introduction

Project Name: "Celebration of World Otter Day 31st May 2017"

Implemented by: Nepal Otter Network

Supported by: Otter Specialist Group

About the Organization: Nepal Otter Network is a non-governmental, not for profit organization that are on the registration process, working for Otter conservation and protection. It was formed in Nepal with the help of Otter researcher and Otter lovers. The vision of this group is to create database of otter allover of Nepal, research on otter, protect, awareness program and conservation of otters.

2. Background

Nepal is known for its diverse landmark and immense biological resources in the world. Nepal have achieved success in conservation endeavor of many wildlife species. And, Chitwan National Park have been able to celebrate 1000 days of zero rhino poaching. However, unlike the conservation efforts in mega vertebrate/s, small mammals such as otters have been less focused. The research studies on otter of Nepal are negligible comparing to the extent of research studies in mega vertebrates. Thus, the status of otters is unclear and distribution of otters is known to be sporadic but trade of otter skins are high. Otter skins are trade with derivatives of big cats and are often bartered with shahtoosh. This implies there is marked need of research studies to understand the status and its distribution in Nepal and need to conduct conservation awareness campaign in order to save otters in their natural habitat.

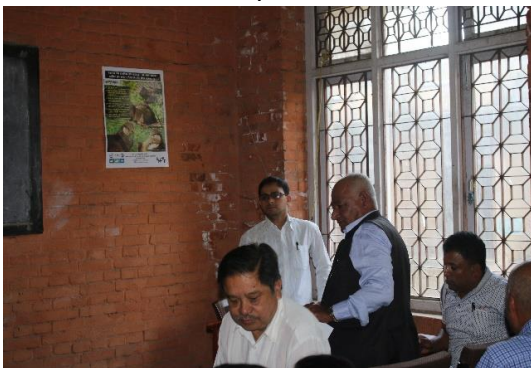
3. Project Goals and Objectives

The overall objective is to celebrate World Otter Day and Sharing otter Knowledge among the researcher, Otter lover and university student

- A. Initiation of World Otter Day 31 May Celebration in Nepal.
- B. Organize Workshop for sharing of information and importance Otter for researcher
- C. Exploration of current status and research of otter and its challenges in its conservation in Nepal

4. Project Activities

Mr. Subarna Raj Ghimire was the Master of Ceremony. He anchored the program with brief notes on otter and its three species recorded in Nepal.



Subarna Raj Ghimire Anchoring the event



Subarna Raj Ghimire anchoring the event

The VIP guest; Prof. Dr. Madhav Prashad Gautam, Ast. Campus Chief, Patan Multipla Campus, Mrs. Tulsilaxmi Suwal, were invited for the sharing knowledge on otters.



Guest in front line



Guest in front line

The program was inaugurated by Pro. Dr. Madhav Prasad Gautam with Unveiling the Banner of World Otter Day-2017 day Celebration.



Unveiling the Otter Day celebration Banner



Unveiling the Otter Day celebration Banner

Welcome speech was delivered by Chandra Narayan Chaudhary, appreciating work of celebration of World otter Day for the first time in Nepal and welcomed all the guests and participants.



Chandra Narayan Chaudhary giving two words on appreciation of event



Chandra Narayan Chaudhary giving two words on appreciation of event

Purna Man Shrestha share the current status of Otter research in Nepal. He also present the scope of otter research and its conservation along with challenges. He also discussed on mitigation measures for the reduction of conflicts with fisherman.



Purna Man Shrestha presenting on the status of Otter and Conservation challenges in Nepal



Purna Man Shrestha presenting on the status of Otter and Conservation challenges in Nepal

Professor Parash Mani Acharya, pioneer Otter researcher of Nepal, present on identification of otters found in Nepal. He share idea and field identifying technique for the identification Otter. He share the idea on different morphological features (hair type, body color, body shape and size, paws characteristics, characteristics of Spraints etc.) of Otter species found in Nepal



Prof. Paras Mani Acharya presenting the identification technique of Otters of Nepal



Prof. Paras Mani Acharya presenting the identification technique of Otters of Nepal

Mohan Bikram Shrestha present on Trade of otters in Nepal. He present reason of hunting and poaching practices happen in past to present. He also present the routes of Illegal wildlife trade in different parts of Nepal and process of Otter trade in Nepal.



Mohan Bikram Shrestha presenting on the Otter trade in Nepal



Mohan Bikram Shrestha presenting on the Otter trade in Nepal

During the Discussion period, there were large number of queries on the different category morphology, reproduction, feeding behavior etc. The university students showed much interested through this program after knowing facts and knowledge about the concern species. Some raise questions about its breeding in captivity as other animals like crocodiles and mugger are bred in Nepal.



Discussion period



Discussion period



Discussion period



Discussion period



Discussion period



Discussion period

5. Conclusion

Nepal Otter Network through its World Otter Day celebration workshop spread the information of otter to number of people from university student to professor as well as some local inhabiting near otter habitat of Terai. The initiation of Otter day celebration for the first time in Nepal done. The college appreciate and welcomed any future upcoming program on the conservation for sharing knowledge on wildlife to university student and promotion on conservation of otter.

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank alot OSG group and Melissa for supporting financially and providing education material. We thank Parash Mani Acharya, Chandra Chaudhary for the coordination and encouragement of this program. We also want to thank Campus chief for the providing Venue. Similarly we would like to thank Sapana Khaiju, Binita Shrestha, Sandhya Sharma, Ananda Kumar Shrestha for volunteering in this program.