

Announcement

2016 - Year of the Otter

New awards for outstanding achievements in otter conservation Support the year of the Otter.

International Otter Survival Fund IOSF has declared 2016 to be the Year of the Otter and we would like to invite you to take part. The aim of the Year is to draw attention to the plight of the world's otters and to raise funds for their conservation.

There are 13 species worldwide – they are all listed in the IUCN Red List and 12 are still declining in number.

IOSF has a special appeal to raise £65,000 in 2016 – that is £5,000 for each species. If you need ideas on how you can get involved just download our fundraising pack at http://www.otter.org/Public/HelpUs_WhatYouCanDoToHelp.aspx.

Annual World Otter Day, this year will be on Wednesday 25 May.

As part of the Year of the Otter, IOSF is launching new awards for outstanding achievements in otter conservation worldwide. These awards are open to all and will be presented annually beginning in December 2016. The categories for the awards are:

Children – Open to anyone aged 12 years or under (as at 1 December 2016). This can include any activity aimed to promote otter conservation such as artwork, writing, fundraising, etc

Young People – Open to anyone from 13 – 18 years (as at 1 December 2016). This can include any activity aimed to promote otter conservation such as artwork, writing, fundraising, etc

Group/Organisation – For example school, natural history group, Scouts/Guides, etc.

Community Achievement – Any activity which involves local communities in otter conservation. This can be in the form of practical work, education, etc.

Research – Open to amateur or professional researchers. The research must have taken place during 2016, although ongoing projects may be submitted. Any projects must not involve any procedure which is invasive or in any other way harms the animal. The project may involve animals in the wild or in captivity but this must be made clear in the application.

Photography – Open to amateur or professional photographers. All photos must have been taken during 2016 and entries must indicate where and when it was taken, and if the photo was taken in the wild or in captivity. Photos may also include habitat or otter signs.

Special Award – Open to anyone who has made a lifelong commitment to otter conservation or for an activity which does not fit into any other category

Applications/nominations can be made in more than one category and Children and Young People can also enter other categories.

If you wish to apply or nominate someone for an award, please complete the online form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YmfX7yMZjMeAjfKiGag_YrPKxx00s5e2uXVXTExDNaE/edit?usp=forms_home&ths=true by 1 November 2016. Results will be announced on 1 December 2016.

You can donate to our crowdfunding page at <https://www.buzzbnk.org/ProjectDetails.aspx?projectId=266> and please also pass this on to friends and family.

Let us know how you will be supporting the Year of the Otter and we will publicise it on our website and through our monthly e-update. You can also contact us at enquiries@otter.org if you have any questions or need any further information or help.

TOGETHER WE CAN BECOME A VERY LOUD VOICE TO MAKE PEOPLE TAKE NOTICE AND LISTEN.

