

SMOOTH-COATED OTTER

(*Lutrogale perspicillata*)

IUCN Red List: **Vulnerable**

Current Population Trend: **Decreasing**

Estimated Number of Mature Individuals:
Because of the secretive and nocturnal behaviour of Smooth-coated Otter, reliable estimates of its population are not available.

Estimated Number in Thailand: **Unknown**

Existing breeding populations in Thailand: **Yes**

Protected status in Thailand: **Yes**

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Project Target Areas

Status of Smooth-coated otter in Thailand

The Petchburi River, ca. 210 km in length, is the main river in south-central Thailand and flows eastward into the Gulf of Thailand. Although a large portion of the lower river basin has been converted to farmlands and urbanization, the headwaters within Kaeng Krachan National Park (KKNP) are still relatively intact and protected.

Within KKNP, the primary threat is habitat degradation from human disturbance, particularly fishing and land conversion. The threats to otters are compounded by prey depletion. Although it has never been quantified, it is clear that density and diversity of fish and some invertebrates are far lower near villages.

Conservation Project Objectives

A project to conserve the Smooth-coated otter, Asian small-clawed otter and the Siamese crocodile that live along the Petchburi River in Thailand's Kaeng Krachan National Park. The project team will count the diversity and number of species using regular, scientific, and systematic field surveys while navigating the river in rafts. In addition to the inventory of species in the river, the team will also monitor the health of the forest, the vegetation along the river, activities of people within the area, and natural characteristics of the sites. These studies will lead to long-term preservation and recovery strategies for the animals, plants and natural areas within the park. These strategies include improved habitat management, law-enforcement, long-term wildlife monitoring, capacity-building for government staff and research students, and awareness raising for local schools and community members.

Conservation Partner:

