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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	<b>&lt; ENDANGERED &gt;</b>	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
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Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Giant Otter

The **Giant Otter**, *Pteronura brasiliensis*, is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It formerly occurred throughout the lowland rainforests and wetlands of South America, except in Chile. However, between the 1940s and mid 1970s, it was widely hunted for the pelt trade and was extirpated from much of its southern and easterly range including Uruguay, Argentina and several states of Brazil.

Giant Otters are highly susceptible to persecution being large, conspicuous and social, and their occupation of open habitats. They are threatened by illegal hunting for their pelt, habitat loss arising from increased human settlement, and exposure to contaminants from artisanal gold mining using mercury. Other threats include direct conflict with fishermen who see them as competitors, and introduced canine diseases transferred from domesticated animals.

The Giant Otter is listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which effectively bans their international trade. Research into ways of reducing the threats to this species, as well as the creation of corridors between populations, are the more urgent measures necessary to safeguard its long term survival.

**Knowledge**<sup>EQ</sup>  
**Experts**<sup>EQ</sup>  
**Action**<sup>EQ</sup>  
**Get Involved**<sup>EQ</sup>



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