



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

RESEARCH AND
CONSERVATION SAVING
THE GIANT OTTER





Dear Friends of the Giant Otter,

With great pleasure, we share significant moments and extraordinary achievements from the Giant Otter Project throughout the year 2023. In our relentless pursuit of giant otter conservation and the preservation of its ecosystem, we faced challenges, celebrated successes, and continued to progress towards a sustainable future.

Our mission:

To transform the giant otter into a symbol of a balanced ecosystem and to promote human coexistence with the species and associated biodiversity.



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Scientific Research

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Long-term population monitoring guides research efforts and conservation strategies



For over a decade, we have accumulated a rich database on the giant otter population, the result of annual surveys conducted in three distinct areas: Porto Jofre in the Northern Pantanal, Rio Negro in the Southern Pantanal, and Cantão State Park in Tocantins.

This year, covering a stretch of 595 km of rivers, our team identified a total of 107 giant otters (30 pups and 77 adults) organized into 22 groups, while 8 individuals were solitary.

The significance of long-term monitoring goes beyond a simple count of individuals. It becomes a crucial tool for understanding the complex responses of giant otter groups to environmental factors such as fires, drought, boat traffic, water contamination and other human activities.

Annually, we document not only the birth and death of individuals but also the

migration of individuals in the monitored areas. Several scientific research projects are developed based on population monitoring, and additional information is collected, including the collection of biological samples and behavioral data. The knowledge gained through long-term monitoring is essential for planning effective conservation strategies.



Research in the Amazon: Resuming population monitoring and investigating the interaction between the local community and giant otters in the Amanã Reserve

Under the leadership of our president, Caroline Leuchtenberger, and in collaboration with the Mamirauá Sustainable Development Institute and the Instituto Federal Farroupilha, we have approved this year the project "Assessment of the giant otter conservation status and potential threats in the Amanã Sustainable Development Reserve".

This project, funded by the 55/2022 SALAS call from the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), marks the resumption of the population monitoring of giant otters in the Amanã Reserve, a strategic Conservation Unit in the central region of the Amazon.

Together with population census and the evaluation of the conservation status of the population, the initiative seeks to understand the perception of local communities regarding the species. Additionally, the study aims to develop participatory strategies that promote harmonious coexistence between the residents of the region and giant otters.



New alliance in the Pantanal: Creating synergies for giant otter conservation in the biome

In a continuous effort to promote the conservation of the giant otter and its ecosystem, we established a partnership with the Instituto Homem Pantaneiro (IHP) in 2023. The IHP is an organization dedicated to the conservation and preservation of the Pantanal biome and local culture. Together, we are confident that this synergy will strengthen our mission to safeguard not only the giant otter but also the entire richness of the Pantanal ecosystem.

Training expedition of the new team in the Pantanal

In June, we conducted the first training with a primary focus on giant otter monitoring to empower the new team of the Giant Otter Project. The activities took place at Barranco Alto Farm, located in Aquidauana, Mato Grosso do Sul. The field training included theoretical classes and practical activities, encompassing a spectrum of topics including general knowledge about the species, trace identification, camera trapping, collection of biological material, and more.

This initiative is crucial for standardizing the research methodology within the group, driving future research and conservation actions. The team is now prepared to expand its activities, encompassing new areas of giant otter occurrence.

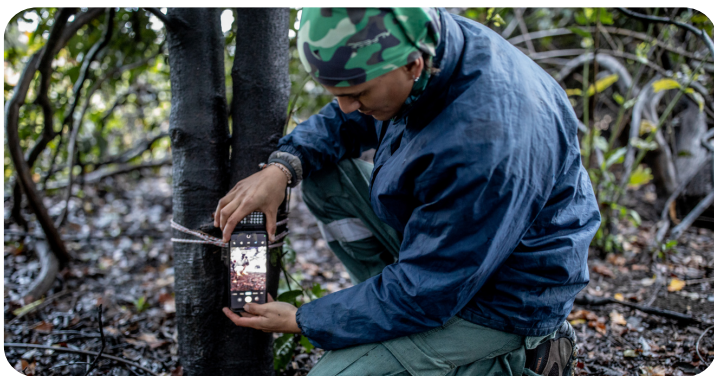


Visit of partners during giant otter population monitoring in the Pantanal

Throughout this year, we welcomed four distinguished partners from the Giant Otter Project to closely follow the population monitoring activities in the Pantanal.

In June, biologist *Leandro Lencina*, a representative of the Rewilding Argentina Foundation, participated in our first field training conducted at Fazenda Barranco Alto in Mato Grosso do Sul. Leandro had the opportunity to join us on a unique learning journey, understanding the techniques we employ to monitor and collect essential data for research on otters in Brazil.

We express our gratitude to the Rewilding Argentina Foundation for the partnership and support that has been crucial for the strategic planning aimed at the study and conservation of this unique species in South America.



In September, we welcomed biologist *April Kelly*, Founder and Executive Director of Conservation Wild, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to saving species of wildlife while supporting local and indigenous communities around

the world. April has been assisting Projeto Ariranhas since 2020 and her visits always enrich our field experience and bring significant contributions to our work.



In October, biologist *Sabrina Batchelor*, representing the Miami Zoo, joined our team during actions in the Porto Jofre region. Sabrina had the unique opportunity to observe giant otters in the wild, experiencing our fieldwork routine firsthand and participating in educational activities conducted in local schools.

We thank the Zoo Miami for their continuous support, highlighting the significance of this international collaboration to strengthen scientific research and expand efforts in giant otter conservation.



In November, biologist *João Caldas Filho*, responsible for giant otter management at the São Paulo Aquarium, accompanied our team during activities in the Rio Negro in the Southern Pantanal. This was João's first opportunity to observe giant otters in the wild, studying their natural behavior.

The established partnership and exchange of experiences between institutions promise to contribute significantly to the management and conservation of the species, reflecting the collective commitment to biodiversity preservation.



These visits not only enrich our efforts but also emphasize the importance of interinstitutional collaborations for a more promising future in giant otter conservation.

We look forward to continuing to share knowledge and experiences that benefit wildlife and local communities in the Pantanal and beyond.

Interviews with traditional communities in the Pantanal inform research on human dimensions

Throughout the year 2022, we initiated a research focus on human dimensions and conducted interviews with 30 families along the Cuiabá and Paraguay Rivers in the Poconé and Corumbá regions.



In collaboration with the Instituto Homem Pantaneiro in 2023, we extended our conversations to an additional 17 families in the Paraguai Mirim community, along the banks of the Paraguay River in Corumbá.

Through these interviews, we aim to assess human perceptions and attitudes towards the giant otter.

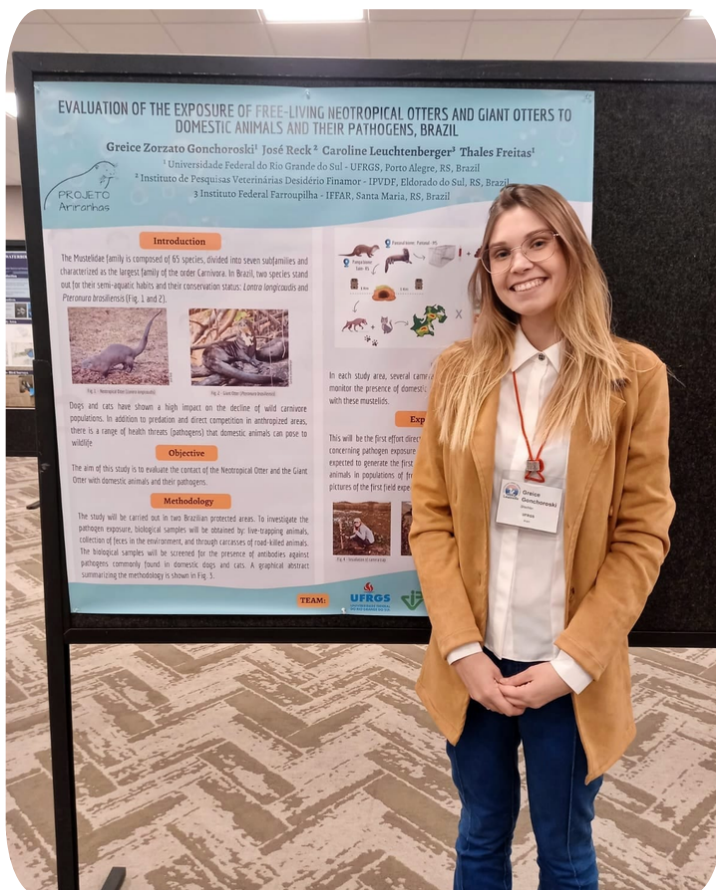
Partnership with traditional communities is crucial for understanding cultural and daily connections with the giant otter, enabling the planning of conservation strategies that respect local traditions and promote harmonious coexistence between human communities and wildlife.

This study is more than just research; it is a commitment to build bridges between science and traditions, working together for the preservation of the Pantanal ecosystem.

The Giant Otter Project's collaborator presents research at the Wildlife Society Annual Conference

The veterinarian and Giant Otter Project's collaborator, Greice Gonchoroski, participated in the Wildlife Society Conference held in November in Louisville, USA. Greice shared the initial results of her master's research, shedding light on the importance of monitoring domestic carnivores and their pathogens in areas where otters are found.

By identifying potential impacts on the health of mustelids, Greice makes a valuable contribution to the conservation of this group. Understanding how pathogens carried by domestic carnivores can affect otters provides crucial insights for the conservation of these species and the ecosystems they inhabit.



Participation in the Workshop on Otter Radio-Telemetry in Malaysia

In November, our president, Caroline Leuchtenberger, represented Brazil at the Workshop on Otter Radio-Telemetry in Malaysia.



The event took place at Kuala Selangor Natural Park and was organized by the Malaysia Nature Society in collaboration with the Malaysia Otter Network (MON), the Department of Wildlife and National Parks of Peninsular Malaysia, the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation (IBEC), and the University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). During the event, Caroline presented on the telemetry techniques employed in the study of giant otters in the Brazilian Pantanal.

The meeting provided an opportunity for in-depth discussions on methods and challenges related to remote monitoring of otters, covering capture techniques, restraint, and radio-transmitter marking, as well as tracking and data analysis.

In addition to the workshop activities, Caroline participated in field excursions to familiarize herself with the area and identify gaps and challenges for research on Asian otter species.



This visit strengthened ties between the involved organizations and opened doors for future collaborative actions. This initiative reinforces our commitment to the research and conservation of these emblematic species, underscoring the importance of global cooperation in seeking innovative solutions.

Getting to know Singapore's fascinating urban otters

In November, our president, Caroline Leuchtenberger, had the privilege of observing the monitoring of two groups of smooth-coated otters (*Lutrogale perspicillata*), a social species, inhabiting the urban area of Singapore.



Thanks to conservation efforts, the species, once considered extinct in the region, now thrives in parks and urban areas of the city.

Guided by dedicated 'otter watchers' (@ottercity), the visit revealed a unique case study for coexistence between humans and otters. We also had the opportunity to visit the Singapore Zoo and engage with the team responsible for managing the zoo's giant otter couple, exchanging ideas about the conservation of the species.

Thus, we express our gratitude to the entire community dedicated to Singapore's otters and Professor Sivasothi from the University of Singapore for their hospitality and the opportunity to learn about this inspiring work.

Biologists from the Giant Otter Project complete academic training and contribute to the advancement of knowledge and conservation of the species

In a year marked by significant academic achievements, biologists Samara Almeida and Nathalie Foerster have successfully completed their PhD thesis, providing valuable contributions to the knowledge and conservation of giant otters.

Samara dedicated her efforts to research the vocal structure and ontogeny of giant otter pups in the Tocantins-Araguaia watershed, within Cantão State Park. Her study significantly contributes to the development of monitoring strategies for wild groups, offering insights for incorporating these strategies into environmental management plans and captive species management. Additionally, her work aids in adapting human activities, such as ecotourism, to ensure harmonious coexistence between the species and human activities.



Nathalie's research focused on assessing the impact of gold mining on giant otters, revealing a gradient of mercury contamination in the Pantanal. Her study highlights the need for joint efforts to ensure the health and integrity of the Pantanal's water resources. Furthermore, Nathalie conducted the first playback studies with giant otters in the wild, investigating behavioral patterns that can help to understand the species' social organization.



Scientific discovery reveals challenges of ectoparasitism in Pantanal giant otters

In a groundbreaking research effort, the Giant Otter Project's team, in collaboration with the Institute of Biosciences at the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul, the Wildlife Laboratory of Embrapa Pantanal, and the Instituto Federal Farroupilha, published a report on tick's ectoparasitism in a giant otter carcass collected in the Rio Negro, Pantanal.



The study, published in the Brazilian Journal of Veterinary Parasitology, provides valuable insights into the relationships between parasites and hosts, opening new avenues for research and conservation strategies for the species in the region. Understanding the relationship between ticks and giant otters is crucial for identifying potential threats to the species' health and formulating more effective conservation strategies.

To learn more about the research, access the full [article](#).

New records of giant otters in Argentina reveal challenges and opportunities for conservation

Caroline Leuchtenberger, president of the Giant Otter Project, in collaboration with the Rewilding Argentina Foundation and the IUCN Species Survival Commission, described new records of giant otters in Argentina, where the species was considered extinct. The study also provides unprecedented information about the longest recorded distance traveled by a free-living giant otter.

Additionally, the research highlights the importance of protected areas for connecting populations and species dispersal, emphasizes the need for long-term monitoring, and advocates for conservation translocations as a tool for the global restoration of the species. To learn more, we invite you to access the full article published in the IUCN Otter Specialist Group Bulletin.

To learn more about the research, access the full [article](#).

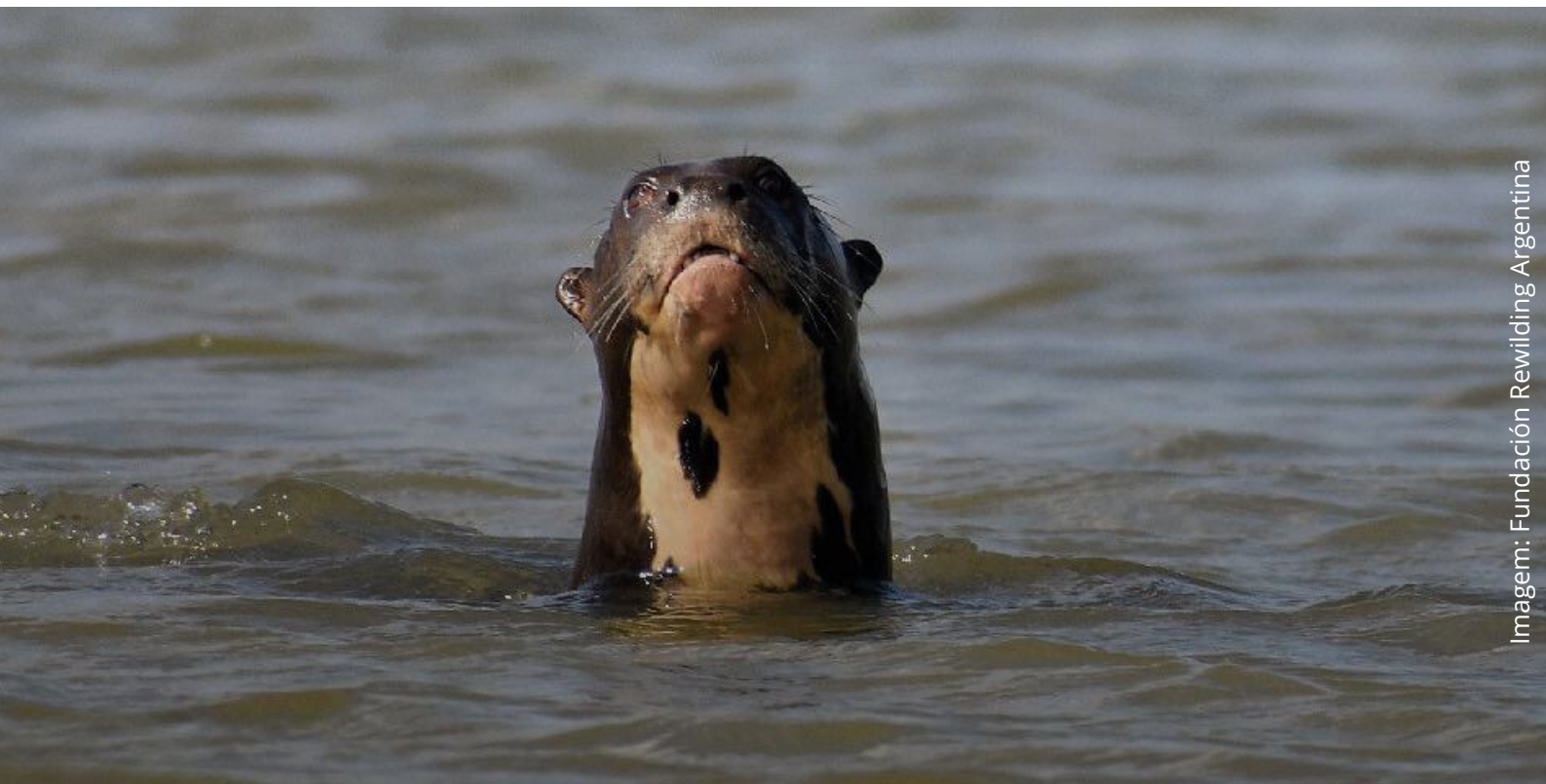


Imagen: Fundación Rewilding Argentina

Partnership with Sesc Pantanal creates synergies for the promotion of sustainable tourism

This year, we established a partnership with the Social Service of Commerce (Sesc-Pantanal). Recognized for its commitment to socio-environmental development, Sesc-Pantanal plays a crucial role in public policies for biodiversity conservation, protecting extensive Pantanal areas and promoting sustainable development in the Mato Grosso (MT) region. Sesc Pantanal is also involved in the ecotourism development of the region, welcoming around 30,000 tourists annually.

This partnership will enable collaborative development of various actions for species conservation in 2024, expanding efforts focused on sustainable tourism development and engaging local communities in the Pantanal. This collaboration creates opportunities for economic development and the long-term protection of this unique ecosystem.



Picture: Cláudia Pozzoli

Workshops for tourism professionals in the Pantanal

Throughout the second semester, we conducted two workshops for training tourism professionals. The events took place at Barranco Alto Farm (Aquidauana-MS) and SESC Pantanal (Poconé-MT), with the participation of 77 professionals involved in tourism activities in the Pantanal.



The workshop's goal was to enhance participants' knowledge about giant otters and promote best practices for wildlife watching tourism.

This knowledge aims to enrich tourism activities, guiding professionals to conduct their operations sustainably, thus reducing the negative impact on giant otter populations.

Lectures for tourists in the Pantanal

Throughout the year, we had the opportunity to present the research and conservation activities of the Giant Otter Project to tourists from different countries who visited our study areas in the Pantanal.



During these encounters, tourists have the opportunity to exchange experiences, ask questions, and learn interesting facts about giant otters and our team's field routine and actions.



Environmental education

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Educational activities in local schools

Throughout the year, we carried out various educational activities at the local schools in the communities of Rio Negro and Porto Jofre in Pantanal. Over 20 children participated in these initiatives, aiming to raise awareness among young audiences about giant otters and the importance of biodiversity conservation in the Pantanal.

During these activities, the team engaged the children in a series of events, including storytelling from the book "Gaspar goes fishing" as well as educational games and painting dynamics.

As a result of these interactions, giant otters were also featured in an educational exhibit at Fazenda Jofre Velho School, highlighting the commitment of the Giant Otter Project to fostering the development of an ecological mindset, representing a crucial agent for long-term biodiversity conservation in the Pantanal.



Innovating environmental education through educational playsets

We intensified our environmental education efforts by creating three new interactive playsets, aiming to involve children and their families in understanding and conserving the giant otters and their ecosystem.

- **Memory Game:**

A fun illustrated game highlighting the main physical and behavioral characteristics of giant otters, providing an educational and playful experience.



- **Puzzle:**

Representing the rich biodiversity of the Pantanal, this game challenges players to assemble a puzzle depicting the animals that inhabit this Biome.



- **The Giant Otter's Trail:**

A board game taking participants on an educational journey, answering questions about giant otters, their habits, diet, habitat, and other curiosities.



These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to providing educational and playful experiences that inspire respect for Brazilian biodiversity, encouraging active engagement in giant otter's conservation.

You can purchase the products on our [website](#)

The Otter Week highlights otters worldwide and captivates visitors at the São Paulo Aquarium

In partnership with the São Paulo Aquarium and the Brazilian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZAB), we organized the Otter Week in May of this year. The event took place at the São Paulo Aquarium for a week and involved a series of educational activities and awareness-raising actions to promote the conservation of giant otters and other worldwide otter species.

Through an interactive exhibition, 8,400 visitors had the opportunity to learn more about giant otters and other worldwide otter species, as well as the challenges to their conservation.



Additionally, during the event, we daily shared educational content on social media. We also conducted a live broadcast on YouTube, featuring our President, Caroline Leuchtenberger, the biologist and IUCN/SSC OSG species coordinator Marcelo Rheingantz, and the biologist from the São Paulo Aquarium, Fabiana Padilha. They shared insights into the worldwide otters and conservation actions for giant otters.



The partnership between the Giant Otter Project, the São Paulo Aquarium, and AZAB reinforces the need to join forces to strengthen giant otter conservation efforts.

Through events like this, the Giant Otter Project continues to fulfill its mission of inspiring society and promoting awareness for wildlife conservation.

"Cachoeira," the new giant otter Pup, named by students in the Pantanal

In an event held at the Fazenda Jofre Velho School in Porto Jofre, students participated in naming one of the giant otter pups born in the region this year.

The pup, affectionately named "Cachoeira" (Waterfall) by local students, symbolizes the species' resilience in the face of severe climate impacts that have threatened the Pantanal biodiversity in recent years.

The naming event provided an enriching experience for the students and brought us even closer to the local community, for feeling like protagonists in the conservation of the species.

Stay tuned for upcoming naming campaigns, which will also be promoted on the Giant Otter Project's social media channels.



Digital engagement for giant otter conservation

Social media not only serves as a platform to disseminate our actions but also as a tool to generate digital engagement for giant otters' conservation.

Throughout the year, we produced 211 posts shared on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube, reaching over 5 million accounts. Our digital presence transcends borders, reaching audiences in other countries such as the United States, Argentina, the United Kingdom, and Germany. This global reach is crucial for spreading information about the species and inspiring society to engage in conservation efforts.



We achieved over 30,000 interactions, including likes, comments, and shares from our current 18,654 followers, demonstrating the positive impact of our digital actions. These results reflect our commitment to involving society in species conservation.

The Giant Otter Project inspires students at academic events

Throughout the year, we participated in academic events, bringing students closer to the world of giant otters.

Caroline Leuchtenberger shared insights about the species, challenges in its conservation, and presented the Giant Otter Project's actions to reverse the threats along three events. See the list of events and some links to access the presentation recordings:

JUNE - Opening Lecture for the postgraduate course in Nature Conservation Strategies at the Federal Institute of Mato Grosso do Sul (IFMS) [Watch here](#).

SEPTEMBER - XI Academic Week of Biology at the Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM) [Watch here](#).

OCTOBER - II Pantanal Symposium on Wildlife at the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UFMS).

In September, the biologist Gabriel Brutti participated in the 7th Biology Academic Week at the Instituto Federal Farroupilha, Southern Brazil.

Gabriel gave a lecture titled "From the Birds of the Atlantic Forest to the Giant Otters of the Pantanal and Amazon," sharing his academic journey until he started working on the Giant Otter Project. The lecture provided information about the biology and ecology of giant otters, as well as the research and conservation actions carried out in the Pantanal.

Participation in the Academic events reflects our commitment to inspire and educate new professionals dedicated to biodiversity conservation, contributing to the formation of a more informed and engaged community in socio-environmental actions.

The Giant Otter Project participates in the 3rd Pontes Pantaneiras Forum and reaffirms our commitment to the conservation of the Pantanal Biome

In August, our team participated in the 3rd Pontes Pantaneiras Forum, held in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul. The event, promoted by the Institute of Ecological Research, Embrapa Pantanal, University College London, Smithsonian Institution, and ICMBio/CENAP, aimed to foster dialogue on the sustainable use of the Pantanal, bringing together stakeholders committed to the conservation of the biome.

We participated alongside various organizations, seeking synergies in the mission to conserve the Pantanal and its biodiversity, reaffirming our commitment and engagement on conservation and sustainability."



Audiovisual expedition: Documenting the Giant Otter Project

In August, the audiovisual producer Barong House followed our team in the Pantanal, documenting an expedition across our study areas in Porto Jofre and Rio Negro. The main objective was to create an image bank for the production of a documentary revealing the behind-the-scenes and daily work of the Giant Otter Project. During this immersion, the Barong House team and the Giant Otter Project collaborators participated in specialized training in audiovisual production.

This training, essential to enhance image capture techniques in the field, was conducted in a hybrid manner, combining online and in-person classes at the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UFMS).

We look forward to the results of this collaborative effort, strengthening our commitment to effectively communicate the message of Pantanal biodiversity preservation. We express our deep gratitude to the Holzman Wildlife Foundation, which is supporting this project, contributing significantly to spreading our mission and expanding our impact.



Recognized as one of the greatest experts on the species and coordinator of the species by the IUCN-SSC Otter Specialist Group, Caroline highlighted the studies that contributed to the advancement of scientific knowledge about giant otters.

In the interview, she shared valuable insights into the challenges and achievements throughout her career dedicated to conserving this species. Caroline reinforced her ongoing commitment to biodiversity conservation, emphasizing the importance of building synergies, working collaboratively and engaging the community, for the success of conservation actions.

The article not only documents her remarkable professional journey but also invites all readers to join in this collective effort for biodiversity preservation.



The President of the Giant Otter Project emphasizes commitment to conservation in exclusive interview

In the September edition of "O Biólogo" magazine from the Regional Council of Biology - CRBio-01, the president of the Giant Otter Project, Caroline Leuchtenberger, shared, in an exclusive interview, her professional journey in giant otter's research and conservation. This journey, which began in 2006, led to the founding of the Giant Otter Project, a prominent program in the protection of this iconic species.

Access the full [article](#)
Listen to the [podcast](#)

Exploring the Pantanal on the "Na Terra dos Bichos" program

In September, biologist Nathalie Foerster was featured in a documentary on the "Na Terra dos Bichos" program. In this production, Nathalie shared the field routine of her PhD study, showing the behind-the-scenes of her research dedicated to the behavior and bioacoustics of giant otters.

The documentary reveals the passion and dedication of the Giant Otter Project team to preserve and understand the largest otter in the world.

Access the [documentary](#).



Exploring the world of giant otters: Adventures on the german podcast "Die Maus"

In October, the Giant Otter Project biologists Gabriel Brutti and Gabriela Raphael, were invited to share their field experiences and curiosities about giant otters on the "Die Maus" podcast, produced by the German researcher and journalist Lydia Mocklinghoff.



Listen to the [podcast](#)

Together, they explored an intense day of giant otter's monitoring, providing an immersion into the team's fieldwork routine and revealing the fascinating habits of the giant otter.

Embark on this journey through the Pantanal and discover the behind-the-scenes of giant otter conservation and research.

The Giant Otter Project on the podcast "Vozes do Juruá": unraveling the giants of the rivers

In November, we participated in the "Vozes do Juruá" podcast, a production of the Juruá Institute, as part of the special season "The Giants of the Rivers." In a captivating episode, we discussed the characteristics and fascinating habits of the giant otter.

We explored the threats facing the species, highlighting its crucial importance for aquatic ecosystems. Additionally, we delved into the historical relationship between giant otters, local residents, and fishermen, providing a compelling narrative about the interconnection between wildlife and riverine communities. Listen to the [podcast](#).

Featured in O Eco Portal report: The Giant Otter Project's President addresses dark past of fur trading

The report published in November by the Journalistic Portal O Eco, titled "A crime out of fashion and a future inspired by indigenous people," featured contributions from Caroline Leuchtenberger. The article, which addressed hunting for the fur trade of animals from the 1960s to 1980s, shed light on a dark chapter in Brazil's environmental history, particularly concerning the hunting of giant otters. Caroline Leuchtenberger shared important information about the historical impact of hunting for the trade of wild animal skins, focusing on how this rampant practice directly affected giant otter populations.

Our participation in this report highlights the role of the Giant Otter Project in raising awareness about the challenges faced by Brazilian fauna and promoting effective actions for their conservation.

Read the full [report](#).

Caroline Leuchtenberger speaks about her professional journey during the 26th ConBio

Our president, Caroline Leuchtenberger, spoke about her professional journey during the 26th Congress of Biologists of the Regional Council of Biology (26th ConBio), held in São Paulo in December. The event, which centered around "Climate Change and One Health," sought to deepen the discussion on the role of the biologist amid the global environmental crisis. Caroline Leuchtenberger's experience inspired participants by presenting the choices, experiences, and challenges that were part of her professional journey, with a focus on her important role as the leader of a conservation program, in this case, the Giant Otter Project. In the end, Caroline participated in a panel discussion about the challenges women face in the field of conservation.



Parallel Engagements

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Rescue of a giant otter in Amazon

In partnership with the Mamirauá Institute, Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), and the Brazilian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZAB), and with the financial support of Zoo Halle and the IUCN-SSC OSG, we assisted in the rescue of a giant otter found in the municipality of Uarini, Amazonas, a victim of human conflicts.

The action was emergency-based to prevent retaliation against the animal, as the second giant otter, likely a sibling of this individual, was shot weeks earlier. The giant otter male, affectionately named Uarini, was relocated to the Americana Zoo and became part of the captive conservation program for the species.



The Giant Otter Project in the BTG Soma Environment Social Committee



Our president, Caroline Leuchtenberger, joined the Social Committee of the BTG Soma Environment Program, aimed at accelerating Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and social businesses.

The Giant Otter Project, was selected among the 10 participating organizations in 2022, stood out for its relevance in giant otter's conservation and its habitats.

Our participation in this Social Committee emphasizes the importance of the Institution as a socio-environmental organization in Brazil.

The Giant Otter Project's team committed to the National Action Plan for Giant Otter Conservation

We participated in the Planning Workshop for the 3rd cycle of the Brazilian Action Plan for giant otter's conservation (PAN Ariranha), held in June at the headquarters

of the National Center for Research and Conservation of Carnivorous Mammals (CENAP/ICMBio). The workshop brought together 31 representatives from public and civil society interested in the conservation of the species.

The PAN Ariranha, one of the few national plans focused on a single species, was justified due to the peculiarities of the giant otter threats. The plan developed in this workshop has 5 objectives and 25 actions, with the overall goal of "Mitigating the impacts of the main threats to giant otter populations and their habitat in strategic areas in the Tocantins-Araguaia, Paraná, and Paraguay river basins for the conservation of the species in the next 5 years."

Highlighting our commitment to species conservation, our president, Caroline Leuchtenberger, was elected the executive coordinator of the PAN Ariranha.



Course on Translocations for Conservation launch the Brazilian Network for Translocations for Conservation



In September this year, we participated in the Effective Translocations for Conservation Training Course, held at the Salto Morato Natural Reserve and organized by the IUCN/SSC/CTSG Translocation Specialist Group.

The event gathered thirty professionals involved in conservation translocation activities, providing an excellent opportunity to share experiences and discuss new conservation strategies for threatened species in Brazil.

One outcome of this meeting was the Salto Morato Manifesto, summarizing the group's conclusions and recommendations to promote lasting changes that influence Brazilian environmental policies for the adoption of effective strategies for biodiversity conservation.

During the course, we also launched the Brazilian Network for Translocations for Conservation, bringing together all professionals who attended the course and their institutions, as well as members of the Brazilian Translocations Conservation Task Force.

This network represents a collaborative platform committed to advancing translocations for conservation in Brazil. We are excited to be part of this initiative and to contribute to the conservation of giant otters and Brazil's biodiversity.



Rehabilitation and release of the neotropical otter “Blackie”

In October 2021, our team rescued an orphaned neotropical otter cub on the banks of the Miranda River in the Southern Pantanal. After a successful fundraising campaign, we raised the necessary funds to build a temporary enclosure where Blackie, as we affectionately called her, spent approximately 18 months in an intensive rehabilitation process. Our dedicated team worked tirelessly, exploring various techniques to stimulate

the natural instincts of the otter cub. This included activities such as prey searching, building shelters, and recognizing potential predators. In June of this year, we implanted a VHF transmitter and collected samples to assess Blackie's health.

At the end of July, all exams indicated that Blackie was fully fit for reintroduction into the natural environment. The release was a success, and since then, the otter cub has been monitored, showing remarkable adaptation to the environment. This achievement fills our hearts with happiness and strengthens our unwavering commitment to wildlife preservation.

We express our deep gratitude to everyone who believed in our cause and contributed to making this action possible. All support was crucial for Blackie's rescue, rehabilitation, and triumphant return to nature. The mission continues, driven by Blackie's inspiring example, reinforcing our unwavering commitment to wildlife preservation.



Picture: Edu Fragoso



THE GIANT OTTER PROJECT

Research and Conservation Saving the Giant Otter



Imagem: Fábio Arruda

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