



Strasbourg, 23 March 2022

T-PVS/Files(2022)46

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

42nd meeting
Strasbourg, 28 November - 2 December 2022

New complaint: 2022/02

**Alleged violation of the Convention in relation to deliberate killing
of *lutra lutra*
(Austria)**

- COMPLAINT FORM -

Document prepared by
Wiener Tierschutzverein (Tierschutz Austria) als anerkannte Umweltorganisation

**Convention on the Conservation of European
Wildlife
and Natural Habitats**



COMPLAINT FORM

First name: Michaela

Surname(s): Lehner

On behalf of (if applicable): Wiener Tierschutzverein (Tierschutz Austria) als anerkannte Umweltorganisation

Web site: www.tierschutz-austria.at

Date: 03.02.2022

1. Please state the reason of your complaint (refer also the Contracting Party/es involved and the Articles of the Convention which might be violated)

In Austria, especially in the federal state of **Carinthia**, the otter is caught in the most cruel traps, so-called conibear traps, on land and under water.

Wiener Tierschutzverein (Tierschutz Austria) has received a document from wildlife biologist and otter expert Dr. Krüger commissioned (see appendix). Dr Krüger has dealt with the killing effect of conibear traps and with the question of whether catching female otters in the winter months violates the principle of "mother protection". The result IS SHOCKING:

With the conibear trap, it is the clamping force and not the striking force that is essential. The animals are trapped, their backs are not broken. The otter also has a very massive chest as an adaptation to the water pressure. Otters are only trapped and held in conibear traps until they die of stress on land or by drowning in the water. The effectiveness of the trap is significantly reduced under water.

The trap was obviously only considered admissible because those affected were not aware of how the trap actually works, i.e. STUCK and DROWNING.

The Articles of the Convention that might be violated are **Chapter 3 protection of species, Article 6, 7, 8 and 9**.

2. Which are the specific specie/s or habitat/s included in one of the Appendices of the Bern Convention potentially affected? (Please include here information about the geographical area and the population of the species concerned, if applicable)

The species: otter

Habitat: Carinthia, mainly along the river called Drau.

3. What might be the negative effects for the specie/s or habitat/s involved?

- The protected species otter is drastically reduced.
- The traps and the way the traps are used (under water) is absolutely cruel to animals and dangerous for everyone
- maternity protection is not observed

4. Do you know if potentially affected species or habitats also fall under the scope of other international Conventions, (for instance: RAMSAR, CMS, ACCOBAMS, Barcelona Convention, etc) or if the area has been identified as a NATURA 2000/Emerald network site?

fauna flora habitat guideline

5. Do you know if there are any pending procedures at the national or international level regarding the object of your complaint?

There are no pending national or international proceedings. As an NGO, we cannot object to the Carinthian Otter Ordinance.

6. Any other information (existence of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), size of projects, maps of the area, etc)

Drau in Kärnten / Carinthia

ANNEX I

- **Has the issue already been addressed nationally?**

Yes, the topic was addressed nationally and the Carinthian state government has publicly declared that it will not refrain from using the conibear traps (for large parts under water). The state of Carinthia is aware of the content of the present report by Dr. Krüger. We sent the report. Although we are an environmental organization, we cannot legally fight the Carinthian Otter Ordinance nor the Ordinance of the state government of May 23, 2006 for implementation of the Carinthian hunting law:

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrK&Gesetzesnummer=20000210>, § 11 regulates the conibear trap;

It must be noted that, according to this regulation, the hunt for lactating/pregnant females is repeatedly excluded (except from November to February!), but this is not taken into account in practice or **it cannot be determined whether it is a female or male animal or whether it is lactating, pregnant or raising young ones**. In addition, the mother-child relationship in otters is particularly intense and lasts for a long time (1 year), the young only learn to take care of themselves after months, and the young starve to death when a mother otter is killed.

- **What is the regional conservation status of the otter?**

Regional conservation status: unfavorable in the Alpine Biogeographic region sensu FFH-Directive Reporting 2019 (Page 652 in attached document)

- **Who is using these traps and what is the justification behind their usage?**

Hunters are using these traps. The justification behind their usage:

- *Verordnung der Landesregierung vom 23. Mai 2006 zur Durchführung des Kärntner Jagdgesetzes 2000, StF: LGBl Nr 32/2006*

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrK&Gesetzesnummer=20000210>, § 11: „Fanggeräte“. This ordinance is an implementation ordinance for the carinthian hunting law § 68 Abs. 6 carinthian hunting law:

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrK&Gesetzesnummer=20000013>)

. As the submitted report from Dr. Krüger proves, this ordinance (§ 68 Abs 6) contradicts the Carinthian Hunting Act § 68 Abs 1 Ziffer 4, because Article § 68 Abs 1 Ziffer 4 prohibits the use of traps that does not catch intact or kill instantly.

- **Are there other species potentially affected by the traps? If yes, please specify which species.**

Wolf, lynx, beaver and huchen are other species potentially affected by the traps.

ANNEX II
main results of the surveillance under Article 11' for Annex II, IV & V species, extract from
Report on progress and implementation (Article 17, Habitats Directive)

Species Report

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. General information							
1.1 Member State		AT - Austria					
1.2 Species code		1355					
1.3 Species scientific name		Lutra lutra					
1.4 Alternative species scientific name (Optional)		Lutra vulgaris, Lutra whitleyi					
1.5 Common name (in national language) (Optional)		Eurasischer Fischotter, Europäischer Fischotter, Otter, Wassermarder, Wasserwolf					

2. Maps	
2.1 Sensitive species	No
2.2 Year or period	2010-2018
2.3 Distribution map	Yes
2.4. Distribution map Method used	completeSurvey - Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
2.5 Additional maps (Optional)	No

3. Information related to Annex V Species (Art. 14)								
3.1 Is the species taken in the wild/exploited?	No							
3.2 Which of the measures in Art. 14 have been taken?	a) regulations regarding access to property							No
	b) temporary or local prohibition of the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation							No
	c) regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens							No
	d) application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such populations							No
	e) establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas							No
	f) regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale or transport for sale of specimens							No
	g) breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species							No
	h) other measures							No
3.3 Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild for Mammals and Acipenseridae (Fish)	a) Unit							
	b) Statistics/ quantity taken	Season/year 1	Season/year 2	Season/year 3	Season/year 4	Season/year 5	Season/year 6	
	Min. (raw, ie. not rounded)							

	Max. (raw, ie. not rounded)						
	Unknown	No	No	No	No	No	No
3.4. Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild Method used							
3.5. Additional Information (Optional)							

Biogeographic regions and/or marine regions concerned within the member state: [ALP CON](#)

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL LEVEL

4. Biogeographical and marine regions	
4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs	ALP - Alpine
4.2 Sources of Information	<p>Oberösterreichische Landesmuseen/Biologiezentrum (2018): Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank - Zobodat (Version 2018), Abfrage 2018</p> <p>Nationalpark Kalkalpen (2018): FFH Datenbankauszug 2013-2018 Nationalpark Kalkalpen</p> <p>Ziviltechnik Kofler (2018): Fischotter Brückenkartierung. Im Auftrag der NÖ-Landesregierung</p> <p>Nationalpark Kalkalpen (2012): FFH Datenbankauszug 2007-2012 Nationalpark Kalkalpen</p> <p>Kranz, A. & Polednik, L. (2017): Fischotter in Salzburg: Verbreitung und Bestand 2016.. Endbericht im Auftrag des Amtes der Salzburger Landesregierung</p> <p>Thumer, B., Polheimer, M., Strausz, M. & Schmitzberger, I. (2014): Managementplan Europaschutzgebiet 27 Lafnitztal und Neudauer Teiche (AT2208000) - Endbericht. Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Abteilung 13 Umwelt und Raumordnung</p> <p>KRANZ, A. & POLEDNIK, L. (2010): Fischotter - Verbreitung und Erhaltungszustand 2010 im Bundesland Tirol. Endbericht zur Bestandserhebung von Fischotter in Tirol im Auftrag des Amtes der Tiroler Landesregierung</p> <p>Holzinger, W., Zimmermann, P., Weiss, S., Schenekar, T. (2018): Fischotter Verbreitung und Bestand in der Steiermark 2017/2018. i.A.d. Land Steiermark Amt der Stmk. Landesregierung Abteilung 13 - Umwelt und Raumordnung</p> <p>Kranz, A., Polednik, L. (2014): Fischotter im Burgenland: Verbreitung und Bestand 2013. Endbericht im Auftrag des Naturschutzbundes Burgenland, 95 S pp.</p> <p>Zink, R. & Walter, T. (2018): Dataset of the citizen science Project StadtWildTiere (www.stadtwildtiere.at) from 2013 to 2018. www.stadtwildtiere.at</p> <p>Haus der Natur (2018): Biodiversitätsdatenbank - Datenbankauszug 2018, Biodiversitätszentrum, Haus der Natur Salzburg</p> <p>Schenekar, T. & Weiss, S. (2018): Genetische Untersuchungen der Populationsgröße des Eurasischen Fischotters in den Kärntner Fischgewässern. Endbericht im Auftrag des Amtes der Kärntner Landesregierung, 53 S pp.</p>

	<p>NP Gesäuse (2018): NP Gesäuse - Datenbankauszug 2018.</p> <p>KRANZ, A. & POLEDNIK, L. (2013): Fischotter - Verbreitung und Erhaltungszustand 2012 in Oberösterreich.</p> <p>Naturschutzbund (2018): Naturbeobachtung.at (1.1.2013-20.4.2018)</p> <p>Kranz, A., Cocchiararo, B., Polednik, L., Jarausch, A. & Nowak, C. (2017): Erhebungs von Basisdaten zum Fischotterbestand an sechs Fließgewässern Oberösterreichs.. Endbericht im Auftrag des Amtes der Oö. Landesregierung, Abteilung Land- und Forstwirtschaft</p> <p>Ferdinandeum (2018): Datenbankauszug aus dem Ferdinandeum 2018</p>
--	---

5. Range		
5.1 Surface area	38900	
5.2 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018	
5.3 Short-term trend Direction	I - Increasing (+)	
5.4a Short-term trend Magnitude - Minimum (Optional)		
5.4b Short-term trend Magnitude - Maximum (Optional)		
5.5 Short-term trend Method used	estimatePartial - Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data	
5.6 Long-term trend Period (Optional)		
5.7 Long-term trend Direction (Optional)		
5.8a Long-term trend Magnitude - Minimum (Optional)		
5.8b Long-term trend Magnitude - Maximum (Optional)		
5.9 Long-term trend Method used (Optional)		
5.10a Favourable reference range - Area (km²)		
5.10b Favourable reference range - Operator	mt - More than (>)	
5.10d Favourable reference range - Method		
5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	Is there a change between reporting periods?	Yes
	a) yes, due to genuine change	Yes
	b) yes, due to improved knowledge/more accurate data	Yes
	c) yes, due to the use of different method	No
	d) yes, but there is no information on the nature of change	No
	The change is mainly due to: Genuine change	
5.12 Additional information (Optional)		

6. Population	
6.1 Year or period	2010-2018
6.2a Population size - Unit	grids1x1 - number of map 1x1 km grid cells
6.2b Population size - Minimum	1555
6.2c Population size - Maximum	

6.2d Population size - Best single value	
6.3 Type of estimate	minimum - Minimum
6.4a Additional population size - Unit (Optional)	adults - number of adults
6.4b Additional population size - Minimum (Optional)	850
6.4c Additional population size - Maximum (Optional)	1650
6.4d Additional population size - Best single value (Optional)	
6.5 Type of estimate (Optional)	minimum - Minimum
6.6 Population size Method used	estimatePartial - Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
6.7 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018
6.8 Short-term trend Direction	I - Increasing (+)
6.9a Short-term trend Magnitude - Minimum (Optional)	
6.9b Short-term trend Magnitude - Maximum (Optional)	
6.9c Short-term trend Magnitude - Confidence interval (Optional)	
6.10 Short-term trend Method used	estimatePartial - Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
6.11 Long-term trend Period (Optional)	
6.12 Long-term trend Direction (Optional)	
6.13a Long-term trend Magnitude - Minimum (Optional)	
6.13b Long-term trend Magnitude - Maximum (Optional)	
6.13c Long-term trend Magnitude - Confidence Interval (Optional)	

6.14 Long-term trend Method used (Optional)		
6.15a1 Favourable reference population - Population size		
6.15a2 Favourable reference population - Population size unit		
6.15b Favourable reference population - Operator	aeq - Approximately equal to (≈)	
6.15d Favourable reference population - Method		
6.16 Change and reason for change in population size	Is there a change between reporting periods?	Yes
	a) yes, due to genuine change	Yes
	b) yes, due to improved knowledge/more accurate data	Yes
	c) yes, due to the use of different method	No
	d) yes, but there is no information on the nature of change	No
	The change is mainly due to: Genuine change	
6.17 Additional information (Optional)	The population sizes in the alpine biogeographical regions of neighbouring countries such as Italy, Germany and Slovenia are only marginal and are dependent on the source population in Austria. In contrast to the situation in the Continental biogeographical region of Austria, no support from the Alpine populations of neighbouring countries is to be expected. These populations are rather considered as sink populations, which may subtract individuals from the Alpine biogeographical Region of Austria.	

7. Habitat for the species		
7.1a Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat - Are area and quality of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival)?	Y - Yes	
7.1b Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat - Is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality (for long-term survival)?		
7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat Method used	estimatePartial - Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data	
7.3 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018	
7.4 Short-term trend Direction	S - Stable (0)	
7.5 Short-term trend Method used	estimateExpert - Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data	
7.6 Long-term trend Period (Optional)		
7.7 Long-term trend Direction (Optional)		
7.8 Long-term trend Method used (Optional)		
7.9 Additional information (Optional)		

8. Main pressures and threats		
8.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats		
a) Pressure	b) Ranking	
G10 - Illegal shooting/killing	M - Medium importance/impact	

E01 - Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels)	M - Medium importance/impact
K04 - Modification of hydrological flow	M - Medium importance/impact
D02 - Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure	M - Medium importance/impact
N07 - Decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change	M - Medium importance/impact
I05 - Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	M - Medium importance/impact
a) Threat	b) Ranking
G10 - Illegal shooting/killing	M - Medium importance/impact
E01 - Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels)	M - Medium importance/impact
K04 - Modification of hydrological flow	M - Medium importance/impact
D02 - Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure	M - Medium importance/impact
N07 - Decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change	H - High importance/impact
I05 - Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	M - Medium importance/impact
8.2 Sources of information (Optional)	based on expert opinion
8.3 Additional information (Optional)	Hydropower (D02) and modification of hydrologic flow (K04) are considered as indirect pressures and threats, which affect the food source of otters in a negative way. Otters are mainly limited by food availability. With regards to that, the kidney disease PKD (proliferative fish disease) is also an indirect threat (I05).

9. Conservation measures	
9.1a Status of measures - Are measures needed?	Yes
9.1b Status of measures - Indicate the status of measures	taken - Measures identified and taken
9.2 Main purpose of the measures taken	restore - Restore the habitat of the species (related to 'Habitat for the species')
9.3 Location of the measures taken	inOut - Both inside and outside Natura 2000
9.4 Response to the measures	medTerm - Medium-term results (within the next two reporting periods, 2019-2030)
9.5 List of main conservation measures	CS03 - Improvement of habitat of species from the directives CG14 - Other measures to reduce impacts of freshwater aquaculture infrastructures and operation CJ03 - Restore habitats impacted by multi-purpose hydrological changes
9.6 Additional information (Optional)	

10. Future prospects	
10.1a Future prospects of parameters - Range	good - Good

10.1b Future prospects of parameters - Population	unk - Unknown
10.1c Future prospects of parameters - Habitat of the species	good - Good
10.2 Additional information (Optional)	Future prospects for 'population' is assessed as 'unknown' as the potential decrease of food resources e.g. due to proliferative kidney disease (PKD), intensified fencing of fish farms or general decrease of autochthonous fish populations due to habitat degradation is considered as the limiting factor for other populations.

11. Conclusions			
11.1 Range	U1 - Unfavourable - Inadequate		
11.2 Population	FV - Favourable		
11.3 Habitat for the species	FV - Favourable		
11.4 Future prospects	FV - Favourable		
11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	U1 - Unfavourable - Inadequate		
11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	I - Improving (+)		
11.7 Change and reasons for change in conservation status and conservation status trend		Overall assessment of conservation status (11.5)	Overall trend in conservation status (11.6)
	a) no, there is no difference	Yes	Yes
	b) yes, due to genuine change	No	No
	c) yes, due to improved knowledge/more accurate data	No	No
	d) yes, due to the use of different method	No	No
	e) yes, but there is no information on the nature of change	No	No
	The change is mainly due to:		
11.8 Additional information (Optional)	The otter was originally spread over the entire national territory. While the otter is already widespread in the federal states of Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Styria, Salzburg and Carinthia, a westward expansion of the area to the provinces of Tyrol and Vorarlberg has only taken place to a small extent. In Tyrol, the otter is permanently settled only in the upper reaches of the Drau and for Vorarlberg there is no recent evidence. Therefore, parameter "Range" is assessed as "U1".		

12. Natura 2000 (pSCIs, SCIs and SACs) coverage for Annex II species	
12.1a Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (on the biogeographical/marine level including all sites where the species is present) - Unit	grid1x1 - number of map 1x1 km grid cells
12.1b Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (on the biogeographical/marine level including all sites where the species is present) - Minimum	272
12.1c Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (on the biogeographical/marine level including all sites where the species is present) - Maximum	

12.1d Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (on the biogeographical/marine level including all sites where the species is present) - Best single value	
12.2 Type of estimate	minimum - Minimum
12.3 Population size inside the network Method used	estimatePartial - Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
12.4 Short-term trend of population size within the network Direction (Optional)	I - Increasing (+)
12.5 Short-term trend of population size within the network Method used	estimateExpert - Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
12.6 Additional information (Optional)	

13. Complementary information

13.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends	(Optional)	
13.2 Trans-boundary assessment	(Optional)	
13.3 Other relevant Information	(Optional)	

4. Biogeographical and marine regions

4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs	CON - Continental
4.2 Sources of information	<p>Oberösterreichische Landesmuseen/Biologiezentrum (2018): Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank - Zobodat (Version 2018), Abfrage 2018</p> <p>Nationalpark Kalkalpen (2018): FFH Datenbankauszug 2013-2018 Nationalpark Kalkalpen</p> <p>Holzinger, W., Zimmermann, P., Weiss, S., Schenekar, T. (2018): Fischotter Verbreitung und Bestand in der Steiermark 2017/2018. i.A.d. Land Steiermark Amt der Stmk. Landesregierung Abteilung 13 – Umwelt und Raumordnung</p> <p>Kranz, A., Polednik, L. (2014): Fischotter im Burgenland: Verbreitung und Bestand 2013. Endbericht im Auftrag des Naturschutzbundes Burgenland, 95 S pp.</p> <p>Ziviltechnik Kofler (2018): Fischotter Brückenkartierung. Im Auftrag der NÖ-Landesregierung</p> <p>Zink, R. & Walter, T. (2018): Dataset of the citizen science Project StadtWildTiere (www.stadtwildtiere.at) from 2013 to 2018. www.stadtwildtiere.at</p> <p>Haus der Natur (2018): Biodiversitätsdatenbank - Datenbankauszug 2018. , Biodiversitätszentrum, Salzburg</p> <p>Lugmair, A., Weißmair W., Maletzky A. (2017): Der Kammolch im nominierten Natura 2000-Gebiet Eferdinger Becken Endbericht 2016. Im Auftrag der OÖ Landesregierung, 69 pp.</p> <p>Kranz, A. & Polednik, L. (2017): Fischotter in Salzburg: Verbreitung und Bestand 2016.. Endbericht im Auftrag des Amtes der Salzburger Landesregierung</p> <p>KRANZ, A. & POLEDNIK, L. (2013): Fischotter - Verbreitung und Erhaltungszustand 2012 in Oberösterreich.</p> <p>Naturschutzbund (2018): Datenbankauszug Naturbeobachtung.at (1.1.2013-20.4.2018)</p> <p>Kranz, A., Cocchiararo, B., Polednik, L., Jarauschi, A. & Nowak, C. (2017): Erhebungs von Basisdaten zum Fischotterbestand an sechs Fließgewässern</p>

	<p>Oberösterreichs.. Endbericht im Auftrag des Amtes der Oö. Landesregierung, Abteilung Land- und Forstwirtschaft</p> <p>Thurner, B., Pollheimer, M., Strausz, M. & Schmitzberger, I. (2014) :Managementplan Europaschutzgebiet 27 Lafnitztal und Neudauer Teiche (AT2208000) - Endbericht. Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Abteilung 13 Umwelt und Raumordnung,</p>
--	--

5. Range		
5.1 Surface area	36100	
5.2 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018	
5.3 Short-term trend Direction	I - Increasing (+)	
5.4a Short-term trend Magnitude - Minimum (Optional)		
5.4b Short-term trend Magnitude - Maximum (Optional)		
5.5 Short-term trend Method used	estimatePartial - Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data	
5.6 Long-term trend Period (Optional)		
5.7 Long-term trend Direction (Optional)		
5.8a Long-term trend Magnitude - Minimum (Optional)		
5.8b Long-term trend Magnitude - Maximum (Optional)		
5.9 Long-term trend Method used (Optional)		
5.10a Favourable reference range - Area (km ²)		
5.10b Favourable reference range - Operator	aeq - Approximately equal to (≈)	
5.10d Favourable reference range - Method		
5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	Is there a change between reporting periods?	Yes
	a) yes, due to genuine change	Yes
	b) yes, due to improved knowledge/more accurate data	Yes
	c) yes, due to the use of different method	No
	d) yes, but there is no information on the nature of change	No
	The change is mainly due to: Genuine change	
5.12 Additional information (Optional)		

6. Population		
6.1 Year or period	2012-2018	
6.2a Population size - Unit	grids1x1 - number of map 1x1 km grid cells	
6.2b Population size - Minimum	1354	
6.2c Population size - Maximum		
6.2d Population size - Best single value		
6.3 Type of estimate	minimum - Minimum	
6.4a Additional population size - Unit (Optional)	adults - number of adults	
6.4b Additional population size - Minimum (Optional)	1000	
6.4c Additional population size - Maximum (Optional)	1550	
6.4d Additional population size - Best single value (Optional)		

6.5 Type of estimate (Optional)	minimum - Minimum	
6.6 Population size Method used	estimatePartial - Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data	
6.7 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018	
6.8 Short-term trend Direction	I - Increasing (+)	
6.9a Short-term trend Magnitude - Minimum (Optional)		
6.9b Short-term trend Magnitude - Maximum (Optional)		
6.9c Short-term trend Magnitude - Confidence interval (Optional)		
6.10 Short-term trend Method used	estimatePartial - Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data	
6.11 Long-term trend Period (Optional)		
6.12 Long-term trend Direction (Optional)		
6.13a Long-term trend Magnitude - Minimum (Optional)		
6.13b Long-term trend Magnitude - Maximum (Optional)		
6.13c Long-term trend Magnitude - Confidence Interval (Optional)		
6.14 Long-term trend Method used (Optional)		
6.15a1 Favourable reference population - Population size		
6.15a2 Favourable reference population - Population size unit		
6.15b Favourable reference population - Operator	aeq - Approximately equal to (\approx)	
6.15d Favourable reference population - Method		
6.16 Change and reason for change in population size	Is there a change between reporting periods?	Yes
	a) yes, due to genuine change	Yes
	b) yes, due to improved knowledge/more accurate data	Yes
	c) yes, due to the use of different method	No
	d) yes, but there is no information on the nature of change	No
	The change is mainly due to: Genuine change	
6.17 Additional information (Optional)		

7. Habitat for the species

7.1a Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat - Are area and quality of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival)?	Y - Yes
7.1b Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat - Is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality (for long-term survival)?	
7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat Method used	estimatePartial - Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
7.3 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018
7.4 Short-term trend Direction	S - Stable (0)
7.5 Short-term trend Method used	estimateExpert - Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
7.6 Long-term trend Period (Optional)	
7.7 Long-term trend Direction (Optional)	
7.8 Long-term trend Method used (Optional)	

7.9 Additional information	(Optional)
----------------------------	------------

8. Main pressures and threats	
8.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats	
a) Pressure	b) Ranking
G10 - Illegal shooting/killing	M - Medium importance/impact
E01 - Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels)	M - Medium importance/impact
K04 - Modification of hydrological flow	M - Medium importance/impact
D02 - Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure	M - Medium importance/impact
I05 - Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	M - Medium importance/impact
N07 - Decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change	M - Medium importance/impact
a) Threat	b) Ranking
G10 - Illegal shooting/killing	M - Medium importance/impact
E01 - Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels)	M - Medium importance/impact
K04 - Modification of hydrological flow	M - Medium importance/impact
D02 - Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure	M - Medium importance/impact
I05 - Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	M - Medium importance/impact
N07 - Decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change	H - High importance/impact
8.2 Sources of information (Optional)	based on expert opinion
8.3 Additional information (Optional)	Hydropower (D02) and modification of hydrologic flow (K04) are considered as indirect pressures and threats, which affect the food source of otters in a negative way. Otters are mainly limited by food availability. With regards to that, the kidney disease PKD (proliferative fish disease) is also an indirect threat (I05).

9. Conservation measures	
9.1a Status of measures - Are measures needed?	Yes
9.1b Status of measures - Indicate the status of measures	taken - Measures identified and taken
9.2 Main purpose of the measures taken	restore - Restore the habitat of the species (related to 'Habitat for the species')
9.3 Location of the measures taken	inOut - Both inside and outside Natura 2000
9.4 Response to the measures	medTerm - Medium-term results (within the next two reporting periods, 2019-2030)
9.5 List of main conservation measures	CS03 - Improvement of habitat of species from the directives CG14 - Other measures to reduce impacts of freshwater aquaculture infrastructures and operation CJ03 - Restore habitats impacted by multi-purpose hydrological changes

9.6 Additional information (Optional)	
--	--

10. Future prospects	
10.1a Future prospects of parameters - Range	good - Good
10.1b Future prospects of parameters - Population	unk - Unknown
10.1c Future prospects of parameters - Habitat of the species	good - Good
10.2 Additional information (Optional)	Future prospects for 'population' is assessed as 'unknown' as the potential decrease of food resources e.g. due to proliferative kidney disease (PKD), intensified fencing of fish farms or general decrease of autochthonous fish populations due to habitat degradation is considered as the limiting factor for other populations.

11. Conclusions			
11.1 Range	FV - Favourable		
11.2 Population	FV - Favourable		
11.3 Habitat for the species	FV - Favourable		
11.4 Future prospects	FV - Favourable		
11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	FV - Favourable		
11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	I - Improving (+)		
11.7 Change and reasons for change in conservation status and conservation status trend		Overall assessment of conservation status (11.5)	Overall trend in conservation status (11.6)
	a) no, there is no difference	Yes	Yes
	b) yes, due to genuine change	No	No
	c) yes, due to improved knowledge/more accurate data	No	No
	d) yes, due to the use of different method	No	No
	e) yes, but there is no information on the nature of change	No	No
	The change is mainly due to:		
11.8 Additional information (Optional)	On the one hand, the otter population in the continental biogeographical region in Austria is positively affected by its connection and genetic exchange with the populations in neighbouring countries north of Austria. On the other hand, Austria is considered as being too small in total surface area to host an isolated viable population. Therefore, effective conservation and management measures (including predator control) require proper coordination between neighbouring countries.		

12. Natura 2000 (pSCIs, SCIs and SACs) coverage for Annex II species

12.1a Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (on the biogeographical/marine level including all sites where the species is present) - Unit	grids1x1 - number of map 1x1 km grid cells
12.1b Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (on the biogeographical/marine level including all sites where the species is present) - Minimum	420
12.1c Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (on the biogeographical/marine level including all sites where the species is present) - Maximum	
12.1d Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (on the biogeographical/marine level including all sites where the species is present) - Best single value	
12.2 Type of estimate	minimum - Minimum
12.3 Population size inside the network Method used	estimatePartial - Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
12.4 Short-term trend of population size within the network Direction (Optional)	I - Increasing (+)
12.5 Short-term trend of population size within the network Method used	estimateExpert - Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
12.6 Additional information (Optional)	

13. Complementary information		
13.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends	(Optional)	
13.2 Trans-boundary assessment	(Optional)	
13.3 Other relevant Information	(Optional)	

ANNEX III
REPORT ON CONIBEAR TRAPS AND LUTRA LUTRA