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Cover A review, interviews and field surveys indicate that in China the Eurasian (pictured), smooth-coated and Asian small-clawed otters have undergone a dramatic countrywide decline, and are extirpated over much of their former ranges. Relict populations persist, however, in well-protected nature reserves, in sparsely populated headwaters of the Qinghai–Tibetan Plateau, at remote sites along international borders, and in densely populated deltas and floodplains. Recent records are mostly of the Eurasian otter, with a few records of the Asian small-clawed otter and no confirmed record of the smooth-coated otter. Focused action is needed to protect the remaining populations. For further details, see pp. 619–626. (Photograph © Chris Gomersall / 2020VISION / NaturePL.com).







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