**Basic Information: Otters (*Aonyx capensis &Lutra maculicollis* )**

**Names: Cape clawless otter, Spotted-necked otter**

**Identification pointers: Cape clawless otter:** relatively large size; dark-brown to black coat; white neck and chin; hunched posture when moving on land; sexes similar; **Spotted-necked otter:** smaller than spot-necked otter; underparts lighter, pale spots on throat, never far from permanent water.

**Can be confused with:** each other, and with the water mongoose

**Activity period:** Diurnal

**Cape Clawless otter**

**Length:** 110-160cm **Height:** 0.4cm **Weight:**  10-19kg

**Spotted-necked otter**

**Length:** 90-100cm **Height:** 0.3cm **Weight:**  3.5kg

**Gestation period:** ±2 months

**Lifespan:** ±20 years

**Diet: Cape clawless otters** eat mainly crabs but will take fish, frogs, molluscs and small mammals; **spotted-necked otters** eat mostly fish but also frogs, crabs, birds and insects.

**Predators:** occasionally killed by crocodiles.

**Preferred habitat:** Permanent water sources such as rivers, lakes and dams in a variety of habitats.

**Red List status:** Least concern

**Population:** Stable to decreasing

**Threats:** Alteration and degradation of freshwater and riparian habitats, reduction of water quality and clarity from pollution and soil erosion reducing hunting success, particularly for spotted necked otter. They are accidentally caught in fishing nets, or killed by fisherman in retaliation for steeling fish and damaging nets.