

## **TAG Annual Report Template**

## Small Carnivore TAG Annual Report Date: 3/1/2024

• Please provide a list of the most current TAG Steering Committee members, Advisors and APM liaison.

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<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Please note that Annual Reports must be digitally submitted to the AZA Conservation, Management, and Welfare Sciences Department (animalprograms @aza.org) and the TAG's APM Committee Liaison no later than March 1

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Please adjust the tables as necessary to accommodate complete answers.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> This template is available in a digitized Word form at https://www.aza.org/resource-documents

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- Please list any new or revised statements or guidelines that the TAG has adopted in the past year (note that new or revised Policies, Position Statements, White Papers, and Guidelines must be approved by the AZA Board of Directors). None
- Please share the date of the upcoming annual check-in meeting with the SSP leadership. Will it be virtual or in person? If in person, will it be in conjunction with a conference or larger meeting? Virtual March 7, 2024, In person March 20, 2024
- Please attach an updated, Animal Programs Summary Table (See RCP Template Tables 2 and 5)

Animal	<b>Programs Sum</b>	mary Table					
Common name (Scientific name)	SSP Designation <sup>1</sup>	Date of Most Recent B&T Plan	Census Population Size - N (M.F.U) in AZA and Source (e.g. ZIMS Studbook <sup>2</sup> , BTP, other)	Number of Participating AZA Member Facilities on census date	Commitment Population Trend (CPT <sub>DATE</sub> ) (Grow, Decline, Stable) or Size (CPS <sub>DATE</sub> ) and date by when it should be achieved <sup>3</sup>	Target Population Size (TPS <sub>DATE</sub> ) and date by when it should be achieved <sup>4</sup>	Recent Five-Year Population Growth Rate (λ) and/or Trend (increasing, decreasing, or stable) if growth rate not available, and date span across which it was calculated <sup>5</sup>
Asian small- clawed otter Aonyx cinereus	Provisional SSP	21 Aug 2023	186 (89.97.0) Studbook in ZIMS 3/1/2024	35	TBD 2025	220 TBD	Stable 2016 - 2023
Binturong Arctictis binturong	Provisional SSP	23 Feb 2024	65 (35.30.0) Studbook in ZIMS 3/1/2024	31	TBD 2025	75 TBD	Stable 2016 - 2023
Fossa Cryptoprocto ferox	Provisional SSP	20 Oct 2021	34 (17.17.0) Studbook in ZIMS 3/1/2024	18	TBD 2025	65 TBD Will be reassessed in next RCP	Decreasing 2018 - 2023
Meerkat Suricata suricatta	Provisional SSP	04 Aug 2023	374 (204.147.23) Studbook in ZIMS 3/1/2024	69	TBD 2025	500 TBD Will be reassessed in next RCP	Decreasing since 2015
North American river otter Lontra canadensis	Signature SSP	21 Mar 2023	266 (157.109.0) Studbook in ZIMS 3/1/2024	107	TBD 2025	300 TBD	Stable since 2017
Red panda Ailurus fulgens fulgens & refulgens	Signature SSP	15 Dec 2023	221 (103.118.0) Studbook in ZIMS 3/1/2024	87	TBD 2025	250 TBD	Increased since 2017, Decrease from 2021 - 2023
Ringtail Bassariscus astutus	Provisional SSP	23 Feb 2024	34 (15.19.0) Studbook in ZIMS 3/1/2024	18	TBD 2025	75 TBD Will be reassessed in next RCP	Decreasing since 2015

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>SSP designation options: Signature or Provisional

<sup>2</sup>To obtain this number from ZIMS, run a Census Report, which will default to 31 Dec of the year prior to this report. Set the Institution filter to "AZA" and check the box on the bottom of the screen to "Include animals with undetermined transaction dates" then Generate Raw Data.

<sup>3</sup>The CPT or CPS and date by which it should be achieved will be found in the most recent RCP for the TAG. This information may not be included in RCPs produced before 2023. Enter TBD with the scheduled date for the next RCP completion.

<sup>4</sup>The TPS and date by which it should be achieved will be found in the most recent BTP for the program. This information may not be included in BTPs produced before 2024 or, if included, may be outdated in BTPs produced in 2023 and earlier. Please pull from a 2024 or later BTP. If none exists enter TBD with the scheduled date for the next RCP completion.

<sup>5</sup>The five-year population growth rate (λ) can be obtained from the ZIMS Studbook, by running the Census Report as described above, referring to column named "Geometric Mean) and using number from cell labeled "last 5 years".

• Please attach an updated <u>Animal Program Summary Table with Roles, Goals, and Essential Action items.</u> (see the RCP Template Table 7). Please provide the action steps the TAG/SSP is taking, or intends to take, in order to achieve each identified goal, and indicate an approximate timeline for these actions.

## **Animal Program Roles, Goals Table**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Asian Small-clawed Otter (Aonyx cinereus)
Program Designation	Provisional SSP
Program Role	This population serves to meet exhibit, education, and research needs for institutions.
SMAART Goal #1	Increase genetic diversity through importation (timeline: 1-2 years)  Action: Import new genetics from other regions while exporting proven deslorelin reversal and over-
	represented otters to other regions. Create a list of over-represented otters to be available for other regional breeding programs (18 months). Note: Two otters with high genetic value have been identified and US facilities have been determined to house and breed them. Importation of these otters from Asia is waiting on permits to be finalized.
Progress towards Goal #1	The two otters arrived in the United States at the end of January 2024. They are currently quarantining at the receiving facility. Our Breeding and Transfer Planning meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024 where we will pair them for breeding.
SMAART Goal #2	Create a guidebook (companion to a care manual) for facilities looking to build an Asian Otter exhibit.  This will include general size and component requirements, as well as designing the space with consideration for breeding, social fracturing, training, enrichment dispersal, and utilization of both vertical and horizontal space. (1-2 years)

Progress towards Goal #2	Action: Will pull exhibit and back of house space requirements from the care manual to create a general requirement guide (8 months). Compile a list of successful and unsuccessful exhibit/holding spaces (and why they were successful or unsuccessful) with regard to the above-mentioned elements (12 months). Write the guidebook based on the information gathered and have it in PDF for easy distribution to interested facilities (2 years).  No progress at this time.
SMAART Goal #3	Improve reproductive success in below average size litters (timeline: 24 months)  Action: Update analysis of litter size survival rates to include 2014-current litters (12 months). Gather 1st month pup weights from last ~15 years (this is complete through 2020). Create guidelines/protocol for early decision-making regarding intervention with pups (24 months).
Progress towards Goal #3	The analysis of litter size has been updated to include 2014-August of 2023.
Common Name (Scientific Name)	Binturong (Arctictis binturong)
Program Designation	Provisional SSP
Program Role	This population serves to meet exhibit, ambassador animal, and education needs for institutions.
SMAART Goal #1	Create an ethogram of behavior and vocalizations in order to better understand breeding behavior in binturongs. This will be published in the next ACM and shared with all IR's by the end of 2024.
Progress towards Goal #1	The first draft of ethogram has been written. Next step is identifying individuals to review and contribute to content of ethogram.
SMAART Goal #2	Address the lack of breeding in former ambassador animals by identifying two institutions interested in the breeding for ambassador programs and formulate guidelines for potential successful implementation of this strategy to be added to the ACM by the end of 2025.
Progress towards Goal #2	No Progress yet. Next step will be in preparation of the next BTP to reach out to all breeding institutions to gauge interest. Additionally, a request for interested institutions will be made at mid-year meetings and again at AZA annual conference.
SMAART Goal #3	Improve overall husbandry of the species by conducting surveys and publishing the results. Surveys about successful breeding facilities housing, routines, and social structure will be done to tease out best

	practices, along with surveys about aggression and long term ambassador successes. This information will be complied and shared with the committee responsible for updating the ACM. This information should be available to be shared with the SCTAG before the next RCP is published to be the most helpful.
Progress towards Goal #3	Previous surveys were collected. Identified an additional individual help with seasonal appetite and behavioral changes survey. Reached out to the Ambassador Animal sub-committee and past committee members for the ACM. We are working towards forming a committee to update the ACM and possibly an AAG Binturong.
Common Name (Scientific Name)	Foosa (Cryptoprocta ferox)
Program Designation	Provisional SSP
Program Role	This population serves to meet exhibit, education, and research needs for institutions.
SMAART Goal #1	Increase births by 3-5 per year to maintain population.
	a) According to our reimagining, our SSP needed 3 births per year minimally to maintain our population. We would need roughly 8 per year to grow. Since we are rebuilding from 5 years of no breeding in North America, maintaining is ideal for us currently. Demographics were negative for us during the reimagining, so the plan is to get to a point where we can grow our population but first we must maintain.
	b) Since we have had a successful birth this year, this does cover us for our minimum, there were 3 pups born at Abilene. We have 1 more potential pair that we should find out about successful breeding in the next month. We have 3 breeding facilities within AZA with 2 more added this year and 1 to be added in the next 3 years. This will allow us to make sure that we can fit our goal of 3 births per year as long as we have facilities to hold non breeding individuals.
Progress towards Goal #1	We had 3 pups in 2023 and have 3 pairings that will be attempted to breed in 2024. We also have imports that will be set up to breed in 2025, as well as an experienced mother that will be set up in 2025.
SMAART Goal #2	Create presence on social media/ podcasts to increase interest or knowledge of species for increased representation.
	a) During reimagining we were listed as neutral for space and interest. Due to this our SSP is attempting to expand our reach and engage people within the zoo community and guests to build a love and connection for Fossa. We have already shared information on fossa and the SSP's goals on one podcast ( <i>Rossifari</i> ), have one coming out in August discussing the SSP on a different podcast ( <i>All</i>

	<ul> <li>creatures podcast), and have built a facebook group to connect fossa keepers and animal care professionals who are interested in fossa (Fossa SSP and Interest Group). This goal is ongoing and does not have a timeline per say, our rate of engagement will be measured by interactions that we have as a result of the media outreaches we attempt. Since we are quite a few years away from the Madagascar animated film, we are using this goal to re-engage with people and bring this species to the forefront again.</li> <li>b) This goal is also tied into promoting the species as a side by side exhibit with lemurs to show the diversity of Madagascar and its species.</li> </ul>
Progress towards Goal #2	We have gained interest in fossa via social media, predominantly in the form of our facebook group. We have even gained interest in a new facility that is hoping to represent fossa in 2025.
SMAART Goal #3	Update and complete ACM by July 2024/ create resources for existing and new facilities. i.e. Body conditioning scoring, exhibit guide, breeding resources.
	a) Husbandry was neutral during our reimaging. This species is not common in zoos across North America so to help facilities feel more comfortable exhibiting, breeding, training, and enriching these species we are helping create resources. The ACM is outdated and we are building a team to start looking through sections to clean up and reestablish. Since we have a few other projects going on we are making this goal for July of 2024 which will be after we have our planning meeting in March of 2024. The body conditioning score is currently in the works with our vet advisor, a keeper, and our vice coordinator. It is in the criteria building phase since we have collected photos from various zoos and trail camera footage from Madagascar. Breeding resources are being compiled by San Diego and Central Florida to help create a cohesive resource for facilities. We have 3 new breeding facilities coming on in the next 3 years so we want to set them up for success.
Progress towards Goal #3	We have begun working on the ACM and dividing up the sections. I have started putting the sections submitted into the template. We have a great team and will be meeting before Mid-year to discuss issues or trouble shoot sections. Our planning meeting was moved to December due to conflicts with our Population Biologist changing their role. The BCS is in the review stage so it is almost completed.
SMAART Goal #4	<ul> <li>Continue working with EEP actively. Import 1.1 new founders to the population in the next two years.</li> <li>a) Genetics were positive according to the reimagining. We would like to continue this trend by working heavily with the EEP. Recently I have been actively communicating and planning with the EEP to make sure we are utilizing each other's resources and making smart movements in terms of transfers and breeding. We have discussed moving 1.1 from Chester Zoo in the UK to North America to have new founders enter our population. This will also help since we have fewer young females in our</li> </ul>

	<ul> <li>population to help with breeding goals. This movement will result in 1.1 moving to San Diego for holding until NY Bronx is ready to receive 0.1. 1.0 will stay at San Diego and both facilities will split the cost of the shipment. IRs have been notified and both facilities have agreed to these plans.</li> <li>b) These plans also need movements to make space at San Diego to hold these incoming new founders and allow for breeding to continue. So the IR from San Diego requested that 2.2 move out before a transfer can be set up. With current pending movements 2.1 are already set to move this year with 0.1 set to move in the next year. These movements will allow us to gain new genetics and help create a more sustainable population.</li> </ul>
Progress towards Goal #4	The recommendation has been placed for the 1.1 from Chester Zoo to be imported to San Diego. Bronx and San Diego are splitting shipment cost so that 0.1 can be sent to the Bronx for breeding. We have also spoken about moving a young female from Paris to help even out our male heavy Demographics.
SMAART Goal #5	Increase species representation by 5 facilities by 2028.  a) Space and interest were neutral during our reimaging process so we would like to increase our interest and holding facilities by 5 facilities in the 5 years. We have had interest from 5 facilities after a promotional post in the AZA network. Reid Park Zoo, Alexandra Zoo, Seneca Zoo, Greenville Zoo, and The Brandywine zoo have expressed interest in becoming holders for our species. We are hoping with the increase of exposure that will happen with goal two we may increase holders through exposure. We also have a previous holder, Happy Hollow, who are hoping to hold fossa after renovations. We believe this is a goal that can be reached with good communication and resources.
Progress towards Goal #5	We have 3 facilities that have previously represented fossa that will be rejoining in the next 3 years. Since their fossa passed away, they are renovating spaces to help accommodate the species to higher levels of care. I have received interest from 2 other facilities and have had emails about 3 potential holders in the future. We are on track to have 5 facilities at least by 2028.
Common Name (Scientific Name)	Meerkat (Suricata suricatta)
Program Designation	Provisional SSP
Program Role	This population serves to meet exhibit and education needs for institutions.
SMAART Goal #1	The Meerkat SSP will address the recent decreased demography of the Meerkat population in AZA zoos with the recommendation of over 25 breeding groups of meerkats in the next Breeding and Transfer Plan,

	to be published in 2023. This BTP creates more breeding groups than previous BTPs and sets higher expectations for facilities to breed the individuals they have.
Progress towards Goal #1	The BTP meeting was held in March 2023 at that time there were 315 individuals at 66 institutions. By July 2023 the population was at 339 at 67 institutions. The 2023 BTP focused on creating more breeding groups in order to reach the population growth goal.
SMAART Goal #2	The Meerkat SSP will address both the recent decreased demography of the meerkat population in AZA zoos, as well as the lack of availability of animals to meet institution needs by supporting the import of new animals into the AZA population. Two imports, one from S. Africa and the other from Europe, are already supported by the SSP currently. If approved by USFWS, these will take place by end of 2024.
Progress towards Goal #2	The import from South Africa has taken place. The import application for the import from Europe is in process.
SMAART Goal #3	Changes to USFWS' requirements and permissions will address the neutral score in Husbandry. Active communication between the Meerkat SSP, SCTAG leadership, and AZA has initiated new conversations with USFWS that are currently taking place. These conversations are likely to change the current transfer permit requirements and allow zoos to move animals as recommended by the SSP with more efficiency. This will assist the SSP in meeting institutional needs and increase demography of the AZA population. Resolution to this issue will positively affect the 2023 Breeding and Transfer Plan once published.
Progress towards Goal #3	Have been discussing this issue with Craig Hoover and AZA. Want to get blanket approvals for transferring animals between institutions that have current permits. This will affect mongoose transfers as well.
Common Name	
(Scientific Name)	North America River Otter (Lontra canadensis)
Animal Program Designation	Signature
Primary Role	Education/Exhibit Needs
Goal #1 / Essential Action(s)	Complete genetic study looking at subspecies role in breeding issues. Publish results by December 2021.
Progress towards Goal #1	Currently working with Dr. Larry Buckley of Rochester Institute of Technology to complete the North American river otter genetic study. There are two hundred samples between zoo/aquarium and wild animals. Sixty have had a portion of the mitochondrial DNA sequenced. Six animals have their whole genome sequenced but must be reassembled. The preliminary results were presented at three

	conferences. Still need to finish DNA extractions, analyze the results, write and submit a manuscript for publishing by the end of 2025.
Goal #2 / Essential Action(s)	Hold and conduct the ninth Otter Keeper Workshop in 2021 or by fall 2022.
Progress towards Goal #2	This Workshop was held in the fall of 2023 at the Audubon Zoo. COVID and need to find a new host delayed it by a year. We are still assessing whether to stay on the odd year or get back to even years in order to be opposite of the Sea Otter Conservation Workshop which we were invited to participate in now.
Goal #3 / Essential Action(s)	Assist the newly recruited Education Advisor to get up to speed and connect her with the existing Education Advisors for the other otter species.
Progress towards Goal #3	The new Education Advisors Group is the largest it has ever been with four people per species. They are publishing a quarterly newsletter and making education material available to the otter holding institutions for the annual Otter Awareness week.
Goal #4 / Essential Action(s)	Update the AZA Otter (Lutrinae) Care Manual by December 2022.
Progress towards Goal #4	The TAG has prioritized the revision of other ACMs. We will recruit a committee of subject matter experts from the otter Program Leaders Institutional Representatives to update the Animal Care Manual. The new goal is to review, edit, and publish the new version by December 2026.
Common Name	
(Scientific Name)	Red Panda (Ailurus fulgens fulgens)
Animal Program Designation	Signature SSP
Primary Role	Assurance Population
Goal #1 / Essential Action(s)	Export 8-10 animals to South Africa as per the 2019 GSMP masterplan by 2022.
Progress towards Goal #1	10 animals have been identified in the 2020 Regional masterplan.
Goal #2 / Essential Action(s)	Increase the number of participating institutions by two facilities per year as per the 2019 GSMP masterplan. New facilities will be determined via networking through AZA conference and recommendations from current institutions. Expect 10 new facilities by 2025.
Progress towards Goal #2	Published Mar 2019, 1 new institution added

Goal #3 / Essential Action(s)	Increase genetic variation by importing 4 females from other regions that have been identified via the GSMP masterplan by 2024.
Progress towards Goal #3	Working on permitting.
Goal #4/ Essential Action	Work with PMC to identify potential inbreeding factors that might be affecting population and individual health. Plan to complete analysis by 2022.
Progress towards Goal #4	Communications with PMC advisor has been started.
Common Name/ Scientific Name	Red Panda (Ailurus fulgens refulgens)
Animal Program Designation	Signature SSP
Primary Role	Assurance Population
Goal #1 / Essential Action(s)	Export 3 genetically valuable animals to South Korea as per the 2019 GSMP masterplan and their accreditation by AZA by 2022.
Progress towards Goal #1	Completed.
Goal #2 / Essential Action(s)	Continue to work with the GSMP to incorporate new regions into the managed population. South America has been identified by the GSMP as the managem/ent responsibility of the SSP.
Progress towards Goal #2	Animals have been identified to be imported to Chile from Japan by 2022.
Goal #3/ Essential Action	Increase the number of participating institutions by one facility per year as per the 2019 GSMP masterplan. New facilities will be determined via networking through AZA conference and recommendations from current institutions.
Progress towards Goal #3	Expect 5 new facilities by 2025.
Common Name (Scientific Name)	Ringtail (Bassariscus astutus)
Program Designation	Provisional SSP
Program Role	This population serves to meet exhibit, education, and research needs for institutions.
SMAART Goal #1	Increase population size closer to the target size. Use the December 2022 Breeding and Transfer Plan recommendations to facilitate one transfer and one import into the SSP of a genetically valuable rehab animal to establish new pairs and meet facility requests by the end of 2024.

Progress towards Goal #1	12 pairs were recommended to breed in 2023. Two litters were born. Only one survived. One litter was from a newly established pair.
SMAART Goal #2	Improve breeding success to achieve a goal number of six births per year Coordinate with the 12 facilities recommended to breed to identify needed changes by March 2026.
Progress towards Goal #2	Still working with the istitutions.
SMAART Goal #3	Improve reproductive husbandry to achieve a goal number of 6 births per year Survey the 12 facilities recommended to breed to identify causes of infant mortality and make changes by breeding season 2026.
Progress towards Goal #3	Surveying the institutions.

• Please complete an updated Animal Care Manual table. List each SSP under the TAG's purview and provide information for each.

## **Animal Care Manual Table**

Common name (Scientific name)	SSP Designation <sup>1</sup>	ACM Status*	ACM Format**	ACM Coordinator	Facility	Email	Phone
Asian small- clawed otter Aonyx cinereus	Provisional SSP	Published 2002, Revised 10/2009	Combined Otter	Sarah Duncan	Tulsa Zoo	sduncan@tulsazoo.org	606.831.4434
Binturong Arctictis binturong	Provisional SSP	Published 7/2007, Revised 1/2010	Viverrid	Annabell Marcum	Potter Park Zoological Gardens	amarcum@ingham.org	989.494.9964
Fossa Cryptoprocto ferox	Provisional SSP	Published 6/2008, Revised 10/2011	Combined Meerkat,Mongoose, & Fossa	Brittany Behler	Blank Park Zoo	bebehler@blankparkzoo.net	

Meerkat Suricata suricatta	Provisional SSP	Published 6/2008, Revised 10/2011 In Revision	Combined Meerkat,Mongoose, & Fossa	Katie Kimble	Sedgwick County Zoo	Katie.kimble@scz.org	
North American river otter Lontra canadensis	Signature SSP	Published 2002, 10/2009	Combined Otter	David Hamilton	Seneca Park Zoo	dhamilton@monroecounty.gov	585.753.2502
Red panda Ailurus fulgens fulgens & refulgens	Signature SSP	Published 2012, In Revision	Standalone	Sarah Glass	Zoo Knoxville	sglass@zooknoxville.org	865.637.5331
Ringtail Bassariscus astutus	Provisional SSP	Published 8/2008, Revised 6/2009, 5/2010. In Revision	Combined Procyonid	Debbie Thompson	Little Rock Zoo	dthompsong@littlerock.gov	501.661.7206

<sup>\*</sup> ACM Status can be reported as: (1) Published (indicate YEAR) and **Revision** in progress; (2) ACM **Published** (indicate YEAR); (3) **Submitted** to AZA for review/editing; (4) **Writing** in Progress (not submitted yet); (5) Active **Planning** has begun with contributors; (6) Process has **not started**.

- ■I have conducted an annual review of all SSP Sustainability Reports under my purview.
- $\boxtimes$ I have attached the Animal Program Deadlines and Planning Details Report from PMCTrack.
- Optional: Please list any field conservation, research projects, and/or special accomplishments that have been supported and/or conducted by the TAG in the past year. The TAG has met many of its SMAART goals from the 2020 RCP. We are still working towards the remainder. We have held three meetings each year since 2022, two in-person, and one virtual, for the Committee and Advisors. In addition, we have held well-attended virtual update meetings for the IRs of the TAG and its Animal Programs. There are multiple check-ins with the Animal Program Leaders throughout the year. Several working group sub-committees were created to delegate the work of the TAG. We have a new logo and now have merchandise to sell to support some of the work. To this end we have also added the office of Treasurer to the Steering Committee.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Format options are **Standalone** (ACM is for just this species) or **Combined** (ACM is for multiple species or combined in an umbrella ACM). For combined format indicate the umbrella category or other species included.