



# Small Carnivore Taxon Advisory Group SSP Designation Addendum for Existing Regional Collection Plans 2022-2027

The following document serves as an addendum to existing Regional Collection Plans (RCPs; published in 2022 and earlier) to update the status of the Taxon Advisory Group's (TAG) Species Survival Plan (SSP) programs after completing the SSP Assessment process and moving programs into the new SSP Framework as of January 2023. The SSP designations outlined here supersede any previous designations and remain valid until the TAG publishes their next RCP, between the years of 2023 and 2027.

The TAG used the standardized AZA SSP Assessment process to identify appropriate SSP designations for the species under its purview. This process is presented and described at [AZA SSP Reimagination Resources](#). After discussions and training, the TAG conducted the assessments by having one-on-one meetings with Program Leaders and the TAG Chair, the Vice-Chair, and or experienced Program Leaders and Vice-program Leaders. If there were additional follow-up questions, the TAG Chair discussed it with the Program Leaders directly. Meetings and training were conducted in-person and virtually over the spring and summer of 2022. Program Leaders, Vice-program Leaders, TAG Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary and those Steering Committee members present at the SCTAG Closed Session at the 2022 Annual AZA meeting were involved in discussions on the assessments.

Once all assessments were compiled, the TAG Chair, Vice-chair, and APM Committee Liaison evaluated the assessments independently. Any discrepancies between the designations were discussed until there was a common consensus for each program.

### Program Management Update

The table below lists all of the SSPs approved in the current RCP, the new designation (Signature SSP, Provisional SSP, TAG-Monitored, Studbook, Other), the previous designation (Red/Yellow/Green SSP), and contact information for the SSP Coordinator or Species Monitor assigned to that population, if relevant. If a population is no longer going to be actively monitored, they will be designated as 'unmonitored' in the last column.

**Table 1: Animal Program Management Update Table**

<b>Common Name (Scientific Name)</b>	<b>New 2022 SSP Program Designation</b>	<b>Previous SSP Program Designation</b>	<b>Contact (Name, Email)</b>
Asian small-clawed otter <i>Aonyx cinereus</i>	Provisional SSP	Yellow SSP	Sarah Duncan ASCotterstudbook@hotmail.com
Banded mongoose <i>Mungos mungo</i>	Studbook	Yellow SSP	Nora Beirne nbeirne@wcs.org
Binturong <i>Arctictis binturong</i>	Provisional SSP	Yellow SSP	Vacant dhamilton@monroecounty.gov
Black-footed ferret <i>Mustela nigripes</i>	SAFE Program	Yellow SSP	Paul Marinari marinarip@si.edu
Dwarf mongoose <i>Helogale parvula</i>	Studbook	Yellow SSP	Vacant dhamilton@monroecounty.gov
Fossa <i>Cryptoprocto ferox</i>	Provisional SSP	Yellow SSP	Brittany Behler bebehler@blankparkzoo.net
Giant otter <i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>	Studbook	Red SSP	Candace Scilimenti Candace.sclimenti@lacity.org
Kinkajou <i>Potos flavus</i>	Studbook	Yellow SSP	Liz Toth LToth@boonshoftmuseum.org
Meerkat	Provisional SSP	Green SSP	Katie Kimble katie.kimble@scz.org

<i>Suricata suricatta</i>			
North American river otter <i>Lontra canadensis</i>	Signature SSP	Green SSP	David Hamilton dhamilton@monroecounty.gov
Red panda <i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>	Signature SSP	Green SSP	Sarah Glass sglass@zooknoxville.org
Red panda <i>Ailurus fulgens refulgens</i>	Signature SSP	Green SSP	Sarah Glass sglass@zooknoxville.org
Ringtail <i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	Provisional SSP	Red SSP	Debbie Thompson dthompson@littlerock.gov
Spotted-necked otter <i>Hydrictis maculicollis</i>	Studbook	Red SSP	Teresa Shepard jungle@omahazoo.com
White-nosed coati <i>Nasua narica</i>	Studbook	Yellow SSP	Lauren Hinson lhinson@brevardzoo.org

## SSP Assessment Results

Below are the outcomes of the SSP Assessments across the genetic, demographic, space & interest, and husbandry criteria for current SSPs within the TAG. The scores shown for each species have been agreed upon by the TAG and the APMC liaison, and reviewed by the full APMC.

**Table 2: SSP Assessment Results Summary Table**

Species	Genetics	Demography	Space & Interest	Husbandry	Designation
Asian small clawed otter	Neutral	Neutral	+	Neutral	Provisional SSP
Banded mongoose	Neutral	-	Neutral	Neutral	Studbook-only
Binturong	Neutral	+	+	-	Provisional SSP
Dwarf mongoose	+	-	-	Neutral	Studbook-only
Fossa	+	-	Neutral	Neutral	Provisional SSP
Giant otter	-	Neutral	-	+	Studbook-only
Kinkajou	Neutral	-	-	-	Studbook-only
Meerkat	+	-	Neutral	Neutral	Provisional SSP
North American river otter	+	+	+	Neutral	Signature SSP
Red panda ( <i>A. f. fulgens</i> )	Neutral	+	+	+	Signature SSP
Red panda ( <i>A. f. refulgens</i> )	Neutral	+	+	+	Signature SSP
Ringtail	+	-	+	Neutral	Provisional SSP
Spotted-necked otter	Neutral	-	Neutral	Neutral	Studbook-only
White-nosed coati	+	-	-	Neutral	Studbook-only

## Additional Explanation for SSP Assessment Results

The Meerkat Program was the only program that the TAG made an exception for differently than the flow chart. The program was previously a Green SSP and would have become a Studbook-only. The TAG Leadership felt that the program is a large program with some recent hurdles due to the COVID crisis and will shortly be able to overcome those hurdles and once breeding restarts will become a Signature SSP. A compromise was to designate it as a Provisional SSP and reassess in the coming years.

The previous Breeding and Transfer Plan (B&TP) was completed in February 2020, right before the COVID shutdowns. Many transfers did not and could not take place due to zoos being closed and/or not having funding for animal transports as well as USFWS being unable to process transfer permit applications in a timely manner. Therefore, breeding that would have come about from these transfers could not happen.

Turn around with increased birth rate in the coming years is likely to take place after the May 2023 B&TP. This Plan will have a more significant breeding expectation of facilities than previous plans, including the recommendation to produce at least two litters before contracepting the females. More transfers will likely be recommended in order to create the population increase. There are also conversations taking place between AZA and USFWS to create an alternative to the need for transfer permits between AZA institutions with meerkats currently part of their collections (with current injurious wildlife permit). Not having to wait 7-8 months for permission to carry out each recommended move would allow more meerkat moves to take place within a reasonable time period. Finally, there are several facilities working on importing meerkats from both Europe and Africa which should set the population up with additional breeding groups.

**Further resources outlining the overall SSP Assessment Process can be found at [AZA SSP Reimagination Resources](#) and in the following documents:**  
**[AZA SSP Assessment Criteria Flowchart](#)**  
**[AZA SSP Assessment Form](#) and [How to fill out the AZA SSP Assessment](#)**  
**[AZA TAG Evaluation of the SSP Assessments](#)**

**Table 3: TAG Committee**

Position	Name	Institution	Program
<b>TAG Chair</b>	David Hamilton	Seneca Park Zoo	North American River Otter SSP & SBK
<b>TAG Vice-Chair</b>	Katie Govern	ZooAmerica	Ringtail Vice-PL
<b>TAG Secretary</b>	Sarah Colman	Saginaw Children's Zoo	
<b>Committee Member /APM Committee Liaison</b>	Jessica Hoffman-Balder	Greensboro Science Center	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Tyler Boyd	Oklahoma City Zoo	

Position	Name	Institution	Program
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Jennifer Compston	Columbus Zoo	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Andrea DeMuth	Brookgreen Gardens	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Heather Down	The Living Desert	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Katie Kimble	Sedgwick County Zoo	Meerkat SSP & SBK
<b>Committee Member</b>	Kirsten Kjorsvig	Great Plains Zoo	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Lynn Klein	Brandywine Zoo	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Jami Richard	Potawatomi Zoo	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Jacob Shanks	San Diego Zoo Safari Park	
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Jeff Baugman	Cheyenne Mountain Zoo	Black-footed Ferret SAFE Vice
<b>Committee Member</b>	Brittany Behler	Blank Park Zoo	Foosa SSP & SBK
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Nora Beirne	Central Park Zoo	Banded Mongoose SBK
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Dr. Jacqueline Buckley	Lincoln Park Zoo	Fisher SBK
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Erin Bussom	Central Florida Zoo	Kinkajou Vice-PL
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Sarah Duncan	Tulsa Zoo	Asian Small-clawed Otter SSP & SBK
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Stephanie Eller	Philadelphia Zoo	Giant Otter SBK, Vice-PL
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Dominique Fleitas	Audubon Zoo	North American River Otter SSP Vice
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Sarah Glass	Zoo Knoxville	Red Panda SSPs
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Gina Gley	Pueblo Zoo	Meerkat SSP Vice-PL
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Lauren Hinson	Brevard Zoo	White-nosed Coatiundi SBK
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Amanda Ista	Milwaukee County Zoo	Tayra & Striped Skunk
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Elizabeth Johnson	Naples Zoo	Foosa SSP Vice PL
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Paul Marinari	Smithsonian's Conservation Biology Institute	Black-footed Ferret SAFE
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Melissa Medlen	Dallas Zoo	Dwarf Mongoose Vice-PL
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Mary Noell	Cincinnati Zoo	Red Panda SBKs & Vice-PL
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Holly Payne	Living Desert	Badger Point Person
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Stephanie Richmond	St. Louis Zoo	Dwarf Mongoose SBK
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Erin Roembke	Fort Wayne Children's Zoo	Banded Mongoose Vice-PL
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Candace Scilimenti	Los Angeles Zoo	Giant Otter SSP
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Anne Nichols	Brookfield Zoo	Binturong SSP & SBK
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Teresa Shepard	Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo	Spot-necked Otter SBK
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Tammy Sundquist	El Paso Zoo	
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Debbie Thompson	Little Rock Zoo	Cacomistle/Ringtail SSP & SBK
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Liz Toth	Boonshoft Museum of Discovery	Kinkajou SBK

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Program</b>
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Laurie Trechsel	Minnesota Zoo	Wolverine SBK
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Tallie Wiles	National Zoo	Asian Small-clawed Otter Vice-PL
<b>Committee Advisor</b>	Jenny Theuman	Roger Williams Park Zoo	Binturong SSP Vice-PL
<b>Education Advisor</b>	Mary Gunther	Salisbury University	
<b>Veterinary Advisor</b>	Dr. Jimmy Johnson	Denver Zoo	
<b>Veterinary Advisor</b>	Dr. Anneke Moresco	Denver Zoo	
<b>Pathology Advisor</b>	Dr. Sushan Han	Colorado State	
<b>Reproductive Advisor</b>	Dr. Cheryl Asa	Saint Louis Zoo	
<b>Nutrition Advisor</b>	Barbara Henry	Cincinnati Zoo	
<b>Nutrition Advisor</b>	Mike Maslanka	National Zoo	
<b>Nutrition Advisor</b>	Kibby Treiber	Zoo Miami	