# Report on the main results of the surveillance under article 11 for annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

SPECIES NAME: **Lutra lutra**

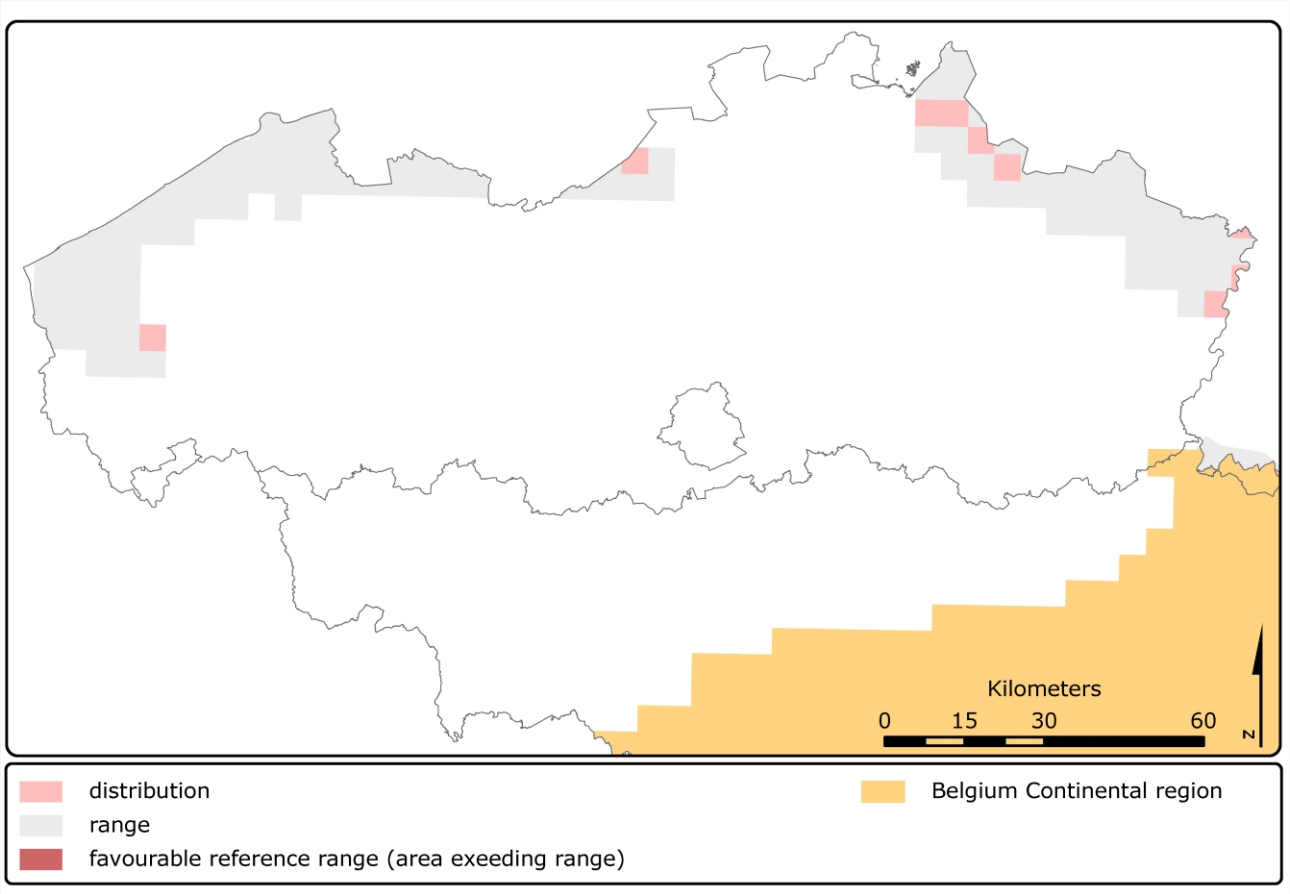
# 1. National level

Biogeographic regions and/or marine regions concerned in the MS: **ATL CON**

# 2. Biogeographical or marine level

## 2.1 Biogeographical region or marine region: Atlantic

Van Den Berge K. (2008) Conservation status of the Natura 2000 species Otter (Lutra lutra) for the Belgian Atlantic region, In: Paelinckx D., Van Landuyt W. & De Bruyn L. (ed.). Conservation status of the Natura 2000 habitats and species. Report of the Research Institute for Nature and Forest, INBO.R.2008.15. Brussels. In prep




| | |
|---|---|
| 2.2 Published sources and/or websites | Van Den Berge, K. & De Pauw W., 2003. Otter Lutra lutra (Linnaeus, 1758). In: Verkem, S., De Maeseneer, J., Vandendriessche, B., Verbeylen, G. & Yskout, S. Zoogdieren in Vlaanderen. Ecologie en verspreiding van 1987 tot 2002. Natuurpunt Studie en JNM-Zoogdierenwerkgroep, Mechelen & Gent, België. Metsu, I. & Van Den Berge, K., 1987. De otter Lutra Lutra in Vlaanderen en aangrenzende gebieden, Rapport I & II, Nationale Campagne Bescherming Roofdieren, Gavere, 140 + 287 p + kaartbijlagen. www.inbo.be/natura2000be |

## 2.3 Range of species in the biogeographic region or marine region

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|---|---|
| 2.3.1 Surface range of the species in km2 | 2672 |
| 2.3.2 Date of range determination | 1987-2006 |
| 2.3.3 Quality of data concerning range | Moderate e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation |
| 2.3.4 Range trend | Stable (=) |
| 2.3.5 Range trend magnitude (km2) - optional | 0 |
| 2.3.6 Range trend period | 1987-2006 |
| 2.3.7 Reasons for reported trend | Direct human influence (restoration, deterioration, destruction)<br>Indirect anthropo(zoo)genic influence |
| Other (specify) | N/A |

## 2.4 Population of the species in the biogeographic region or marine region

2.4.1 Population size estimation

| Minimum population | Maximum population | Population units |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | 7 | Grids |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2.4.2 Date of population estimation | 1987-2006 |
| 2.4.3 Method used for population estimation | Extrapolation from surveys of part of the population or from sampling |
| 2.4.4 Quality of population data | Moderate e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation |
| 2.4.5 Population trend | Stable (=) |
| 2.4.6 Population trend magnitude | N/A |
| 2.4.7 Population trend period | 1987-2006 |
| 2.4.8 Reasons for reported trend | Direct human influence (restoration, deterioration, destruction)<br>Indirect anthropo(zoo)genic influence |
| Other (specify) | N/A |
| 2.4.9 Justification of % thresholds for trends (optional) | N/A |
| 2.4.10 Main pressures | 110 Use of pesticides<br>150 Restructuring agricultural land holding<br>151 - removal of hedges and copses<br>220 Leisure fishing<br>243 - trapping, poisoning, poaching<br>502 - roads, motorways<br>621 - nautical sports<br>701 - water pollution<br>801 - polderisation<br>803 - infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits<br>830 Canalisation<br>870 Dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general<br>967 - antagonism with domestic animals |
| 2.4.11 Threats | 110 Use of pesticides<br>150 Restructuring agricultural land holding<br>151 - removal of hedges and copses<br>220 Leisure fishing<br>243 - trapping, poisoning, poaching<br>502 - roads, motorways<br>621 - nautical sports<br>701 - water pollution<br>870 Dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general<br>967 - antagonism with domestic animals |

## 2.5 Habitat for the species in the biogeographic region or marine region

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|---|---|
| 2.5.1 Habitats for the species | Ideal otter biotopes have the combination of unpolluted water that abounds in aquatic prey and rich vegetation on the banks, which provides shelter. However, as long as there is a variety of hiding places scattered along the hunting grounds, home ranges can include all types of land use (even towns). |
| 2.5.2 Area estimation (km2) | 3460 |
| 2.5.3 Date of estimation | 2000-2006 |
| 2.5.4 Quality of the data | Moderate e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation |
| 2.5.5 Trend of the habitat | Increasing (+) |
| 2.5.6 Trend period | 1996-2006 |
| 2.5.7 Reasons for reported trend | Direct human influence (restoration, deterioration, destruction)<br>Indirect anthropo(zoo)genic influence<br>Natural processes |
| Other (specify) | N/A |
| 2.6 Future prospects for the species | Bad prospects - species likely to be become extinct in the biogeographical region |

## 2.7 Complementary information

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|---|---|
| 2.7.1 Favourable reference range (km2) | 3467 |
| 2.7.2 Favourable reference population | Much more than field 2.4.1 20 |
| 2.7.3 Suitable habitat for the species | 3460 |
| 2.7.4 Other relevant information | During the first half of the past century, otter was present all over the region. However, as a result of active persecution, numbers declined spectacularly. Later on, the destruction of habitats (including water pollution) caused a deathblow so that from the 1980's the species was considered as extinct on a population level. Only some individual erratic animals have been reported since, but nowhere permanent settlement with reproduction. Beside, otters have very big home ranges, e.g. up to 20 km river length. Since the 1980's, permanent settlement with reproduction was nowhere noticed. Only some erratic animals have been reported in some periods. Dramatic decline during first half of past century, followed by a progressive deathblow ; extinct on a population level since the 1980's Ideal otter biotopes have the combination of unpolluted water that abounds in aquatic prey and rich vegetation on the banks, which provides shelter. However, as long as there is a variety of hiding places scattered along the hunting grounds, home ranges can include all types of land use (even towns). Food: fish communities are slowly re-establishing (NARA 2003, 2005) Minimum viable population number is about 20-30. If considering three locations, populations should totalize about 100 specimen to be favourable. |

| Conclusion | Biogeographical or marine level | Conclusions within Natura 2000 sites (optional) |
|---|---|---|
| (2.3) Range | Bad (U2) | N/A |
| (2.4) Population | Bad (U2) | N/A |
| (2.5) Habitat for the species | Bad (U2) | N/A |
| (2.6) Future prospects | Bad (U2) | N/A |
| Overall assessment | Bad (U2) | N/A |