Asian Short Clawed Otter *Aonyx cinereus*

**Where do I live?**
We are distributed in India, across southeast Asia to the Philippines and north to China. We prefer shallow freshwater, for example rice fields, lakes and streams.

We used to be very common, but now we are disappearing fast because our food is being polluted, the areas we live in are being destroyed, we are being hunted for our skins, and we are being killed so our babies can be taken as pets.

**What's for Dinner?**
We mainly eat crabs, crayfish, snails and insects. We feel through mud and gravel and under stones for our prey, then crunch it up whole with our powerful jaws.

**Family matters!**
We live in families and older offspring stay around to help bring up new cubs. Our families can get very big.

**Poo - what’s that smell?**
Otter poo is called scat - traces of scat tell you that an otter has been here. Otters’ poo can be found in well visible places along the rivers and coast to mark their territory and signal their presence to other otters. Scat consists of food remains such as crushed shells from molluscs, crayfish and crabs, and is often pale and slimy.

**You know I’ve been here...**
...when you see my footsteps in the sand or mud along the banks of the rivers. They are easily recognised by other mammals by their characteristic shape.

If you look along the banks, between the rocks and at the base of trees you can find traces of the food I’ve eaten, for example the remains of crab.