

# ***Study on otters in Albania threats and diseases***

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- Otters are abundant, because of good food availability in rivers
- Estimate of 562 otters in the whole country
- Weight 8 – 13 kg
- Maximum age 15 – 16 years
- Mating in February – March
- Hunting allowed from 1 November – 28 February

# Presence of otters in different regions of Albania

Nr.	The district of Albania	Area	Princi pal	Nr.	The district of Albania	Area	Princi pal
1	Berat	5691	22	19	Lezhe	6770	16
2	Bulqize			20	Librazhd		
3	Delvine	7820	19	21	Lushnje		
4	Devoll			22	M.Madhe	8169	26
5	Diber			23	Mallakaster		
6	Durres	390	55	24	Mat	5482	16
7	Elbasan			25	Mirdite	5482	16
8	Fier			26	Peqin		
9	Gramsh			27	Permet	8700	33
10	Gjirokaster	29350	25	28	Pogradec	2589	10
11	Has			29	Puke	34613	98
12	Kavaje			30	Sarande	14567	36
13	Kolonje	20350	20	31	Skrapar	582	14
14	Korce	5624	35	32	Shkoder	29609	27
15	Kruje	9580	5	33	Tepelene	1989	14
16	Kucove			34	Tirane	2347	17
17	Kukes			35	Tropoje		20
18	Lac			36	Vlore	2710	27

Total	202404	562
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Area in ha



# Threats in Albanian otter population



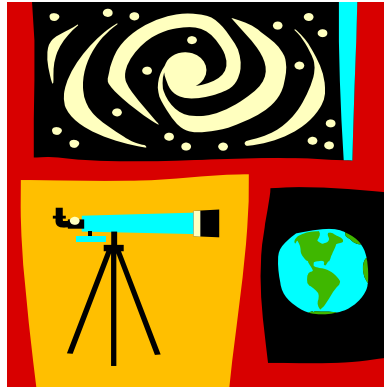
- Foreign hunters kill otters in collaboration with Albanian hunters
- Otters forage in fishponds which provide food for people in villages
- Damages in fishponds are reported
- Irridoviride-diseases have been reported which causes mortality in young otters
- Otter cubs are popular as pets
- Democratic changes have negative effect on population
- No good study yet on status of otter population and conflicts with fishermen
- There are no otters in Albanian zoos. Lack of education.

# Legal protection in Albania



- Albanian law considers the otter like a protected animal
- The otter is hunted from 1 November - 28 February
- ???? Hunters not informed ????

# Future of otters in Albania



- No hunting of otters anymore
- A complete study on the status of the otter
- Education towards hunters
- A detailed study on all threats for otters