



*IUCN Otter
Specialist Group*

IUCN XIth International Otter Colloquium



**Pavia, Italy
1-5 September 2010**

1st Circular



Pavia 6 March 2009

Invitation

We have pleasure in announcing that the XIth **International Otter Colloquium** will be held in Pavia (Lombardy Region), Italy, from the **1st to the 5th of September 2010**. The principal host of the congress is the University of Pavia, in co-operation with the University of Molise and the IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group.

The organisers look forward to welcome you to Italy and hope that you will enjoy your stay in Pavia, an attractive town near Milan.



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Background

The XIth **International Otter Colloquium** is an excellent opportunity to become familiar with current knowledge and on conservation status of the 13 otter species in the world. It is also an opportunity to exchange research experiences with colleagues from different countries. Following the success of the previous colloquia, it is now the turn of a Mediterranean country to host this stimulating event and to invite all otter researchers to the XIth I.O.C. in Pavia.

Location and Dates

The location of XIth I.O.C will be the “University of Pavia”, Strada Nuova 65, 27100 Pavia, Italy (www.unipv.eu). The Colloquium will begin with the registration on Tuesday, **August 31**, and will close on Sunday, **September 5**. An optional excursion is planned after the Colloquium.

Organisers

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Scientific Secretariat

Alessandro Balestrieri
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Scientific Committee (pending)

Scientific Programme

The official language of the congress will be English. The Colloquium will focus on various aspects of research and conservation, and will include plenary and standard sessions, workshops and a poster session. The Colloquium will also host the continental meetings of IUCN/Otter Specialist Group. The abstracts of the submitted papers will be published on *Hystrix*, *The Italian Journal of Mammalogy* (www.italian-journal-of-mammalogy.it/).

A first list of indicative topics: Phylogenetics and systematics, Population dynamics (including non invasive genetic methods), GIS and habitat assessment, distribution and connectivity, Ecology (habitat, space use, diet), Captive breeding and recovery, Status and assessment, Toxicology, parasitology and physiology, Otters and conflict, Education and conservation.

Proposal for other topics are wellcome (no later than May 30, 2009).

Registration

All participants must register on-line (registration form will be found in the second colloquium circular June 2009). This will include details of fees etc. You can send your registration form by e-mail (prigioni@unipv.it)

or by fax (0039 0382 986290), if you have problems with the on-line submission. There will likely be reduced fee rates for students, for participants from developing countries and accompanying persons. The registration fee for all participants will include the light lunches, coffee and tea breaks.

History of Pavia and its University

Pavia is a town of south-western Lombardy, northern Italy, 35 km south of Milan on the lower Ticino river near its confluence with the Po. It has a population of about 70,000 inhabitants.

Dating back to pre-Roman times, the town of Pavia (then known as *Ticinum*) was a municipality and an important military site of the Roman Empire. Under the Goths, Pavia became a fortified citadel and their last bulwark in the war against Belisarius. After the Lombard conquest, Pavia became the capital of their kingdom (AD. 568-774). Pavia held out against the domination of Milan, finally yielding to the Visconti family, rulers of that city in 1359. Under the Visconti Pavia became an intellectual and artistic centre, being the seat of the University of Pavia founded around the nucleus of the old school of law, which attracted students from many countries. In 1815, Pavia was under Austrian administration until the Second War of Italian Independence (1859) and the unification of Italy one year later. Pavia's most famous landmark is the *Certosa*, or Carthusian monastery, founded in 1396 and located 8 km north of the city. Other notable structures are: Cathedral of Pavia (*Duomo di Pavia*), begun in 1488, *San Michele Maggiore* (St. Michael), an outstanding example of Lombard-Romanesque church architecture in Lombardy, the Basilica of *San Pietro in Ciel d'Oro* ("St. Peter in Golden Sky") and the Basilica of *San Teodoro* (1117), the large fortified *Castello Visconteo* (built 1360-1365 by Galeazzo II Visconti), now home to the City Museums (Musei Civici), the church of *Santa Maria del Carmine*, one of the best known examples of Gothic brickwork architecture in northern Italy. The medieval towers still shape the town skyline.

Pavia is the capital of a fertile province known for agricultural products including wine, rice, cereals, and dairy products. The province of Pavia is included in the Regional Park of the Ticino valley, Lombardy.

In early September, during the day, the local weather is usually warm ($\geq 20^{\circ} \text{C}$).



From right to left: the Old bridge on the Ticino river, the University clock tower, the St. Michael church, the monastery of Certosa of Pavia, the castle.

The **University of Pavia**, one of the oldest universities in Europe, was founded in 1361, although a school of rhetoric is documented in 825 making this center perhaps the oldest protouniversity of Europe. During the following centuries, even through periods of both adversity and prosperity, the fame of the University of Pavia grew and not just in Italy, but across Europe. The continuous presence of learned men and scientists who wrote celebrated works and made important discoveries, such as Girolamo Cardano, Alessandro Volta, Camillo Golgi, Ugo Foscolo together with the distinguished educational record of the University, added to the good name of the institution. Nowadays, the University continues to offer a wide variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary teaching. Research is carried out in departments, institutes, clinics, centres and laboratories, in close association with public and private institutions, enterprises, and factories.

The *Centrale* Building of the University is a wide block made up of twelve courts from the 15th-19th centuries. The sober façade shifts from baroque style to neoclassic. The *Big Staircase*, the *Aula Foscolo*, the *Aula Volta*, the *Aula Scarpa* and the *Aula Magna* are neoclassic too. The *Cortile degli Spiriti Magni* hosts the statues of some of the most important scholars and alumni. Ancient burial monuments and gravestones of scholars of the XIV-XVI centuries are walled up in the *Cortile Voltiano* (most come from demolished churches). The Orto Botanico dell'Università di Pavia is the university's botanical garden.



From right to left: the façade of the University, the inner garden, the inner courtyard, some lecture halls (Aula Volta and Aula Foscolo).

Accommodation

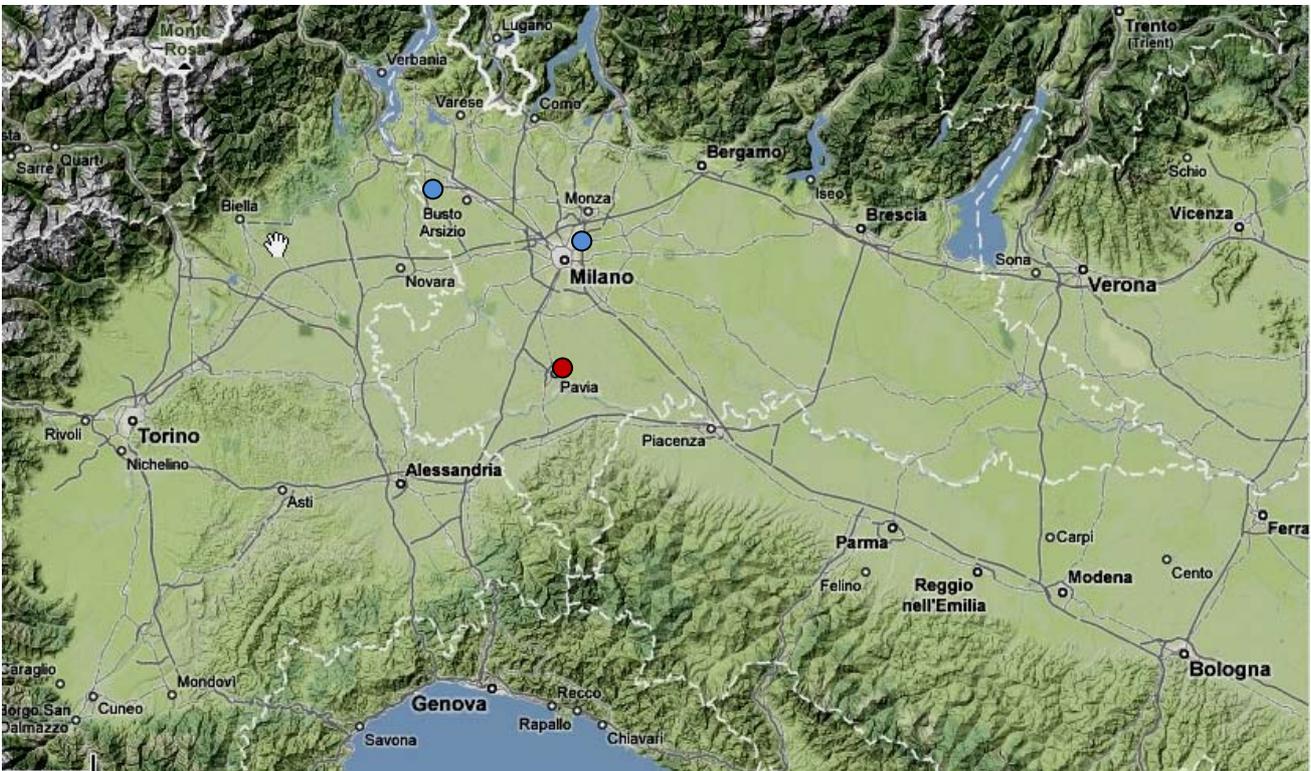
Pavia has a good availability of university colleges, where the participants of the congress will find accommodation at a cheap price. The colleges are located in the city centre and close to the venue of the Colloquium. A complete list of the possibilities for accommodation (hotels, holiday farms, camping sites) and restaurants will be provided later.



Location of the university colleges (photo: Borromeo and Ghislieri colleges)

Transportations

International flights to Milan airports (Linate and Malpensa) are very frequent from all countries. Linate and Malpensa airports are about 40 km and 70 km respectively from Pavia. If necessary a bus service will be provided directly from Milan airports to the Colloquium venue in Pavia, on the first and the last day of the congress. Otherwise, Milan is well connected to Pavia by railway (for timetable look: www.trenitalia.it). Pavia can be reached by train from France (via Genoa) and from Switzerland and Germany (via Milan). The train station in Pavia is near (about 1 km) to the Congress Centre. Car rentals are available across the Lombardy region, but it is better to make reservations well in advance. On the registration form it is important to communicate dates of arrival and departure in order to plan your travel.



Location of the Colloquium (red circle) and of Milan airports (blue circle).

DEADLINES

First Circular:

March 10, 2009

Suggestions for topics of symposia and workshops:

As soon as possible (no later than May 30, 2009) to prigioni@unipv.it

Second Circular:

June 30, 2009

Final Registration and Abstract Submission:

June 15, 2010

Oral Presentation/Poster Acceptance:

June 30, 2010

