

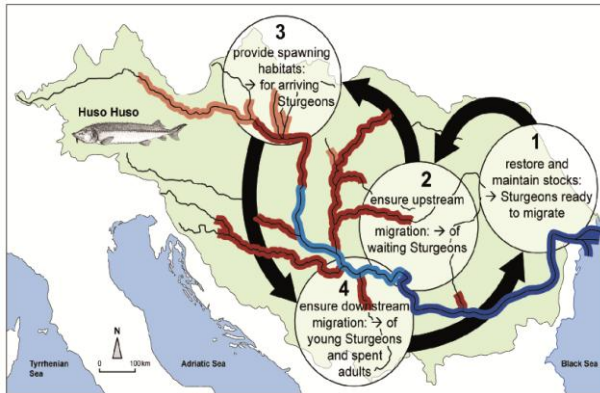
## Danube Sturgeon Task Force

Established in January 2012, with the support of EUSDR PA 6, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

### Mission

**Reinforcement of the Sturgeon Action Plan, adopted in 2005 under the Bern Convention**

*Aim: "By 2020, secure viable populations of wild sturgeon populations by reversing the current declining trends for all sturgeon species, increasing the protection status of their habitats and restoring the migratory movements."*



*To achieve this goal, their natural life-cycle should be closed by joint and simultaneous actions in the Upper, Middle and Lower Danube*

### Supporting partners



## Sturgeon 2020

**A program for sturgeon conservation in the Danube River Basin and the adjacent Black Sea**

### Why such program is required?

- Sturgeons are highly endangered species, on the brink of extinction due to overfishing and loss of habitats (pollution, spawning migration disruption, river constructions).
- Unique value for EU biodiversity – Danube is the only river basin still sheltering 5 sturgeon species
- High scientific value - "living fossils", over 200 million years old
- Excellent indicators of habitat quality, connectivity and ecosystem health
- Flagship species: ecologic, economic and social heritage of Danube River Basin
- Sturgeon Conservation explicitly mentioned as target in PA 6 of the EUSDR



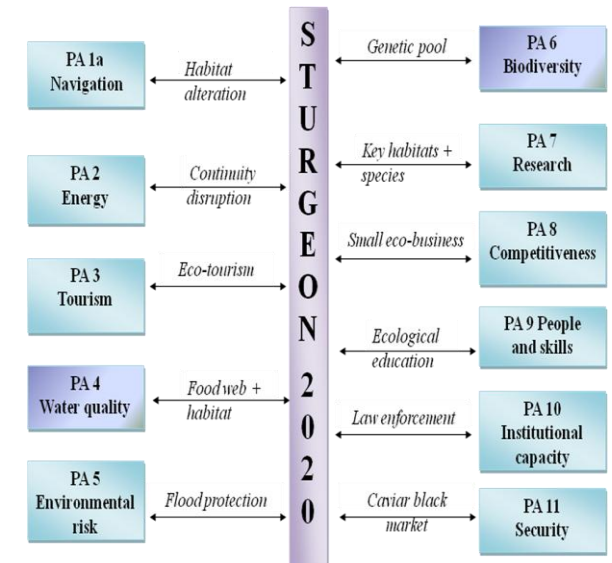
Photo: Clemens Ratschan

## EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the program Sturgeon 2020

The program **Sturgeon 2020**, launched by the Danube Sturgeon Task Force, answers to EUSDR/PA6 target

**"Secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species and other indigenous fish species by 2020."**

Although the topic **Sturgeon 2020** belongs to the Environmental Pillar (PA 4 and PA 6), the complex environmental, social and economic measures foreseen for this program require cooperation and interlinkages with all the Priority Areas of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.



Webpage: [www.dstf.eu](http://www.dstf.eu)

## 1. Acquire political support

- Agreement on sturgeon protection with key stakeholders (navigation, hydropower, agriculture)
- Revision of fishery policy
- Green label licensing
- Measures for habitat protection
- Supportive funding programs

## 2. Law enforcement and capacity building

- Implement EU legislation, international conventions and national laws
- Enhance administrative cooperation
- Training and knowledge exchange
- Enhance control capacity
- Enforce the control of sturgeon products origin/source

## 3. In situ conservation

- Identification/restoration of key habitats
- Evaluation of health status of habitats and biota
- Population analysis
- Assessment of stocks and & by-catch
- Develop identification system for sturgeon products origin
- Estimate impact of climate change and invasive species – consider preventive measures
- Guidelines for population management – use research results

# Sturgeon 2020 program



## Our Danube - Our Sturgeons



Photo: Radu Suci, IAD Romania

## Contact

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## 4. Ex situ conservation

- Inventory of sturgeon hatcheries and broodstock
- Green labeling system for companies
- Live gene banks
- Knowledge exchange on best practice management in hatcheries; common protocols
- Hatcheries for ecological purpose → supportive stocking programs
- Guidelines for hatcheries management

## 5. Socio-economic measures

- Create alternative income sources for local communities (ecotourism, handicrafts, local markets)
- Rewarding incentives for fishery policy implementation
- Licensing system for legal fishery
- Hatcheries - commercial purpose
- Introduce eco-labeling to prove legal sources
- Introduce “community control” against poaching

## 6. Raising awareness

- Targeted awareness raising campaigns in Danube Region and Black Sea area
- Knowledge exchange between Danube sturgeon stakeholders
- Involvement of fishery community in sturgeon management
- Shifting consumers option towards farmed caviar to release the pressure on wild sturgeons

