



 Bundesministerium
Land- und Forstwirtschaft,
Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft

viadonau

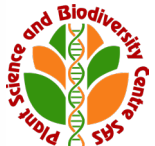


Wiener
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Institut für
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Gewässermanagement



Co-Financing



Fischereirevierversand I
Fischereirevierversand II
Fischereirevier Donau C





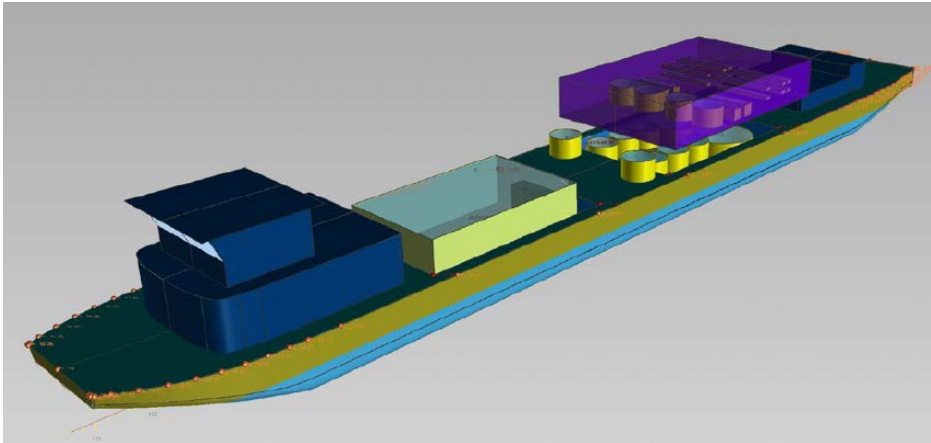
Background

- Sturgeons are the most threatened group of animals
- Two of six Danubian species are regionally extinct, three are critically endangered, one is endangered
- Without captive living genebanks in *ex situ* facilities chances are high that the genetic diversity continues to decline towards extinction (extinction debt)
- Successful conservation requires basin-wide management & monitoring of captive & wild stocks



LIFE-Boat 4 Sturgeon

- Volume € ~11.822.000
- 10 partners, 8 countries
- 2022-2030
- Builds upon methods & results from LIFE-Sterlet
- Based upon Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons
- Embedded within the Networks of WSCS, DSTF & IUCN



Specific objectives

Establish genetically diverse captive broodstocks of mature animals and necessary infrastructure in at least two locations (AT and HU)

„LIFE Boat 4 Sturgeon“ – floating rearing station (AT)

- Adaptation of ponds near Szavas (HU)
- Establish genetically diverse captive broodstock of four species in AT and HU
 - At least 50 *A. gueldenstaedtii*
 - At least 20 *Huso huso*
 - At least 200 *A. ruthenus*
 - At least 50 *A. stellatus*

Artificially reproduce broodstock and rear offspring in specialized infrastucture

- LIFE-Sterlet hatchery container & LIFE Boat
- Juvenile rearing system at the Körös River (HU)
- Sturgeon hatchery at the Mura (SI)



Excursus Broodstock & Reproduction



- Proven genetic origin
- Genetic diversity
- Pedigree based mating schemes
- Suitable infrastructure, risk reduction, failsafe mechanisms
- Principles for fish welfare
- State of the Art reproduction techniques, minimal invasive
- Exchange of data, gametes and animals between entities



Specific objectives

Release at least 1.6 Mio genetically sound and diverse juveniles to the Danube catchment

- 300.000 beluga sturgeon LD
- 300.000 Russian sturgeon LD
- 300.000 stellate sturgeon LD
- 200.000 sterlets Mura, Drava
- 200.000 sterlets MD, Körös, Tisza
- 300.000 sterlets UD, Morava

Provide a long-term database and manual for *ex situ* actions and monitoring in sturgeon conservation for the whole Danube Region and other European catchments

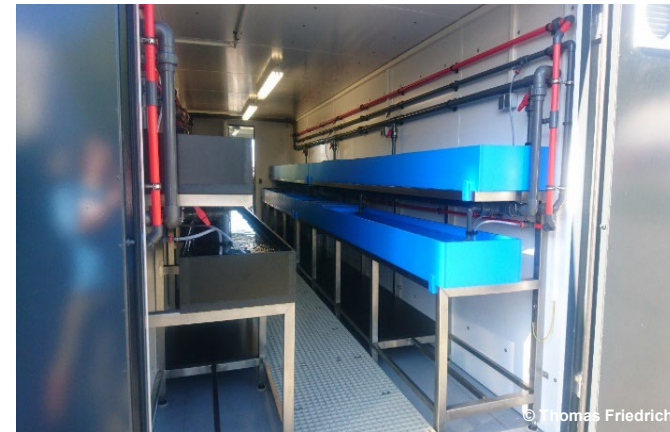
- Design & implement a blockchain database with genetic & biotic data of the broodstock as base for a genetic breeding plan and assignments of recapture
- Assess genetic diversity within remnant populations using genetic data
- Develop a standardized methodology for *ex situ* sturgeon conservation to harmonize efforts within the EU



Excursus Juvenile Rearing & Release



- **State of the Art incubation & Rearing facilities**
- **Use of river water for Homing behaviour**
- **Rearing & Feeding schemes to increase fitness for survival (Natural diets, flow, variations in turbidity, temperature, other stimuli)**
- **Targeted release strategies (Size, number, location, tagging, genetic variation)**
- **Principles for fish welfare**
- **Standardized coordinated monitoring of released animals**



Specific objectives

Implement standardized monitoring of population development in AT, SK, HU, SI, BG, RO

- eDNA assessments
- Standardized capture-recapture

Coordinate with fishing authorities and communities along the LD and Black Sea to reduce IUU fishing in RO, BG and UA

- At least 20 control missions with law enforcement
- Reaching out & educating at least 750 fishermen

Raise awareness of the broad public and relevant stakeholders

- Reaching out to at least 3 million people
- Website, social media accounts, project films
- Radio features, media releases, events, tours through facilities



Objectives:

Monitor population trends and determine the potential bottlenecks to population recovery

- *to stop or mitigate negative impacts*
 - *to implement effective restoration actions*
 - *to implement sustainable management strategies*
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- **A question to be answered and clearly defined objectives**
 - **Applicability and cost effectiveness**
 - **Replicability & standardization**
 - **Comparability and data exchange among range states**
 - **Fish welfare**



	Presence	Habitat	YOY	Recruitment	Data
Upper Danube	well covered	covered	covered but uncoordinated	covered but uncoordinated	covered but uncoordinated
Middle Danube	covered	covered but uncoordinated	covered but uncoordinated	covered but uncoordinated	covered but uncoordinated
Lower Danube	covered	covered but uncoordinated	covered but uncoordinated	covered but uncoordinated	covered but uncoordinated
Tributaries	covered	covered but uncoordinated	not covered	covered but uncoordinated	not covered
Black Sea	covered but uncoordinated	covered but uncoordinated	not covered	not covered	not covered

well covered
covered
covered but uncoordinated
single actions
not covered

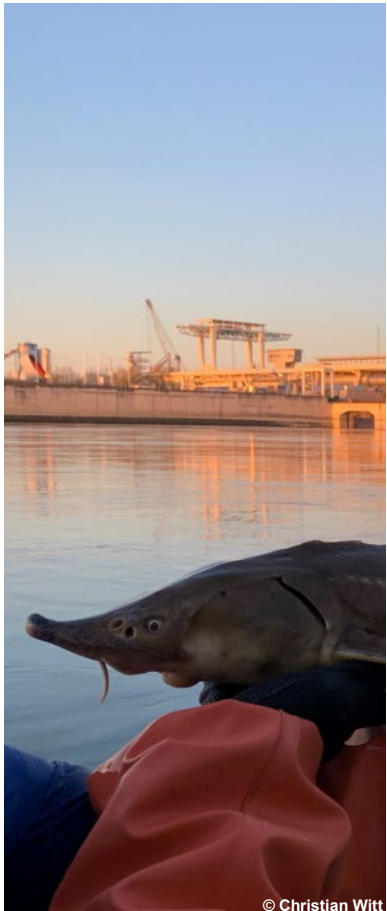
Specific objectives

Raise awareness of the broad public and relevant stakeholders

- Reaching out to at least 3 million people
- Website, social media accounts, project films
- Radio features, media releases, events, tours through facilities

Guarantee long-term sustainability of project actions & provide access for stakeholders to genetically proven Danubian sturgeon broodstock and juveniles for conservation issues in the DRB

- Development of a sustainability strategy and AFTER-LIFE plan



Excursus Dissemination & Networking



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Strasbourg, 30 November 2018
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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

38th meeting
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2018

PAN-EUROPEAN ACTION PLAN FOR STURGEONS



Document prepared by
the World Sturgeon Conservation Society and WWF

This document will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring this copy.
Ce document ne sera pas distribué en réunion. Prière de vous munir de cet exemplaire.

dstf
Danube Sturgeon
Task Force



Thank you

