

Sturgeons as common natural resource for Black Sea and Lower Danube countries

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Anadromous fish species

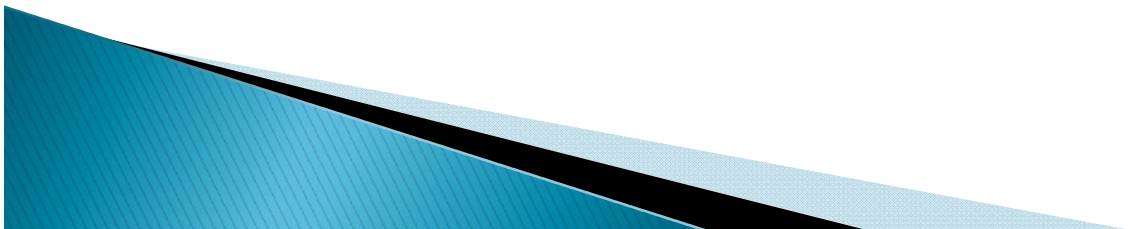


Beluga sturgeon (*Huso huso*) migrated till Ulm in Germany

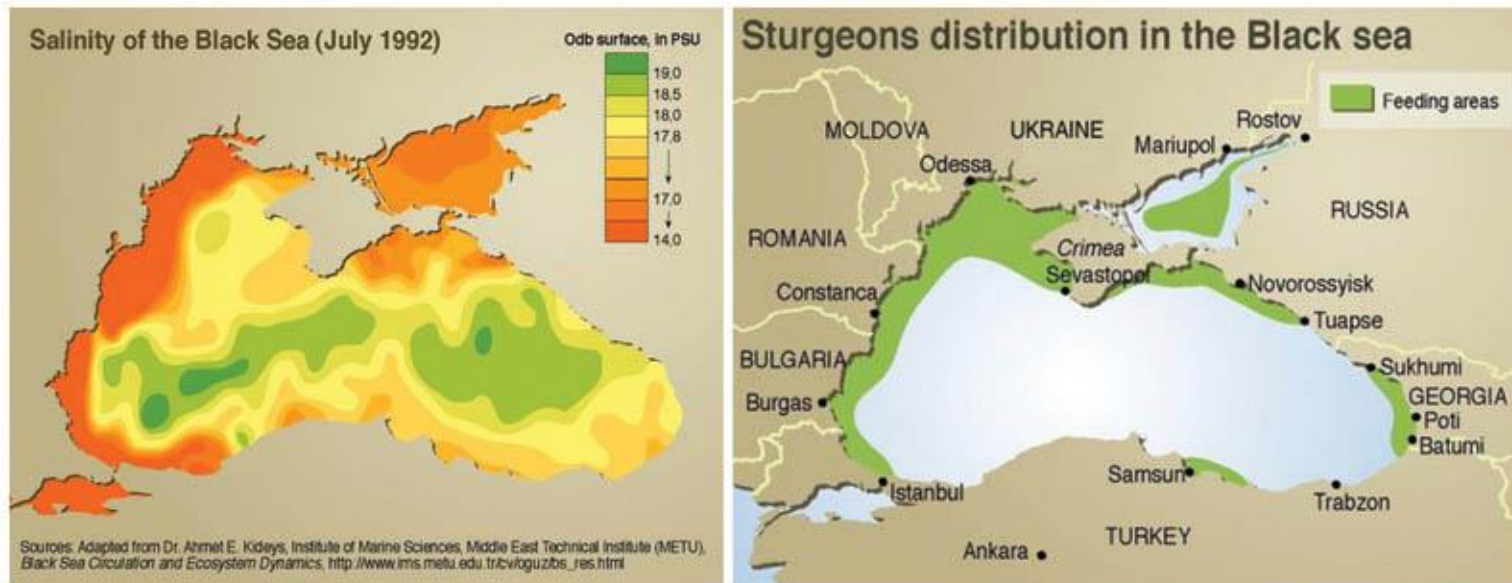


European project

- ▶ " Evaluation of survival and distribution in the Black Sea of young sturgeons stocked experimentally in the Lower Danube", Romania (2013–2015)
- ▶ University of Galati
- ▶ Participants: Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia, Serbia



Salinity of the Black Sea and sturgeons distribution in the Black Sea



Ex-situ survey to preserve sturgeon genetic diversity in the Middle and Lower Danube (STURGENE)

Duration: 1.04.2015 – 31.03.2016

Partners:

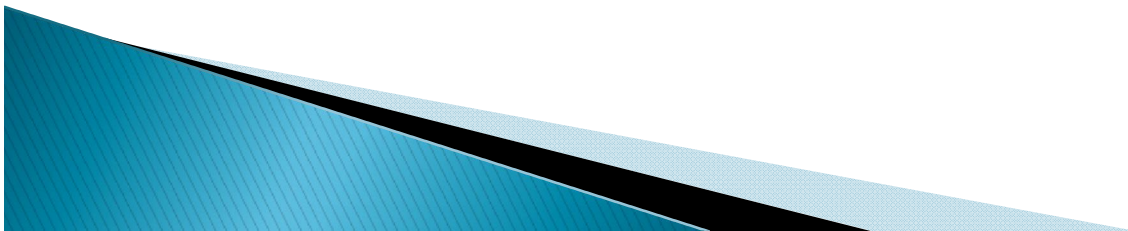
- International Association for Danube Research (IAD), AT
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), AT
- International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, AT
- Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IBER ó BAS), BG
- Institute for Multidisciplinary Research (IMR), RS
- Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, RO



EUSDR START Project STURGENE

Objectives:

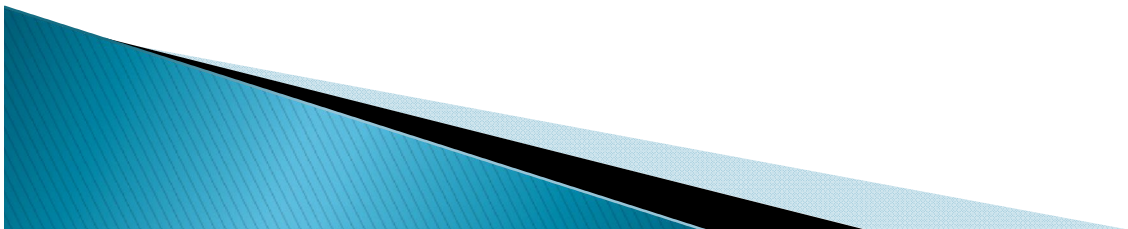
- an overview of existing ex-situ facilities in Middle and Lower Danube area
- support of local stakeholders and fishery authorities for sturgeon conservation
- Develop a roadmap for future actions in ex-situ conservation



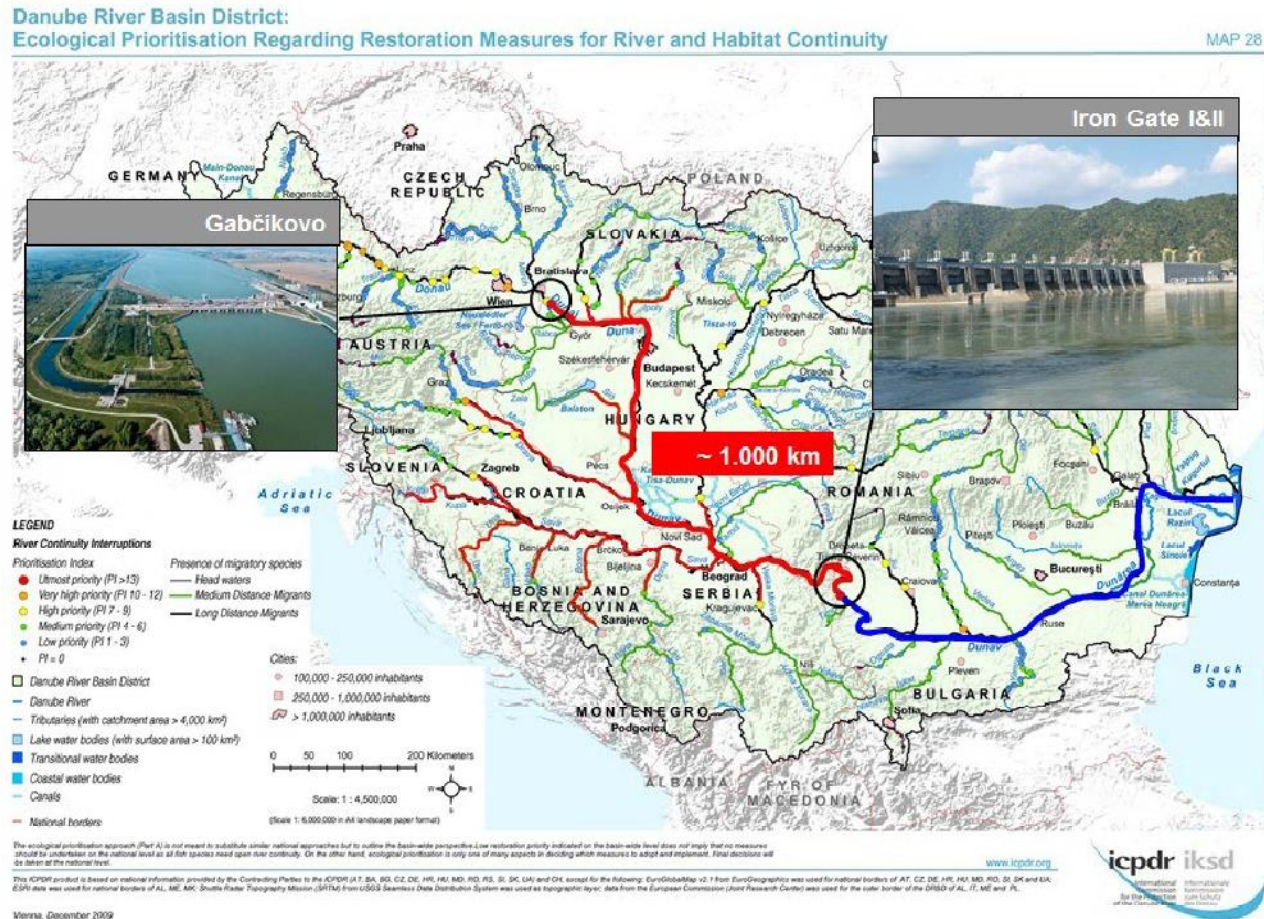
EUSDR START Project STURGENE

- ▶ ***A1. Explore ex-situ opportunities***
 - ▶ - An inventory of existing facilities, brood stock and expertise
 - Field surveys in selected hatcheries and discussions with hatchery stakeholders
 - A workshop with national stakeholders

- ▶ ***A2. Mobilize political support for ex-situ conservation***
 - Discuss the conclusions of the field visits with the DSTF experts
 - Elaborate a roadmap of future actions and disseminate in a high-level event to raise the support of the decision makers
 - Dissemination activities for the wide public and local stakeholders

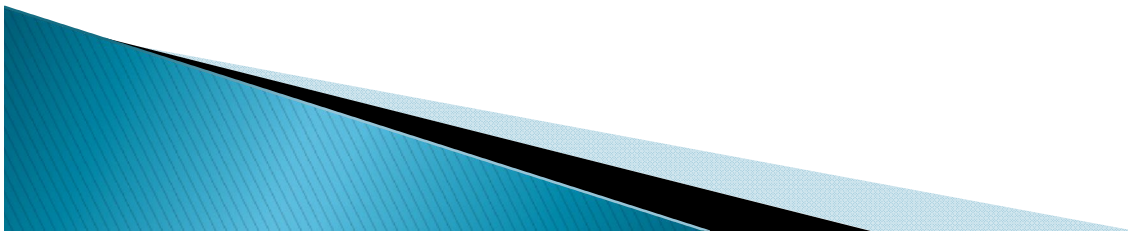


Fish behaviour preparatory study at Iron Gate Hydropower dams and reservoirs, financed by EIB



Objectives of projects

- ▶ 3D bathymetric survey downstream Iron Gate II dam
- ▶ Acoustic telemetry equipment testing and setup optimised for Iron Gate conditions
- ▶ Capturing, tagging and tracking movements of long range migratory sturgeons
- ▶ Molecular genetic analysis of captured and tagged sturgeons

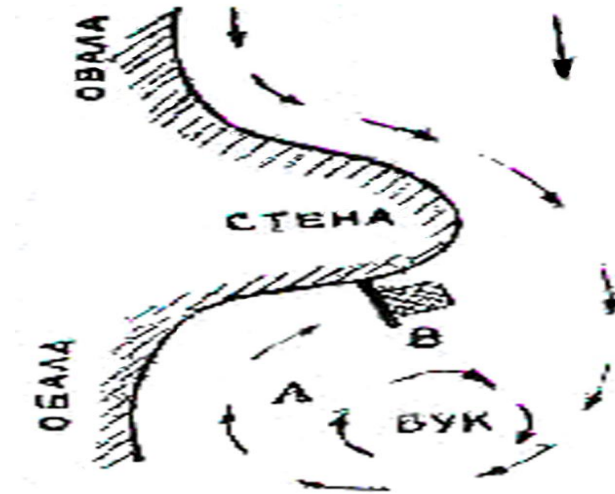
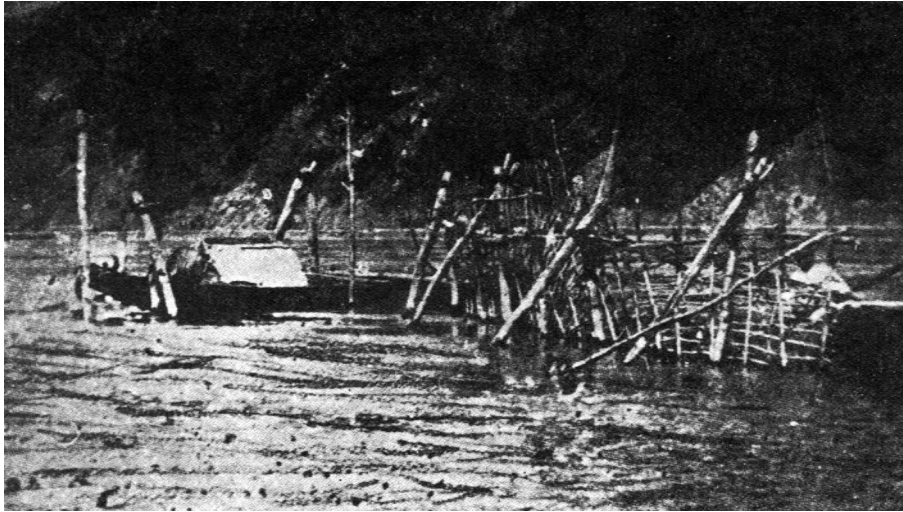


The Danube Gorges - Mesolithic and Early Neolithic

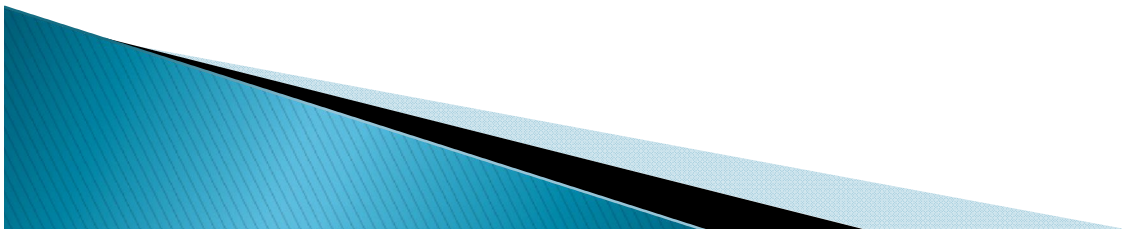


One might easily imagine that in the eyes of the inhabitants of the Gorges, these were the only animals that were coming back repeating their journey year after year

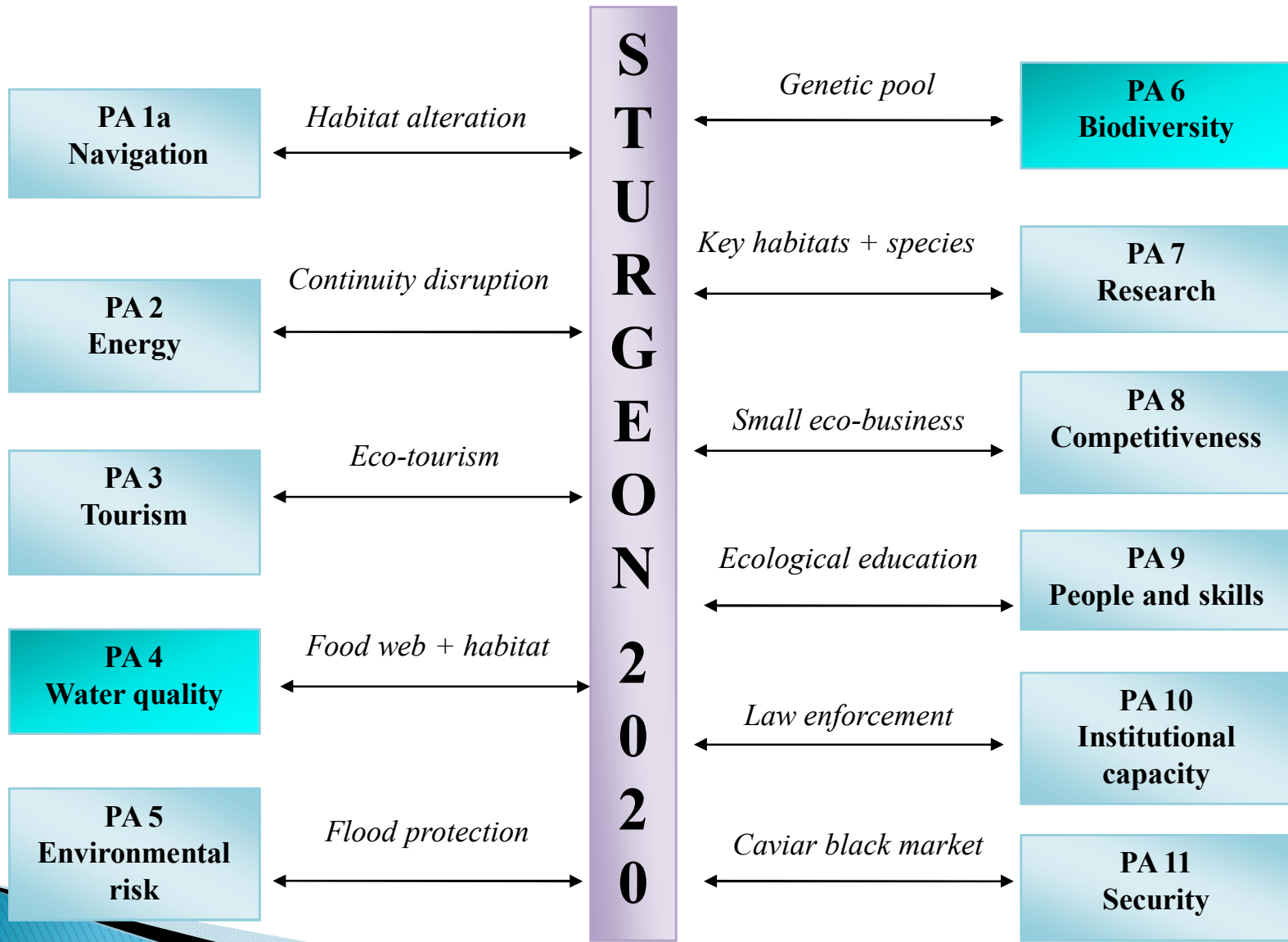
Large quantities of fish bones from Lepenski Vir belong to Acipenserids, notably to beluga sturgeon (*Huso huso*)



It is striking that the majority of whirlpool fishing spots which were used in XIX century overlap with the locations of Mesolithic-Neolithic sites in the Gorges



Sturgeon 2020 & EUSDR



Sturgeon 2020 program



Transdisciplinary and transboundary investigation

- ▶ Researchers (biologists, ecologists, hydrologists, civil engineers)
- ▶ Governmental agencies
- ▶ Local authorities
- ▶ Hydropower managers
- ▶ NGO's

