MEASURES
Managing And Restoring Aquatic Ecological Corridors For Migratory Fish Species In The Danube River Basin

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Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA)
www.interreg-danube.eu/measures
• 3 years Interreg project (01.06.2018 – 31.5.2021)
• project lead: BOKU - Univ. Prof. Dr. Thomas Hein
• 12 Project Partners (PP) across the Danube region
  + 12 Associated Strategic Partners (ASP)
• contributes to programme priority SO 2.3:

**Foster the restoration and management of ecological corridors**

overall budget: ca. 2.5 million €
ERDF & IPA contribution: ca. 2.1 million €
Project partners:

Austria - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna

Bulgaria - WWF Bulgaria, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Croatia - Karlovac University of Applied Sciences

Hungary - National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre, Research Institute for Fisheries

Romania - Institute of Biology Bucharest, Romanian Academy, Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, Ministry of Waters and Forests, WWF-Romania

Serbia - Institute for Multidisciplinary Research, University of Belgrade

Slovakia - Trnava University in Trnava, Faculty of Education

Slovenia - Institute for Ichthyological and Ecological Research REVIVO

Associated strategic partners:

Austria - International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, Austrian Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism, Danube River Network of Protected Areas

Germany - Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries - a member of the Research Association Berlin eV

Netherlands - World Fish Migration Foundation,

Romania - Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity Directorate, River Administration of the Lower Danube Galati,

Hungary - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Angling and Fisheries Management, Duna-Drava National Park Directorate

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Specific objectives of MEASURES

• (1) Identification & mapping of migratory fish habitats.

• (2) Provision of a strategy to conserve Danube sturgeon species, including an appropriate design of broodstock facilities.

• (3) Development of a harmonised & improved strategy (including prioritisation) for the re-connection of migratory fish habitats to secure and re-establish vital ecological corridors in the DRB to be implemented into policy and management plans.
WP T1 - Infosystem Eco-Corridors

MEASURES Information System (MIS)
- database compatible with ICPDR requirements

Network building for eco-corridors
- stakeholder list
- 3 rounds of workshops
- aim: improving transnational conservation management
  - inform and start a dialogue
  - compile existing information
WP T2 - Mapping the Corridor
Output: Habitat Mapping Training

took place Sept. 2018
23 participants

Aim
knowledge transfer and harmonization

Content
lectures and field work on
- sturgeon behaviour
- habitat preferences
- detection methods
- tagging and monitoring
WP T2 - Mapping the Corridor
Activity: Habitat Mapping

Mapping activities are underway at
- Danube (RO, BG, SRB, SK)
- Jiu (RO)
- Siret (RO)
- Hron (SK)
- Váh (SK)
- Mura (SLO, CRO)
- Sava (SLO, CRO)
- Drava (CRO)

- potential habitats are identified by studying maps and researching historical data
- verified by on site measurements and fishing activities
WP T2 - Mapping the Corridor
Output: Habitat Mapping Manual

Content

• migratory fish in the Danube region
  • description, threats, identification, historical information and distribution
• habitat types and drivers
• detection of potential habitats
• verification of habitats
• data gaps
Pilot restocking of Russian sturgeon and sterlet

- two restockings per species
  - Hungary: *A. ruthenus* (sterlet) → April 11, 2019: 3,000 individuals
  - Romania: *A. gueldenstaedtii* (Russian sturgeon) → April 23, 2019: 1,000 individuals

- second round in autumn
- planned as a public event
- production of a short promotion video
ex-situ gene stocking of Danube sturgeons cooperation with LIFE Sterlet
  – facility in Vienna will also house Russian sturgeon

• genetic conservation manual
• design of two pilot ex-situ gene conservation sites
Method for detecting the presence of rare Danube sturgeons

- together with the Joint Danube Survey, an eDNA based detection method will be developed
- tissue and water samples are currently being processed in the lab
**WP T4  Securing the Eco-Corridor**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy for the Danube ecological corridor</th>
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<tr>
<td>current activity</td>
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<td>screening of habitat and corridor status</td>
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<td>in existing management plans and processes</td>
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<th>Lessons learnt manual</th>
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<th>Stakeholder training workshop</th>
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<tr>
<td>• based on the strategy</td>
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<td>• taking place at the final conference 2021</td>
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THANK YOU!

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