We are disappearing

Sturgeon are the most threatened group of species

Irene Lucius, WWF-CEE
EUSDR Annual Forum, 20 June 2024
Conservation of sturgeon in the Danube basin

WWF

WWF-Central and Eastern Europe in a nut shell

- Nature conservation organisation active around the globe

- WWF-CEE has offices in 5 countries (dark blue)

- Mandate to represent WWF toward regional organisations e.g. EUSDR

- 225 staff

- Key topics:

  o Freshwater and forest conservation & sustainable management

  o Iconic species conservation, e.g. Sturgeon

  o Climate

  o Environmental governance

Sturgeon migration corridors and habitats

- Studies on making dams passable for sturgeon

- Data on spawning, nursing & wintering river habitats collected

➔ **Implement technical solution for Iron Gates**

➔ **Establish accessible basin-wide habitat inventory**

➔ **Protect known habitats**

Viable populations

➔ Establish captive brood stock for 4 sturgeon species in AT and HU

➔ Release 1,6 Mio sturgon juveniles in the Danube in 7 countries (AT, HU, SK, SL, BG, RO, UA)

LIFE-Boat 4 Sturgeon

Improve governance framework for conservation

Declaration "**Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity**" (2022)

- Strengthen management of existing protected areas and support the designation of additional ones

- Apply 'do no significant harm'

- Prioritise ecological connectivity in projects, plans

- Build capacity, transboundary cooperation, civil participation and public engagement

- National level: inter-sectoral, transnational cooperation, allocation of EU funds, mainstreaming sectoral policies
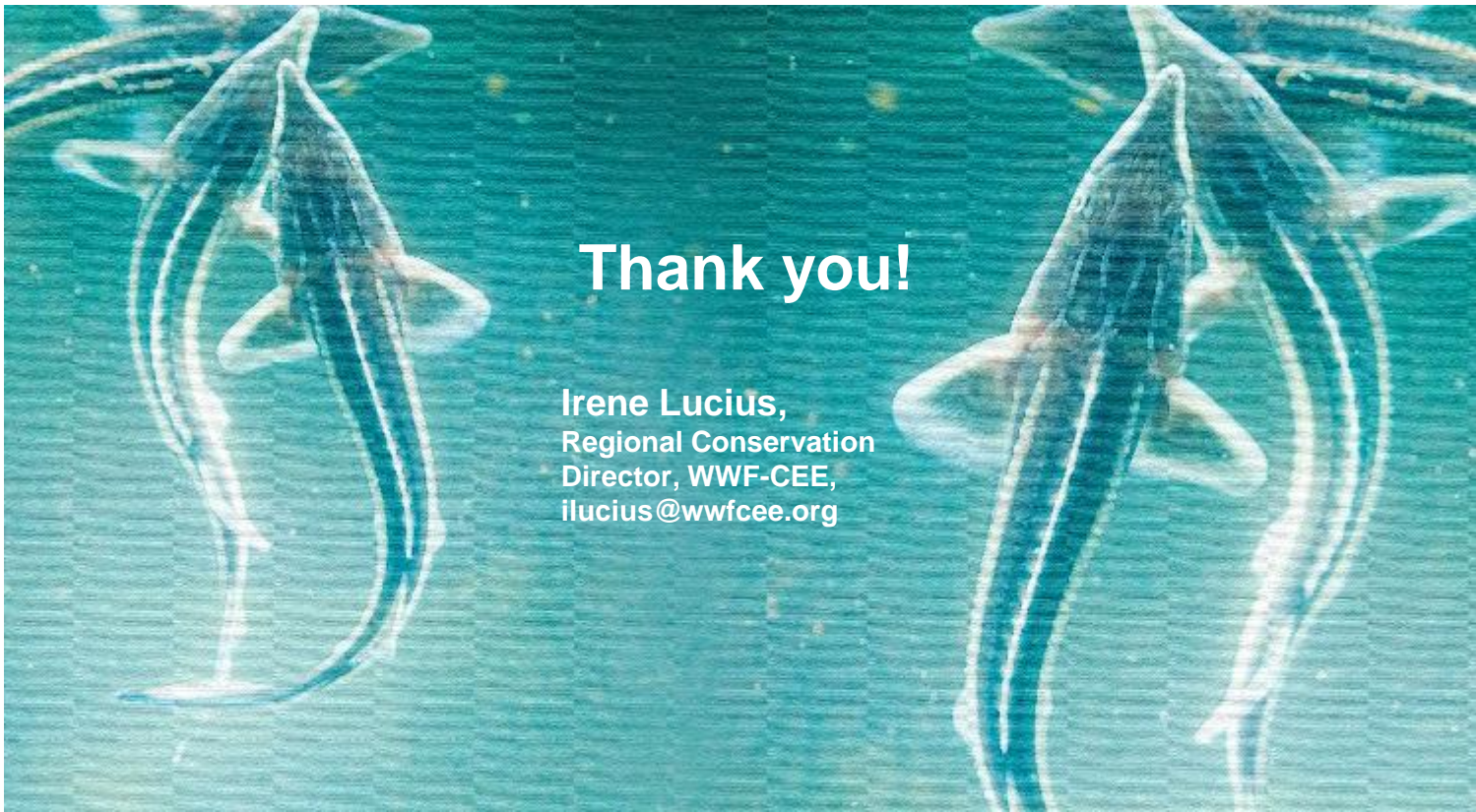
Designing a resilient & coherent Trans-European Network for people and nature (2022–26)

Lead: IIASA & iDiv, 22 partners

Danube-Carpathian region is a case study, WWF is partner

Thank you!

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