

# MEASURES

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## Securing the eco-corridor



The aim of this work package of MEASURES is to integrate the key findings of the project into management and policy plans, future infrastructure projects and legislation. Based on the information of state and needs of the ecological corridors in different sections of the Danube River and major tributaries, suitable restoration and protection measures will be described in a harmonised transnational strategy. The strategy is the first of its kind in the Danube River Basin (DRB) and addresses water management, environmental protection and the industrial sector. The document will recommend adaptations to existing and future management and policy plans and it will include ex-situ conservation measures for sturgeon species.

### Securing the corridors, step by step

First, the responsible partners will investigate the status of key habitats of migratory fish species (e.g. protected or threatened by e.g. future infrastructure plans) in existing EU, regional, national and local policy instruments. The main result of this activity will be a comprehensive overview on the current and planned status of habitats and connectivity (protection, restoration, risk of degradation) in the Danube and selected tributaries. This will act as the basis for a comparison with the map of key-habitats of migratory fish species.

The results will then be compiled in a **basin-wide map** and a report showing congruence or mismatch between habitat requirements of migratory species, habitat protection, future restoration or river engineering measures.

Based on the above, partners will develop a **basin-wide strategy**, consisting of specific actions and roadmaps for implementation to manage and

### Who we are addressing to:

- » regional public authority
- » national public authority
- » interest groups including NGOs

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restore habitats on local, national and basin-scale. It accounts for existing strategies (e.g. of ICPDR) and serves as key document for stakeholder exchange and agreements (nature- and environmental protection, water management, navigation, hydropower, etc.).

A **lessons learnt document** comprising of a toolbox and pilot examples to enhance and implement ecological corridors into management and policy ensures that the approach and results of MEASURES can be used in other projects along the Danube and its tributaries as well as for other rivers inside and outside the DRB.

### What we will do

#### » *Strategy for the Danube ecological corridor*

The strategy is designed to manage and restore habitats for safeguarding the Danube as an ecological corridor for migratory fish. Actions address alignments for management plans (nature protection/ water management) on Danube basin-, national- and local scale and relevant European legislation, aiming to mitigate adverse effects of hydropower- and navigation infrastructure projects (Lower Danube) and conservation of migratory fish.

#### » *Lessons learnt manual*

The lessons learnt manual ensures that knowledge gained in MEASURES is available for stakeholders facing similar challenges in areas not targeted by the project. It summarizes the results, provides tools and pilot examples and accounts for local, national and Danube basin specifics (e.g. environmental, legal or organizational) and EU level implications. The manual offers solutions to enhance eco-corridors for migratory fish species and in particular sturgeons.

#### » *Stakeholder Training Workshop*

Stakeholders are trained to develop an overall strategy and an action plan for enhancing the Danube ecological corridor for migratory fish and get familiar with the approaches and activities tested and implemented in MEASURES.

MEASURES comprises partners from 10 countries covering large areas along the Danube river and in the Danube basin. Thus, wide applicability of results is ensured. The strategy as well as the specific actions developed will account for the relevance of environmental and organizational specifics such as slope, substrate, morphological characteristics or administrative structures (e.g. responsibilities for nature protection sites, water management).

The strategy to manage and restore the Danube eco-corridor (output 1) and the lessons learnt manual (output 2) will be published open access on the project webpage and embedded in the MEASURES Information System (MIS).

### Responsible Project Partner:

*University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)*

BOKU and WWF-RO coordinate all tasks related to this activity. These two project partners together with Institute of Biology Bucharest, Romanian Academy (IBRA) and Ministry of Waters and Forests (MAP) are also responsible for screening and analysing management plans and legislation on river- and European scale. BOKU and WWF-RO focus specifically on the Danube River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) as well as on the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), whereas IBRA and MAP, among others, deal especially with EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).