REVISTUR - Revival of Danube Sturgeons: concerted basin-wide actions for aquatic biodiversity

Project overview

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Prepared by REVISTUR Lead Partner

Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management
Department of Water, Atmosphere and Environment
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna

Strategic basis: Sturgeon 2020

- 1. Acquiring political support for sturgeon conservation
- 2. Capacity building and law enforcement
- 3. In-situ sturgeon conservation
- 4. Ex-situ sturgeon conservation
- 5. Socio-economic measures in support of sturgeon conservation
- 6. Raising public awareness

DTP specific objective 2.3 - keywords

- Strengthen effec… relevance.

preservation, restoring and management of bio-corridors and wetlands of transnational relevance

Against the background that only a small proportion of the habitats and species of Community interest (e.g. Natura 2000 areas) are in a favourable conservation status in the Danube region the programme pursues an …ent in combination with risk management and climate change adaption.

better conservation status of ecosystems

…Green Infrastructures (2013) – to simproved interlinking of natural habitat which is of great importance for the sustainment of a functional ecological network.

green infrastructure development in combination with risk management and climate change adaption

- The focus should be on bio-corridors with transnational relevance such as Mura-Drava-Danube Transboundary Biosphere… infrastructures including e.g. the Danube Delta. Support should target protected areas and their relevant adjacent areas in the …

improved interlinking of natural habitat

Overall, the main envisaged results are:

build up a consistent and reliable data information sources

…en infrastructures/ bio-corridors in the Danube region consisting of natural and semi-natural habitats to …k in order to ensure biodiversity.

- This could be achieved through improving the knowledge base and build up a consistent and reliable data information sources, restoration and revitalisation of sensible landscapes and rivers, integrated management of habitats, protection and re-co… …se and soil protection, mitigating the negative effects of land uptake and fragmentation. Last but not least promoting of aw…

revitalisation of sensible landscapes and rivers

- "The following indicative exan… …d management of ecological corridors

control of invasive species

- Support strategic frameworks and develop concrete solutions to restore, conserve and improve a network of green infrastructures/ bio-corridors of transnational releva… semi-natural habitats to help reduce the fragmentation of ecosystems and improving the connectivity between sites in the Natura 2000 network.
- Improve the knowledge base and build up consistent and reliable data information sources: Support joint accompanying research and evaluation activities including development of advanced tools for mapping, diagnosing, protecting and managing natural landscapes. Support joint efforts for improved mapping of ecosyste… …act on biodiversity.

integrated management of habitats

- Promote interlinking of natural habitats and wildlife corridors through the reduction of barriers, … water management and nature protection; improvement of spatial planning and of the land use policies.
- Support integrated management of habitats, the protection and repopulation of (flagship) species.

protection and re-colonisation of endogenous (flagship) species

…f inland navigation and transport infrastructure by establishing multi-sectorial partnerships …hance effective visitor management of protected areas.

- Foster integrated approaches on soil protection and soil awareness.
- Define and implement coordinated measures on management, control and eradicat…
- Strengthen the capacities and the networks of NGO´s, stakeholders and authorities …

integrated approach to better coordinate environmental interest with flood protection and inland navigation (stakeholder networks)

REVISTUR project - general objectives

REVISTUR will pave the way for the establishment of sturgeon migration corridors through identifying and initiating habitat protection along the Danube and its main tributaries.

- A knowledge platform will be created to facilitate access to sturgeon information for experts, decision makers and the general public.
- A methodology for sturgeon habitat mapping will be developed and tested.
- A network of aquaculture farms for concerted restocking of targeted species will be established, as well as a manual for their operation.
- Concrete input into the next drafts of policy- and management plans (e.g. river basin- and flood risk management plans) will secure the translation of project outcomes into sustainable management of relevant sites and corridors.

Project objectives – programme objectives

- **REVISTUR**
- Conservation of Danube sturgeons

Project specific objectives:

- Knowledge platform, translation of science into policy
- Mapping + harmonised assessment methodology of potential habitats
- Pilot sites of gene bank / harmonised genetic profiling methodology

PROGRAMME

SO 2.3 Foster the restoration and management of ecological corridors

Habitats of transnational relevance

Improve knowledge base, build up information sources

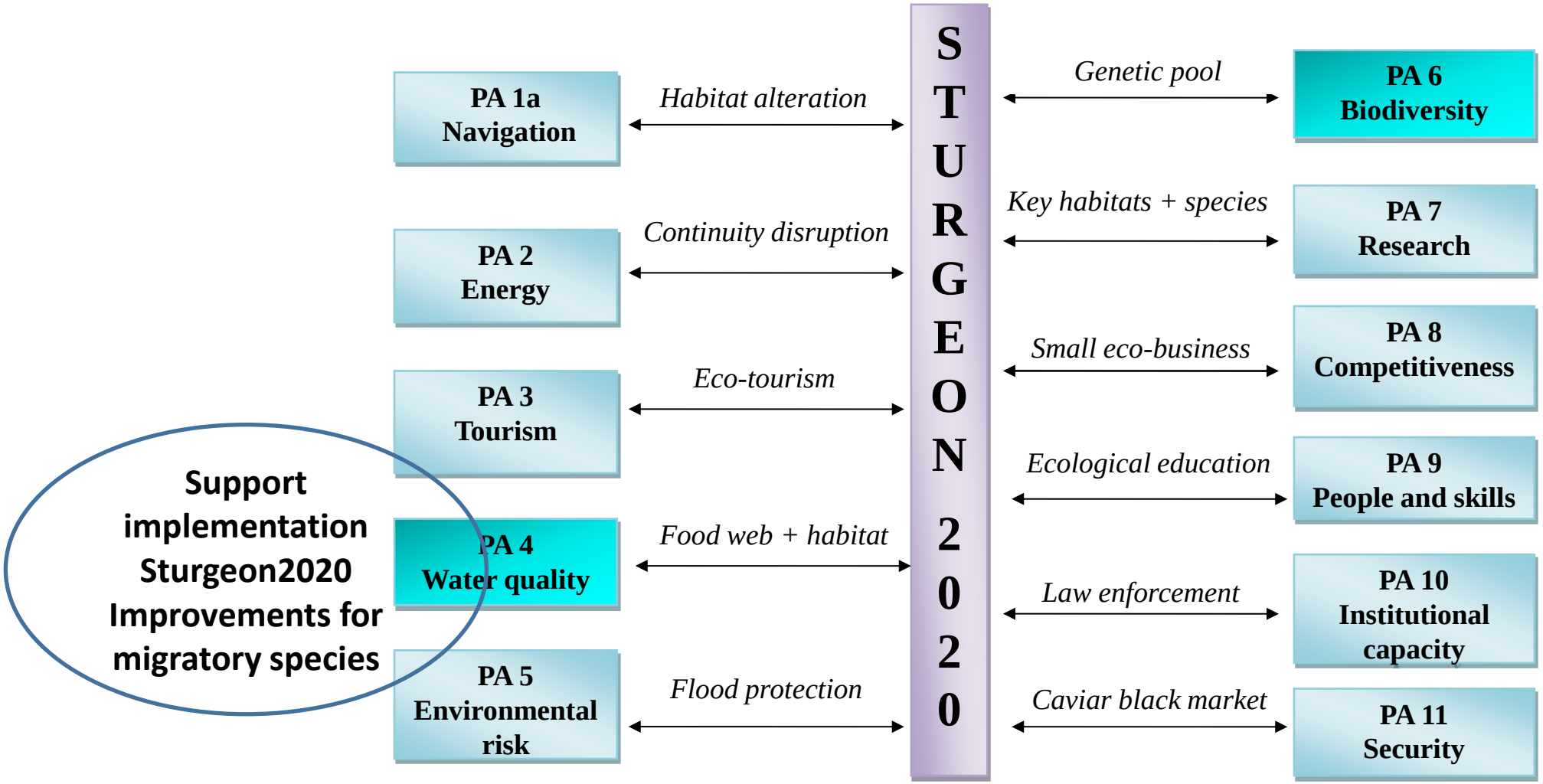
Integrated management of habitats

Protection and recolonization of endogenous species

Stakeholder network, inter-sectorial cooperation

Raising awareness

Links of Sturgeon 2020 to EUSDR



REVISTUR work-package contents

***Overall objective**: a harmonised approach & basin-wide partnership to support Danube sturgeon reintroduction*

WP1 – Project management

WP2 – Communication and awareness raising

WP3 – Capacity building and knowledge platform

- Develop a knowledge platform to facilitate the access of public and decision makers to sturgeon information
- Capacity building of national authorities towards sturgeon conservation in most Danube countries
- Create the basis for a network of national sturgeon initiatives in all Danube countries

WP4 – Safeguarding sturgeon habitats

- Development of a manual on sturgeon habitat mapping for Danube and major tributaries
- Field application and capacity building: habitat mapping at pilot sites along the Middle and Lower Danube
- Development of a Danube-basin map showing potential and certain sturgeon habitats

WP5 – Strengthening sturgeon populations

- Development of a manual on the conservation of the genetic pool of Danube sturgeon species, including genetic profiling, broodstock management and broodstock keeping facility design
- Initiating a network of aquaculture farms to preserve the native sturgeon species outside their natural habitat (live gene bank)
- Restocking of native species at two pilot sites in Hungary and Romania

WP6 – Recommendations for policy and decision makers

- Translation of project results into concrete input for the next draft river basin and flood risk management plans (also on Danube basin level) and management plans of Natura 2000 areas encompassing sturgeon habitats
- Development of National Sturgeon Action Plans in selected Danube countries and ensuring the translation of project results into the next update of the Sturgeon 2020 Programme

REVISTUR project partners

LP	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna	Austria
ERDF PP 1	Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Danube Research Institute	Hungary
ERDF PP 2	National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre	Hungary
ERDF PP 3	Romanian Academy of Sciences	Romania
ERDF PP 4	Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development	Romania
ERDF PP 5	Slovak Academy of Sciences	Slovakia
ERDF PP 6	World Wildlife Fund	Romania
ERDF PP 7	World Wildlife Fund	Bulgaria
ERDF PP	S.C. KAVIAR HOUSE S.R.L.	Romania
ERDF PP	Neptun Bt.	Hungary
ERDF PP 10	Megafish Kft.	Hungary
ERDF PP 11	National Museum of Natural History, Sofia, Bulgaria	Bulgaria
IPA PP 12	Institute for ichthyological and ecological research	Slovenia
IPA PP 13	University of Karlovac - in contact	Croatia
IPA PP 14	University of Belgrade	Serbia
IPA PP 15	University of Banjaluka - in contact	Bosnia and Herzegovina

REVISTUR associated strategic partners

ASP 1	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River	International
ASP 2	Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz (StMUV)	Germany
ASP 3	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary	Hungary
ASP 4	Eidgenössische Anstalt für Wasserversorgung, Abwasserreinigung und Gewässerschutz	Switzerland
ASP 5	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit	Germany
ASP 6	Leibniz-Institut für Gewässerökologie und Binnenfischerei	Germany
ASP 7	Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft	Austria
ASP 8	Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz	Austria
ASP 9	Büro für Fischereifragen und Gewässerökologie	Germany
ASP 10	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences	Bulgaria
ASP 11	Teichwirtschaftlicher Beispielsbetrieb Wöllershof, Bezirk Oberpfalz, Bayern	Germany
ASP 12	Galati Lower Danube River Administration	Romania
ASP 13	Danube Parks	Austria
ASP 14	Termálvizű Halszaporító Gazdaság	Hungary
ASP 15	International Association for Danube Research	International

REVISTUR partner distribution by country and institution type

The Advisory Board as external support to the project

Country	Name	Organisation	*in situ*	*ex situ*	genetics	EUSDR	DG Env	ICPDR	Ministry
DE2	**Jörn Gessner**	Leibniz-Institut für Gewässerökologie…	Y	Y					
DE2	**Arne Ludwig**	Leibniz Institute für Zoo- und Wildtierforschung			Y				
IT	**Leonardo Congiu**	Uni Padova			Y				
FR	**Marie Acolas**	IRSTEA	Y	Y					
DE1	**Florian Ballnus**	Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz				Y			Y
INT	**Raimund Mair**	EC DG Env					Y		
AT	**Karl Schwaiger**	Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstw., Umwelt und Wasserw.						Y	Y
HU	**Diana Heilmann**	EUSDR/PA4				PA4			Y
	a representative	EUSDR/PA1				PA1 (Navig.)			
	a representative	EUSDR/PA2				PA2 (Energy)			

REVISTUR current budget overview

Work package	Activity description	Costs
WP0	Project preparation	€ 17.500,00
WP1	A 1.1 Project start	€ 59.888,61
	A 1.2 Project coordination	€ 212.885,69
	A 1.3 Project financial management	€ 211.792,05
	A 1.4 Project quality management	€ 11.689,30
WP 2	A 2.1 General project design	€ 55.932,14
	A 2.2 Support to sturgeon conservation objectives in other WPs	€ 167.519,59
WP 3	A 3.1 Developing the sturgeon knowledge platform	€ 492.510,00
	A 3.2 Advancing instututional capacity for sturgeon conservation	€ 190.795,00
WP 4	A 4.1 Transnational methodology and manual on sturgeon habitat mapping in the DRB	€ 22.916,00
	A 4.2 Field application: Habitat mapping / Lower Danube	€ 51.589,50
	A 4.3 Field application: Habitat mapping / Middle Danube	€ 149.304,50
	A 4.4 GIS database of sturgeon habitats in the LDR & MDR	€ 400.275,00
	A 4.5 Develop roadmap for in-situ conservation of sturgeons	€ 14.490,00
WP 5	A 5.1 Development of a basin-wide maual to conserve the genetic pool of Danube sturgeon species	€ 117.690,00
	A 5.2 Sterlet restocking in Hungary	€ 283.283,00
	A 5.3 Russian sturgeon restocking in Romania	€ 112.865,00
	A 5.4 Broodstock holding facility and system design	€ 67.558,00
WP 6	A 6.1 Selection and screening of existing management plans and policy instruments	€ 21.965,00
	A 6.2 Developing recommendations for updates of management and policy plans	€ 102.436,25
	A 6.4 Discussion of recommendations with stakeholders and evaluation	€ 65.528,75
	A 6.5 Final recommendations for policy and management plans	€ 76.235,00
	Total costs	**€ 2.906.648,38**

REVISTUR next steps

What?	When?
Information on the next call available from NCP	Mid-December
3rd consortium meeting	January/Feburary 2017
2nd call should be announced	January 2017
Submission deadline for 2nd call	Late spring 2017

Thank you for your interest!

Photo: Radu Suciu, IAD Romania