

Danube Sturgeon Task Force Activities and Future Vision

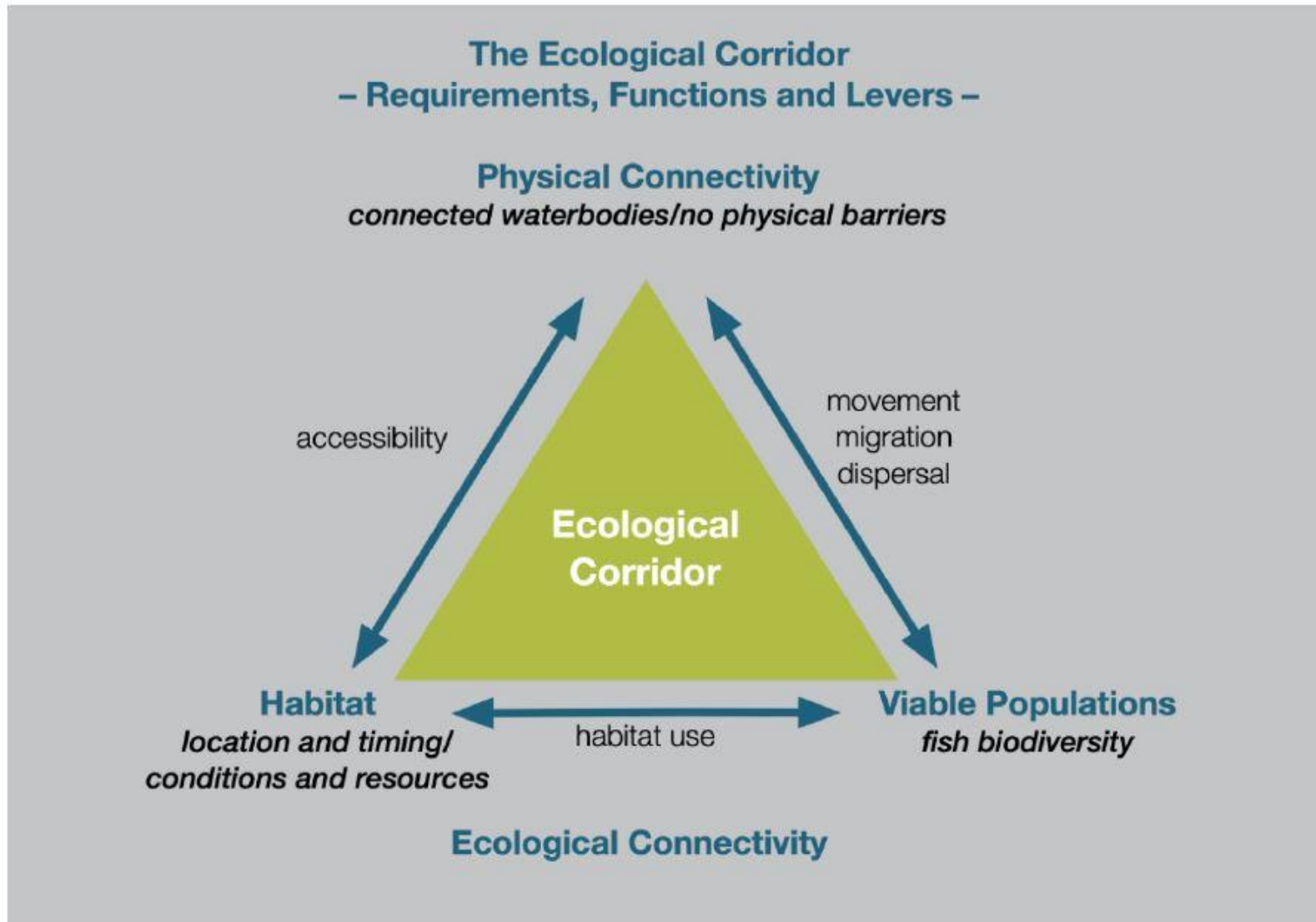
EUSDR PA 4 meeting

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DSTF Main Priorities

- Preventing catch in the wild
- Ensuring integrity of migration corridors (continuity/connectivity and habitats)
- Assisting population recovery through ex-situ conservation (breeding and release)
- Monitoring of populations/habitats

DSTF Main Priorities



Populations – minimize direct threats poaching and bycatch mainly in LDR

- Enforcement of existing fishing regulations needs further attention!
- WWF annually compiles authority data from BG , RO and UA including seizures of illegal gear and poached or illegally traded sturgeons : [Latest report](#) - next report upcoming in July 24.
- DSTF cooperates with GFCM to address bycatch in Black Sea fisheries
- Every case affects shared populations!



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Populations - Active support for recovery through ex situ conservation / breeding and release

Adressed through the LIFE Boat project:

- **Establish brood stock for 4 species in AT and HU**
- **Release of 1,6 Mio juveniles in the Danube - in AT, HU, SK, SL, BG, RO, UA.**

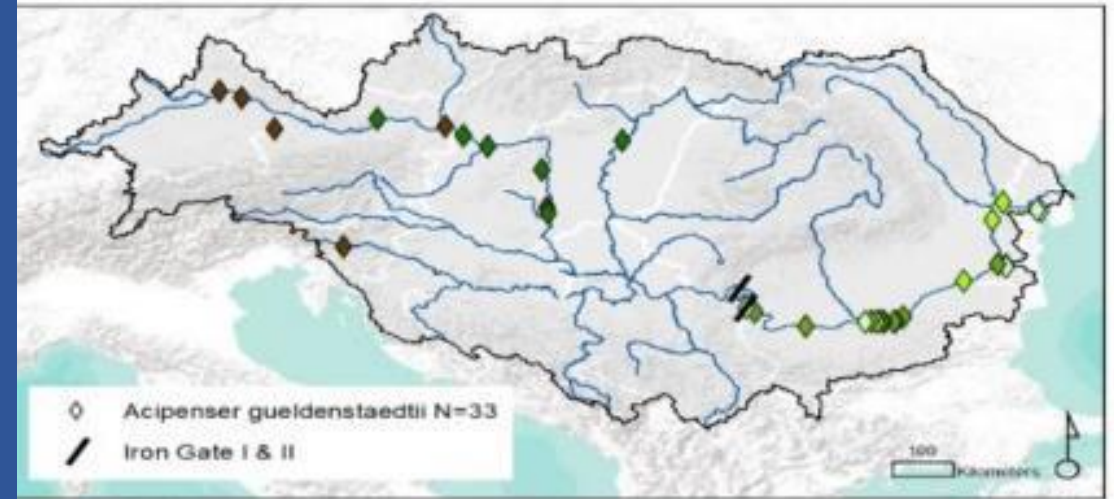


<https://lb4sturgeon.eu/>

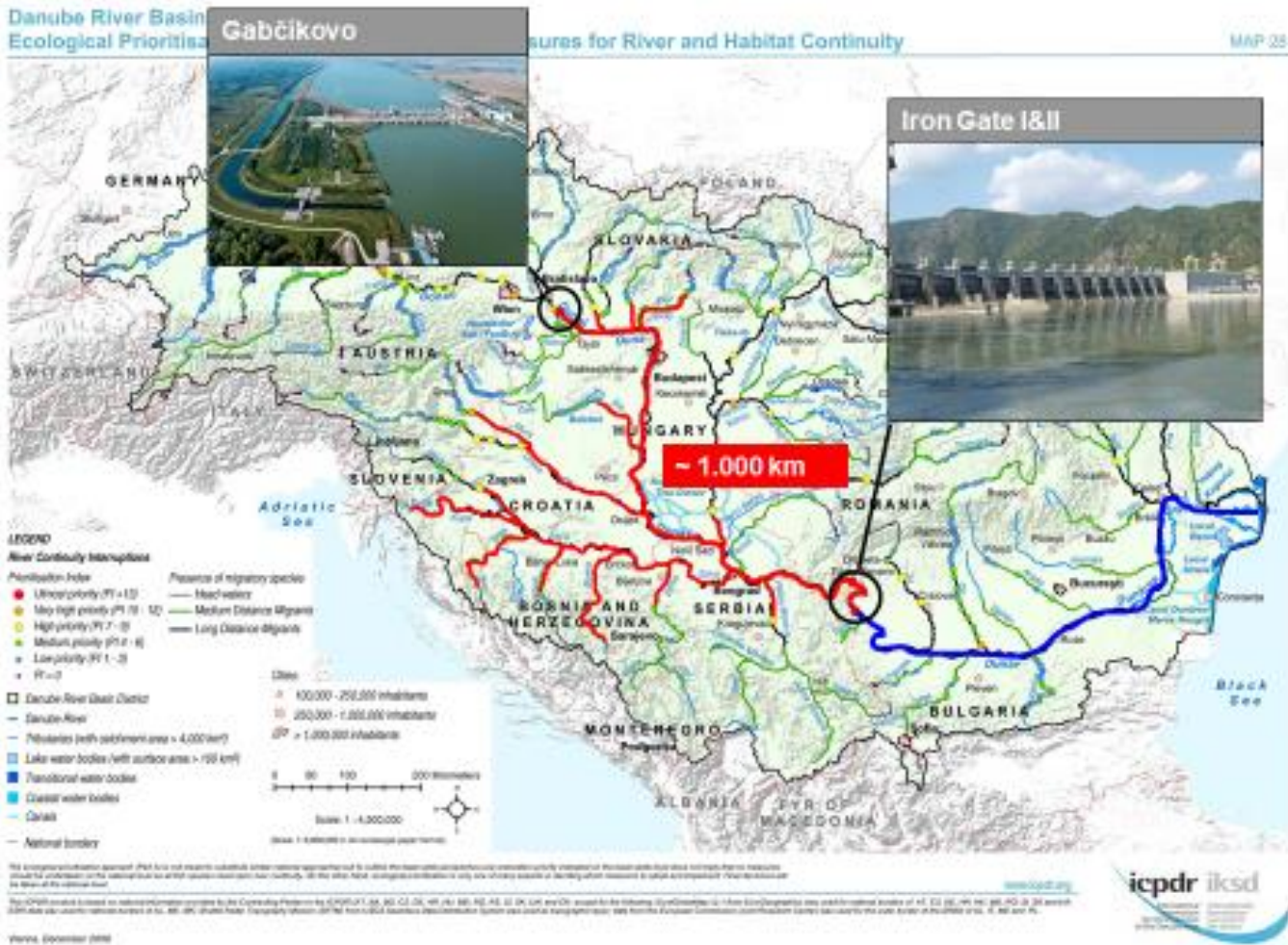


Habitats

- Best available knowledge on habitats is mapped and integrated in DRBMP
 - Approach renewed in EC service contract (2024)
- Need for a basin wide habitat inventory to allow additions and updates – public data!
- Need for better protection of known habitats against new infrastructure plans



Continuity/Physical Connectivity



Iron Gates (RO/RS) – passage solution would double the available river stretch;
Adressed by WePass projects

Gabčíkovo & Čunovo (SK) - passage solutions adressed by Living Rivers project

Main Governance Challenges for Sturgeon Conservation

- Fragmented competences across levels of governance between different sector authorities between countries.
- Cooperation among water management facilitated by ICPDR but lack of transboundary cooperation for nature protection
- Need to transform the Danube Ministerial commitments into political priorities at national level
- Lack of basin-wide exchange and sharing of information → common system needed!
- Saving sturgeons is a transboundary challenge!

Thank you for your attention !

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