



FULL STEAM AHEAD

Join us to save the sturgeons in the Danube!



With the contribution of the LIFE-Programme of the European Union

Sturgeons have inhabited the Earth for more than 200 million years. They are the world's most endangered animal family. Within a mere 200 years, humans have driven them to the brink of extinction. It is our social responsibility to preserve this fascinating species for future generations.

Thomas Friedrich
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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT



LB4STURGEON.EU

Imprint

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What makes sturgeons so special?

Sturgeons are often referred to as “living fossils” because they have been swimming along and across our rivers and oceans for 200 million years. They were already alive when dinosaurs still inhabited the Earth.

All sturgeon species live long lives and are known for migrating long distances. Large species, such as the beluga sturgeon, may travel more than 2,500 km to reach their spawning grounds and live up to 200 years. Due to their complex habitat needs, sturgeons are an important indicator of the ecological state of our rivers and oceans. Worldwide, all sturgeon species are endangered. Two species are already extinct in the Danube, while four are endangered. The main reasons for this are habitat loss, blocked migratory routes, as well as poaching and bycatch in the Lower Danube and the Black Sea. Due to their late sexual maturity, the remaining fish population can only recover slowly.



WHICH SIX MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED?

What is the LIFE-Boat 4 Sturgeon project?

With the LIFE-Boat 4 Sturgeon project, its international partners pursue the goal of saving the remaining four sturgeon species in the Danube from extinction. From 2022 to 2030, the project partners will be implementing six conservation measures to rescue the species Russian sturgeon, sterlet, stellate sturgeon and beluga sturgeon.

The project partners include the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, viadonau, the City of Vienna, WWF Romania, WWF Ukraine, WWF Bulgaria, Revivo and MATE. The majority of the funding is provided by the EU through the LIFE-Programme.

1

Establishing the "LIFE-Boat 4 Sturgeon", a floating hatchery in the Danube in Vienna (Austria) to keep and reproduce broodstock and rear juveniles.

In addition, a similar hatchery for fish broodstock will be built along the Koros (Hungary) to minimise risks. Another hatchery container will be installed on the Mur's riverbank (Slovenia).

2

Establish genetically diverse captive broodstocks of mature animals of danube origin.



4

Protecting the remaining fish population and the reintroduced young fish in the Lower Danube and the Black Sea by working closely with fishery authorities and creating awareness in local fishing villages.

3

Implementing the reproduction, rearing and releases of juvenile fish using state-of-the-art methodologies regarding imprinting and fitness for survival.

5

Implementing a standardized monitoring programme in all countries involved in the project using environmental DNA and tagging to track the population's development and the success of the reintroduction measures.

6

Promoting extensive public engagement in the project to significantly improve the general public's awareness about the importance of healthy river ecosystems and species such as sturgeons.

PARTNERS



CO-FINANCIERS

