

## What makes sturgeons so special?

Sturgeons are often referred to as “living fossils” because they inhabited our rivers and oceans for over 200 million years.

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 and blocked migratory routes, as well as

poaching and bycatch in the Lower Danube and the Black Sea.

Their recovery takes a long time due to their late sexual maturity.



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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 these fascinating species for future generations.

**Thomas Friedrich**  
Project leader

BOKU University, Institute for Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management

Follow us on Instagram  
@sturgeon\_conservation



## COME AND SEE US



SCAN HERE FOR  
THE BOAT TOURS



## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT



LB4STURGEON.EU

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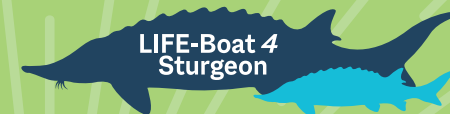
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# FULL STEAM AHEAD

Join us to save the sturgeons  
in the Danube!



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# WHICH MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED?

## What is the LIFE-Boat4Sturgeon project?

The LIFE-Boat4Sturgeon project aims to save the remaining four sturgeon species in the Danube from extinction. From 2022 to 2030, six measures will be implemented to save the species Russian sturgeon, sterlet, stellate sturgeon and beluga sturgeon.

LIFE-Boat4Sturgeon is led by BOKU University. Project partners are the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, viadonau, the City of Vienna - Vienna Waters, WWF Romania, WWF Ukraine, WWF Bulgaria, Revivo, MATE AKI HAKI, the Federal Agency for Water Management, IUCN and the district of Lower Bavaria.

1

Establishing and operating the "LIFE-Boat4Sturgeon", a floating hatchery in the Danube in Vienna (Austria) to keep and reproduce broodstock and rear juveniles.

In addition, another hatchery for broodstock is built along the Koros (Hungary) to minimise risks. Another hatchery container is 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 juvenile 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 methods 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.

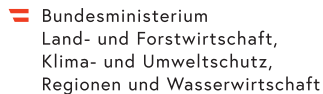
6

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.

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