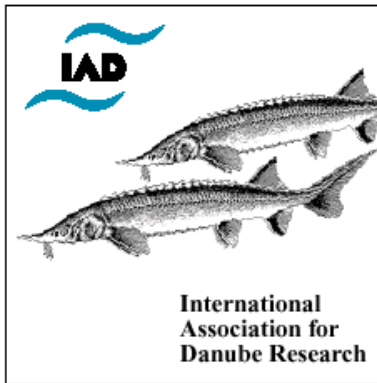




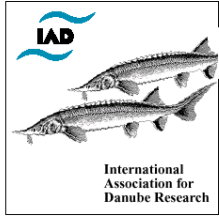
Jürg Bloesch





Cooperation with Romania

- **IAD 1995-1998 CR Switzerland**
1998-2004 President
2006-2012 Editor Danube News
- **Projects**
1999-today many visits in DD area
2002 IAD Conference Tulcea
2004 Sturgeon Action Plan
2004-2008 Mures River
2005-2008 ESTROM Tasaul Lake (CT)
2008-2012 ICAS Advisory Board



Why protect the sturgeons?



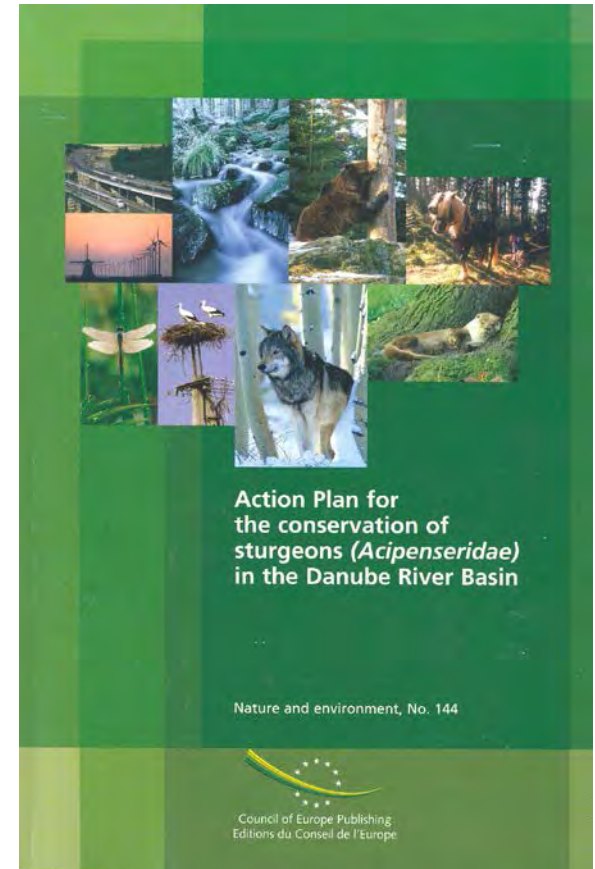
- Good ecological indicators (WFD) – ecosystem service, biodiversity
- Red List species – unique & threatened living fossils
- Cultural heritage – food and living source for people
- Socio-economic factor – caviar market, hatcheries



Bern Convention 2006

Sturgeon Action Plan
Through national action and international cooperation, to secure viable populations of all Danube sturgeon species and forms by sustainable management and by restoration of their natural habitats and migratory movements

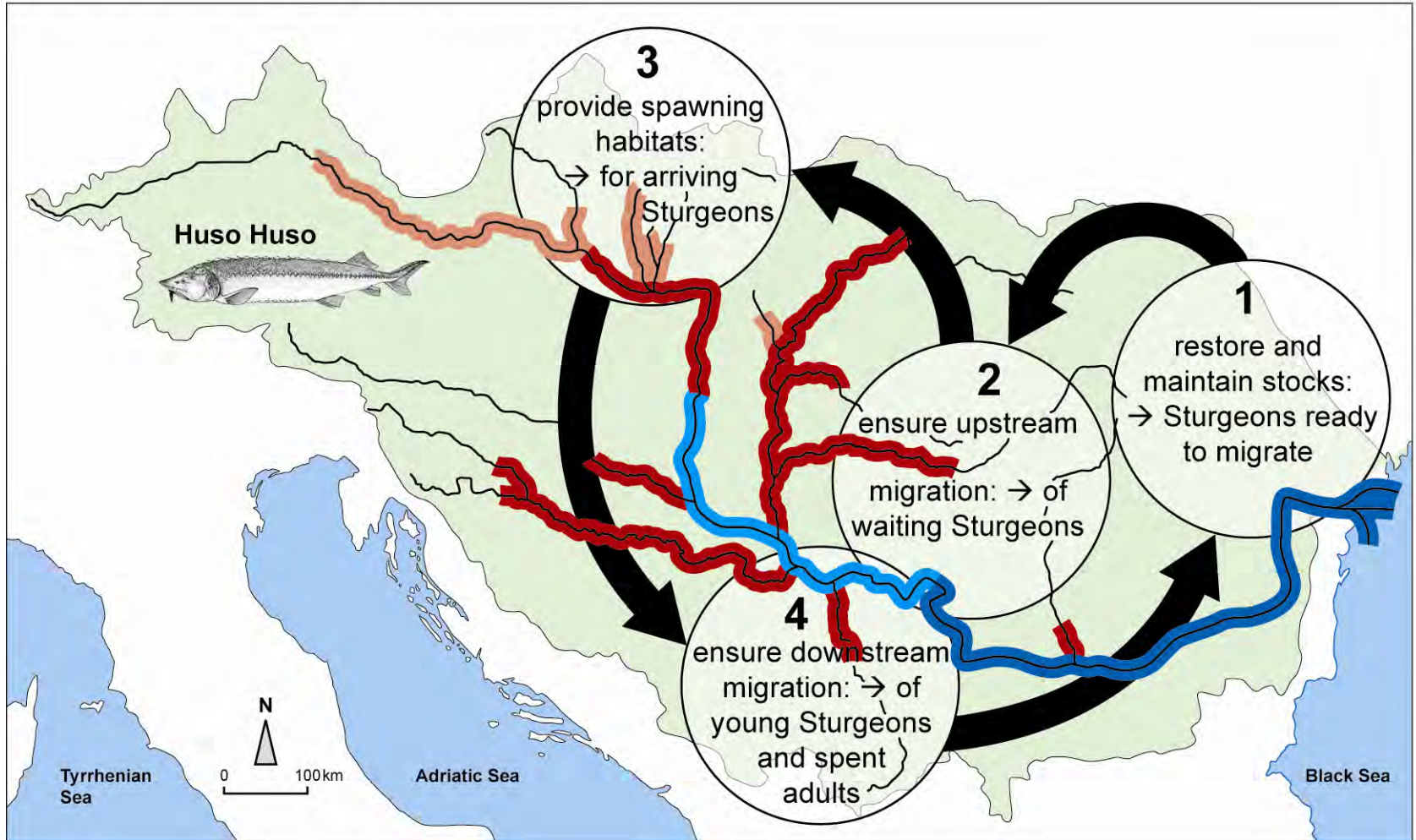
72 Actions



Action Plan for the Conservation of Sturgeons (Acipenseridae) in the Danube River Basin

Aim: to close the natural Sturgeon life-cycle

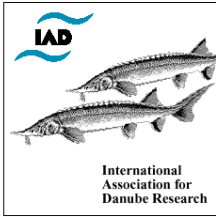
→ needs joint and simultaneous actions in the Upper, Middle and Lower Danube





Lacking Implementation

Species	IUCN 2004	IUCN 2010
Acipenser ruthenus	vulnerable	Vulnerable Declining in MD
Acipenser gueldenstaedti	Endangered	Critically endangered
Acipenser stellatus	Endangered	Critically endangered
Acipenser nudiventris	Critically endangered	Critically endangered Nearly extinct in DRB
Huso huso	Endangered	Critically endangered
Acipenser sturio	Critically endangered Extinct in DRB	Critically endangered Extinct in DRB



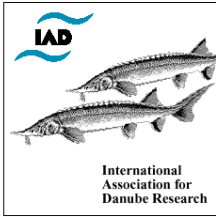
Milestones achieved

- ICPDR support (sturgeons in WFD Roof Report 2004 and DRB District Management Plan 2009)
- Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF)
founded in January 2012 – Strategy Paper 2013 (6 key topics)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- Priority Area 4
Action “To reduce existing water continuity interruption for fish migration in the Danube River Basin”
- Priority Area 6
Action “To secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species and other indigenous fish species by 2020”
- New sturgeon projects in the pipeline



Problems to be tackled

- **More sturgeon research needed**
In-situ and ex-situ conservation (habitats/migration and hatcheries)
- **More implementation instead of talking and producing papers**
Re-opening migration routes for sturgeons ... at the Iron Gate dams 1 and 2 including habitat survey
Hindering disruption of sturgeon migration at Bala Branch through the sill for navigation
Realize the Solidarity Principle (Our Danube – Our Sturgeons)
Increase public awareness (e.g. with the Danube Day 2013)
- **Little progress in sturgeon protection & management**
Bans in RO, BG, RS with doubtful results
Still existing caviar black market despite CITES & TRAFFIC regulation
Socio-economic situation in the Delta, LD and MD are still critical



- We don't know much more about Danube sturgeon behaviour and habitats than in 2004



Photo Angel Tesekov &
Hristo Nikolov, 9.11.05

- But we know enough to do the right things right