Sturgeon 2020

A program fostering research and cooperation in the Danube River Basin and NW Black Sea

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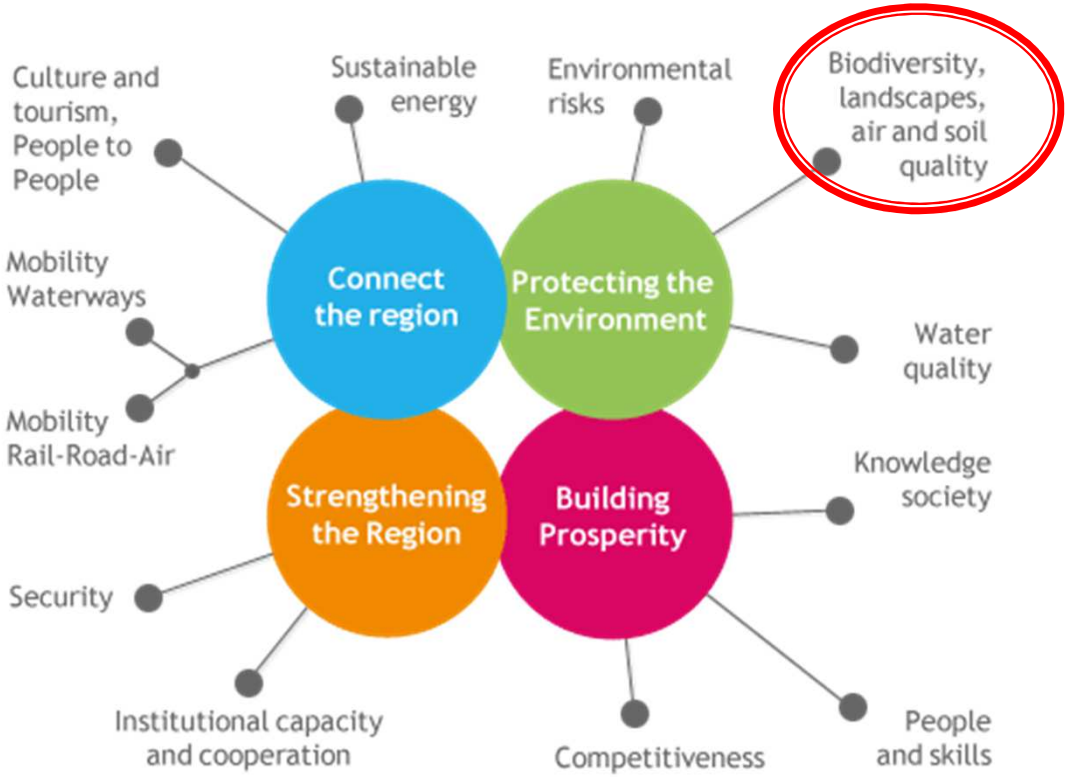
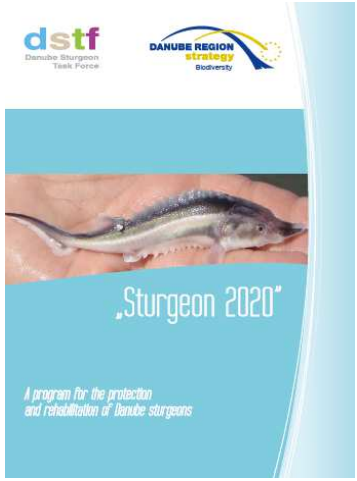
- International Association for Danube Research (IAD)

3rd Conference of the Black Sea, Odessa, 14 June 2016

EU Strategy for the Danube Region & Sturgeon 2020

EUSDR – integrative approach reuniting all sectorial policies





Sturgeon 2020 – flagship project of PA 06 (Biodiversity)

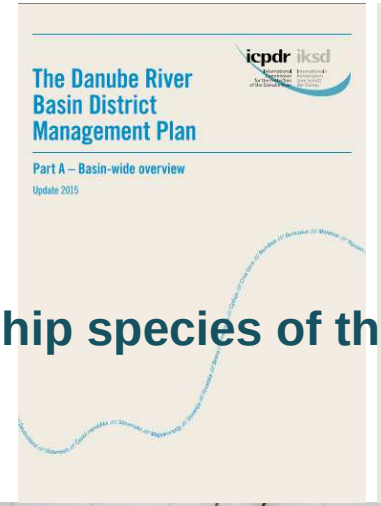
Contributes to EUSDR target: "to ensure the revival of Danube sturgeons and other indigenous fish species by 2020"

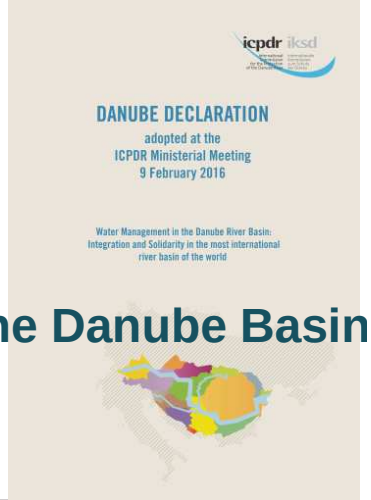
International political support

EUSDR

Interlinkages with all EUSDR Priority Areas

ICPDR





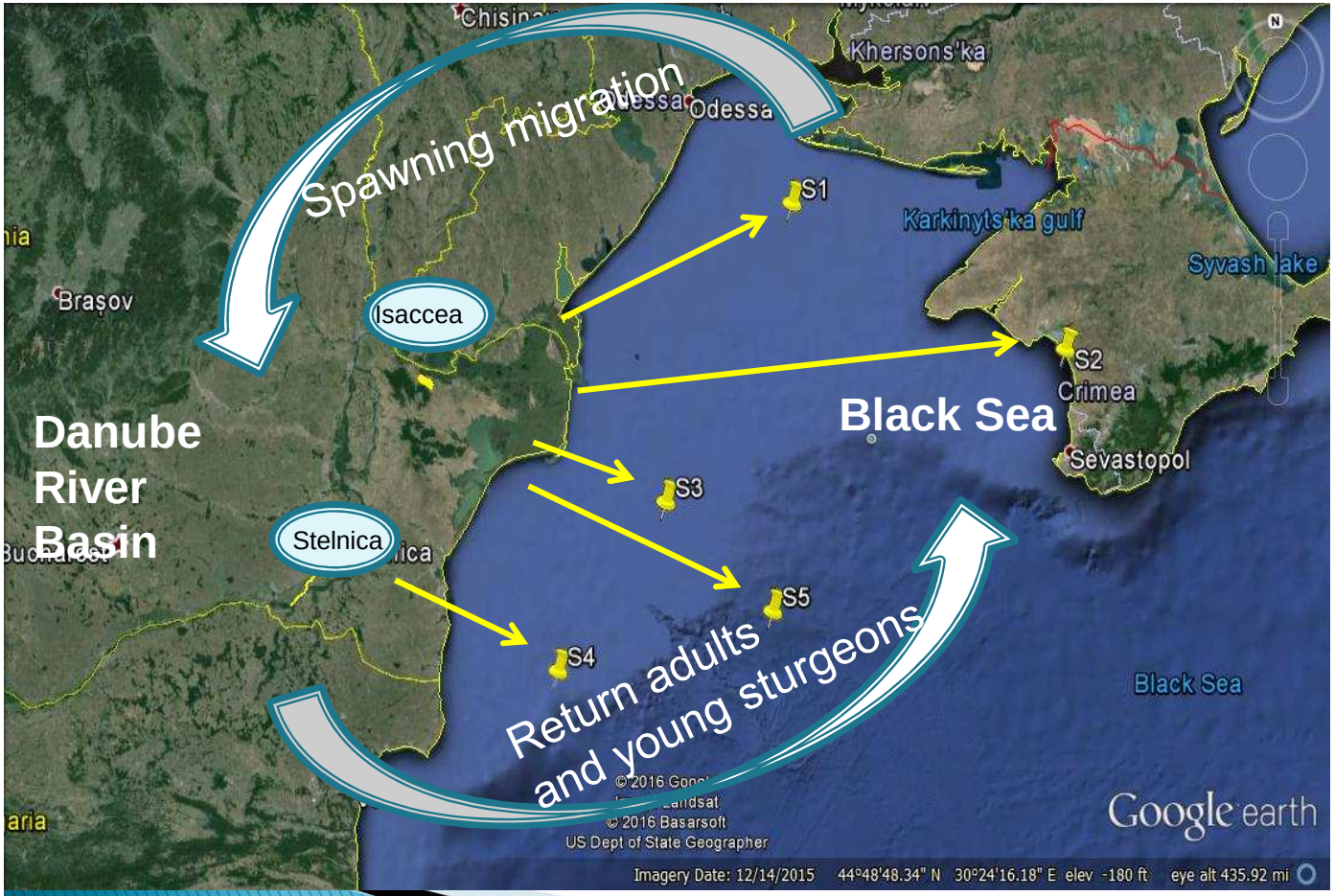
Sturgeons – flagship species of the Danube Basin

ICPDR Ministerial meeting - 9 Feb.2016

Sturgeon life cycle calls for cooperation between Danube and Black Sea stakeholders

Spawning migration from the Black Sea to the Danube River

Need for habitat continuity and protection in the DRB and BS



Beluga sturgeons tagged and released in May 2009 in the Danube at rkm 300 (Stelnica) and rkm 102 (Isaccea) returned to Black Sea (yellow arrows) (data source: DDNI, Tulcea)

Political support - essential for sturgeon revival

Achieved

- Agreement of Lower Danube countries to extend the ban on commercial fishery
- Dialogue between Water, Fishery and Biodiversity authorities for sturgeon conservation
- Agreement of Danube countries to support migration restoration at large Danube dams

Needed

- Measures harmonization in the implementation of EU directives concerning sturgeons (WFD, HD, FD, MSFD, etc)
- Transboundary coordination between DRB and BS countries
- Funding programs allowing cooperation of EU and non-EU MS

Potential topics of research and cooperation with BS stakeholders

- Transnational in-situ sturgeon monitoring program in the Danube River and Black Sea (habitat evaluation, assessment of populations and bycatch)
- Evaluation of restocking programs efficiency (assessment of survival rate, distribution in the Black Sea, return rate for spawning)
- Support to establish sturgeon/fish farms along the Black Sea coast
- Support for fishermen communities to develop alternative activities to fishery
- Establish the “Danube sturgeon route” – connect Danube and Black Sea touristic areas

Thank you for your attention

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