

We are disappearing

Sturgeon are the most threatened
group of species



Irene Lucius, WWF-CEE
EUSDR Annual Forum, 20 June 2024
Conservation of sturgeon in the Danube
basin

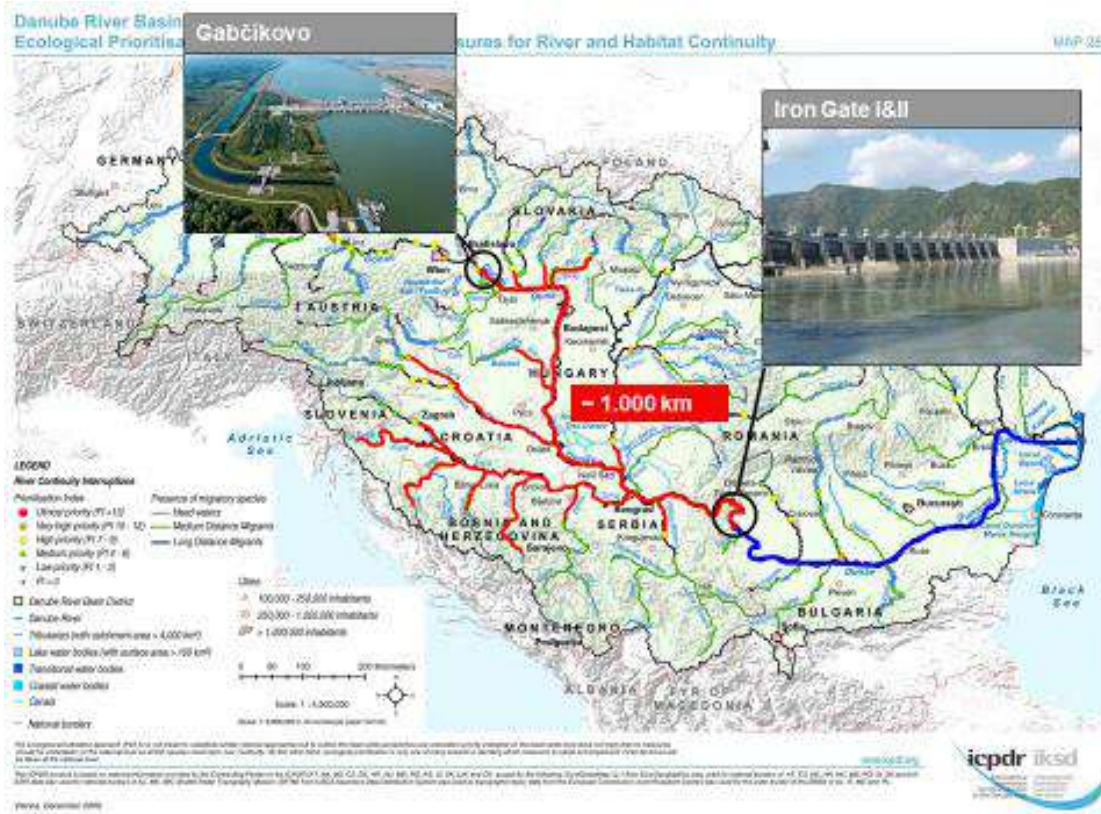
WWF-Central and Eastern Europe in a nut shell



- Nature conservation organisation active around the globe
- WWF-CEE has offices in 5 countries (dark blue)
- Mandate to represent WWF toward regional organisations e.g. EUSDR
- 225 staff
- Key topics:
 - Freshwater and forest conservation & sustainable management
 - Iconic species conservation, e.g. Sturgeon
 - Climate
 - Environmental governance



Sturgeon migration corridors and habitats



- Studies on making dams passable for sturgeon
 - Data on spawning, nursing & wintering river habitats collected
- ➔ Implement technical solution for Iron Gates
- ➔ Establish accessible basin-wide habitat inventory
- ➔ Protect known habitats

Viable populations

- ➔ Establish captive brood stock for 4 sturgeon species in AT and HU
- ➔ Release 1,6 Mio sturgeon juveniles in the Danube in 7 countries (AT, HU, SK, SL, BG, RO, UA)



Improve governance framework for conservation



Declaration “Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity” (2022)

- Strengthen management of existing protected areas and support the designation of additional ones
- Apply 'do no significant harm'
- Prioritise ecological connectivity in projects, plans
- Build capacity, transboundary cooperation, civil participation and public engagement
- National level: inter-sectoral, transnational cooperation, allocation of EU funds, mainstreaming sectoral policies



Designing a resilient & coherent Trans-European Network for people and nature (2022–26)

Lead: IIASA & iDiv, 22 partners

Danube-Carpathian region is a case study, WWF is partner



Funded by
the European Union



Thank you!

Irene Lucius,
Regional Conservation
Director, WWF-CEE,
ilucius@wwfcee.org



Working to sustain the natural
world for the benefit of people
and wildlife.

together possible.

panda.org

WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.
WWF, 28 rue Mauverney, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Tel. +41 22 364 9111
CH-550.0.128.920-7