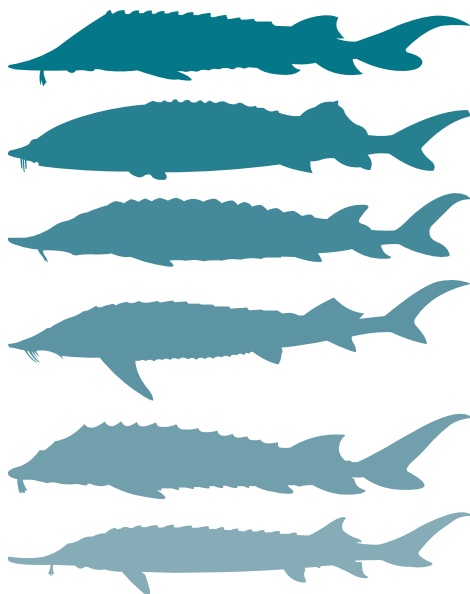


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Mapping the corridor



The main objective of this action is to develop a harmonized transnational methodology for habitat mapping of Danube sturgeons and other important migratory fish species in the Danube River Basin (DRB) as a key input for restoring ecological corridors.

The applicability of this methodology will be tested and adapted where necessary during joint pilot activities. Gathered detailed spatial data of migratory fish habitats in the Middle Danube River (MDR), Lower Danube River (LDR), and major tributaries are to be fed into the MEASURES Information System (MIS).

The activities follow a strong need to safeguard migratory fish habitats, as continuity interruptions and hydromorphological alterations have led to fragmentation and loss of habitats at local and basin wide scales. This is particularly important for the Danube River and its major tributaries, where the development of future infrastructure projects puts additional pressure on the last remaining habitats of the targeted species.

What we will do

» *Training on habitat mapping and compilation of assessment manual*

A hands-on training on fish habitat mapping in Romania, where all partners share their knowledge and set the stage for the further implementation of this work package. Based on the experiences of the various institutions and the results of the project, a Danube River Migratory Fish Habitat Manual will be compiled, ready to be used by any other projects/organisations/region/country.

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The Migratory Fish Habitat Manual will be available on the MEASURES Information System (MIS), an on-line platform and dissemination tool within the project. Additionally, 200 exemplars of the manual will be printed and distributed to stakeholders such as governmental agencies, universities, NGOs and public libraries.

The provision of a manual with standardised methodology will not only enable a diverse variety of stakeholders (universities, research institutes, national fishery and water management authorities, nature protection agencies etc.) to conduct and finalise mapping of habitats essential for the survival of migratory fish, but will also make results coherent and comparable. The increasing overall knowledge on habitats along the Danube River and its tributaries directly supports the restoration of ecological corridors.



Who we are addressing:

- » national public authority
- » interest groups including NGOs
- » higher education and research institutes

» Pilot migratory fish habitat mapping in the Danube River Basin

Pilot activities are set to locate, characterize and map river bed morphology, substrate and flow velocity in potential wintering, spawning and nursery habitats for sturgeons and other migratory fish. A database of the collected information will provide an overview on the possible locations of habitats as a basis for input into strategies and management plans of ecological corridors.

Responsible Project

Partner: Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, Romania

All project partners will assess locations of potential habitats for sturgeons and other migratory fish in the Danube River and several major tributaries by analysing existing navigation and bathymetric maps, existing information (scientific papers and reports, fishery and angling statistics), and field sampling.