

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Sturgeon Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

20



Young of the year wild Beluga
(*Huso huso*) caught in Danube
Photo: Tudor Ionescu

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN Sturgeon Specialist Group is to provide accurate information on the status of sturgeons and paddlefishes and promote their conservation and recovery.

Projected impact for 2021–2025

By the end of 2025, we envision that we will have reached increased protection for sturgeon and paddlefish species. We plan to reach this goal mainly through our support of national and trans-national management and conservation activities. In addition, we will promote efforts to develop and establish state-of-the-art forensic methods for stringent control of international sturgeon trade (e.g. caviar). We predict that jointed awareness campaigns with our close partners from WWF and World Sturgeon Conservation Society (WSCS) will increase knowledge about sturgeon species and their conservation problems among the public, especially the impact of poaching and illegal trade on population declines.

Targets for 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Reassess all sturgeon and paddlefish for the IUCN Red List (27 species and 66 populations).

NETWORK

T-001 Consolidate and strengthen existing partnerships for conservation of Yangtze Sturgeon (*Acipenser dabryanus*) and Chinese Sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*).

T-002 Consolidate and strengthen existing partnerships for conservation of Sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*), Russian Sturgeon (*A. gueldenstaedtii*) and Beluga (*Huso huso*).

COMMUNICATE

T-004 Support Freshwater Conservation Committee communications highlighting freshwater species at risk and threats to freshwater systems.

Activities and results for 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-003 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0



Release of juvenile sterlets (*Acipenser ruthenus*) for supportive stocking in the Danube River
Photo: Thomas Friedrich

Result description: Draft assessments have been compiled for all species and populations and have been reviewed by IUCN Red List staff.

NETWORK

Synergy

T-001 (KSR 4)

Number of governments supported to develop species conservation policies: 0

Result description: Work continues to provide support for the conservation of Yangtze Sturgeon (*Acipenser dabryanus*) and Chinese Sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*).

T-002 (KSR 4)

Number of governments supported to develop species conservation policies: 9

Result description: In a joint effort with WWF, the Danube Sturgeon Task Force and World Sturgeon Conservation Society, the Sturgeon Specialist Group called for the protection of sturgeons in the Danube (Sterlet, *Acipenser ruthenus*, Russian Sturgeon, *A. gueldenstaedtii* and Beluga, *Huso huso*) and provided latest assessment data to the EU Commissioner.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-004 (KSR 12)

Contribute to and disseminate communications from Freshwater Conservation Committee's Species at risk report (in partnership with Shoal) within and outside SSC: ongoing

Result description: At the end of 2021, the group – on request from the Freshwater Conservation Committee – nominated two sturgeon species for consideration in the publication. The group continues to contribute to the report with information and review of species information and other content for the species selected to be highlighted, Yangtze Sturgeon (*Acipenser dabryanus*).

Acknowledgements

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Summary of achievements

Total number of targets for 2021–2025: 4

Geographic regions: 2 Global, 1 Asian, 1 Europe

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Network: 2 (KSR 4)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

