

# IUCN SSC Sturgeon Specialist Group



## 2018 Report



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### Co-Chairs

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### Number of members

49



### Mission statement

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

### Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By 2020, we envision an SSG with enhanced capacity to contribute to the conservation of sturgeons and paddlefishes on global, regional and local scales. The SSG will have greater impact on decision-making at global meetings (CITES, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)), and will provide expertise in the areas of conservation of wild stocks and impact of aquaculture. With an up-to-date Red List for all species, accurate information on the status of wild species and necessary conservation actions will be available. For the most threatened species, action plans will be under development to guide restoration and recovery efforts.

### Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

#### Assess

Red List: (1) Red List assessment update for European and Asian species; (2) Red List assessment update for North American species published.

#### Plan

Planning: action plans under development for at least four of the most imperilled species.

Policy: (1) increased presence at CMS; (2) prepare position papers/information documents for CITES meetings where sturgeon is discussed, particularly in areas of aquaculture, labelling and stock identification.

### Network

Membership: enhanced regional representation (e.g. Hungary, Bulgaria, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan).

Proposal development and funding: at least two grants submitted by SSG members as a result of SSG activities.

Scientific meetings: annual meetings held for regional representatives.

Synergy: strong working groups created on topics of importance (e.g. identification of management units, stock assessments, trade control and link to aquaculture).

### Communicate

Communication: (1) mission statement, website and portal membership list revised; (2) better communication internally and with outside groups (e.g. World Sturgeon Conservation Society, North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society); (3) at least two position papers published.

### Activities and results 2018

#### Assess

##### Red List

**i.** Data acquisition for Red List assessment update of North American species completed, review process started. (KSR #2)

##### Plan

##### Planning

**i.** Completion of Pan European Action Plan and Baltic Sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*) Action Plan. (KSR #31)

##### Policy

**i.** Involvement of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in the Pan European Action Plan. (KSR #26)

**ii.** Development of identification guideline. (KSR #26)



Restoration of Baltic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*) is a major project of sturgeon conservation in Europe. Here juvenile Baltic sturgeons finding their new home on a sandbank in the Odra River after successful release  
Photo: Thomas Friedrich



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



Drawing attention of next generation on sturgeon conservation  
Photo: Thomas Friedrich.

**Network**

Membership

- i. Relevant experts contacted, membership revised.

Scientific meetings

- i. European Sturgeon Conference, 9–10 July 2018, Vienna, Austria; Corruption and caviar trade, 18 April 2018, Bergen, Norway; Envi Crime Net, 8–9 November 2018, Vienna, Austria. (KSR #28)

**Communicate**

Communication

- i. Better internal and external communication in progress. (KSR #28)
- ii. Two position papers in preparation. (KSR #28)

**Acknowledgements**

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**Summary of activities 2018**

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 4/5

Assess	1	█
Plan	3	███
Network	2	██
Communicate	2	██

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 26, 28, 31