

# IUCN SSC Sturgeon Specialist Group



## 2019 Report



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### Co-Chairs

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### Location/Affiliation

- <sup>(1)</sup> National Marine Fisheries Service, US
- <sup>(2)</sup> Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW), Berlin, Germany
- <sup>(3)</sup> Department of Biology, University of Padova, Padova, Italy

### 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.



Any conservation action has to include local people, like in this “young generation workshop”, organized for sturgeon release  
 Photo: Lina Florian

**Activities and results 2019**

**Assess**

Red List

- i. Some assessments for European and Asian species are finished, all other assessments close to final verification. (KSR #2)
- ii. Assessments for North American species in final verification. (KSR #2)

**Plan**

Planning

- i. Action plans came in action for Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*) and Dabry’s sturgeon (*Acipenser dabryanus*). (KSR #31)

Policy

- i. Joint meeting organized by members of SSG. (KSR #26)
- ii. Review of forensic methods on sturgeon/ caviar trade for Animal Committee is under preparation. (KSR #26)

**Network**

Membership

- i. New members from Georgia, Ukraine, China and Romania. Most of them are woman increasing their number.

Proposal development and funding

- i. Members of SSG applied for several grants from IUCN, National Geographic and EU.

Scientific meetings

- i. Meetings happen annually (e.g. North America & Europe). (KSR #28)

Synergy

- i. New cooperation agreements with WSCS and WWF.

**Communicate**

Communication

- i. Members of SSG are authors in many sturgeon papers. (KSR #28)

**Summary of activities 2019**

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 4/5

Assess	2	
Plan	3	
Network	4	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 26, 28, 31

KSR: Key Species Result