



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

HUMAN RIGHTS
DEMOCRACY
AND THE RULE OF LAW

DROITS DE L'HOMME,
DÉMOCRATIE
ET ÉTAT DE DROIT

44th meeting of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention

Salome Nozadze - Chair of the National Focal Points for the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons



National Focal Points for the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons

- **Recommendation No. 199 (2018)** on the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of the sturgeon:
 - 1. Closely monitor the implementation of the Action Plan with all competent MEAs, actors and institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, if possible through the **setting-up of a dedicated working group**;*
 - 2. Coordinate the implementation of regular reporting on the implementation of the Action Plan at national level, **with the support of the dedicated working group**, for the purposes of monitoring progress in the implementation of recommended actions and of allowing adaptive management;*

National Focal Points for the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons

- The NFPs of PANEUAP met twice:
 - October 2022
 - June 2024
- Until now, all range Parties except of one nominated National Focal Points for the Pan-European Sturgeon Acton Plan

2nd meeting of the Focal Points

- NFPs were informed about results of mid-term evaluation of implementation of PANEUAP for Sturgeons;
- All Range Parties provided short oral update on implementation of the PANEUAP
- Webpage dedicated to sturgeon conservation would be designed under the website of the Bern Convention

2nd meeting of the Focal Points

- The NFPs were informed about the outcomes of the service contract of European Commission and the SCUTE consortium led by WWF Central and Eastern Europe
- Contract total value - EUR 600,000 (2023-2024)
- **Results were reported to the Focal points on following:**
 - *Factsheet in 17 languages with recommendations to stakeholders;*
 - *A promotional video of the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons;*
 - *Five regional progress reports;*
 - *Technical guidelines on habitat assessment,*
 - *population monitoring and ex situ conservation measures;*
 - *Studies on bycatch and on habitat characteristics.*
- Guidelines were circulated among Parties for comments

2nd meeting of the Focal Points

Among priorities NFPs highlighted following:

- ex situ conservation measures require a close collaboration between the countries concerned to manage the resource jointly
- More systematic monitoring of bycatch cases is needed, since it remains a challenge for majority of Parties
- Harmonized monitoring methodology and tools are needed to ensure the systematic collection of data, sharing and access to data
- The role of NFP is not clear on a National level, thus the group discussed the possible roadmap for NFPs

Next steps :

- Participants discussed and agreed that the guidelines should be submitted to the Standing Committee for adoption in the form of a recommendation
- Active involvement in regional stakeholder meetings planned for all regions 2024
- Contracting Parties are encouraged to use and implement the delivered guidelines during implementation of PANEUAP for Sturgeons
- Develop National Action Plans
- Continue to seek for capacities for development of technical guideline for fish pass suitable for Sturgeons
- Next meeting scheduled in 2026

Draft recommendation on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons / on sturgeon population monitoring / on *ex situ* conservation measures for sturgeons

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

Make use to the extent possible of the technical guidelines on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons / on sturgeon population monitoring / on *ex situ* conservation measures for sturgeons supporting the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of sturgeons and all activities in relation to the conservation of sturgeons;

Raise awareness among competent authorities and relevant stakeholders about the guidelines on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons / on sturgeon population monitoring / on *ex situ* conservation measures for sturgeons and encourage them to put them into practice;

Refer to the guidelines on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons / on sturgeon population monitoring / on *ex situ* conservation measures for sturgeons as criteria to develop and fund project proposals related to their conservation;

Recommends that the Secretariat promotes and gives appropriate visibility to the guidelines on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons / on the monitoring of the population of sturgeon / on *ex situ* conservation measures for sturgeons.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the second meeting of the National Focal Points for the Pan-European Action
- Take note of the findings of the mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons and encourage range Parties to fully implement the Action Plan
- **Examine** and, if appropriate, **approve**:
 - guidelines on habitat assessment [T-PVS\(2024\)16](#)
 - guidelines on population monitoring [T-PVS\(2024\)17](#)
 - guidelines on ex situ conservation measures [T-PVS\(2024\)18](#)