



Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Recommendation No. 199 (2018) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 30 November 2018 on the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of the sturgeon

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Recalling that Article 3 of the Convention requires Parties to take the necessary steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4.1 of the Convention requires Parties to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 41 (1993) on the protection of freshwater fish;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 116 (2005) on the conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 127 (2007) of the Standing Committee on the conservation and restoration of the European sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*);

Recalling the report on the status of implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin, prepared by DSTF [document [T-PVS/Inf\(2017\)22](#)] and presented at its 37th meeting in December 2017;

Alarmed by the fact that the species continue to be in critical danger of extinction;

Reminding that, despite the adoption of several Action Plans for sturgeons in Europe in the past 15 years, the species remains one of the most threatened fish in Europe, with no signs of recovery;

Aware that the reasons for the unsuccessful conservation efforts in the past 15 years are complex and relate to various but interlinked issues such as lack of resources, of coordination of action and of awareness of both the public and policy-makers;

Desirous to speed up conservation efforts in favour of sturgeons in Europe, in coordination and cooperation with all other competent MEAs, actors and institutions/platforms, both governmental and non-governmental;

Eager to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe and in particular of this flagship species for river ecosystems,

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites Observer States to:

1. Fully implement all measures included in the Pan-European Action Plan for sturgeons [document T-PVS/Inf(2018)6];

Mandates the Secretariat of the Bern Convention to:

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;

Appendix to Recommendation No. 199 (2018) of the Standing Committee on the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of the sturgeon

PAN-EUROPEAN ACTION PLAN FOR STURGEONS

Kindly consult document [T-PVS/Inf\(2018\)6](#) on the website of the meeting.