



# Students work overview on sturgeon research in Georgia

Tamar Beridze, Tamar Edisherashvili, Ana Ananiashvili



Us:

Fauna  
& Flora



Ana Ananiashvili



Tamar Edisherashvili

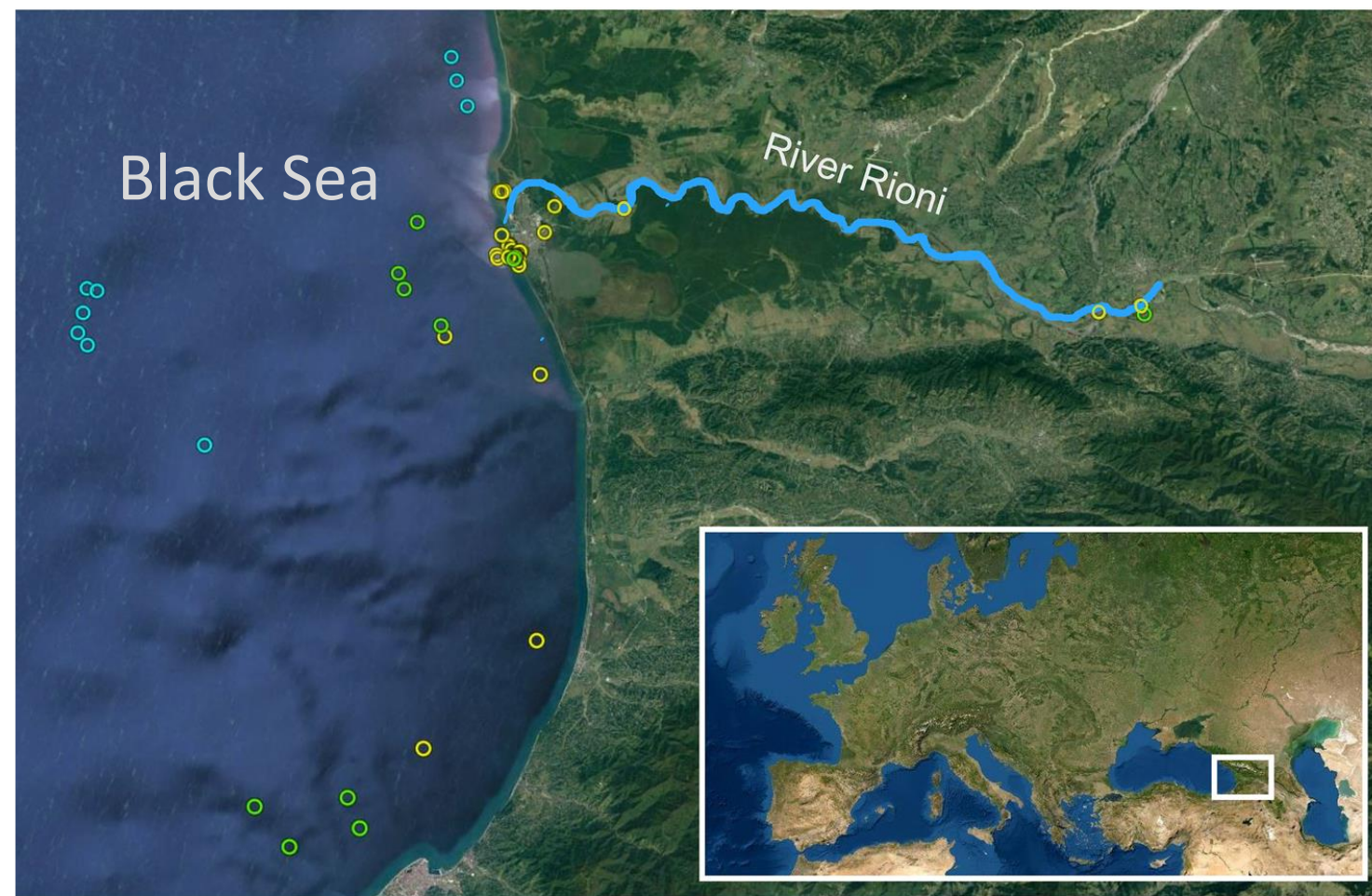


Tamar Beridze

With great support from Fauna & Flora Caucasus and national and international organizations.

# Sturgeon Research in Georgia

- Which species remain?
- What is their population state?



Beridze, Boscari et al., 2021

# Field Work activities

- River morphology studies
- Egg and Larvae fishing
- Fishing for juveniles
- Sampling benthic macroinvertebrates

## Methods

Larvae/Drift net

Trammel net fishing-Stationary method

Trammel net fishing-Seining method

benthic sampling-Van Veen Grab



# Genetic studies

- Mitochondrial DNA sequencing
- Hybrid detection markers
- Sturgeon sex identification
- Population studies
- Environmental DNA studies



# Russian sturgeon in Georgia

- Distribution mapping
- Sex ratio
- Hybridization



**Russian sturgeon in the eastern Black Sea basin, Georgia, Oryx**

# Results

- Four species identified



Black Sea	Black Sea/Rioni River	Rioni River
1. Beluga ( <i>Huso huso</i> )	2. Stellate sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser stellatus</i> ) 3. Russian sturgeon ( <i>A. gueldenstaedtii</i> )  5. Non-native Siberian Sturgeon ( <i>A. baerii</i> )	4. Ship sturgeon ( <i>A. nudiventris</i> )



## Our findings:



Interspecific **hybridization** in the Rioni River,  
Conservation Genetics

**Ship sturgeon** rediscovered in the Rioni River in  
Georgia." Oryx, Diversity



**Wild** versus **Commercial** sturgeon in Georgia, Diversity

**eDNA** for sturgeon monitoring in Georgia  
Metabarcoding & Metagenomics

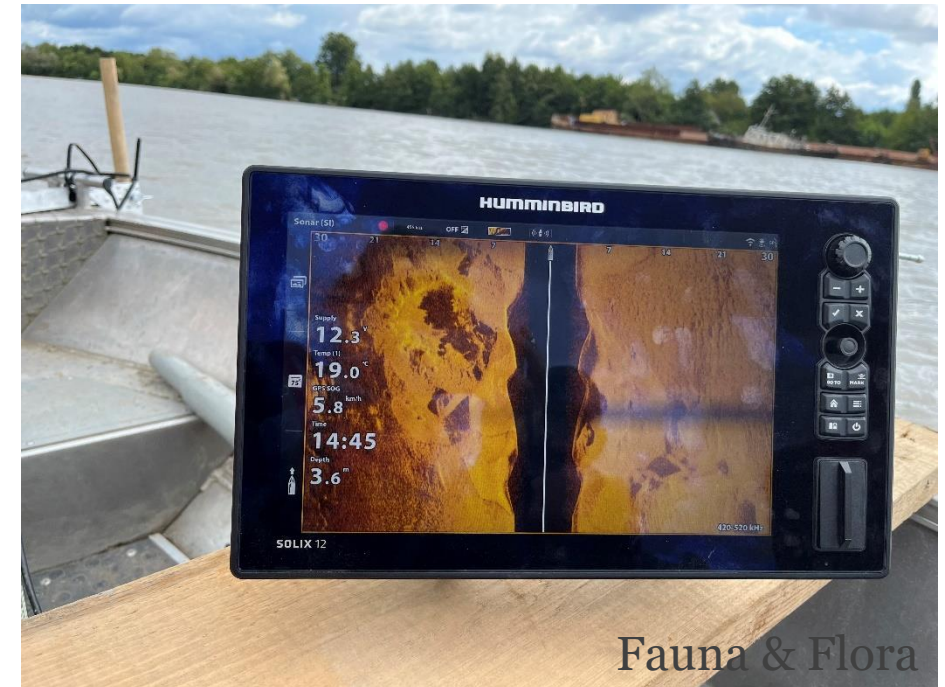




# Future Plans

Increase capacity and apply new methods supported by Fauna & Flora  
Caucasus :

- Side Scan Sonar survey
- Acoustic telemetry



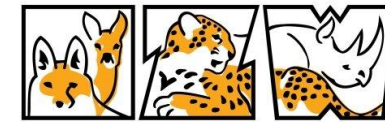
Our work is supported  
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