

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

For a venue location for the 9th International Symposium on Sturgeon (ISS9) in 2021



The World Sturgeon Conservation Society is requesting proposals from interested institutions to host the 9th International Symposium on Sturgeon (ISS9) in 2021. The ISS is held every four years, beginning with the conferences in 1989 in Bordeaux (France), in 1993 in Moscow (Russia), in 1997 in Piacenza (Italy), in 2001 in Oshkosh (USA), in 2005 in Rasht (Iran), in 2009 in Wuhan (China), in 2013 in Nanaimo BC (Canada) and now in 2017 in Vienna (Austria). These Symposia have become the overall platform to discuss future strategic research and management needs for the conservation of these highly endangered species. Research and management contributions presented at these events are screened by a rigorous peer review evaluation process and published in the proceedings of the Symposium.

These events usually attracted between 300 and 650 participants. It needs long-term planning to guarantee continued success. For this reason **it has become a common procedure to call for proposals from potential host organizations or institutions for the next ISS four years ahead of time.**

Letters of intent from proposers who wish to host the next ISS are due by **March 31st, 2017 (addresses below)**. These should include a brief outline on the proposed plan, emphasizing a regional focus. The conceptual plans will be screened by the WSCS Board of Directors, and all proposers will be contacted within two months to inform them as to whether a full proposal is requested. This should allow for ample time to respond to specific questions which may arise from the Board members.

The full proposal should be received by the home office of WSCS **no later than June 30th, 2017**. Proposals should address the issues outlined below. A decision will be made by the WSCS Board of Directors by the beginning of August, and all proposers will be informed about the decision immediately thereafter. The selected host for the ISS9 will be announced in the ISS8 closing ceremony (to be held in **Vienna, Austria, September 2017**).

The selected new host is to sign an MOU with the Society. It is expected that a representative of the selected new ISS9 host will attend ISS8 and inform the participants (e.g. ppt-Presentation, video-clips, flyers) about the new venue location, the institutions involved and the intended overall program. This is commonly done at the closing ceremony of the International Symposia on Sturgeons.

Responsibilities of Hosting Entity: The hosting entity is responsible for securing funds needed to plan and conduct the symposium and publishing proceedings with the home journal of the Society (JAI). The hosting entity will cover all travel, lodging, and conference costs for the WSCS Board members and the Scientific Committee.

Responsibilities of WSCS: The WSCS Board and the host institution will jointly select experts to serve on the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). The WSCS Board members will serve on the SAC, and the SAC will assist with program planning, facilitate contacts and support in advertising the venue, collect and facilitate editing of manuscripts, and prepare and negotiate publication arrangements for proceedings.

Full Proposals should contain the following information:

- A conceptual outline of the conference
 - Thematic suggestions for the conference
 - Relevance of the venue site for sturgeon issues
 - Relevance of the conference for the venue site
 - Regional considerations
- Conference Site options
 - Optional alternative sites to carry out the conference
 - Criteria for the site selection
- Travel and logistic options
 - Description of the accessibility of the venue site
 - Visa requirements

- Any specific restrictions for participants within the country
- Local support
- Public transport
- Shuttle-options
- Lodging Options
 - On-site or near site accommodation options (hotels, hostels, dorms)
 - Cost per night
 - Alternative options for accommodations
- Pre- or post-conference tour options
 - Potential sites of interest from a sturgeon perspective
 - Recreational sites
 - Museums and touristic options
- Spouse programs
 - Outline of programs that could be offered for spouses /accompanying persons
- Draft Budget
 - Outline of the Expenditures
 - Venue site
 - Consumables
 - Infrastructure
 - Personnel
 - Travel and lodging for invited speakers, SAC etc.
 - Side program
 - Other
 - Outline of the income
 - Participation fees
 - Funding sources to be used
 - Alternative funding options
 - Potential conference participation funding sources
 - Securing funds (commitments by funding and organizing entities)
- Payment types accepted for registration (cash, check, credit card, bank transfer)

The applications will be evaluated by the Board in accordance to the following criteria:

- Involvement of the proposer in sturgeon issues
- Relevance of the venue site in relation to sturgeon issues
- Regional importance of the conference
- Plausibility of the concept
- International relevance of the conference outline
- Experience in carrying out international events
- Convincing budget planning (preferably with assured funding sources identified)
- Travel access
- Safety/Security

In case of any questions, please feel free to contact the home office.

World Sturgeon Conservation Society

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