

Applicant: **Scheele, Fleur**
Organisation: **Fauna & Flora International**
Funding Sought: **£307,152.00**

IWTR6S2\1013

Combating poaching and trafficking of Critically Endangered sturgeon

To combat trafficking of Critically Endangered sturgeon in the eastern Black Sea region, this project takes a multi-faceted approach that is delivered in partnership with local and national stakeholders. Bottom-up conservation activity by local citizens and fishers is combined with training and operational support to law enforcement bodies, prosecutors, and judges to address poaching and trafficking issues. Key Government agencies and local communities take leading roles in the project, while transboundary trafficking is addressed through international platforms.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Mrs
Name Fleur
Surname Scheele
Organisation Fauna & Flora International
Website (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
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CONTACT DETAILS

Title Mr
Name Paul
Surname Hotham
Organisation Fauna & Flora International
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Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Mrs
Name Fleur
Surname Scheele
Organisation Fauna & Flora International
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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	Fauna & Flora International
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

Combating poaching and trafficking of Critically Endangered sturgeon

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. IWTR6S1\100123

IWTR6S1\100057

Q4. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1	Georgia	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date: 01 April 2020	End date: 31 March 2023	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months): 3 years
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Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total request
Amount:	£93,784.00	£110,705.00	£102,663.00	£ 307,152.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Species Emergency Fund £ [REDACTED] Confirmed
United States Fish and Wildlife Service II £ [REDACTED] Confirmed
FFI in kind £ [REDACTED] Confirmed
United States Fish and Wildlife Service III £ [REDACTED] Unconfirmed

Total £ [REDACTED]
Total plus IWTCF £ [REDACTED]
Matched funding % of total project cost [REDACTED]

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost (total cost is the IWT Challenge Fund request plus other funding required to run the project). [REDACTED]

Section 3 - Project Summary & Objectives

Q7. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

To combat trafficking of Critically Endangered sturgeon in the eastern Black Sea region, this project takes a multi-faceted approach that is delivered in partnership with local and national stakeholders. Bottom-up conservation activity by local citizens and fishers is combined with training and operational support to law enforcement bodies, prosecutors, and judges to address poaching and trafficking issues. Key Government agencies and local communities take leading roles in the project, while transboundary trafficking is addressed through international platforms.

Q8. What will be the Outcome of the project?

This should be an action orientated statement e.g. training provided to the judiciary results in increased successful prosecutions of poaching.

This should be the same as the Outcome statement given in Question 34.

Sturgeon are protected by local and national actors; with illegal activity monitored, and demand-driven threats identified, thereby effectively mitigating the current and future threat of IWT in Georgian territorial waters.

Q9. Which of the four key IWT Challenge Fund objectives will your project address?

Please tick all that apply.

- Strengthening law enforcement
- Ensuring effective legal frameworks

Q10. Which of the commitments made in the London Conference Declarations,

the Kasane Statement and/or the Hanoi Conference does this project support?

Please provide the number(s) of the relevant commitments and some brief information on how your project will contribute to them. There is no need to include the text from the relevant commitment.

Links to several commitments in each declaration:

London 2014: Actions A15 (I,VI), B16(X,XI), C17(XIII,XV,XVI), D18(XVIII, XIX, XX))

Kasane 2015: Actions 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12

Hanoi 2016: Statements 19, 20, 21, 22; Actions A, B, C, D

London 2018: Statements 9,13 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

Some examples:

London 2014: D18(XX) – our network of citizen inspectors consists fully of local community members (output 1).

Kasane 2015: Action A2 – with our last output (5), we are working to map demand, its drivers, buyers and traders, and will apply our local understanding to international best practices to develop a strong market demand reduction strategy. Also in line with London 2018 (20), London 2014 A15(I).

Action (C) 7 – our work to lobby Black Sea stakeholders for structured and coordinated enforcement response (output 4). Also, transboundary co-operation is encouraged by including regional representatives in our training of Georgian enforcement bodies (output 2), stimulating and facilitating information exchange. Also in line with London Declaration 2018 (14, 18), Hanoi Action C, and London 2014 D17(XVI).

Hanoi 2016: Action B – under output 3, programme will be the first in Georgia to train judges and make efforts to stimulate and enhance prosecution.

London (2018)(13), London 2014 D18(XX), Hanoi D – all our activities under output 1 focus on engaging local actors and retention of benefits from wildlife for local people, including employing local fishers as citizen inspectors and stimulating local ownership over fish resources.

Q11. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Please detail how your project will contribute to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

The sturgeon, until recently an important source of income and food throughout Europe, is almost extinct in the wild. Income generation associated with sturgeon fisheries has virtually disappeared. By allowing sturgeon populations to recover and ultimately to reach healthy populations again, whereby sturgeon fishing can recommence as part of a sustainable fish management strategy, the project will, in the long term, contribute to poverty and hunger reduction in the coastal and riverine villages (SDG 1: no poverty; SDG 2: zero hunger).

In the short term, the project contributes to gender equality (SDG 5) by creating equal opportunities for women and men and striving to stimulate women in the project region to accept jobs as FFI citizen inspectors and expand their horizon to new sectors; by ensuring girls and boys are treated equally in the Youth River Council and by emphasising gender equality in every youth activity; by having a threshold of minimum 50% female members of the River Council, and by supporting young female scientists to embark on a career in the male-dominated field of sturgeon science.

Through discouraging illegal trade in sturgeon the project contributes to responsible consumption and

production (SDG 12). With our focus on the protection of fish, we are very directly working on the protection of life under water (SDG 14).

Through combatting illegal activity and providing strong support for enforcement, prosecution and sentencing of wildlife crime, we are directly contributing to peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16).

Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q12. Lead organisation summary

Has your organisation been awarded an IWT Challenge Fund or Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
24-020	Alison Gunn	Realising the values and benefits for communities of Nicaragua's turtles
IWT065	Nikki Chapman	Strengthening Liberia's response to illegal wildlife trade
26-011	Desi Wahyudi Gumay	Strengthening fisheries resource co-management in PiSiSi MPA, Simeulue Island
26-020	David Gill	Securing wild tulips and pastoral communities in the Kyrgyz mountains
25-002	Nicolas Tubbs	A model for conservation, stabilisation and development in South Sudan
IWT049	Donny Gunaryadi	Reducing IWT in Sumatra across two globally important tiger landscapes

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts? If you select "yes" you will be able to upload these. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

📄 **FFI 2018 Annual Report-and-Accounts**

📅 12/11/2019

🕒 14:36:20

📄 pdf 3.31 MB

📄 **FFI 2017 Annual-Report-and-Accounts**

📅 12/11/2019

🕒 14:35:23

📄 pdf 3.3 MB

Section 5 - Project Partners

Q13. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development.

This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project, and how local institutions, local communities, and technical specialists are involved as appropriate. Please provide Letters of Support for the Lead Organisation and each partner or explain why this has not been included.

N.B: There is a file upload button at the bottom of this page for the upload of a cover letter (if applicable) and all letters of support.

Lead Organisation name: Fauna & Flora International (FFI)

Website address: <https://www.fauna-flora.org/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

FFI is responsible for full project management and implementation. To date, FFI has: 1) trained environmental inspectors and border guards in CITES, IWT, international and national environmental law, sturgeon identification, SMART patrolling; 2) provided daily operational support to the Environmental Supervision Department by monitoring, detecting, and reporting sturgeon poaching activities on the Rioni River, providing boats, equipment and assistance for confiscations of illegal fishing gear with 9 local FFI citizen inspectors; 3) conducted surveys on sturgeon bycatch, poaching and trafficking; 4) established River and Youth River Councils to engage and empower local girls, boys, women and men at the Rioni River and encourage their participation in local decision-making; 5) engaged fishers to become active in the sturgeon project as skippers, fishers, peer educators, and data collectors; 6) initiated the establishment of a sturgeon research group, led by two young female scientists, which is conducting the first baseline studies on sturgeon population genetics, distribution, and recruitment; 7) advised national authorities on sturgeon management and development of an adequate response to illegal fishing and trade; 8) coordinated and cooperated with other stakeholders, including European scientific institutions, international financial institutions, the European Commission, and WWF, to stimulate and support sturgeon conservation and research.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? (Note: this can be uploaded at the bottom of the page)

Yes

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? (Note: this can be uploaded at the bottom of the page)

Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name:

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia

Website address:

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

A long-term partner of FFI, the Ministry is essential in the success of our projects. While on the one hand FFI needs the Ministry for legal, structural protection, as well as local on the ground protection of species and habitats that are the subject of our conservation projects, the Ministry on the other hand regularly requests information and training support from FFI.

In order to achieve long-term impacts in enforcement practices, FFI is combining repeated centralised training events with continued on-the-ground support to law enforcement officers. In this project, FFI will provide intensive support to enforcement officers in the project region (output 2.1 and 2.3) and will provide central trainings where law enforcement staff will be trained on theoretical matters (output 2.2). As agreed in 2019, representatives from various agencies of the Ministry will also be present at platform meetings that aim to stimulate information exchange and process improvement in the enforcement-prosecution-sentencing cycle (output 3.4). This includes senior staff members from the Biodiversity Division of the Biodiversity and Forestry Department, the Agency of Protected Areas, and the Department of Environmental Supervision.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

Do you have more than one partner involved in the Project?

Yes

2. Partner Name: Ministry of Finance of Georgia, Revenue Service, Customs Department

Website address: <https://www.rs.ge>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

In recent years, the Customs Department has been co-organising trainings on CITES and illegal wildlife trade with FFI and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture. The Department has shown continued interest in further collaboration and in this project we will again develop joint activities to enhance the detection and seizure of illegal wildlife products at Georgia's borders. The role of the Department will be limited to involvement in trainings, and information exchange to enhance our joint efforts to combat illegal transboundary trade.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

3. Partner Name: High School of Justice (HSoJ)

Website address: <https://www.hsoj.ge/eng/home/>

Letter of Support: The HSoJ is our main project partner for activities focussing on ensuring effective legal frameworks. Already partnering with multiple international government organisations such as the Council of Europe, USAID, US Department of Justice, and the French National School for the Judiciary, the HSoJ is a professional organisation with a solid track record of developing and delivering training for judges, both through professional exchanges abroad as well as through training modules delivered in-house. The HSoJ is expected to be a strong partner for our joint development of a training module on environmental law with a focus on trade (output 3.1), on co-organising trainings on Conventions that apply to Georgia (output 3.2), and on coordinating with the Prosecutor's office and on the organisation of platform events (outputs 3.3 and 3.4).

The HSoJ has shown great interest in developing activities with FFI and has proven to be a quick, pro-active and competent partner for our first joint activities organised in 2019. Based on these experiences we are confident that the HSoJ will actively continue to build on knowledge, materials and networks that will be established in the context of this new project, leading to long-term outcomes that last beyond the project period.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

4. Partner Name: School of Natural Sciences and Engineering, Ilia State University (ISU)

Website address: <http://iliauni.edu.ge/en/iliauni>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

ISU has been the partner in FFI's sturgeon conservation project since 2017. Initiated and led by FFI, a small sturgeon research group was established with students working with FFI on long-term research projects, leading to the first evidence of sturgeon recruitment in the Rioni River and the first genetic studies of sturgeon sold at markets. One young scientist is now starting her PhD in sturgeon molecular genetics and will be responsible for the development of molecular markers for reliable species identification (output 2.3), under supervision of a full professor and FFI's Programme Manager Caucasus. Students will also be involved in market monitoring (output 2.4) and our ISU interns and our associated young sturgeon researchers play an important role in organising activities for youth (output 1.4), partially because they serve as role models, especially for girls, and partially because FFI wants to provide the opportunity to interns to be directly involved in conservation and awareness raising activities and learn the conservation practice in the villages. ISU researchers will also lead on the socio-economic research under output 5, in particular for all field work activities that will involve visits to restaurants and markets, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

5. Partner Name:

River Council and Youth River Council

Website address:

na

Letter of Support:

Established in 2018, the River Council and the Youth River Council form FFI's local network of supporters of sturgeon conservation in the Rioni River region. Most villages are represented, with high representation of women and a mix of older and younger generations. Conservation activities by FFI are explained to, and discussed with, the Councils, and modest initiatives by the Councils are supported by FFI. Council members' concerns and comments are used by FFI to take local concerns into consideration at every step of the project. This continual engagement strengthens ties between villages in the region, stimulates a feeling of 'ownership' of sturgeon and the river, generates support for anti-poaching activities, and reduces local tolerance for illegal fishing activities.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Letter of Support: *No Response*


Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes No

If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the Project, please use the text field below.


No Response

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.


 [IWTCF FFI Georgia Stage 2 2019 Cover letter](#)


 12/11/2019

 14:31:32

 pdf 1.98 MB

 [IWTCF FFI Georgia Stage 2 2019 Letters of Support Combined](#)

 12/11/2019

 14:31:00

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Section 6 - Project Staff

Q14. Key project staff

Please identify the key project personnel on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

If your team is larger than 12 people please review if they are core staff, or whether you can merge roles (e.g. 'admin and finance support') below, but provide a full table based on this template in the pdf of CVs you provide.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Fleur Scheele	Project Leader	24%	Checked
Paul Hotham	Strategic oversight and technical support	1%	Checked

Janeli Rogava	Conservation officer – local level, fishers and communities focal point	52%	Checked
Mikheil Potskhishvili	Conservation officer – central level Ministries and national institutions focus	52%	Checked





Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Sarah Gluszek	Wildlife trade technical specialist	2	Checked
Elisa Dierickx	Conservation genetics expert	2	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 **IWTCF FFI Georgia Stage 2 2019 Project Staff CVs**
 12/11/2019
 14:32:17
 pdf 478.25 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 7 - Species & Project Statement

Q15. Species project is focusing on

Where there are more than 4 species that will benefit from the project's work, please add more fields using the selection option below.

Beluga sturgeon (*Huso huso*)

Stellate sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*)

Russian sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaetii*)

Colchic sturgeon (*Acipenser persicus colchicus*)

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Ship sturgeon (*Acipenser nudiventris*)

European sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*)

No Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

Q16. Problem the project is trying to address

What specific aspect(s) of the illegal trade in wildlife will your project address? Please describe the level of threat to the species concerned.

Please also explain which communities are affected by this issue, and how this aspect of the illegal trade in wildlife relates to poverty or efforts of people and/or states to alleviate poverty.

Sturgeons form 'the most critically endangered group of species' (IUCN 2010) with overfishing being the main driver towards extinction. Despite worldwide legal protection, illegal trade in sturgeon meat and caviar continues to deplete wild stocks. The eastern Black Sea holds a unique assembly of six Critically Endangered sturgeon species, which have disappeared elsewhere. Sturgeons migrating into the last spawning river in the region, the Rioni in Georgia, are threatened by targeted sturgeon poaching activities aimed at illicit sales on the black market.

In their marine habitat, sturgeons are threatened by anchovy fishing vessels and coastal fishers; although only bycatch, sturgeons are not released but sold illegally to markets and restaurants. Although farmed sturgeon is available at 30 GEL (8 GBP)/kg, wild sturgeon sales are more lucrative at 45 GEL (12 GBP)/kg. Traders and restaurants do not financially depend on the sales of wild sturgeon, but the extra income, combined with lack of enforcement, make illegally-caught sturgeon sales attractive.

As sturgeon stocks plummet, fishers and traders have an interest in halting the decline and preventing extinction, as their livelihoods depend on the species. To allow for fish stock recovery, and the proper management of fishing and fish trade, the project will work with local people and organisations to address the illegal trade at multiple levels.

The sturgeon's longevity and slow reproductive cycle, combined with critically low numbers and associated small gene pool, mean we do not expect to see any growth in population soon enough to facilitate resumption of fisheries in the near future. However, fishers understand the need for joint action to

improve fish stocks of all species, and through our intensive communication are supporting our bottom-up efforts to enable the growth of all fish stocks, including commercial species, for the long term.

Section 8 - Method, Beneficiaries & Exit Strategy

Q17. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and Impact. Provide information on:

- **How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design, Please cite evidence where appropriate.**
- **The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.**
- **How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).**
- **How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.).**

Please make sure you read the Guidance Notes, particularly Section 3, before answering this question.

This project will build on FFI's ongoing sturgeon conservation and anti-trafficking work in Georgia, expanding our work to build judicial capacity and address illegal trade from the Black Sea.

Under output 1, local citizens protect sturgeons against poaching for illegal trade and support legal fishing activities, on the Rioni River spawning migration route:

To eliminate poaching on the sturgeon spawning migration route along the Rioni River (output 1), we will conduct 24/7 river patrolling during the spawning season (indicator 1.1). The anti-poaching team will involve local citizens who will provide immediate, physical protection of sturgeon. To begin the process of decreasing social acceptance and involvement in illegal activities by riverine and coastal communities, we will be engaging with local fishers through meetings and training sessions (1.2), and invite them to join the local sturgeon supporters group and become involved as data collectors. Inclusive, local decision-making, and taking ownership for sturgeon conservation, will be stimulated through discussions, debate, and public awareness raising activities with the children, women and men from all riverine villages who are members of the (Youth) River Councils (1.3).

There is a legal framework to protect the sturgeon in Georgia. The Georgian Government has obligations to protect biodiversity, including sturgeon, under international agreements (e.g. CITES, Bonn Convention, EU Directives) and national legislation is offering legal protection to the sturgeon – all sturgeon species are included in Georgia's red list of protected species, and no wild sturgeon trade, fishing or bycatch are allowed.

Under output 2, continued support will be given to law enforcement of sturgeon poaching and trafficking. Various harmful fishing techniques are not allowed on the spawning migration route, yet government capacity for enforcement remains limited. To improve this capacity, we will provide logistical and intelligence support to local authorities on the water (2.1), provide theoretical training to environmental inspectors, border guards, and police on IWT detection, prevention and enforcement (2.2), develop genetic tools to support species identification of sturgeon that is for sale at local markets (2.3), and will monitor markets and restaurants (2.4) to provide law enforcement authorities with targeted information on illegal activity. Through activity 2.3 (development of molecular markers for species identification), we will be directly supporting CITES Decisions 16.136-16.138 (Rev.CoP17) and CoP18 doc.54.3, concerning provision of forensic methods to assist identification of species and populations of Acipenseriformes specimens, and assisting the implementation of the recognised priorities for the global conservation of sturgeon under Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17).

Under output 3, we will collaborate with the High School of Justice to increase capacity of prosecutors and judiciary to interpret wildlife laws and international conventions. To ensure this leads to improved enforcement and successful prosecution and sentencing of wildlife crimes, we will invest and collaborate with prosecutors and judges to develop knowledge of wildlife crimes and ensure it is treated as a serious offence rather than a neglected issue. The project will create a training module for judges, taught annually by the High School of Justice (3.1), facilitate learning from European judges (3.2), train prosecutors in best practice protocols (3.3), and establish a platform for exchange between law enforcement agencies, governmental bodies, the Prosecutor's office, and judges (3.4).

Under output 4, we will increase coordination and action by key actors within Black Sea range states to address IWT. The project will regularly engage Georgian authorities to inform them of sturgeon stocks and the threat posed by IWT, and support greater prioritisation of both in national policies and strategies (4.1). To understand and address transboundary trafficking from Georgia to Turkey, we will coordinate with Turkish stakeholders (4.2) and share IWT data in regional fora to influence fisheries, bycatch, and trafficking management policies of EU and FAO (4.3).

Under output 5, to enable future long-term protection for sturgeon, the project will investigate the profiles, motivations and behaviours of traders, vendors and consumers in Georgia. This will be done through a stakeholder analysis, interviews with key stakeholders and market surveys, and will identify three main groups to target. With communities in consultation, we will then design an evidence-based theory of change, behaviour change strategies and monitoring framework during a three-day workshop with project partners and behaviour change specialists. Workshop participants will examine the behaviours, audiences and key influencers identified by the research and use it to develop a behaviour change framework for each of the three groups identified (5.1). This will inform and support a real change in business approach and behaviours that are more pro-sturgeon conservation and supportive of strategies to tackle demand.

Q18. Beneficiaries

- **Who will benefit from the work outlined above, and in what ways?**
- **How will this contribute to sustainable development for the reduction of poverty?**
- **How many people are likely to benefit from this intervention e.g. number of households?**
- **How do you intend to monitor the benefits they accrue?**

If your project is working in an Upper Middle Income Country, please explain how benefits will be delivered to people living in poverty in Low and/or Low Middle Income countries.

Include, where possible, information on whether and how there are ways to support the most vulnerable communities, including women.

Demand reduction projects should clearly demonstrate their indirect links to poverty reduction, for example, by identifying impacts in the source countries for the products concerned.

This project will benefit: the 71,000 residents of 31 villages along the Rioni River; some 200 riverine and coastal fishers along the Georgian Black Sea coast, and 70 local fish traders at six local fish markets, as the project will create the conditions to support sturgeon population recovery and eventually enable sustainable fishing. They will hence benefit from improved fish stocks and fisheries management. Currently, local villagers who once relied on sturgeon fishing for their livelihoods do so no longer because of the scarcity of the species.

Through the River Councils, community members will also benefit from increased voice, ownership of their

natural heritage, local governance, and representation in conservation management decisions. Community consultations with fish traders, restaurants and other potential consumers, will look for ways to mitigate the impact of sturgeon trade on both the species and on local livelihoods. Local traders and business will benefit from support to act within the law, through equipping them with the knowledge to recognise and refuse wild caught sturgeon, and through assistance to adapt business methods appropriately.

In this project, the capacity of Ilia State University will be built by developing and applying tools for molecular diagnostics and taxonomy. Importantly, by being involved in the project, ISU can continue to develop into the first, and only, academic institution in Georgia that has expertise in, and ambitions for, scientific research on eastern Black Sea sturgeon. This provides career opportunities for current young scientists, and jobs at a larger scale within the university (laboratory technicians, administration, etc.).

More broadly, by working towards more sustainable management of fish populations in Georgia, with less bycatch, poaching and illegal trade of fish, the project will directly contribute to the health and viability of multiple fish species and enable the sustainable utilisation and support secure livelihoods for local communities and artisanal fishers.

Q19. Gender Equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your project will collect sex disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

Gender equality is considered in every aspect of our work. This starts with our support of young female students to become sturgeon scientists, including supporting a traineeship for an early-career researcher in a leading sturgeon genetics laboratory, where she will be exposed to state-of-the-art sequencing technologies and bioinformatics.

Sturgeon science is dominated by males, as are fishing activities in the region. To open up these domains to women, we are empowering female students to take the lead in sturgeon research and master not only work in the laboratory, but also lead on fishing activities and outdoors sample collection, assisted by male fishers and skippers. The female students are trained to take on responsibility and leadership from the very first steps in their career in sturgeon science.

We stimulate female decision making in the region by ensuring at least 50% of River Council members are female and stimulating discussions between members of different genders. Recognising the importance of training youth, we are organising gender-neutral activities for boys and girls as well as 'gendered' activities in which both boys and girls are participating. The activities lead to discussions about gender roles and by encouraging debate, and setting an example, through female leadership during our activities, we are stimulating a broadening-up of gender perspectives, and encouraging girls to explore professional domains they might not have considered previously.

We will challenge our own organisation by striving to hire 50% female citizen inspectors. Due to the local perception that policing and enforcement tasks are male roles, it will not be an easy task to recruit females for these positions. However, as we believe a gender balance is not only beneficial for our work, but also because we wish to support female formal employment in the region, we will strain ourselves to recruit females.

Q20. Impact on species in focus

How will the species named in Question 15 benefit from the work outlined above? What do you expect the long-term impact on the species concerned to be?

In the short term, as wild sturgeon poaching and trade at the Rioni River will be brought to a historic low, mature spawners will no longer be removed from the population before they can reproduce. This means

that a higher number of spawners will participate in the annual spawning run, leading not only to a higher number of births as well as a reduction in inbreeding and hybridisation, which are threatening the genetic fitness and health of the populations. In the medium and long term, this will allow sturgeon populations to recover in the eastern Black Sea.

Improved coordination between European institutions working to finance, support and implement the Pan European Sturgeon Action Plan, and Georgia-based governmental and non-governmental institutions, plus integration of sturgeon conservation measures in Black Sea fisheries policies, will in the medium term lead to a reduction of sturgeon trafficking and illegal bycatch on the eastern Black Sea.

The sturgeon's longevity and infrequent spawning cycles, combined with the reduced genetic diversity, will not allow for quick recovery. Therefore, the project does not only support immediate, direct protection measures, but also introduces systemic measures that protect the sturgeon and allow the populations to grow over the next decades.

Q21. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

Recognising the complexity of trade, and the involvement of a myriad of stakeholders, this project addresses the illegal trade in Georgian sturgeon through work from various angles.

As the main actors in the trade chain, local community members are our first target to encourage a mentality shift away from illegal activity. We offer temporary employment opportunities and support local decision-making, and by allowing fish stocks to recover, create the possibility for long-term income generation in fisheries.

Second, we are directly protecting the sturgeon against trade and poaching by enhancing law enforcement through training, information, and genetic identification techniques.

Third, levels of prosecution and sentencing of illegal wildlife trade are currently below European standards, with lack of knowledge of international conventions or environmental law, and limited interest in prosecuting illegal wildlife trade cases. This project will bring prosecutors and judges up to speed through intensive training.

Fourth, the project works at higher governance levels to improve Black Sea governance by state actors to minimise unsustainable, illegal trade and fishing at sea.

The fifth output will provide an overarching strategy to inform future targeted demand reduction strategies that can address existing demand for IWT products in ways that support poverty reduction.

Q22. Exit Strategy

State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to "business as usual". Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

Conservation of the sturgeon in Georgia is one of FFI's main areas of work, meaning that as an organisation we are committed to the protection and conservation of these species in Georgia for the long term and

beyond the duration of this project alone.

This project is designed to maximise sustainability by securing the interest and motivation of multiple actors and supporting them in setting up the mechanisms and capacity to continue independently even after FFI's involvement in sturgeon conservation halts:

- Hundreds of local stakeholders will be trained and closely involved in every step of the project, building and maximising local, in-country capacity and awareness.
- Institutional trainings will be completed across multiple organisations, and throughout the justice chain, increasing resilience if one link were to fail.
- Trainings for judges developed under the project will continue to be organised by the High School of Justice beyond the project period.
- Government agencies will be provided with sturgeon knowledge, practical skills and analytical tools that can be used without FFI's continued involvement.
- The new sturgeon research group initiated by FFI will be attracting funds and identifying research opportunities independently from FFI.

if necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the file upload below:

No Response

Section 9 - Funding and Budget

Q23. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

Note that there are different templates for projects requesting over and under £100,000 from the IWT Challenge Fund budget.

- **Budget form for projects under £100,000**
- **Budget form for projects over £100,000**

Please refer to the Finance for Darwin/IWT Guidance for more information.

N.B: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The IWT Challenge Fund cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload your completed IWT Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

↓ **IWTCF FFI Georgia Stage 2 2019 Final budget**

📅 12/11/2019

🕒 14:32:58

📎 xlsx 61.1 KB

Q24. Funding

Q24a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

Development of existing work

Please provide details:

FFI's work on illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in the Caucasus started in 2013 with research into IWT issues and species at risk in Georgia and then Armenia. This was followed by small projects, funded by private foundations, to combat the illegal trade in raptor species in Georgia. Through this work we first engaged and trained environmental supervision inspectors and border guards on raptor IWT issues; developed legislation to support raptor conservation; supported the development and adoption of best falconry practices, and introduced awareness-raising materials on CITES at border crossings.

Our work on Sturgeon conservation commenced in 2017 with funding from the Swedish Postcode Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Prince Bernhard Fund for Nature, and FFI's Species Emergency Fund, the latter acknowledging the urgency of the situation. Activities include awareness raising, the establishment of the first sturgeon research team and population monitoring, the first local volunteer anti-poaching activity, and the first survey and monitoring of market traded Sturgeon. This work provides the baseline data and understanding and platform of relationships and experiences we need to commence this first significant work to address the illegal trade issues related to Sturgeon species, work that is critical for the species future successful conservation

Q24b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

Yes

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional to this work and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits:

WWF has activities worldwide to protect the sturgeon and is active in a variety of European countries. The WWF Caucasus office is currently lobbying for the inclusion of parts of the sturgeon migration route to be included into the network of Protected Areas of Georgia. They cooperate closely with FFI and are committed to finding further funds to continue to put the sturgeon on the national political agenda. FFI and WWF regularly coordinate and organise activities together. WWF uses its strong political connections to work more at the government, policy and strategic levels, which is complemented by FFI's focus on site-based and local-level conservation, and direct work with law enforcement staff, local communities, and other actors in the field, using our field experience to inform the wider policy and strategy debate. FFI is also unique in its particular focus on illegal wildlife trade. The activities of both organisations are complementary.

Q25. Co-financing

Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

Q25a. Secured

Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity, as well as any your own organisation(s) will be committing.

Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
Species Fund, FFI	██████	USD	Full grant amount.
US Fish and Wildlife Service	██████	USD	Full grant amount.
<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Q25b. Unsecured

Provide details of any co-financing where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include co-financing from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes. This should also include any additional funds required where a donor has not yet been identified.

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
01 February 2020	US Fish and Wildlife Service	██████	USD	Intention to apply in February 2020, follow up grant
01 April 2020	National Geographic Society	██████	USD	Intention to apply in April 2020
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Do you require more fields?

No

Section 10 - Capital Costs, Value for Money & Ethics

Q26. Outputs of the project and Open Access

Please describe the project's open access plan and detail any specific costs you are seeking from the IWT Challenge Fund to fund this.

Research findings generated by the genetics study, under output 2.3, will be published in open access journals, e.g., PLOS One or equivalent. Furthermore, all experimental protocols and empirical findings will be posted on open access websites with appropriate focus. For example, morphometric and distribution data collected in this study will be posted to Fishbase (Fishbase.org), pursuant to the website's guidelines for posting data. However, because even open-access journals require page charges, we are requesting

£2000.00, the estimated cost for publication of two research articles.

Q27. Financial Risk Management

Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risk of fraud or bribery.

FFI has a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and our anti-bribery policy is compliant with the Bribery Act (2010). The policy applies to all Members of Council, all FFI employees, volunteers, consultants, contractors, partners and any other person associated with FFI.

FFI procedures address the following areas related to bribery: Direct payments; Facilitation payments; Payments under duress; Gifts and hospitality; Partners; Suppliers, contractors and other 3rd parties; Procurement; Conflicts of interest; Political donations; Whistle-blowing.

That zero-tolerance approach is cascaded to our partners through our MoUs and subgrant agreements. FFI requires signed sub-grant agreements, with agreed financial and narrative reporting requirements, in order to transfer funding to partners. Further tranches of funding are only released once previous tranches have been fully reported and reconciled.

FFI has accounting practices in place that ensure all expenditure is approved by project managers and finance staff, and backed up with receipts, avoiding risk of financial mismanagement. Project and country programme accounts are reviewed every month by programme staff managers and finance staff to ensure expenditure and financial management is on track.

Q28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with IWT funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

We have budgeted GBP 850 for the purchase of one project laptop, which will be used throughout the entire duration of the project. After project end, as FFI intends to continue its activities on sturgeon conservation and anti-trafficking, we will continue to use the laptop for the Caucasus programme.

Q29. Value for money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

Apart from the purchase of one laptop, the project is not applying for any funds for capital items, and is proposing co-financing from various other donors so that not all costs for office, staff, and overheads will have to be covered by this fund.

Conscious of the fact that we are working with public funds, we continuously strive to economise and ensure that funds used directly contribute to project goals. Whenever possible we choose low-cost and simple accommodation, subsistence and travel options.

While the project offers employment and training opportunities to a high number of stakeholders and a high number of people will be trained, this is at relatively modest cost for travel, conference halls and subsistence. Through developing capacity for law enforcement and monitoring, the project will deliver long lasting results and as such represents good value for money.

At an organisational level, Fauna & Flora International has strict internal financial controls and a clear Delegation of Authority which ensures that no major financial investments can be done without following clearly defined procedures on procurement, purchasing and contracts.

Q30. Ethics and human rights

Outline your approach to meeting the IWT's key principles for ethics as outlined in the Guidance Notes. Additionally, if there are any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project?

If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?

FFI's policy is to ensure its conservation activities do not disadvantage poor, vulnerable or marginalised natural resource-dependent women and men. As a founding member of the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (www.thecihr.org) FFI has also committed to respect human rights, promote their protection and realisation within our conservation programmes, and support the governance systems that can secure those rights.

FFI works with diverse local stakeholders, emphasises local leadership, equitable meaningful participation and fair distribution of the costs and benefits of conservation. Respect for the right of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guides project development and implementation to ensure that activities are informed, understood and agreed by community stakeholders. Initial consent for the activities described in this proposal has been secured from participating communities.

When addressing illegal activities, including illegal wildlife trade, FFI supports appropriate law enforcement agencies to manage conflict and apply legitimate regulations fairly, using appropriate standard operating procedures, and ensuring due process in line with internationally recognised human rights standards.

For this particular project, the risk of violations of human rights through our own activities as well as through the doing of trained or associated entities (e.g. law enforcement agencies) has been assessed as low. Our full risk assessment is available to the donor upon request. Under this project, FFI will continually monitor and evaluate the situation in the field to ensure early detection of any adverse impacts our support of enforcement and prosecution work might have on the rights of communities, fishers and traders.

Q31. Corruption

Explain how you have considered any risk of corruption that may affect the success of this project, and how you plan to manage this.

FFI has an organisational anti-corruption policy; additionally, we are using a project-specific risk assessment approach.

This concerns:

- National level: in Georgia (Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index # 41/180), we have never been confronted with any corrupt practices through any of our activities – low risk.
- Sector level: we are representing a non-profit, non-governmental organisation with relatively limited means – minimal risk.
- Transaction level: We are not working with public procurement, large contracts, or subcontractors – minimal risk.
- Relationship level: As all our main work is done by FFI, and only relatively small amounts are spent by partner institutions – minimal risk.

- Local level: All transactions at our local office are thoroughly checked and controlled at multiple levels in our organisation. Financial controls are adequate and leave no room for irregularities in accountancy. The only risk detected is the low risk that our local citizen inspectors would accept a bribe in order not to report an incident; our citizen inspectors have no actual power to punish perpetrators. Through the alerting of our various conservation officers to what is happening in the field, and their frequent presence during patrols, we attempt to minimise this risk.

Q32. Use of data

If your project involves data collection and/or analysis which identifies individuals (e.g. biometric data, intelligence data), please explain the measures which are in place and/or will be taken to ensure the proper control and use of the data. Please explain the experience of the organisations involved in managing this information in your project.

If any aspect of your project relates to informant network data please also explain what measures are in place to ensure it is properly controlled.

The project will comply with FFI's institutional Data Protection Policy, which specifies how FFI complies and adheres to data protection principles, protects individuals, meets our obligations with respect to data protection and mitigates against the risk of a data protection breach. This policy is in line with EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came into force in May 2018.

Q33. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the IWT Challenge Fund must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. Please confirm the lead organisation has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We have a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We have shared our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
We have a whistle blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Unchecked

Section 11 - Logical Framework

Q34. Logical Framework

IWT Challenge Fund projects will be required to monitor (and report against) their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

The Outcome statement in your logframe should be the same as the Outcome statement given in Question 8.

Impact:

Six native sturgeon species in Georgia are recovering due to the removal of threats posted by illegal bycatch, poaching and trafficking.

Project Summary

Measurable Indicators

Means of Verification

Important Assumptions

Outcome:

Sturgeon are protected by local and national actors; with illegal activity monitored, and demand-driven threats identified, thereby effectively mitigating the current and future threat of IWT in Georgian territorial waters.

0.1 90km of spawning route patrolled for IWT and illegal fishing activity by FFI and government inspectors, which leads to confiscation of poaching equipment on over 20 occasions per season. (Baseline: no confiscations currently taking place at all.)

0.2 By year 3, in 80% of cases where a sturgeon IWT offender is identified, the offender is prosecuted. (Baseline: no sturgeon criminal IWT cases prosecuted at all.)

0.3 By year 3, 20 cases of illegal sturgeon sales have been detected and prosecuted by authorities. (Baseline: zero effort and zero detections.)

0.4 By year 3, the sturgeon and its conservation are an established theme at relevant official Black Sea Country regional meetings and especially meetings on environmental, fisheries, biodiversity and marine/coastal resource management. (Baseline: sturgeon is not mentioned at all.)

0.5 By year 3, an evidenced based behaviour change strategy to shift traders, vendors and consumers away from sturgeon

0.1.1 SMART records and monitoring reports

0.2.1 FFI reports based on information from Ministry

0.3.1 FFI reports based on information from Ministry

0.4 Meeting agenda and public minutes

0.5.1. Report on sturgeon consumer, trader and vendor motivations and needs.

0.5.2. Evidenced based Behaviour Change strategy including M&E available.

0.1.1 Poaching equipment is detectable

0.1.2 It is understood that Enforcement success from a zero baseline results in an increase in the number of seizures

0.1.3 Organised crime does not become engaged in sturgeon IWT in Georgia

0.2 Prosecutors and judges agree and are enabled, through appropriate laws and processes, to deal with IWT cases

0.3 Legal basis for action by enforcement personnel is present

0.4 The political situation between Georgia and Turkey and Turkey's other Black Sea neighbours do not deteriorate to the point of the ending of diplomatic relations.

0.5 None

meat has been developed. (Baseline: No existing research on traders, vendors and consumers and no behaviour change strategy available).

Output 1:

Local citizens protect sturgeons against poaching for illegal trade and support legal fishing activities, on the Rioni River spawning migration route.

1.1 The full freshwater spawning route, 90 km of the Rioni River, is patrolled night and day by FFI's 6 local Citizen Inspectors who monitor illegal activities, during the entire spawning season in every year of the project (compared to no patrolling at all without this project)

1.2.1 At the Rioni River, 100 riverine fishers are trained and competent to use legal fishing methods that do not harm the sturgeon, by end of year 2, effectively ensuring that the entire fisher population is trained.

1.2.2 Awareness is raised in all these fishers and 20% of fishers agree to report illegal activities as well as sturgeon sightings to the local FFI team. (Baseline: fishers do not report to FFI at their own initiative at all.)

1.3 Local acceptance of poaching and illegal trade decreased gradually under influence of River Council and Youth River Council, demonstrated in participation of 800 local citizens in a Council-associated activity. All thirteen members of River Council demonstrate knowledge of, and commitment to the sturgeon and its

1.1.1 SMART patrolling records and annually published poaching monitoring reports with data analysis by FFI.

1.2.1.1 Trainings attendance sheets and programmes, monitoring records.

1.2.1.2 Observations during patrols of uptake of legal fishing methods.

1.2.2.1 Records of local fishers reporting illegal activities to FFI, to be included in the annual poaching monitoring report by FFI.

1.3.1 Pre and post targeted interviewing of activity participants as well as River Council and Youth River Council members.

1.3.2 Events reports, photographs.

1.3.3 Monitoring and evaluation report including case examples on local passive and active support for conservation and law enforcement.

1.1 Local support for FFI is sufficient to allow safe patrolling.

1.2 FFI retains positive image in the region and continues to maintain trust amongst fishers and local communities throughout project duration.

1.3 River Council members remain motivated to play an active role; FFI succeeds in maintaining a trustworthy reputation in the region and parents and schoolchildren trust their children to participate in FFI activities.

conservation in the
Rioni, and all fifteen
members of Youth River
Council have become
active sturgeon
supporters.

Output 2:

Increased capacity of law enforcement and government agencies to enforce laws on poaching and trafficking of sturgeon in Georgia (Rioni River and Black Sea).

2.1 By the end of every poaching season (April-September), over 20 official Environmental Supervision Department inspectors have received on-site training and/or mentoring by FFI's poaching monitoring team on practical detection and seizure of illegal equipment on the water, supported by SMART technology. As a result, on >6 occasions/month throughout poaching season each year, these Environmental Inspectors are directly applying this knowledge.

2.2 >150 members of Georgia's national Environmental Supervision, Customs, and Police departments trained at their headquarters in Tbilisi on IWT occurrence and impacts, detection, species identification and regulations and application of crime prevention techniques in a wildlife crime context. (Baseline: no training for new staff members is in place.) Members of these departments will be present at all incidences of IWT and poaching, relevant to their competencies, as well as their active presence in policy and IWT meetings in Tbilisi against the baseline.

2.3 By year 2, previously

2.1.1 Evidence of on-site training and mentoring, included in FFI's patrol team reports and annual poaching monitoring reports

2.1.2 SMART patrolling records, including photographs of confiscations

2.2.1 Training programmes and attendance sheets

2.2.2 Incidents report sheets showing level of involvement from the various departments

2.2.3 Baseline from FFI records 2018 and 2019

2.3.1 Molecular markers/isotope analysis techniques are tested and in use.

2.3.2 Research findings generated by the genetics study will be published in open access journals, e.g., PLOS One or equivalent. Furthermore, all experimental protocols and empirical findings will be posted on open access websites with appropriate focus.

2.4.1 Data sharing with police and prosecutors

2.4.2 Periodic follow-up on use of genetic sampling kits

2.4.3 Monitoring reports

2.1 Staff turnover or reassignments at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture do not hinder capacity, and Ministry is continues to invest time in sturgeon anti-poaching.

2.2 Officers are appropriately authorised and resourced to be able to attend trainings as well as incidences.

2.3 Sufficient sturgeon samples are available of various species, to allow for development of molecular markers to identify species and hybrids.

2.4 Officers are appropriately authorised and resourced to be able to undertake illegal trade monitoring.

unavailable molecular genetics/stable isotopes techniques are in place with an Ilia State University lab technician trained to support genetic identification of trafficked sturgeon to serve as evidence in court that the sturgeon sold was wild and not a specimen from aquaculture.

By year 3, law enforcement and prosecutors are familiar with the use of the technique and are using the technique in all sturgeon IWT court cases (compared to baseline: no availability of this identification at all, and species identification in fining/enforcement /prosecution remains entirely based on morphological identification).

2.4 By year 2, Environmental Inspectors working for the Environmental Supervision Department enabled to detect IWT using the techniques developed and fine illegal sturgeon sales in the region, which was not the case previously. As a result of genetic sampling kits and methodology provided, Environmental Inspectors are collating and sharing data regarding restaurants / markets vending trafficked sturgeon

throughout Georgia,
which is being used to
support timely, effective
law enforcement.
(Baseline: at current, no
detection of IWT at
markets.)

Output 3:

Increased capacity of prosecutors and judiciary to interpret wildlife laws and effect increased successful prosecution and sentencing of wildlife crime cases

3.1 As a result of project training on environmental law and IWT, by year 3, 50 judges are taking better informed decisions when considering and sentencing relevant wildlife crime cases (Baseline: no judges trained and wildlife crime is not sentenced like other crimes.)

3.2 By year 2, 10 selected high court judges have gained new knowledge on Conventions (CITES, Bonn, Bern) and EU Directives (Habitats) (Baseline: no judges trained, despite interest no knowledge gathered.)

3.3 By year 2, >20 prosecutors are skilled in best practice protocols for collecting evidence and presenting it at court (inclusive of witnesses). (Baseline: no training of prosecutors in wildlife crime at all.)

3.4 By year 1, platform established for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcers to share relevant information to streamline the process of prosecuting traffickers (baseline: no such meetings are conducted at all, no formal exchange is taking place)

3.1.1 Training module available, training records plus monitoring and evaluation report on knowledge level change before and after training

3.1.2 Public records of wildlife crime prosecution and sentencing.

3.2.1 Pre and post knowledge surveys.

3.2.2 Exchanges, trainings EU demonstrated in a document that outlines learning

3.3.1 Best practice guidelines available.

3.3.2 Pre and post training participant surveys

3.3.3 Training attendance sheets

3.4.1 Inter-agency data sharing protocols in place, where required.

3.4.2 Twice-yearly platform meeting notes, programmes.

3.1 No change to the law to the detriment of wildlife protection.

3.2 Language barriers do not prevent uptake of knowledge of the crucial texts.

3.3 Law enforcement officers enabled to apply learning by their superiors and have access to the sharing Platform (Activity 3.4), which assists prosecutors in gathering evidence that is admissible in court.

3.4 All stakeholders recognise the need for participation.

Output 4:

Increased coordination and action by key actors within Black Sea range states to address IWT

4.1 By year 3, high-level national decision-makers within key government Ministries and agencies are meeting regularly and are aware of sturgeon conservation issues and taking decisions supporting sturgeon protection / conservation. (Baseline: no decisions have been taken in favour of sturgeon conservation.)

4.2 By end of year 1, Turkish agencies are actively collaborating to share and increase knowledge on transboundary trade. As a result, by year 2 pathways to prevent trafficking of Georgian sturgeon into Turkey are being identified. (Baseline: no communication or information exchange at all.)

4.3 By year 3, data and learning from regional and international fora is being used to influence planning and decision-making relating to management of Black Sea fisheries, bycatch use and IWT, and the sturgeon is acknowledged as being a specific and important subject for Black Sea management. (Baseline: sturgeon is not considered at all.)

4.1.1 Written communication and meetings notes.

4.2.1 Written communication and meeting notes.

4.3.1 There is evidence of data sharing on transboundary IWT.

4.3.1 Evidence of team attendance for lobbying and information sharing at events

4.3.2 International conference programmes, publications by FAO/General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean; and by European Commission.

4.1 Government capacity is not diverted to other, as yet unknown, issues on the political agenda, and there is some continuity in staff at the relevant Ministries.

4.2 Relevant Turkish institutions show interest and ability to exchange knowledge on IWT, sturgeon, fisheries and Black Sea management with Georgian and international NGO counterparts.

4.3 EU and FAO continue to promote sustainable fisheries and reducing bycatch and IWT in the Black Sea.

Output 5:

Evidence-based behaviour change strategy developed to tackle demand post project.

5.1.1 By year 2, data will be available and understanding of the consumers, traders and vendors motivations and needs will be available to inform behaviour change.

5.1.2 By end of year 3 evidence used to inform robust behaviour change strategy that will guide activities on reducing demand for sturgeon, post this project. (Baseline: no existing research data available).

5.1.1.1 Report on sturgeon consumer, trader and vendor motivations and needs.
5.1.2.1 Evidenced based Behaviour Change strategy including M&E available.

5.1 There is no significant downturn in other legally tradable products, which would increase reliance on sturgeon.

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.

- 1.1 FFI's Citizen Inspectors patrol the Rioni River to monitor poaching and IWT activities throughout the sturgeon spawning season, reporting incidents to the Environmental Supervision Department.
- 1.2 FFI trains 100 fishers on legal fishing techniques, raise awareness on sturgeon conservation, and invites and encourages them to actively support sturgeon conservation and research.
- 1.3 FFI and River Councils jointly organise 6 meetings, discussions, and awareness raising festivals and events per year, reaching 800 local villagers, teachers and schoolchildren.
- 2.1 FFI's Citizen Inspectors provide in-situ intelligence and logistical support to Environmental Supervision Department to reach, detect, handle, and confiscate illegal fishing equipment on the water.
- 2.2 FFI organises central-level training events for authorities on IWT, CITES, threats and international obligations two days a year, every year.
- 2.3 FFI and Ilia State University develop molecular techniques for species identification, provide sampling instructions to authorities, disseminate sampling kits, and provide technical support for prosecution.
- 2.4 FFI supports and encourages Environmental Supervision Department to inspect markets for illegal sturgeon sales and use genetic sampling techniques to distinguish wild meat from farmed.
- 3.1 FFI and High School of Justice develop environmental law and IWT training module for judges and the module taught annually in HSoJ's regular teaching curriculum.
- 3.2 FFI and High School of Justice facilitate learning visit of selected Georgian judges to European institution for training on EU Directives and Bern/Bonn Conventions.

- 3.3 FFI and High School of Justice develop training materials and train 20 prosecutors in best practice protocols for collecting evidence and presenting it in court.
- 3.4 FFI and High School of Justice establish a wildlife crime platform and organise 2 platform meetings every year to stimulate exchange enforcers-prosecutors-judges.
- 4.1 FFI initiates 8 exchanges with high-level national decision-makers in Georgia and organises one large multi-stakeholder meeting per year to lobby and advocate for sturgeon.
- 4.2 FFI meets several times a year with Turkish agencies and research institutions and collaborates on data collection and knowledge exchange regarding transboundary sturgeon trade.
- 4.3 FFI stimulates prioritisation of sturgeon conservation in regional planning and decision making regarding fisheries, bycatch, and IWT in 4 regional and international Black Sea fora.
- 5.1 FFI produces a supply and demand study report and develops a behaviour change strategy.

Section 12 - Implementation Timetable

Q35. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities.

Complete the Excel spreadsheet template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

Implementation Timetable Template

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

↓ [IWTCF FFI Georiga Stage 2 2019 Implementation Timetable](#)

📅 12/11/2019

🕒 14:33:42

📄 xlsx 19.03 KB

Section 13 - M&E and FCO notification

Q36. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

Describe, referring to the indicators above, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

IWT Challenge Fund projects will need to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance for Darwin/IWT](#)).

FFI adheres to the principles of adaptive management for its conservation actions, which includes planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and adaptation. As a key component of this project cycle, FFI has in place a rigorous Monitoring & Evaluation and reporting system that will be applied to the proposed project. For each anticipated Conservation Outcome, the project will measure progress against identified indicators and implementation milestones. At regular intervals, project management and staff, along with relevant partners, will review implementation progress to assess the effectiveness of activities and FFI's efficiency in implementation, and to update the project work plan as needed. FFI will also regularly produce reports as part of its organization-wide project management cycle, including midterm and final reporting in accordance with the guidelines. Financial management, monitoring and reporting will be conducted with several layers of oversight. FFI's accounts are audited annually and our years of on the ground experience have consistently supported our ability to cost activities precisely.

FFI is responsible for evaluating the project's progress, by assembling and analysing SMART patrolling records will provide data both on enforcement efforts and on poaching intensity (indicators 1.1 and 2.1). Our close collaboration and good relationship with the enforcement authorities and with the judiciary will allow us to be aware of all cases of apprehending, prosecuting, sentencing and fining (indicators 2 and 3). All other indicators will be monitored and evaluated against carefully-kept meetings and events calendars, agendas notes, attendance sheets, photographs and written communications. For each output, the number of relevant events and attendees will be calculated and presented in a report, along with the means of verification. Finally, many of the activities in this project (e.g. development of genetic tools, SMART patrols, etc.) intrinsically play a crucial role in the monitoring of poaching, illegal trade and sturgeon population health in Georgia.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	107
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	[REDACTED]

Q37. FCO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the IWT Challenge Fund competition in the host country.

No


Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see [Guidance Notes](#)) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (click to attach)

Please attach details of any advice you have received.

 **FFI Communication with FCO**

 12/11/2019

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Section 14 - Certification

Q38. Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

Fauna & Flora International

I apply for a grant of

£307,152.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.


(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)


- **I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, letters of support, budget and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).**
- **Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.**

Checked

Name Matthew Walpole

Position in the organisation Senior Director, Conservation Programmes

Signature (please upload e-signature)  **MW signature black**

 12/11/2019

 14:25:11

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Date 12 November 2019

Section 15 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including "Guidance for Applicants" and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for my project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that the budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start page of the application.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all key project personnel identified at Question 14, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 13, or an explanation as to why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation.	Checked
I have checked the IWT website on GOV.UK immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the IWT Challenge Fund and our sister grant scheme, the Darwin Initiative. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to the illegal wildlife trade and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available [here](#). This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information, but not personal data, may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organisation, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).