

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note: (<https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

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IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT082
Project title	Combating poaching and trafficking of Critically Endangered sturgeon
Country/ies	Georgia (Europe)
Lead organisation	FFI - Fauna & Flora International
Partner institution(s)	High School of Justice (HSoJ) School of Natural Sciences and Engineering, Ilia State University (ISU) Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Ministry of Finance of Georgia, Revenue Service, Customs Department
IWT grant value	£307,152.00
Start/end dates of project	Start on 01/04/2020 and expire on 31/03/2023
Reporting period (e.g. April 2020-Mar 2021) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2020 – March 2021 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Fleur Scheele
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Fleur Scheele, 28 ^h May 2021

1. Project summary

After many centuries of structural overharvesting all around the world, all 27 sturgeon species worldwide are now on the brink of extinction. A unique assembly of up to six sturgeon species still inhabit the eastern Black Sea, using one single river in Georgia as their last spawning habitat. Although all species are Critically Endangered, legally protected and enlisted in CITES appendices, and local populations of all sturgeon species are alarmingly small, trafficking is still ongoing. Specimens that are captured, accidentally or by targeted fishing by commercial fishers at sea or by local anglers and poachers at the river, are usually sold to local traders, independent of size or species. The fish is then sold for consumption to local hotels and restaurants, or to private customers; for commercial breeding to local fish farms; or for entertainment of tourists to local hotels. Some sturgeon might also be sold for consumption

across the Turkish border. Due to the very small population sizes, any increased mortality can bring these Georgian sturgeon to extinction. Therefore, Fauna & Flora International (FFI) is working to bring a halt to poaching and illegal trade so that the marginalised populations will get a chance to recover.

This project takes a multi-faceted approach that is delivered in partnership with local and national stakeholders and that ranges a broad spectrum from awareness raising, enhancement of local ownership, and working towards long-term sustainable income generation in fisheries, to crime prevention, law enforcement, and improvement of judicial processes. 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.



2. Project partnerships

For the activities carried out by FFI in this initial project year, the High School of Justice, based in Tbilisi, Georgia, was our main partner. Although the High School of Justice is a new partner to FFI, we expected the organisation 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).

Throughout project year 1, we have not been disappointed. The training module for judges on (output 3.1) as well as the Conventions Training (output 3.2, with the actual training to be taking place in year 2) were developed in very close collaboration between the High School and FFI. Engaging the stakeholders, developing the contents, designing the training programme, deciding on training strategy, sequencing and planning, every step of the process was done in close collaboration of our two organisations. The long experience of the High School in working with judges proved to be of great value, while FFI's suggestions for training themes, approach, and trainers were new for the High School.

The work of Ilia State University should also be noted. Students have been working on fish trade data collection and markets monitoring (output 2.4), organising awareness raising and educational activities at regional schools (output 1.3) and educating the judiciary by explaining

the possibilities of genetic identification through an online presentation on sturgeon genetics during FFI's February 2021 training of judges, and an educational video (output 2.3). Several professors of the School of Natural Sciences and Engineering, Ilia State University are advisors to the project, and one professor has been involved in the development of training materials for our judges training on EU Directives (to be taking place in project year 2, Q1), while yet another professor of the same university also developed and delivered two modules at the training for judges (output 3.1).

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture worked with FFI in the field to stop poaching (output 2.1) and at a central level, prepared with FFI trainings where law enforcement staff will be trained on theoretical matters (output 2.3). The Ministry was also present at the first platform meeting that aimed to stimulate information exchange and process improvement in the enforcement-prosecution-sentencing cycle (output 3.4) and is expected to also be present at the new series of platform meetings to be organised in Project Year 2. The Customs Department also was present at the first platform meeting and will continue to participate in future meetings.

Due to the COVID pandemic, planned group activities with River Council and Youth River Council became impossible and, due to the physical distance between members and their lack of access to computers and internet, we have not been able to organise any group meetings or discussions. However, some River Council members decided to become part of our team of citizen inspectors. In year two, we will again attempt to bring together members from both Councils.

New partnerships

The World Sturgeon Conservation Society and sturgeon scientists based in the EU and in the USA have been supporting the project with scientific advice as well, and the FFI team is regularly discussing sturgeon conservation in the region with WWF to coordinate strategies and exchange information.

The US Department of Justice of the US Embassy in Tbilisi was supportive in introducing FFI to the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia and in speaking at our wildlife crime platform meeting, and Margaret Below, Second Secretary Political of the British Embassy in Tbilisi, who has personally known and supported FFI's work in Georgia for a number of years, was first to speak and express support for wildlife conservation and environmental protection at the same meeting.

The European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment, represented by two British prosecutors: Anne Brosnan, Chief Prosecutor, Environment Agency / European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE), and Paul Stimson, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor for the (England and Wales) Crown Prosecution Service, prepared presentations that were delivered at the training of judges in Q4 (output 3.1) and that will again be used for future prosecutors and judges trainings, while the introduction video of the Network that was shown at the judges training has been translated for FFI by a professional translator into Georgian and will be shown again at the next wildlife crime platform meeting (project year 2, Q1).

The European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment, represented by its Vice President who is a judge at the Court of First Instance of East Flanders, developed and delivered a module at the Q4 judges training, while at the same training, a law professor of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University lectured on Georgian legislation with regards to environmental protection and wildlife crime. He will also continue to support FFI in future wildlife crime trainings and platform meetings.

Overall, we feel that all institutions and professionals we have collaborated with over project year one have been helpful, both in terms of effectively working towards project goals, as well as in collaborating and coordinating activities in a fruitful manner that is based on mutual exchange and information sharing. We will continue to work with all these partners in project year two.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

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

Activity 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.

Progress: During the sturgeon spawning season months falling in year one (August and September 2020, we missed the months April-July due to the project's delayed start date), 90km of the Rioni River, was patrolled night and day by FFI's 11 local Citizen Inspectors. A 2020 poaching monitoring report was produced by FFI in December 2020. Data, including for March 2021, have been recorded through SMART patrolling records and through written datasheets for every single patrol throughout the project year. A total distance of 1046 kilometres were covered in 797 hours in year one of the project. In total, 13 illegal nets and 500 illegal hooks were identified by the FFI team, all of which (but two nets) were confiscated by the authorities.

Activity 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.

Progress: Due to precautions and restrictions on group activities, only 3 formal group meetings were organised with 21 sea fishers, plus 7 formal group meetings with 31 participating river fishers. A total of 52 fishers thus received formal training on legal fishing techniques.

Activity 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.

Progress: physical meetings were not possible and in the project region, there is very little internet access. We could therefore not move all activities online: although some people would be able to participate, not everyone would, which would lead to exclusion of the poorest of community members.

In close collaboration with school directors, we instead created large mural paintings on 2 schools. The paintings showed sturgeon under water, and the text 'Save the Rioni sturgeon'. 650 pupils, their families, school teachers and support staff; and 4,400 Facebook visitors viewed pictures of the paintings, while the paintings continue to be clearly visible for all villagers. We therefore estimate at least 7,000 people will have looked at the paintings. In addition, we posted information online about sturgeon, underwater biodiversity, and women working in conservation, and highlighted how we invite fishers and hunters to work with us to work towards better protection of Georgia's biodiversity. The local FFI Facebook page, which targets local communities in the project region, has over 8,000 followers in Georgia.

Under 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).

Activity 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.

Progress: In August and September 2020 and in March 2021, 12 Environmental Supervision Department inspectors have received instructions from the FFI team in the field. They immediately applied this new knowledge in 5 cases, where they confiscated nets and illegal hooklines at the river.

Activity 2.2 FFI organises central-level training events for authorities on IWT, CITES, threats and international obligations two days a year, every year.

Progress: Communication with authorities has taken place throughout the year to discuss training needs. Materials from judges' trainings and wildlife crime platform meeting have been kept separate to serve as input for trainings in year two. FFI's Wildlife Trade expert as well as external advisors have been providing suggestions on programme and content of modules. Following the implementation timetable, the first actual training events are to be organised in year two.

Activity 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.

Progress: Throughout the year, the FFI team has been explaining to law enforcement officers how genetic sampling can help identify trafficked specimens, and an instruction video on the possibilities of genetic sampling and identification was created. The video will be disseminated and shown to authorities in project year two.

Activity 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.

Progress: FFI has been communicating regularly with central authorities as well as Environmental Supervision Department regional leads and local inspectors, to emphasise the need for market inspections and to explain the possibilities of genetic identification. This has not yet led to any joint market visits, but work will continue in year two.

Under output 3: Increased capacity of prosecutors and judiciary to interpret wildlife laws and effect increased successful prosecution and sentencing of wildlife crime cases

Activity 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.

Progress: In close collaboration with the High School of Justice and with judges who were selected to become future trainers, a training module was developed. The content was developed in collaboration with a law professor, an environmental expert, the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment, and the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment. A group of 5 judges was trained in Q4 and, at year end, declared to be ready to deliver the same training in future years. Although the pandemic forced the organisers to move the training online, all future physical trainings will be hosted by the High School of Justice at their facilities in Tbilisi.

Activity 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.

Progress: Training of judges on international environmental law was being prepared during year one, while the actual training will take place in year two. With trainers, the High School of

Justice, and consultants, a draft training programme was created and the first key documents were translated.

Activity 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.

Progress: The first contacts with the prosecutor's office were established, with support from the US Department of Justice of the US Embassy in Tbilisi. Possibilities for training by the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment and the use of the Network's introduction video were discussed with the Network and the first bits of content have been created. The first actual training will take place in the first half of year two.

Activity 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.

Progress: From September until January, repeated bilateral meetings were organised with all potential participants with the aim to explore interests, build relationships, and generate interest in the platform to ensure the platform would be supported and would meet the interests and needs of the target audience. The first platform meeting was organised successfully in Q4 and hosted speakers from the British and American Embassies, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, and Fauna & Flora International. Participants indicated after the meeting that they are interested in participating in future meetings and expressed interest in exploring international wildlife crime cases with foreign experts, Due to high interest in the platform meeting, more platform meetings will be organised relatively soon in year two.

Under output 4: Increased coordination and action by key actors within Black Sea range states to address IWT

Activity 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.

Progress: The project started in a politically challenging period, just two months before upcoming elections (organised in October 2020). The period after the elections has been particularly challenging, as opposition parties have been refusing to enter Parliament ever since the elections, claiming that the elections were rigged; and the main opposition leader was arrested. At the same time, mass demonstrations were being organised against development of hydropower stations, which has brought extra tensions in the country. All the while, physical meetings could not be organised due to COVID-19 restrictions. Given this context, the planned large multi-stakeholder meeting could not be organised, and it was not the right time to initiate ambitious events or high-level meetings. We did, however, have repeated telephone conversations with key persons in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, and are hoping that the political and societal tensions will diminish to the extent that the planned meetings and conversations can be had in project year two. Due to the lack of opportunities for networking and lobbying, FFI has also started working on a vision paper which will be finalised in year two.

Activity 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.

Progress: Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, no visits could be done to Turkish agencies for introduction meetings and joint field visits. Therefore we have mainly communicated with other NGOs in attendance of travel opportunities in project year two and has started mapping the Turkish 'landscape' of relevant stakeholders and agencies responsible for fisheries, marine resource management, biodiversity conservation, and control of bycatch, poaching, and trade.

This mapping will become available in year two and will be used to identify and approach stakeholders in year two.

Activity 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.

Progress: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions that followed, opportunities to travel to international conferences and participate in Black Sea fora vanished. It is expected that opportunities will return during project year two.

As all activities under Output 4 have suffered from the pandemic as well as from national political developments, in project year two, we will focus on identifying opportunities to compensate for the lost time and will give extra attention to Output 4 activities.

Under output 5: Evidence-based behaviour change strategy developed to tackle demand post project.

Activity 5.1: FFI produces a supply and demand study report and develops a behaviour change strategy.

This work will be carried out at a later stage of the project, as planned in the project proposal's original timetable.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1:

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

Without the support of the IWTCF for FFI's project, no patrols would be taking place at all; local fishers would not feel supported when they speak out against poaching; and poaching would return as fishers would feel the sturgeon is a lost case. Now, the FFI team in the field encounters on a daily basis fishers who openly support sturgeon conservation. From August 2020 until 31 March 2021, 21 fishers reported, photographed, and released sturgeons following FFI's awareness raising activities. Every week, hunters and fishers are asking FFI for a job on the poaching monitoring team, and they report seeing less poaching activity as the region is aware of the presence of the poaching monitoring team.

After year one, there already is widely carried support for sturgeon conservation in the project region. As there have been no negative incidents and the geographic, age, and professional range of supporters is broad, we believe that this trend will continue and with more activities, we will be able to increase the support for sturgeon conservation locally even further.

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).

Without FFI's intervention, there would be no control on poaching and trafficking of sturgeon. All illegal fishing gear found in the Rioni by FFI's team was reported to the authorities, and in all 5 cases, authorities arrived on site. In all cases, FFI's citizen inspectors provided support on the ground. This will continue in year two and three. FFI has been maintaining positive relations with the authorities and has been offering support frequently and at various levels, thus creating the basis of trust and collaboration that is needed for formal trainings in year two and three.

Output 3:

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

Without FFI's intervention, no prosecutors or judges would be trained on wildlife crime, international environmental legislation, or on domestic laws protecting biodiversity. The first successful steps to engage judges and prosecutors were made in year one, laying the foundation for high-impact trainings in years two and three for judges as well as prosecutors.

Output 4:

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

Without FFI's intervention, no attention would be given to sturgeon or illegal wildlife trade. Although the pandemic derived us from promising opportunities for lobbying and engagement, we foresee that progress will be made when travel restrictions will be lifted in project years 2 and 3.

Output 5:

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

No reporting on this output as activities are planned for later project years.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

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.)

In year 1, all 90km of spawning route were patrolled, and in total, 13 illegal nets and 500 illegal hooks were identified by the FFI team, all of which (but two nets) were confiscated by the authorities.

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.)

In year 1, 12 Environmental Supervision Department inspectors have received instructions from the FFI team in the field, and have immediately applied this new knowledge in 5 cases, where they confiscated nets and illegal hooklines at the river. Judges' training has progressed well and while it is too soon for cases have passed through the judicial system to reach prosecution, we consider the project to be making good progress against this indicator.

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

Market surveys have been disrupted due to COVID-19, however this activity is planned for year 2, and we anticipate that the increasing awareness of, and support for, sturgeon conservation will support the project in achieving this target.

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.)

At a national level, in year one, we have not always been able to conduct the activities we intended to organise, and in year two we hope the COVID pandemic and the political situation will better allow us to ensure sturgeon conservation will be prioritised at the highest decision-making levels. We intend to re-focus efforts in this area in year 2 and 3 to bring the work back on track.

0.5 By year 3, an evidenced based behaviour change strategy to shift traders, vendors and consumers away from sturgeon meat has been developed. (Baseline: No existing research on traders, vendors and consumers and no behaviour change strategy available)

This work is planned to begin in year 2.

For all outcome indicators, the high amount of local support for the FFI project, voiced by a myriad of local stakeholders, from school directors, to local anglers, to commercial fishers, and mayors of local municipalities, shows us that there is much potential for support to sturgeon conservation. Interest from judges and participation from the High School of Justice is positive, and judges indicate that they are keen to learn more in order to improve treatment of trafficking crimes. Participation at the first platform meeting was positive too, and there is potential for long-term engagement of stakeholders.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Under the general project 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, we identified the following assumptions:

0.1.1 Poaching equipment is detectable: this still holds true as no new poaching techniques have been introduced; based on frequent exchange with authorities, fishers; and observations in the field.

0.1.2 It is understood that Enforcement success from a zero baseline results in an increase in the number of seizures: this still holds true.

0.1.3 Organised crime does not become engaged in sturgeon IWT in Georgia: this still holds true. So far we have not found any strong indications for organised crime.

0.2 Prosecutors and judges agree and are enabled, through appropriate laws and processes, to deal with IWT cases: this still holds true, and there are currently no reasons for concern.

0.2 + 0.3 The Environmental Supervision Department discloses numbers and information on IWT cases to FFI: this still holds true but remains slightly challenging. We expect the Environmental Supervision Department to share information with us due to their close involvement in the project, but we have not yet prioritised obtaining all the detailed information and they have not yet shared information on the number of cases. This will receive attention in project year two.

0.3 Legal basis for action by enforcement personnel is present: this still holds true. However there are also concerns over a current lack of political will to enforce environmental legislation.

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: this still holds true, and there are currently no tensions that are expected to culminate in this feared outcome.

0.5 The wild sturgeon supply chain in Georgia is transparent enough to apply regular social research methods rather than apply police-style criminal investigation methods as used by state intelligence agencies: this still holds true.

Under Output 1: Local citizens protect sturgeons against poaching for illegal trade and support legal fishing activities, on the Rioni River spawning migration route, we formulated three assumptions:

1.1 Local support for FFI is sufficient to allow safe patrolling: this still holds true, and fortunately, we are observing that the project is widely supported and none of our team members are experiencing any safety issues in the field.

1.2 FFI retains positive image in the region and continues to maintain trust amongst fishers and local communities throughout project duration: this still holds true, and by the end of project year one, relations with local stakeholders are excellent. There are no reasons for concern identified by FFI.

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: this still holds true, but as COVID-19 forced us to abandon group activities, the River Council has not been active and we have not been organising activities for schoolchildren in project year one. We believe however that the sturgeon paintings and Facebook posts we have been generating are creating goodwill and sympathy for the project in the region.

Under 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), we formulated the following assumptions:

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: this still holds true.

2.2 Officers are appropriately authorised and resourced to be able to attend trainings as well as respond to incidences: this still holds true. So far there are no signs that law enforcement staff will not be able to participate in trainings or respond to cases.

2.3 Sufficient sturgeon samples are available of various species, to allow for development of molecular markers to identify species and hybrids: this still holds true, and in project year one, we have had sufficient supply of samples.

2.4 The Environmental Supervision Department agrees to disclose information on cases: this still holds true. We have so far not obtained numbers or facts but are giving this attention in year two.

2.5 Officers are appropriately authorised and resourced to be able to undertake illegal trade monitoring: this still holds true.

Under Output 3: Increased capacity of prosecutors and judiciary to interpret wildlife laws and effect increased successful prosecution and sentencing of wildlife crime cases, we identified the following assumptions:

3.1 No change to the law to the detriment of wildlife protection: this still holds true and no change to the law has occurred in year 1.

3.2 Language barriers do not prevent uptake of knowledge of the crucial texts: this still holds true and we are working with translators to translate key documents.

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: this still holds true.

3.4 All stakeholders recognise the need for participation: this still holds true and so far, uptake of materials and activities has been positive.

For Output 4, Increased coordination and action by key actors within Black Sea range states to address IWT, we formulated the following assumptions:

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: this remains relevant. Political challenges and the costs of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in Georgia, in particular, have diverted political capacity to other issues.

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: this remains true as an assumption, however the practice of knowledge exchange has been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4.3 EU and FAO continue to promote sustainable fisheries and reducing bycatch and IWT in the Black Sea: this still holds true.

For output 5: Evidence-based behaviour change strategy developed to tackle demand post project, the following assumptions still hold true.

Please note that activities under this output are planned for later project years only.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty alleviation

Our proposed impact is the recovery of six native sturgeon species in Georgia due to the removal of threats posed by illegal bycatch, poaching and trafficking. Even though the project's focus species is sturgeon, the project significantly contributes to addressing illegal wildlife trade issues more widely through increasing national capacity of law enforcement and setting up systems that can be used as models for other illegally traded species or products. It does so through e.g. increasing capacity of prosecutors and judiciary to interpret wildlife laws and effect increased successful prosecution and sentencing of wildlife crime cases (see 2); training high court judges on Conventions (CITES, Bonn, Bern) and EU Directives (see 3.2) ; establishing a platform for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcers to share relevant information to streamline the process of prosecuting traffickers (see 3.4); and by developing national environmental law and IWT training module for judges to be taught annually (see 3.1). First steps have been accomplished in the first year by developing the IWT training models and by establishing contacts with the judicial system. Improved law enforcement is itself a contribution to poverty reduction as losses to crime may account for up to 14% of GDP in the developed world with the losses disproportionately affecting poor people ([DFID, 2000](#))

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. By working towards a more sustainable management of sturgeon populations in Georgia, the project will directly contribute to the health and viability of multiple other fish species and support secure livelihoods for local communities and artisanal fishers. Local governance will be enhanced through community consultations, which will include fish traders, businesses, and consumers, enabling an environment for negotiating sustainable and legal business methods.

Another beneficiary of the project is the academic partner, the Ilia State University, whose capacity will be built by developing and applying tools for molecular diagnostics and taxonomy. Importantly, 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 will build research and analytical skills of staff, and provides career opportunities for current young scientists, and jobs at a larger scale within the university. Preparation for this have started in Year 1.

4. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declarations and Kasane Statement

The project directly works towards strengthening law enforcement and the criminal justice system in Georgia, IWT Challenge Fund's 2nd key objective. It ensures that by year 3, data and learning from regional and international fora is being used to guide decision-making relating to management of Black Sea fisheries, bycatch use and IWT, supporting IWT Challenge Fund's 3rd key objective. It addresses the IWTCF's 4th theme through the development of an evidence-based behaviour change strategy developed to tackle demand post project.

The project's approaches also support multiple commitments under the London Declarations (2014, 2018) and the Kasane Statement (2015), including: Kasane Actions 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, and 12; London 2014 Actions A15 (I, VI), B16 (X, XI), C17 (XIII, XV, XVI), and D18 (XVIII, XIX, XX); and London 2018 Statements 9 and 13–20).

Notable achievements during the initial year are:

- IWTCF Objective 2: In Year 1, FFI's 6 local Citizen Inspectors patrolled the Rioni River (see 1.1.1), and the first successful steps to engage judges and prosecutors were made (see 3.1.1).

- London 2014 Action A and Action C: In Year 1, the project started to address the supply side for illegal sturgeon products by increasing enforcement efforts along the Rioni River (see 1.1.1).
- London 2018 Statement 13-18: In Year 1, the project laid the ground work for addressing illegal wildlife trade through varied and inclusive partnerships, including governmental ministries, fishers, and academia.
- Kasane Action 12: In Year 1, citizen inspectors were involved in patrolling and gathering and compiling data (see 1.1.1).

5. Impact on species in focus

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.

However, 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. By the end of year one, we do not yet have evidence that systemic measures have already been leading directly to positive conservation outcomes.

Indicator 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).

In project year one, this meant that inspectors patrolled the river throughout all months of the spawning season that fell in the project period, which led to detection and confiscation of 5 pieces of illegal equipment, and the continuous presence of our citizen inspectors on the water gave a clear sign to poachers that no illegal equipment would remain undetected.

With regards to indicator 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, effectively ensuring that the all riverine fishers are trained by end of year 2 (100% of fishers population). Baseline: 50 riverine fishers already trained by FFI before the project starts (amounting to 1/3 of the total river fishers population) while 2/3 (100 fishers) are not trained at all:

We could not organise any group trainings due to COVID restrictions but we did work on indicator 1.2.2: By end of year 2, awareness is raised in all 150 riverine 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.).

During project year one, we did reach out to 86 individual fishers of which 64 agreed to report illegal activities and sturgeon observations to FFI's field team.

Further direct support for conservation was generated under indicator 1.3: By year 3, local acceptance of poaching and illegal trade have decreased gradually under influence of River Council and Youth River Council, demonstrated in participation of 800 local citizens in a Council-associated activity and tested through interviews and knowledge tests. All thirteen members of River Council demonstrate knowledge of, and commitment to the sturgeon and its conservation in the Rioni, and all fifteen members of Youth River Council have become active sturgeon supporters. (Baseline: local citizens are not organising any activities or gatherings; the adult and youth River Councils are inactive and no outreach to any fellow citizens in the region.).

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no Council activities could be organised, but we hired local workers to produce two large mural paintings of sturgeons on the walls of two schools in the project region. The total number of children attending these schools is 650; the paintings are visible from the street, and 4400 people viewed the Facebook pictures of the paintings. When the restrictions will ease, the schools will be visited for educational activities in year two.

We have not yet been able to take significant steps towards 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, due to many public, networking, and lobbying events being cancelled due to COVID-19 in year one. We anticipate picking this up more strongly in project year two.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

This project is indirectly benefitting 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. Currently, local villagers who once relied on sturgeon fishing for their livelihoods do so no longer because of the scarcity of the species. Black Sea commercial fishers complain about all fish stocks having become very small, and incomes are dropping. Anglers at the Rioni have witnessed all fish populations drop sharply in the last decades, and complain about the river being nearly empty. Local fishers, their families, and communities will hence benefit from improved fisheries management and conservation of fish that allows growth of local fish populations.

Through the River Councils, community members will also benefit from having a more developed voice, ownership of their natural heritage, stronger local governance, and representation in water 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, Ilia State University 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.). By training our own staff members and citizen inspectors, we are also not only offering direct benefits through project employment, we are also teaching them skills, knowledge and values that they will in the future be able to use for new career steps. For example, a young man from a poor family has been given part time employment at FFI as a junior citizen inspector, which allows him to finance his university studies and prepares him for work in nature conservation after he finishes his studies.

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.

Through our activities, all of the above benefits were supported throughout year one.

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

In year one, we have been striving to hire 50% female citizen inspectors for the spawning season starting in March 2020. Due to the local perception that policing and enforcement tasks are male roles, therefore it is not an easy task to recruit females for these positions. We did manage to attract two new female citizen inspectors in 2020; two more new female citizen inspectors were hired in spring 2021. However, the first two women left FFI to pursue other opportunities in March 2021 and our percentage of women in the anti-poaching team remains at 18%. More female inspectors will be recruited in year 2.

We have increased visibility of female scientists by sending our female scientific associates out into the project region to show their work to fishers, and by letting them create an educational video for judges and prosecutors.

As we planned, we set up a one-week series of profiles of women in conservation in the week of International Women's Day in March 2021. We posted the profiles on our Facebook page, which posts in Georgian and targets villagers in the project region, and the profiles were viewed 2000 times. Through these activities, by encouraging debate, and setting an example (through female leadership during our activities) we seek to broadening-up of gender perspectives, and encourage girls to explore professional domains they might not have considered previously,

8. Monitoring and evaluation

FFI's UK-based Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) team have worked closely with FFI's project leader and conservation officers in Georgia to develop internal systems to monitor and evaluate the project this year. Firstly, we reviewed the project Theory of Change during a one-week online workshop which brought together all team members. This exercise ensured the logic of the project was robust and confirmed that the outputs and activities are likely to contribute to the longer-term changes and impact.

Secondly, we mapped the existing qualitative and quantitative indicators against the Theory of Change diagram. This was really valuable in highlighting how monitoring was spread across the project, enabling the team to identify any areas where additional monitoring could be focused, and ensured the monitoring activities were appropriate and relevant.

Finally, the sturgeon team used the Theory of Change diagram to develop a sophisticated excel-based Monitoring & Evaluation tracker and accompanying data management system for the project period.

The MEL team continue to provide ongoing support through facilitating regular reflection meetings, during which we refer back to the Monitoring & Evaluation tracker and discuss any adjustments needed in the M&E (particularly in response to COVID-19) and how progress is being made against each element of the project. Indicators of achievements include records of patrols, test results from pre-and post-training knowledge tests, and many more. All data are collected before, during, and after activities such as training of fishers, poaching monitoring, and attending events. An image of one of FFI's M&E's project working files is shared in Appendix 4 of this document.

As the Monitoring and Evaluation is deeply engrained in the project, it allows us to follow adaptive management practices to ensure our assumptions and activities are evidence-based. The Monitoring and Evaluation is performed entirely by Fauna & Flora International and not by partners, although for certain tests and data we do request information or suggestions from third parties, such as the High School of Justice for knowledge tests for judges, and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture for records of confiscations.

9. Lessons learnt

Due to COVID restrictions, we have had to modify many activities and limit our ambitions for international activities as well as many field activities (see specialised section). Although this

has slowed down our work, it has given team members flexibility to work from home, and to work outside of regular office hours. This flexibility was experienced as very positive by all team members and when the situation returns to normal, it is likely that we will retain some flexibility in work hours and work location to allow team members to better manage their work-life balance.

10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Not applicable.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

There are no further comments on progress.

12. Sustainability and legacy

The trainings for judges developed in year one will continue to be organised by the High School of Justice beyond the project period: in year one we organised a *train the trainers* event, and five judges associated with the High School will be responsible for training delivery in future years.

Government agencies will be provided with sturgeon knowledge, practical skills and analytical tools that can be used without FFI's continued involvement. For example, the Environmental Supervision Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture asked FFI by the end of the project year to provide instructions on SMART patrolling, which we will be doing in year two with our citizen inspectors. The technique can then in the future be used by the Department without FFI's involvement.

Also, the Ilia State University geneticist associated with FFI's sturgeon team has developed a video with explanations on species identification through molecular genetic techniques, which is shown to judges, prosecutors, and enforcement authorities so they will be able to understand the possibilities for reliable, science-based analysis of trafficked specimens and obtain a scientific opinion for court cases from the university without FFI's intervention.

The new sturgeon research group initiated by FFI will be attracting funds and identifying research opportunities independently from FFI. For example, by the end of year one, a sturgeon PhD student associated with FFI submitted her own grant application to a scientific institution, and in the same period, US scientists started working with an Ilia State University professor to develop a scientific grant proposal to build scientific capacity on sturgeon in Georgia, supported by FFI.

We are receiving support from the US Department of Justice of the US Embassy in Tbilisi, for example when making contact with the Prosecutor's Office, and are attempting to identify ways in which the existing capacity building work of the US and British Embassies for the judiciary can be strengthened through our own efforts.

13. IWT Challenge Fund identity

The project has not yet been creating international communications to publish about project successes and progress and therefore the support from the IWT Challenge Fund has so far only been communicated during meetings and events, such as during the wildlife crime training for judges and the wildlife crime platform meeting (see programme of the platform meeting attached in Appendix 4). During such meetings, we explain to participants the identity and goals of the Fund. Whenever relevant, we also invite the British Embassy to our events as well and offer the Embassy the opportunity to speak on behalf of the British Government. This happened for example during the March 2021 wildlife platform meeting.

14. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

International travel between UK, EU, and Georgia became impossible, which impeded the possibility of our Monitoring & Evaluation support team from FFI UK to visit Georgia. This was compensated relatively easily by organising an online M&E project week, where all relevant team members attended.

It also meant that several international fora/conferences were cancelled and we could no longer travel across the border to Turkey, which reduced our opportunities for networking and lobbying in the region (outputs 4.2 and 4.3). A few events were attended by FFI staff online and to compensate for the lost opportunities we have started exchanging information in online meetings with WWF Caucasus, Turkey, and Central and Eastern Europe, to make sure we are aligning strategies and identify intervention opportunities together.

At a national level, it became clear that it was not desirable to bring groups of law enforcement officers together for training, so we focussed only on one on one communication with officers in the field (output 2.1). We did the same with fishers (output 1.2). Our (Youth) River Council activities were no longer possible (output 1.3) as members usually have no internet and to compensate for the lack of awareness raising and educational activities we have worked with school directors to paint sturgeon paintings on school walls. We are hoping to resume group activities when a larger part of the population will be vaccinated.

Our training of judges by international consultants could no longer take place as planned, and instead we worked with two national consultants as well as with two international organisations to develop an online train-the-trainers event for judges associated with the High School of Justice (output 3.1). By the beginning of year two, when regulations will be relaxing, we will organise a physical training event for a small group of judges in Georgia, where the national consultants will be present, and where additional consultants will provide training on the EU Directives (output 3.2, planned for Y2Q1). This way, we are compensating for the missed opportunity of having international trainers come to Georgia for a physical training event.

By working from home for most of the year, shifting completely to online meetings for office workers, and by cancelling all group events and meeting people only outside and with face masks for field workers, we have so far been able to prevent our staff members falling ill. When the situation will allow, we will make use of vaccines in order to be able to resume intensive cooperation between colleagues and to be able to organise essential group activities again.

15. Safeguarding

Please tick this box if any safeguarding or human rights violations have occurred during this financial year.

If you have answered yes, please ensure these are reported to ODA.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk as indicated in the T&Cs.

Fauna & Flora International pays much attention to safeguarding that complies with all DEFRA requirements to:

- have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of your commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse
- keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with
- 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
- share your safeguarding policy with downstream partners
- have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised

The exception is that FFI is still currently developing 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

In project year one, we have not had any reasons for concern about safeguarding. Our approach is bottom-up and is based on promoting local people's interests. Our anti-poaching activities are widely supported in the region and there has never been any friction between communities or individuals and FFI's sturgeon project team. Through our continuous communication with our own citizen inspectors, with Rioni River Council members, with school directors, with local authorities, with anglers and commercial fishers, and our philosophy that is based on respect and inclusion and on inviting others to play an active role in sturgeon conservation, we are not anticipating any risks with regards to safeguarding, and all team members are very much aware of the need to respect and protect vulnerable people.

FFI's Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy & Procedure was developed in December 2014 and last updated in March 2018. The policy applies to Members of Council and its sub-committees, FFI employees, temporary staff provided through agencies, volunteers and interns, contractors, consultants, service providers and any third parties who carry out work on behalf of FFI, in partnership with FFI or in conjunction with FFI. The policy demonstrates the organisation's commitment to safeguarding children and adults at risk and to complying with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; confirms the arrangements and procedures in place to safeguard children and adults at risk, including FFI's code of conduct; and provides clear guidance on how to raise, and how FFI responds to, concerns and allegations regarding the maltreatment of children and adults at risk. The policy expressly states that FFI does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse of any kind.

FFI's Anti-bullying and Anti-harassment Policy was developed in March 2018. The policy applies to Members of Council and its sub-committees, FFI employees, temporary staff provided through agencies, volunteers and interns, contractors, consultants and any other third parties who carry out work on FFI's behalf. The stated purpose of the policy is to ensure a safe, welcoming and inclusive working environment, which is free from intimidation, threats, discrimination, bullying or harassment; to communicate clearly FFI's zero-tolerance of any form of bullying or harassment; to define the terms 'bullying' and 'harassment' and provide examples, so that there is a clear understanding of the types of conduct that are prohibited; to communicate the importance of reporting incidents of bullying and harassment; and to communicate the procedures in place to manage incidents of bullying and harassment. The policy expressly states that bullying or harassment of any kind against a person or group of people, whether persistent or an isolated incident, will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

FFI's Whistleblowing Policy was developed in June 2013 and last updated in December 2019. The policy applies to FFI employees. The stated purpose of the policy is to encourage employees to report suspected wrongdoing in the organisation as soon as possible, in the knowledge that their concerns will be taken seriously and investigated as appropriate, and that their confidentiality will be respected. It provides guidance on how to raise those concerns and aims to reassure employees that they can raise genuine concerns in good faith without fear of reprisals, even if they turn out to be mistaken.

FFI's partner due diligence procedures include checking whether any safeguarding concerns have arisen with the partner concerned and the Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy & Procedure forms part of contracts and agreements with third party contractors and sub-grantees. We are also currently researching LMS platforms (Learning Management Systems) which would enable online training in policies & procedures.

We monitor updates in Government and Charity Commission guidance and review our policies and procedures accordingly.

In terms of social safeguards, FFI has publicly available position papers on our approach to Livelihoods and Governance, Free, Prior and Informed Consent, Gender in Conservation, Displacement and Restrictions on Access to Resources and Conservation, and Rangers and Human Rights (links below). Our specialist Conservation, Livelihoods and Governance team supports regional FFI staff and partners to take a holistic, people-centred approach to biodiversity conservation, and ensure project activities are strongly aligned with these principles.

16. Project expenditure

During this initial project year, the **original annual budget** for 2020-2021 of **GBP [REDACTED]** was reduced by approximately **[REDACTED]** to an amended total amount of **GBP [REDACTED]**

A certain sum of money was shifted to field activities taking place at the beginning of year two, which is reflected **by an amount of GBP [REDACTED] that was moved from 2020-2021 to 2021-2022.**

This suggested change was communicated with the donor through a Forecasting Reply Slip and Change Request Form for IWT082 sent by FFI to LTS on 22nd December 2020. This was subsequently approved by the donor and communicated to FFI in an email from LTS International on 20th January 2021.

The total expenditures in the first project year amount to **GBP [REDACTED]** which equals the amended budget.

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2020-March 2021)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 Total IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	[REDACTED]			
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

The original budget as submitted in the original grant application is shown above. As is clear from the original grant of **GBP [REDACTED]** we initially counted on higher expenditures in project year one (2020-2021). For various reasons that are described here, we made various modifications to our original time table and activities during year one.

The decision to make a few changes to expenditure in project year one was motivated as follows in the Change Request Form: 'The project started on 1st August 2020 with a delay of four months, due to the COVID-19 outbreak in spring 2020 which understandably led to some delays in

decision-making on grant allocations for the IWT Challenge Fund. With our project team standing by to engage in this new project at any time, the project started as soon as the grant agreement was signed in summer.

As a result of the later project start, the funds allocated to poaching monitoring could only be used partially as this work is seasonal (March-September) and the timing for the first months of the season had passed.

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, we additionally had to cut back on our international activities and were not able to use any of our international travel budget.

Despite the delayed start and the challenges of the pandemic, we managed to take some important steps forward in our sturgeon conservation work and we have identified opportunities to expand our influence in the project region and increase our impact in 2021.

Therefore, we request that unused funds from activity 1.1 (*river patrols*) and from activity 3.1 (*environmental law training for judges*) and 4.2 (*meetings with Turkish institutions*) and 4.3 (*participation in Black Sea international fora*) be re-allocated to field activities under Output 1, *Local citizens protect sturgeons against poaching for illegal trade and support legal fishing activities, on the Rioni River spawning migration route.*'

The **revised budget for year one is GBP [REDACTED]** which constitutes approximately **75% of the original budget**. This is the amount we are accounting for in this annual report.

As can be understood from the text above, **some activities were carried out as they were originally planned**, and the expenditures have therefore remained nearly the same as the original budget.

This is true for the *consultancy costs, operating costs, capital items, and other costs*.

Staff costs were **reduced proportionately** reflecting the later start of the project.

A major change is shown in *travel and subsistence costs*, where the **expenditures are significantly lower**, which reflects the loss of opportunities for international travel due to COVID-19.

Overheads have been reduced, reflecting lower expenditure than originally planned.

As it can be seen from the table, the variance in budget categories is reflecting clearly the changes that were made to the project during the project year.

17. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

Nothing to report.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2020-2021

Project Summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements Year One: 1 August 2020 – 31 March 2021	Actions planned for next period
Impact: Six native sturgeon species in Georgia are recovering due to the removal of threats posed by illegal bycatch, poaching and trafficking.		Wildlife crime and environmental protection have been put on the agenda of law enforcement and judiciary; sturgeon conservation and research is carried out in close collaboration with local fishers; and the presence and activities of FFI's anti-poaching team is widely supported by communities and fishers in the region. All of this is leading to a reduction in uncontrolled poaching and trade, which is allowing populations to recover through a higher number of sturgeons that can successfully reproduce in the Rioni River.	X
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 Every year throughout the full sturgeon migration season (March-September), 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 sturgeon migration 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.)	0.1.1 SMART records and December 2020 monitoring report show 5 cases of illegal fishing activity in August, September and March. This led to 5 confiscations by the Environmental Supervision Department. 0.2.1 FFI reports based on information from Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture. In project year one, no wild sturgeon poachers, buyers, or traders were identified	0.1 FFI's anti-poaching team is working at the river and will continue to do so until the end of the 2021 spawning season. 0.2 FFI continues to train law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges and press for better detection and prosecution of wildlife crime, with multiple trainings and platform meetings planned in 2021.

	<p>0.3 By year 3, 20 cases of illegal sturgeon sales have been detected and prosecuted by authorities. (Baseline: zero effort and zero detections.)</p> <p>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.)</p> <p>0.5 By year 3, an evidenced based behaviour change strategy to shift traders, vendors and consumers away from sturgeon meat has been developed and is included in a proposal for a follow-up project. (Baseline: No existing research on traders, vendors and consumers and no behaviour change strategy available).</p>	<p>by the authorities. Therefore, no offender was prosecuted.</p> <p>0.3.1 FFI reports based on information from Ministry. The Ministry has not shared any information on confiscations of wild sturgeon that was offered for sale in project year one.</p> <p>0.4 Meeting agenda and public minutes. No relevant meetings were identified as multiple conferences were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>0.5.1 Report on sturgeon consumer, trader and vendor motivations and needs. This activity is planned for year three. No activity in the reported project year one.</p> <p>0.5.2. Evidence based behaviour change strategy including M&E available and included in new project proposal. This activity is to take place in year three.</p>	<p>0.3 FFI is working to obtain information from the Ministry on numbers and cases and is suggesting to set up joint patrols at markets in summer and autumn 2021.</p> <p>0.4 FFI is working with partners to identify and prepare for upcoming meetings in 2021.</p> <p>0.5 Activities are planned for project year three (2022-2023).</p>
<p>Output 1: Local citizens protect sturgeons against poaching for illegal trade and support legal fishing activities, on the Rioni River spawning migration route.</p>	<p>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)</p> <p>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, , effectively ensuring that the all riverine fishers are trained by end of</p>	<p>1.1.1 SMART patrolling records and annually published poaching monitoring reports with data analysis by FFI: in December 2020, the poaching monitoring report for 2020 appeared, showing the full spawning route (90 km) was patrolled night and day by FFI's anti-poaching team consisting of 11 citizen inspectors. SMART patrolling records are again being collected in 2021. Renewed poaching monitoring for the 2021 spawning season started with 7 citizen inspectors, led by FFI's sturgeon conservation officer, in March. A total distance of 1046 kilometres were covered in 797 hours in year one of the project. In project year one, 13 illegal nets and 500 illegal hooks were identified by the FFI team, all of which</p>	

	<p>year 2 (100% of fishers population). Baseline: 50 riverine fishers already trained by FFI before the project starts (amounting to 1/3 of the total river fishers population) while 2/3 (100 fishers) are not trained at all.</p> <p>1.2.2 By end of year 2, awareness is raised in all 150 riverine 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.)</p> <p>1.3 By year 3, local acceptance of poaching and illegal trade have decreased gradually under influence of River Council and Youth River Council, demonstrated in participation of 800 local citizens in a Council-associated activity and tested through interviews and knowledge tests. All thirteen members of River Council demonstrate knowledge of, and commitment to the sturgeon and its conservation in the Rioni, and all fifteen members of Youth River Council have become active sturgeon supporters. (Baseline: local citizens are not organising any activities or gatherings; the adult and youth River Councils are inactive and no outreach to any fellow citizens in the region.)</p>	<p>(but two nets) were confiscated by the authorities.</p> <p>1.2.1.1 Trainings attendance sheets and programmes, monitoring records. Measure levels of knowledge and awareness at project start, test levels again after training activities. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, only 7 group meetings with fishers took place, during which 31 fishers filled out a test and completed the training.</p> <p>1.2.1.2 Observations during patrols of uptake of legal fishing methods. In project year one, a total of 21 sturgeons that were accidentally captured, were reported to FFI, and subsequently released back into the water. On another 10 occasions, sturgeons were reported to FFI but the sturgeons were subsequently sold, a sign that the fishers are aware of what is legal and what is not; of the conservation importance of sturgeon and the interest of our organisation, but the financial benefit of sturgeon sales still proved to be too attractive.</p> <p>1.2.2.1 Records of local fishers reporting illegal activities to FFI, to be included in the annual poaching monitoring report by FFI. Between August 2020 and March 2021, illegal activities were reported to FFI's citizen inspectors on 0 occasions.</p> <p>1.3.1 Pre and post targeted interviewing of activity participants as well as River Council and Youth River Council members. This could not be carried out due to COVID restrictions on meetings and group activities.</p> <p>1.3.2 Events reports, photographs. Events could not be organised, but photographs were taken of groups of children posing with the sturgeon paintings on school walls.</p> <p>1.3.3 Monitoring and evaluation report including case examples on local passive and active support for conservation and law enforcement. Monitoring and evaluation files are being kept and quotes and cases are being collected.</p>	
<p>Activity 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.</p>		<p>FFI's 11 citizen inspectors were continuously patrolling the Rioni River in August (479 km of</p>	<p>The citizen inspectors took on their work again in March and will continue their work day</p>

	<p>distance covered during patrols, distributed over the 90 km spawning migration route stretch) and September (294 km covered). All 4 incidents were reported to the Environmental Supervision Department. Various patrols also took place in October to ensure that any late spawning activity by sturgeon would not be disturbed by poachers.</p> <p>At the end of the project year, activity started again in March 2021 (273 km covered).</p>	<p>and night, on foot and by boat, until September 2021.</p>
<p>Activity 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.</p>	<p>In the period August 2020 until end of March 2021, FFI's conservation officers and citizen inspectors organised 3 formal meetings with 21 commercial fishers at sea, and 7 trainings with 31 river anglers: a total of 52 fishers received official instructions. COVID-19 restrictions prevented us from organising frequent, indoors, meetings and trainings.</p>	<p>FFI's conservation officers and citizen inspectors continue to meet and educate fishers in the region on a daily basis. This will continue throughout the entire year.</p>
<p>Activity 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.</p>	<p>As the COVID-19 situation prevented us from organising physical meetings and group events, we posted Facebook posts online for children and created large mural paintings on 2 schools. The paintings showed sturgeon under water, and the text 'Save the Rioni sturgeon'. 650 pupils, their families, school teachers and support staff; and 4,400 Facebook visitors viewed pictures of the paintings, while the</p>	<p>We are frequently discussing with school directors and Youth River Council about activities that can be organised, with and without COVID restrictions. We will also put more sturgeon paintings, as they are very popular, brighten up the poor region and give a clear and 'happy' message that lasts. They also form a good starting</p>

		<p>paintings continue to be clearly visible for all villagers. We therefore estimate at least 7,000 people will have looked at the paintings.</p>	<p>point for future activities in classrooms.</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>2.1 By the end of every poaching season (March-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.</p> <p>2.2 By year 3, >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.</p> <p>2.3 By year 2, previously unavailable molecular genetics/stable isotopes techniques have been developed, described in an article, and are available to use, with an Ilia State University lab technician trained in their use, to allow reliable genetic or isotopic identification of trafficked sturgeon to serve as evidence in court that the sturgeon sold originated from the wild and not from aquaculture. (Compared to baseline: no availability</p>	<p>2.1.1 Evidence of on-site training and mentoring, included in FFI's patrol team reports and annual poaching monitoring reports. In August and September 2020 and in March 2021, 12 Environmental Supervision Department inspectors have received instructions from the FFI team in the field. They immediately applied this new knowledge in 5 cases.</p> <p>2.1.2 SMART patrolling records, including photographs of confiscations. All records of confiscations and reports of illegal equipment have been recorded.</p> <p>2.2.1 Training programmes and attendance sheets. This is an activity for year two and three.</p> <p>2.2.2 Incidents report sheets showing level of involvement from the various departments. This is an activity for year two and three.</p> <p>2.2.3 Baseline from FFI records 2018 and 2019. This is an activity for year two and three.</p> <p>2.3.1 Molecular markers/isotope analysis techniques are</p>	<p>2.1 FFI's field team is working in the field from March until September 2021 and will be working to train inspectors on every possible occasion.</p> <p>2.2 In project year two, the FFI team will start organising these trainings. The first preparations for these have already been made in year one.</p> <p>2.3 This work will take off in project year two.</p> <p>2.4 During platform meetings and trainings in year two, FFI and the Ilia University geneticist will present possibilities of genetic identification to law enforcement staff, prosecutors and judges.</p> <p>2.5 In year two, FFI and the Ilia University geneticist are working on these activities.</p>

	<p>of this identification, and species identification in fining/enforcement/prosecution remains entirely based on morphological identification).</p> <p>2.4 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 (Baseline: the technique is not available for sentencing/prosecution in court; identification and determination of origin of sold sturgeon is fully based on morphological traits.)</p> <p>2.5 By year 2, 55 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.)</p>	<p>developed, tested and in use, one lab technician is competent in their use. One lab technician has been supporting FFI in year one. She will be working on the 2.3 activities in year two.</p> <p>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 so any researcher can start using the developed techniques at any point in time. This is an activity for year two; however, the geneticist already prepared a video for judiciary and law enforcement to be used for educational activities on species identification.</p> <p>2.4 Records of cases published by Environmental Supervision Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture. This is an activity for year three.</p> <p>2.5.1 Data sharing with police and prosecutors. This is an activity for year two.</p> <p>2.5.2 Periodic follow-up on use of genetic sampling kits. This is an activity for year two.</p>	
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		2.5.3 Monitoring reports. This is an activity for year two.	
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.		The Citizen inspectors have been working throughout the spawning seasons in 2020 and 2021, have shared all relevant information with the Environmental Supervision Department and provided logistical support to all inspectors E who were called to the river.	FFI's Citizen Inspectors provide in-situ intelligence and logistical support to Environmental Supervision Department throughout the spawning season.
2.2 FFI organises central-level training events for authorities on IWT, CITES, threats and international obligations two days a year, every year.		One training was organised for judges, while materials for new trainings were being developed and all necessary connections were established with stakeholders for upcoming trainings in year two.	In year two, Q1, the EU Directives training and annual wildlife crime training for judges will be combined for a three day training in Georgia. Law enforcement staff trainings are planned for Q2.
2.3 FFI and Iliia State University develop molecular techniques for species identification, provide sampling instructions to authorities, disseminate sampling kits, and provide technical support for prosecution.		Molecular techniques will be developed in year two, but an instruction video for authorities was already created and is ready to be used in year two.	All activities starting in year two Q1, and showing the instruction video at the Y2Q1 platform meeting and the Y2Q1 judges training.
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.		FFI has been attempting to stimulate the Department for market inspections and is introducing inspectors to genetic sampling methods. There is hope for joint inspections in year two.	Training of Environmental Supervision Department staff in Q2 will include instructions on sampling, and the FFI field team will attempt to organise joint market visits with the ESD.
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 show higher levels of knowledge on these subjects, to be measured with exams pre and post training, and which they can use when sentencing relevant wildlife crime cases (Baseline: zero judges trained, judges have no knowledge on wildlife crime and trafficking that they	3.1.1 Training module available, training records plus monitoring and evaluation report on knowledge level change before and after training. Train-the-trainers event for 5 judges of the High School of Justice was organised online in February	3.1.1 In project year two, Q1, the trainers trained during the February 2021 training will present modules during a June training event, with support from FFI and several consultants.

	<p>can apply in IWT cases)</p> <p>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.)</p> <p>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.)</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>2021, with 4 Georgian and 3 European trainers. Training materials and records are available. As pre- and post-training knowledge tests were not fully completed by the judges, there are no certainties with regards to knowledge level increase.</p> <p>3.1.2 Public records of wildlife crime prosecution and sentencing. No examples are known yet.</p> <p>3.2.1 Pre and post knowledge surveys. This is an activity for year two.</p> <p>3.2.2 Exchanges, trainings EU demonstrated in a document that outlines learning. This is an activity for year two.</p> <p>3.3.1 Best practice guidelines available. This is an activity for year two.</p> <p>3.3.2 Pre and post training participant surveys. This is an activity for year two.</p> <p>3.3.3 Training attendance sheets. This is for year two.</p> <p>3.4.1 Inter-agency data sharing protocols in place, where required. Too early: these are not in place yet.</p>	<p>3.1.2 FFI continues to seek collaboration and information exchange with stakeholders to ensure we are aware of any cases of wildlife crime prosecution and sentencing.</p> <p>3.2 Due to travel restrictions, the EU Directives / International Conventions training will take place in Georgia in year 2, Q1, and will be combined with the year 2 training on environmental law and illegal wildlife trade (see 3.1). 15 Judges have registered for this three day event.</p> <p>3.3 By project year 2, Q1, FFI has established the first contacts with prosecutors and is preparing content for the trainings, so that trainings can be organised in Q2.</p> <p>3.4 Second platform meeting organised in project year 2, Q1, and more to follow throughout year 2 and 3, in close collaboration with all partners, and with participation of international wildlife trade experts.</p>
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<p>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.</p>		<p>Module was developed in collaboration with law professor, environmental expert, the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment, and the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment. A group of 5 judges was trained and at year end, ready to deliver this training in future years.</p>	<p>First training by trained judges to be delivered in Q1. Training will be combined with 3.2. and will be supported by various consultants.</p>
<p>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.</p>		<p>Actual activity to be organised in year two. Preparatory work was done with High School of Justice to select judges, translate</p>	<p>As international travel is still impossible, the training will be taking place in Georgia in Q1.</p>

		essential documents, and plan the training event.	
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.		Materials were prepared, and first contacts with prosecutor's office were established. Actual activity to be organised in year two.	In Q1, discussions to be held with prosecutors to discuss training details and start planning training events.
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.		Repeated bilateral meetings were organised with all stakeholders throughout the year, to explore interests, build relationships, and create interest in the platform. The first platform meeting could then be organised successfully in Q4.	Given high engagement levels of participants, a follow-up platform meeting to be organised in Y2Q1, and again later in the year.
Output 4: Increased coordination and action by key actors within Black Sea range states to address IWT	<p>4.1 By year 3, high-level national decision-makers within key government Ministries and agencies are meeting quarterly 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.)</p> <p>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.)</p> <p>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.)</p>	<p>4.1.1 Written communication and meetings notes. Due to political turmoil in Georgia, project year one did not allow for sturgeon-focussed meetings.</p> <p>4.2.1 Written communication and meeting notes.</p> <p>4.3.1 There is evidence of data sharing on transboundary IWT. No data sharing yet by the end of year one. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, no visits could be done to Turkish agencies for introduction meetings and joint field visits. Therefore we have mainly communicated with other NGOs in attendance of travel opportunities in project year two.</p> <p>4.3.1 Evidence of team attendance for lobbying and information sharing at events. No opportunities for events where FFI could participate have occurred in</p>	<p>4.1 FFI is preparing written letters and a vision paper for sturgeon conservation that will be shared with relevant ministries in project year two. This will be accompanied by an invitation to a physical meeting, when the COVID-19 situation will allow.</p> <p>4.2 With help from Turkey-based organisations, by the beginning of project year two, FFI is mapping the Turkish landscape of stakeholders and agencies working on fisheries, bycatch, fish trade, and conservation. This will be used to connect with key stakeholders when the Turkish-Georgian border may be crossed without restrictions again.</p> <p>4.3 FFI is creating an overview of conferences,</p>

		<p>year one.</p> <p>4.3.2 International conference programmes, publications by FAO/General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean; and by European Commission. No opportunities for events where FFI could participate have occurred in year one.</p>	<p>regional events, and international gatherings and preparing to participate in any such events as soon as the COVID-19 situation will allow again.</p>
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.		<p>Due to elections and political challenges, no formal activities could be organised but FFI team did speak with decision-makers on three occasions.</p>	<p>Year two, Q1, FFI is preparing for a socially distanced multi-stakeholder meeting, to take place in Q2.</p>
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.		<p>Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, activities have been postponed to year two.</p>	<p>Mapping of agencies and institutions in Q1 and preparing for travel and exchange after Q2.</p>
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		<p>Relevant events were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions but are expected to return in year two.</p>	<p>Identification of opportunities and FFI team ready to respond.</p>
<p>Output 5: Evidence-based behaviour change strategy developed to tackle demand post project.</p>	<p>5.1.1 By year 2, motivations, needs, trade strategies and profiles of consumers, traders, and vendors are collected in a database and presented and analysed in an FFI report that informs development of a behaviour change strategy. Baseline: no research conducted, no structured data available or data analysis carried out; only anecdotal information is available to FFI.</p> <p>5.1.2 By end of year 3, a funding proposal is prepared for a follow-up sturgeon conservation project that includes activities on reducing demand for sturgeon meat, using evidence and analysis from the trade report (5.1.1.) as well as a robust</p>	<p>5.1.1.1 Report on sturgeon consumer, trader and vendor motivations and needs. This is an activity for year two.</p> <p>5.1.2.1 Evidenced based Behaviour Change strategy including M&E available and a follow-up project proposal prepared. This is an activity for year three.</p>	<p>5.1 In Q3, FFI will start to develop the outline and methods of the research and will start collecting data.</p> <p>5.2 This activity is planned for project year three (2022-2023).</p>

	behaviour change strategy. (Baseline: no behaviour change strategy is developed and no future consumer-focussed actions are planned).		
5.1 FFI produces a supply and demand study report and develops a behaviour change strategy.		No activities	

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

N.B. if your application's logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk if you have any questions regarding this.

Please note that the logframe from the original application has been changed until July 2020 following DEFRA's suggestions for improvement. The logframe below is the logframe as it was finally approved by email the donor on 2nd July 2020.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Six native sturgeon species in Georgia are recovering due to the removal of threats posed by illegal bycatch, poaching and trafficking.			
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.	<p>0.1 Every year throughout the full sturgeon migration season (March-September), 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 sturgeon migration season. (Baseline: no confiscations currently taking place at all.)</p> <p>0.2 By year 3, in 80% of cases where a sturgeon IWT offender is identified, the offender is</p>	<p>0.1.1 SMART records and monitoring reports</p> <p>0.2.1 FFI reports based on information from Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture</p> <p>0.3.1 FFI reports based on information from Ministry</p> <p>0.4 Meeting agenda and public minutes</p>	<p>0.1.1 Poaching equipment is detectable</p> <p>0.1.2 It is understood that Enforcement success from a zero baseline results in an increase in the number of seizures</p> <p>0.1.3 Organised crime does not become engaged in sturgeon IWT in Georgia</p> <p>0.2 Prosecutors and judges agree and are enabled, through</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>prosecuted. (Baseline: no sturgeon criminal IWT cases prosecuted at all.)</p> <p>0.3 By year 3, 20 cases of illegal sturgeon sales have been detected and prosecuted by authorities. (Baseline: zero effort and zero detections.)</p> <p>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.)</p> <p>0.5 By year 3, an evidenced based behaviour change strategy to shift traders, vendors and consumers away from sturgeon meat has been developed and is included in a proposal for a follow-up project. (Baseline: No existing research on traders, vendors and consumers and no behaviour change strategy available).</p>	<p>0.5.1. Report on sturgeon consumer, trader and vendor motivations and needs.</p> <p>0.5.2. Evidence based behaviour change strategy including M&E available and included in new project proposal.</p>	<p>appropriate laws and processes, to deal with IWT cases</p> <p>0.2 + 0.3 The Environmental Supervision Department discloses numbers and information on IWT cases to FFI.</p> <p>0.3 Legal basis for action by enforcement personnel is present</p> <p>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.</p> <p>0.5 The wild sturgeon supply chain in Georgia is transparent enough to apply regular social research methods rather than apply police-style criminal investigation methods as used by state intelligence agencies</p>
<p>Output 1 Local citizens protect sturgeons against poaching for illegal trade and support legal fishing activities, on the Rioni River spawning migration route.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>1.1.1 SMART patrolling records and annually published poaching monitoring reports with data analysis by FFI.</p> <p>1.2.1.1 Trainings attendance sheets and programmes, monitoring</p>	<p>1.1 Local support for FFI is sufficient to allow safe patrolling.</p> <p>1.2 FFI retains positive image in the region and continues to maintain trust amongst fishers and local</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>the project (compared to no patrolling at all without this project)</p> <p>1.2.1 At the Rioni River, 100 river fishers are trained and competent to use legal fishing methods that do not harm the sturgeon, effectively ensuring that the all riverine fishers are trained by end of year 2 (100% of fishers population). Baseline: 50 riverine fishers already trained by FFI before the project starts (amounting to 1/3 of the total river fishers population) while 2/3 (100 fishers) are not trained at all.</p> <p>1.2.2 By end of year 2, awareness is raised in all 150 river 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.)</p> <p>1.3 By year 3, local acceptance of poaching and illegal trade have decreased gradually under influence of River Council and Youth River Council, demonstrated in participation of 800 local citizens in a Council-associated activity and tested through interviews and knowledge tests. All thirteen members of River Council demonstrate knowledge of, and commitment to the sturgeon and its conservation in the Rioni, and all fifteen members of Youth River</p>	<p>records. Measure levels of knowledge and awareness at project start, test levels again after training activities.</p> <p>1.2.1.2 Observations during patrols of uptake of legal fishing methods.</p> <p>1.2.2.1 Records of local fishers reporting illegal activities to FFI, to be included in the annual poaching monitoring report by FFI.</p> <p>1.3.1 Pre and post targeted interviewing of activity participants as well as River Council and Youth River Council members.</p> <p>1.3.2 Events reports, photographs.</p> <p>1.3.3 Monitoring and evaluation report including case examples on local passive and active support for conservation and law enforcement.</p>	<p>communities throughout project duration.</p> <p>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.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	Council have become active sturgeon supporters. (Baseline: local citizens are not organising any activities or gatherings; the adult and youth River Councils are inactive and no		
<p>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).</p>	<p>2.1 By the end of every poaching season (March-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.</p> <p>2.2 By year 3, >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</p>	<p>2.1.1 Evidence of on-site training and mentoring, included in FFI's patrol team reports and annual poaching monitoring reports</p> <p>2.1.2 SMART patrolling records, including photographs of confiscations</p> <p>2.2.1 Training programmes and attendance sheets</p> <p>2.2.2 Incidents report sheets showing level of involvement from the various departments</p> <p>2.2.3 Baseline from FFI records 2018 and 2019</p> <p>2.3.1 Molecular markers/isotope analysis techniques are developed, tested and in use, one lab technician is competent in their use</p> <p>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 so any</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>2.2 Officers are appropriately authorised and resourced to be able to attend trainings as well as incidences.</p> <p>2.3 Sufficient sturgeon samples are available of various species, to allow for development of molecular markers to identify species and hybrids.</p> <p>2.4 The Environmental Supervision Department agrees to disclose information on cases.</p> <p>2.5 Officers are appropriately authorised and resourced to be able to undertake illegal trade monitoring.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>baseline.</p> <p>2.3 By year 2, previously unavailable molecular genetics/stable isotopes techniques have been developed, described in an article, and are available to use, with an Ilia State University lab technician trained in their use, to allow reliable genetic or isotopic identification of trafficked sturgeon to serve as evidence in court that the sturgeon sold originated from the wild and not from aquaculture. (Compared to baseline: no availability of this identification, and species identification in fining/enforcement/prosecution remains entirely based on morphological identification).</p> <p>2.4 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 (Baseline: the technique is not available for sentencing/prosecution in court; identification and determination of origin of sold sturgeon is fully based on morphological traits.)</p> <p>2.5 By year 2, 55 Environmental Inspectors working for the Environmental Supervision Department enabled to detect IWT using the techniques developed and fine illegal sturgeon sales in the</p>	<p>researcher can start using the developed techniques at any point in time.</p> <p>2.4 Records of cases published by Environmental Supervision Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture</p> <p>2.5.1 Data sharing with police and prosecutors</p> <p>2.5.2 Periodic follow-up on use of genetic sampling kits</p> <p>2.5.3 Monitoring reports</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>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.)</p>		
<p>Output 3 Increased capacity of prosecutors and judiciary to interpret wildlife laws and effect increased successful prosecution and sentencing of wildlife crime cases</p>	<p>3.1 As a result of project training on environmental law and IWT, by year 3, 50 judges show higher levels of knowledge on these subjects, to be measured with exams pre and post training, and which they can use when sentencing relevant wildlife crime cases (Baseline: zero judges trained, judges have no knowledge on wildlife crime and trafficking that they can apply in IWT cases)</p> <p>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.)</p> <p>3.3 By year 2, >20 prosecutors are skilled in best practice protocols for collecting evidence and presenting it at court (inclusive of witnesses).</p>	<p>3.1.1 Training module available, training records plus monitoring and evaluation report on knowledge level change before and after training</p> <p>3.1.2 Public records of wildlife crime prosecution and sentencing.</p> <p>3.2.1 Pre and post knowledge surveys.</p> <p>3.2.2 Exchanges, trainings EU demonstrated in a document that outlines learning</p> <p>3.3.1 Best practice guidelines available.</p> <p>3.3.2 Pre and post training participant surveys</p> <p>3.3.3 Training attendance sheets</p> <p>3.4.1 Inter-agency data sharing</p>	<p>3.1 No change to the law to the detriment of wildlife protection.</p> <p>3.2 Language barriers do not prevent uptake of knowledge of the crucial texts.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3.4 All stakeholders recognise the need for participation.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>(Baseline: no training of prosecutors in wildlife crime at all.)</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>protocols in place, where required.</p> <p>3.4.2 Twice-yearly platform meeting notes, programmes.</p> <p>3.4.3 Formal agreement of set up signed by the parties.</p>	
<p>Output 4 Increased coordination and action by key actors within Black Sea range states to address IWT</p>	<p>4.1 By year 3, high-level national decision-makers within key government Ministries and agencies are meeting quarterly 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.)</p> <p>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.)</p> <p>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</p>	<p>4.1.1 Written communication and meetings notes.</p> <p>4.2.1 Written communication and meeting notes.</p> <p>4.3.1 There is evidence of data sharing on transboundary IWT.</p> <p>4.3.1 Evidence of team attendance for lobbying and information sharing at events</p> <p>4.3.2 International conference programmes, publications by FAO/General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean; and by European Commission.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4.3 EU and FAO continue to promote sustainable fisheries and reducing bycatch and IWT in the Black Sea.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>sturgeon is acknowledged as being a specific and important subject for Black Sea management. (Baseline: sturgeon is not considered at all.)</p>		
<p>Output 5 Evidence-based behaviour change strategy developed to tackle demand post project.</p>	<p>5.1.1 By year 2, motivations, needs, trade strategies and profiles of consumers, traders, and vendors are collected in a database and presented and analysed in an FFI report that informs development of a behaviour change strategy. Baseline: no research conducted, no structured data available or data analysis carried out; only anecdotal information is available to FFI.</p> <p>5.1.2 By end of year 3, a funding proposal is prepared for a follow-up sturgeon conservation project that includes activities on reducing demand for sturgeon meat, using evidence and analysis from the trade report (5.1.1.) as well as a robust behaviour change strategy. (Baseline: no behaviour change strategy is developed and no future consumer-focussed actions are planned).</p>	<p>5.1.1.1 Report on sturgeon consumer, trader and vendor motivations and needs.</p> <p>5.1.2.1 Evidenced based Behaviour Change strategy including M&E available and a follow-up project proposal prepared.</p>	<p>5.1.1 There is no significant downturn in other legally tradable products, which would increase reliance on sturgeon.</p> <p>5.1.2 Enough data will become available through research to enable creation of a solid analysis and behaviour change strategy.</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>			

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2.2 FFI organises central-level training events for authorities on IWT, CITES, threats and international obligations two days a year, every year.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>5.1 FFI produces a supply and demand study report and develops a behaviour change strategy.</p>			

Annex 3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
Established codes								
1 C	Number of individuals benefitting from training	not relevant	Georgian	69	x	x	x	380*

Formal training was provided to 5 judges in a 'train-the-trainers' multiple day, traditional training.

52 Fishers were trained in sturgeon handling, legal fishing techniques, and fish conservation during short trainings lasting several hours on one day.

12 Environmental Supervision Department inspectors received hands-on training in boating, fishing equipment detection and confiscation of nets.

*In calculating *total planned during project*, not included are 55 law enforcement officers who will receive genetic sampling training as this will be part of other trainings, and not included are 10 judges receiving EU Directives/International Conventions training, as these will be the same individuals that will also participate in environmental law/wildlife crime training for judges.

Table 2 Publications

No publications were produced in year one.