

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Main & Extra: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:
(<https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2025

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IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	IWT136
Project title	Tackling wild meat demand, supply and trade in Western Equatoria
Country/ies	South Sudan
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Project partner(s)	South Sudan Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT) encompassing the National Wildlife Service (WLS) Caritas-Austria
IWTCF grant value	£598,357.68
Start/end dates of project	01/08/2024 – 31/03/2027
Reporting period	April 2024 – March 2025. Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Michelle Moeller
Project website/blog/social media	www.fauna-flora.org/countries/south-sudan/
Report author(s) and date	Michelle Moeller, Lauren Macneil, Cath Lawson, Alegria Olmedo (April 2025)

1. Project summary

In South Sudan, the harvesting of any wild animal is strictly illegal. However, wild meat trade remains widespread¹ and exerts pressure on threatened species. Evidence from FFI’s recent IWTCF Evidence-supported project (IWTEV002) demonstrates that the wild meat trade includes CITES-listed taxa and threatened species, including white-bellied (EN) and giant (EN) pangolins, giant eland (VU), bongo (NT but decreasing), and chimpanzees (EN)². In Western Equatoria (population 663,233), wild meat trade is commonplace (in 2022/23, 59% of survey respondents [n=411] admitted to purchasing wild meat within the last year), and transboundary trade routes across Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Central African Republic (CAR) borders^{2,3} are cited as contributing to the trade.

South Sudan, ranked 191 out of 191 on the Human Development Index⁴, remains one of the world’s least-developed countries. Poverty headcount in South Sudan is estimated at 76.4%

¹ Bedford, J. (2019) Key Considerations: Bushmeat in the Border Areas of South Sudan and DRC. Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform (SSHAP)

² Fauna & Flora (2023) Research Report: Understanding wild meat demand, supply and trade in Western Equatoria (available on request).

³ Cakaj, L. & Lezhnev, S. (2017) Deadly Profits: Illegal Wildlife Trafficking through Uganda and South Sudan. Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime

⁴ UNDP (2022). Human Development Report 2021/2022. Uncertain times, unsettled lives. Shaping our future in a transforming world

nationally, with 87.5% of people living in multidimensional poverty⁵. Local stakeholders face severe poverty and food insecurity (World Food Programme estimates 70% of the population faces severe food insecurity) and are highly dependent on natural resources. Communities living around Banggai (BGG) and Bire Kpatuo (BK) Game Reserves and Southern National Park (SNP) in Western Equatoria, primarily Azande and Balanda people, rely heavily on wild meat for protein^{6,7}. People at urban and rural wild meat markets in Western Equatoria, also predominantly Azande and Balanda, cite nutritional and income needs, combined with the absence of alternatives, as key drivers for engaging in IWT. Beyond food security and subsistence, for both cultural and taste reasons, people in Western Equatoria prefer wild meat, citing especially yellow-backed duiker, giant eland, pangolins and chimpanzees, over other protein sources². Whilst important for meeting short-term needs and preferences, wild meat trade creates potential disease transmission risks⁸ and poses a direct threat to endangered species. Longer-term, there is significant potential for stability and economic growth based on sound natural resources management in Western Equatoria, but unsustainable offtake threatens biodiversity, the survival of charismatic wildlife, and may result in future opportunity costs related to tourism development and ecosystem services.

In parallel, there is a near-complete absence of conservation management and long-term planning in South Sudan's protected area network, underpinned by extremely limited institutional resources and severe capacity gaps in the South Sudan Wildlife Service (WLS). Inter-agency and transboundary collaboration on IWT are largely absent, meaning combatting wildlife crime is not prioritised in other sectors and cross-border trade is poorly understood and monitored.

The project, focused in and around key markets and protected areas in Western Equatoria (see map), is delivered on the logic that gender-sensitive, evidence-based solutions to reduce wild meat use, together with stronger law enforcement capacity, systems and transboundary networks, will reduce IWT and contribute to more sustainable livelihoods in Western Equatoria. Project activities will pilot and expand sustainable livelihood activities to provide local people with viable income sources and protein alternatives, thereby reducing reliance on wild meat and contributing to changed attitudes towards its consumption; improve WLS capacity across Western Equatoria to monitor and respond to wildlife trade, and advance systems established under IWTEV002 to monitor, adaptively manage and increase responses to IWT; increase interagency collaboration between WLS, other law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary within Western Equatoria and South Sudan, and with relevant counterparts in DRC, to improve understanding of transboundary IWT; and document and share learning and recommendations with key national and regional stakeholders, to extend impact and reach.

This project builds on FFI's decade-long experience working in Western Equatoria with government and community partners, including past Darwin Initiative (25-002/2018-2021/A-grade) and IWTCF/Evidence (IWTEV002/2022-2023) support. IWTEV002 resulted in first-time, critical baseline understanding of IWT in Western Equatoria and confirmed transboundary trade with DRC, which has informed this project's approach. Additionally, project design is informed by IIED⁹ and CIFOR¹⁰ best practice guidance. Project design also recognises that hunting and wild meat consumption provide critical nutrition and supplemental income, are culturally valued, and that this work takes place in a fragile context.

⁵ World Bank. (2021). Poverty & Equity Brief: South Sudan.

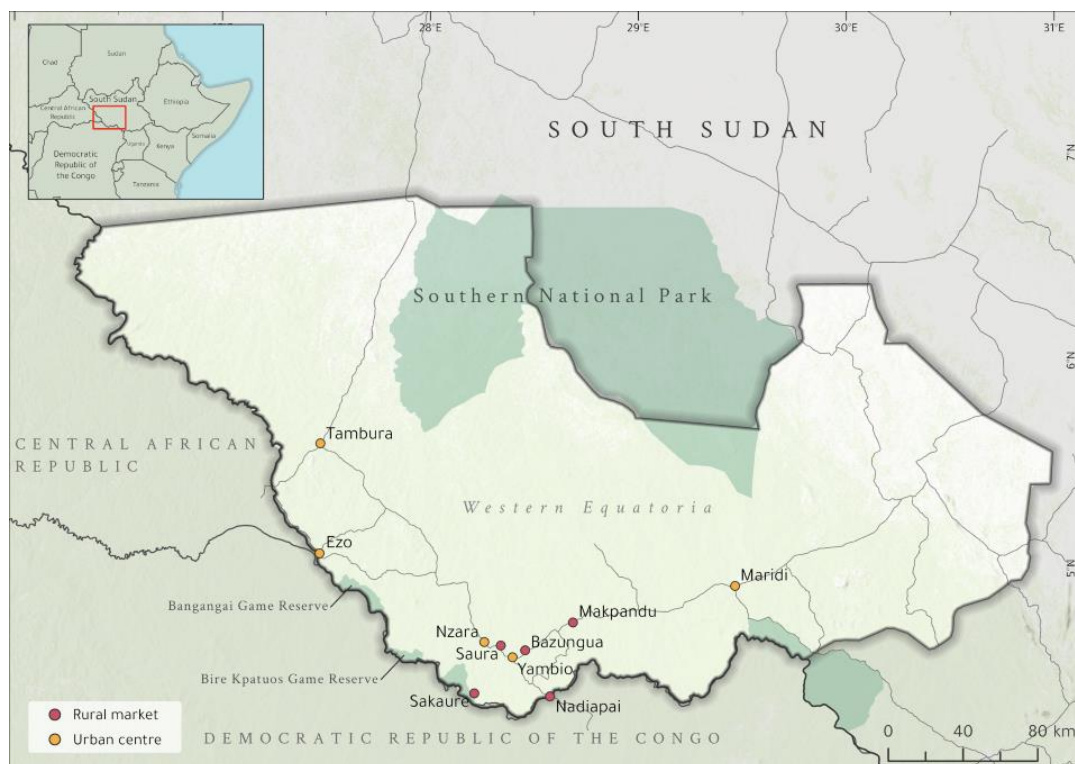
⁶ Fauna & Flora International (2022). Game Reserves household assessment report. (available on request).

⁷ Fauna & Flora International (2023). Southern National Park rapid socio-economic assessment report. (available on request).

⁸ Fauna & Flora International (2020). Position on Covid-19, Wildlife Trade & Biodiversity. Cambridge: Fauna & Flora International

⁹ Brittain, S., Booker, F., Tagne, C., Maddison, N., Milner-Gulland, E., Mouamfon, M., Roe, D. (2021). *Wild meat alternative projects: practical guidance for project design*. IIED, London

¹⁰ Coad, L., Fa, J.E., Abernethy, K., Van Vliet, N., Santamaria, C., Wilkie, D., El Bizri, H.R., Ingram, D.J., Cawthorn, D-M., Nasi, R. (2019). Towards a sustainable, participatory and inclusive wild meat sector. Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)



2. Project stakeholders/ partners

Named project partners are the South Sudan Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT) and Caritas-Austria (a member of Caritas Europa and Caritas Internationalis). FFI holds long standing relationships with both partners: FFI has worked in Western Equatoria under a signed MOU with MWCT since 2010 (Annex 5); and FFI and Caritas Austria previously partnered in successful delivery of Darwin Initiative project 25-002 (2018-2021/A-grade). Partners for this project were selected based on mandate for natural resource management, expertise, mutual interest, and/or influence.

The WLS has supported the operational and administrative requirements of the project (e.g., securing necessary permissions; Annex 6 & 7); availing appropriate personnel and space for meetings and training events; availing secure space for data infrastructure; collecting and storing wildlife crime and seizure data; and sharing data (either in summary or original anonymised form) with the project and other relevant government agencies to increase awareness of IWT trends and support monitoring. This project serves to further strengthen FFI's ongoing partnerships with MWCT and WLS, which is intended to go on well beyond the life of the project.

It was intended that in Y1, Caritas Austria would lead the implementation of sustainable livelihood interventions under Output 1, working through their implementing national partner *Community Empowerment Agency for Transformation* (CEAFoT) and providing technical design, mobilising community members, providing intervention-specific training and technical assistance, monitoring, documenting evidence to demonstrate the validity (or shortcomings) of pilot interventions, and designing and implementing site-based plans to scale up activity reach and impact. Due to constraints with partner capacity and delays in contracting processes, sub-granting of project funds to the project partner did not proceed as planned in Y1. To ensure that project implementation remained on track, FFI instead worked directly with a national development organisation to progress planned sustainable livelihood activities under Output 1. To ensure the necessary technical support for livelihood pilots involving pig husbandry, connection was made with the Ministry of Animal Resources, Fisheries and Tourism (MARFT) at state level to discuss best practice approaches and sustainable support to beneficiaries. Contracting to, and work planning with, Caritas Austria is progressing and will be concluded in Q1 of Y2. Regular technical meetings have now been established between FFI, Caritas Austria, and CEAFoT to focus specifically on sustainable livelihood activities under Output 1.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC), which includes representation from all project partners, was established in September 2024 and convenes quarterly to ensure collaborative project planning, monitoring, and evaluation; review work plans and results, track risks, and consider adaptive management (Annex 8). Outside of PSC meetings, there is regular formal and informal communication between project partners, with relationships being well maintained and positive.

Beyond formal project partners, two independent consultants have been important contributors to project design and implementation. Working in close collaboration with relevant FFI technical experts, Adrian Garside (British; technical expertise in ranger training and South Sudan context) is supporting activities under Output 2 focused on building WLS capacity for IWT, and Juliana Siapai (South Sudanese; technical expertise in communications and journalism) is supporting activities under Output 1 focused on behaviour change messaging. Additionally, local communities have been engaged in project activities under Output 1 through the livelihood pilots and development of behaviour change messaging (see Question 3.1). Roll-out of the behaviour change messaging (Activity 1.7) will be an important mechanism to build local stakeholder awareness and understanding of biodiversity.

There has also been regular engagement with the British Embassy in Juba, including a meeting with the British Ambassador to South Sudan and a number of FCDO colleagues to update them on project progress.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Outcome activities:

Activity 0.1: An internal inception meeting was held by FFI in August 2024. In September 2024, the first Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was convened at the WLS Headquarters in Yambio (Annex 8), attended by the WLS State Director, Deputy Director, Director for Protected Areas, and Administrator for Western Equatoria; alongside FFI's Country Manager/Project Lead, Technical Specialist (Governance, Equity & Rights), and Grants & Operations Manager; and Caritas Austria's Country and Finance Managers. The workplan and assessment needs were discussed and agreed upon. Technical steering committees were also formed to oversee each output. A follow-up meeting in March 2025 reviewed implementation of livelihood activities and discussed Y2 start-up.

Activity 0.2: General permissions for project activities were obtained from local government and community leaders to allow commencement of livelihood interventions (Annex 6 & 7). See Activity 0.3 for explanation of planned delay in market survey activity.

Activity 0.3: In Y1, wild meat consumption/trade surveys and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were planned in five new locations near wild meat source areas, using methods established under IWTEV002. This replication of project approaches was based on planned complementarity with project proposal DIR30EX\1201, which unfortunately was unsuccessful. Given resource limitations, combined with the impacts of the delay in project start and the changing security climate, focus on the original 10 locations was prioritised. Impact on this change on the logframe is under review and, if required, a formal change request will be submitted.

Activity 0.4: Planned for Y2-Y3

Activity 0.5: Due to funding decision delays affecting the project start date (scheduled May 2024, actual start date August 2024), data collection by the WLS IWT Unit (established under IWTEV002) halted and required reinvigoration. Refresher training on SOPs was conducted (Annex 9), and existing data protocols reviewed (Annexes 10–17). Paper-based data collection resumed in November 2024, though recent insecurity has disrupted the flow of data from County Offices to WLS HQ. The migration of data collection from paper-based approaches to Survey123 is ongoing although the delay in project commencement, compounded by recent changes in the security climate, has delayed this process.

Activity 0.6: In Y1, monthly patrol data was collected using SMART across all three protected areas (SNP, BGG, BK), with quarterly reports produced (Annex 18). These reports were used to monitor progress against strategic patrol planning, adaptively respond to changing threat levels and monitor relative abundance of priority protected species. A transition to SMART Mobile is planned in Y2 to enhance data accuracy and timely adaptive management.

Output 1: Sustainable livelihoods provide viable income sources and protein alternatives to 150 households and, supported by behaviour change messaging, contribute to reducing the rates of wild meat hunting and selling:

Activity 1.1: FGDs with 25 wild meat hunters and sellers (8F, 17M) were held in three target locations, Yambio, Nabiapai, and Makpandu (Annexes 19 & 20), conducted by enumerators trained under IWTEV002. Through the FGDs, data was gathered on: dependency on wild meat, through sales and consumption; views on wild meat; and preferred livelihood options to generate income/protein alternatives for participants moving away from wild meat trade involvement. FGDs were also used to validate the viability of suggested livelihood options and explore the practicalities of implementing different livelihoods across the three target areas.

Activity 1.2: Informed by Activity 1.1 and IWTEV002 (Annex 21), site-specific livelihood interventions (pig, goat, and banana farming; grinding mills) were prioritised. 25 beneficiaries were selected (Annexes 22 & 23) to pilot viable livelihood options and household capacity assessments conducted to evaluate knowledge, land access, housing, veterinary service access, and market considerations. This informed the selection of pig farming and grinding mills as the pilot livelihood initiatives.

Activity 1.3: Pilot activities were launched in all three target locations with 25 wild meat hunters and sellers (8F, 17M). For pig farming, FFI collaborated with the MARFT, which developed a training programme (Annex 25) and provided community animal health workers for ongoing support. Training covered pig feeding, disease control, and housing. Beneficiaries received pigs, tools, initial feed, and support for cultivating feed crops. Commitment pledges were signed to uphold animal care and abstain from wild meat trade (Annex 22). Early reports show the pigs are thriving, and beneficiaries are actively growing pig feed (Annex 23). For grinding mills, beneficiaries began preparatory activities; equipment is in transit, with operational and financial training planned upon delivery.

Activity 1.4, 1.5: Planned for Y2-Y3

Activity 1.6: Behaviour change messages that target buyers, sellers and hunters have been developed (Annex 26) through collaboration between FFI IWT experts and in-country consultants with communication expertise. This messaging is based on the findings of social research collected under IWTEV002 and was created considering each target audience's profile and motivations for engaging in IWT and also considering a gender sensitive approach. Message concepts and plans for communications channels have been developed using behavioural insights following the behaviour change wheel COM-B model¹¹ and the EAST framework¹². Behavioural insights that are being employed in the messages include correcting optimism bias, injunctive norms, prompts, making the preferable choice salient and commitment contracts. The messages aim to reduce purchasing of wild meat, reduce hunting of wild animals to sell or consume their meat, and drive purchases of pork made more accessible from the implementation of pig farming in target locations.

Activity 1.7: Message testing guides for each target audience were finalised (Annex 26). Field validation and refinement will begin in Y2 Q1, alongside selection of communication channels.

¹¹ Behaviour change wheel COM-B model: <https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1748-5908-6-42>

¹² EAST Framework: <https://www.bi.team/publications/east-four-simple-ways-to-apply-behavioural-insights/>

Activity 1.8: Planned for Y2-Y3

Activity 1.9: Planned for Y3

Output 2: Capacity and systems to monitor and adaptively manage IWT and confiscate/seize wild animal products are in place and operational in the Wildlife Service within all counties of Western Equatoria, informed by up-to-date knowledge of place networks and trade dynamics.

Activity 2.1: Essential equipment was procured to support WLS IWT monitoring: five motorbikes (3 for data collection, 2 for livelihoods work), five laptops, ten rugged smartphones, seven standard phones, a TV monitor, printer, and screen (Annex 36). Office internet and solar power were upgraded to support data centralisation and processing, as per approved change requested (Annex 42).

Activity 2.2: 64 WLS officers (51M, 13F) from 10 County Offices and State HQ were trained in IWT data collection and SOPs (Annex 9). Training included safeguarding and human rights modules (Annex 27), and used a ToT model to cascade training locally.

Activity 2.3: IWT seizure forms (Annexes 10–17) were reviewed and field-tested. Feedback was incorporated to standardise reporting. Replication into Survey123 (ArcPro) is underway, with digital training planned for Y2. Mobile data allowances are provided monthly via match funding.

Activity 2.4: Pre-training assessments (Annexes 9 & 28) showed strong knowledge of national wildlife law among previously trained officers, but limited understanding of international frameworks. SOPs and data handling protocols needed reinforcement. These findings informed the training focus..

Activity 2.5: Planned for Y2-Y3

Activity 2.6: Once data collection forms are scaled up using Survey123 (see Activity 2.3), information on trade routes collected from seizures will be used to map key trade routes.

Activity 2.7: Planned for Y2

Activity 2.8: A draft data-sharing agreement (Annex 31) has been developed and will be finalised in Y2 Q1 following further sensitisation with WLS.

Output 3: Increased interagency collaboration between the Wildlife Service, other law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary within Western Equatoria and South Sudan, and with relevant counterparts in DRC, improves understanding of transboundary IWT.

Activity 3.1: Planned for Y2-Y3

Activity 3.2: Due to the changing security climate and changes within state-level government of Western Equatoria in Y1, this activity has been delayed to Y2. It is predicted that the recent changes within local government are likely to make this component of the project easier to implement, with potentially greater backing at the state level.

Activity 3.3: Planned for Y2

Activity 3.4: An 'IWT Interagency Forum' was successfully launched in Y1 to strengthen collaboration among key state-level actors in addressing the wild meat trade beyond protected areas. The introductory meeting brought together 15 participants (14M, 1F), including representatives from the Ministry of Local Government, relevant government departments, law enforcement agencies (police and other armed forces), and the Prosecutor's Office (Annexes 9, 32 & 33).

The session provided an overview of the IWT context in Western Equatoria and served as a platform to initiate cross-sector dialogue in support of the WLS's enforcement and coordination efforts. Participants expressed interest in continued engagement and joint planning to address IWT challenges within and beyond the protected area network.

Going forward, the forum will convene quarterly to review progress, identify shared challenges, and coordinate interagency support to combat wildlife crime. It will also incorporate learning from other recently concluded IWTCF projects in the region, particularly IWT090 (Space for Giants), to strengthen judicial processes and prosecutorial engagement.

In addition to bolstering the WLS's capacity for strategic planning and information-sharing, the forum broadens the range of government stakeholders involved in IWT and biodiversity protection—many of whom have historically had limited engagement in this space. The forum will also serve as a key platform for rolling out the project's behaviour change messaging, with particular focus on high-risk audiences such as armed forces personnel, who are frequently implicated in the wild meat trade in Western Equatoria.

Activity 3.5, 3.6: Planned for Y2 & Y3

Output 4: Project learning and recommendations are documented and shared with key national and regional stakeholders.

Activity 4.1, 4.2: Planned for Y3

Activity 4.3: Alongside the interagency forum (see Activity 3.4), meetings have been held throughout Y1 of the project with various state-level government authorities and influential stakeholders. The Minister of Local Government, Minister of Animal Resources, the Western Equatoria Former State Governor and the Western Equatoria Acting State Governor have been engaged on multiple occasions with the WLS to discuss the work of our partnership and upcoming IWTCF project activities (Annex 30). Wider stakeholders also engaged specifically on the project and providing opportunities for information dissemination and collaboration include UNMISS Head of Field Office for Western Equatoria, Archbishop of the Anglican Church, and Bishop of the Catholic Church (Annex 35).

Activity 4.4: No meetings have been held during the project period but prior to the project start date, and planned as per the originally anticipated start date, findings from the IWTEV002 project were presented and shared with the MWCT (Director General, Undersecretary and Minister) in May 2024 (Annex 21).

Activity 4.5: This activity has not taken place due to security climate changing state level government priorities. This activity will take place in Y2 ahead of any further meetings held with local government agencies.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Progress under Output 1 is on track for full achievement. Sustainable livelihood pilot activities have advanced successfully, training 25 households (17M, 8F) across three communities (Annex 23, 24, 25) and enhancing their relevant skills (Output Indicator 1.1). Household capacity assessments were conducted ahead of training and livelihood inputs and once the pilot stage is concluded, post-intervention pilot stage assessments will be conducted in Y2. Initial progress on targeted livelihood strategies (Output Indicator 1.2) is promising and will be further assessed. Lessons from the pilot will inform the Year 2 scale-up to an additional 125 beneficiaries (Output Indicator 1.1). Using a gender sensitive approach, behaviour change messaging (Annex 26) was designed and developed, and communication channels for dissemination identified. Target audiences identified so far include hunters, sellers and traders of wild meat; vulnerable groups; general public; religious groups; and armed forces personnel.

The behaviour change messages and suitability of delivery mediums will be tested in Y2 Q1 using target audience specific FGDs before wider dissemination across the 4 target locations (Output Indicator 1.3). Baseline data for wild meat purchasing and trade (Output Indicator 1.4) was established in select locations under IWTEV002. Replication in five additional locations to expand the baseline was not possible (see Activity 0.3). Repeat surveys across the 10 original locations are planned for Year 3. Knowledge from market and community surveys conducted under IWTEV002 informed selection of the three target locations for the pilot livelihood interventions and development of the behaviour change messaging, whilst the approach for pilot livelihood FGDs replicated methodologies developed during IWTEV002 (Output Indicator 1.5). Output Indicator 1.5 will also be reviewed and updated in Y2 Q1 due to project delays and security changes in Western Equatoria and South Sudan.

Output 2: Progress under Output 2 is on track for full achievement. In Y1, there has been enhancement of the WLS's capacity and systems, through training and infrastructure improvements. Training conducted improved understanding of South Sudan's wildlife laws and human rights, and increased WLS capacity for IWT data collection, data handling protocols, and IWT-related seizures (Annex 9 & 27; Output Indicator 2.1). Monthly law enforcement patrols have been conducted in each of the Protected Areas (BGG, BK and SNP) throughout Y1 (Annex 18; Output Indicator 2.2). These combined efforts resulted in 70 people apprehended (Output indicator 2.3). Refinement of IWT data collection processes (see Activity 2.3, 2.6) are ongoing but once fully operational will support use of a WLS-owned IWT database to consistently collect and analyse IWT incidences and trends and to inform WLS response (Output Indicator 2.4, 2.5).

Output 3: Progress under Output 3 has been delayed but is on track for full achievement by project end. Y1 progress under Output 3 is marked by the establishment of the 'IWT Interagency Forum' (Output Indicator 3.4). This key achievement addresses the limited interagency collaboration between the WLS, state-level government, other law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary (see Activity 3.4). The frequency of these meetings will be increased in Year 2 of the project to further develop the potential for greater support to the WLS in identifying and disrupting wild meat trade routes. Transboundary engagements with DRC counterparts (Output Indicator 3.1 & 3.3) have been delayed to Y2, due to security and governmental changes but planning is underway.

Output 4: Progress under Output 4 is on track for full achievement. A case study documenting project findings will be published and disseminated to key national and regional stakeholders by project end (Output Indicator 4.1). Formal and informal engagements, particularly at state level (see Activity 4.3), have contributed to enhancing the awareness and understanding of biodiversity and IWT in government institutions (Output Indicator 4.2). MWCT engagement at national level took place during the originally anticipated project period, but due to the delay in funding being confirmed, this is not captured within the Y1 period. Findings from IWTEV002 were presented and shared with MWCT's Minister, Undersecretary and Director General (Annex 21). Subsequent Juba-based meetings were not possible due to the changing security climate and the Project Lead having to temporarily be based out of Yambio. In Y2 Q2, the first biannual meeting of Y2 with MWCT will be held to further develop familiarisation and awareness of the project activities and extent of IWT within Western Equatoria.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Project Outcome: Evidence-based solutions to reduce the use of wild meat, together with stronger law enforcement capacity, systems, and transboundary networks, reduce IWT and contribute to poverty reduction in Western Equatoria.

Despite early delays linked to funding confirmation and ongoing security situations in the region, the project remains on track to achieve its intended outcome. Progress against each of the four Outcome Indicators is summarised below:

Outcome Indicator 0.1 – Number of individuals purchasing wild meat for household consumption

A baseline for this indicator was established under IWTEV002 using a sample of 411 respondents across 10 market locations. In Y1, it was intended to expand this baseline to five new locations closer to source areas. However, due to the unsuccessful DIR30EX\1201 proposal, security conditions, and prioritisation needs, this activity was deferred (see Activity 0.3). Repeat surveys in the original 10 sites will be undertaken in Y3 to assess the impact of both livelihood interventions and behaviour change messaging on consumer behaviour.

Outcome Indicator 0.2 – Number of illegal wildlife products detected and seized/confiscated by the WLS

Seizure monitoring resumed in November 2024 following a temporary suspension caused by the delayed project start and resourcing gaps at WLS (see Activity 0.5). From November 2024 to February 2025, WLS recorded 39 seizures, 70 apprehensions, and the confiscation of 882 pieces of wild meat (Annexes 36 & 40). Seized items were linked to traps/snares, arrows/spears, and firearms. Buying and selling prices were also recorded and will be analysed further.

By comparison, IWTEV002 documented 89 seizures over an eight-month period (Oct 2022–May 2023). When extrapolated, the Y1 rate suggests an increase in enforcement effectiveness, consistent with the expected trend of detection rising as monitoring systems strengthen. This pattern supports the project's theory of change: a short-term rise in recorded illegal activity is anticipated, followed by a longer-term decline as law enforcement presence increases and viable alternatives are introduced.

Outcome Indicator 0.3 – Status of protected species (measured through encounter rates/km)

Species monitoring, using SMART patrol data from Jan–Dec 2024, shows positive trends for all focal species except eland in SNP. The decline in eland encounter rate from 0.0497 to 0.0471/km is small but will be investigated further. All other species recorded significant increases, including chimpanzees, pangolins, and yellow-backed duiker in BGG and BK Game Reserves.

These results suggest that improved patrol coverage and enforcement supported by training, SOPs, and regular reporting, are beginning to reduce threats to key species populations in project sites.

Outcome Indicator 0.4 – Change in access to alternative sources of household income and/or protein

During Y1, 25 households (~150 individuals) were engaged in pilot livelihood activities across three sites (see Activity 1.3). Interventions included pig farming and grinding mills, both identified by participants as culturally and economically viable. Initial follow-up monitoring indicates high levels of engagement, especially in pig husbandry, with beneficiaries actively cultivating feed crops and adhering to agreed-upon husbandry standards (Annex 23).

While these results are encouraging, this indicator will be fully assessed through a basic needs household assessment to be conducted in Y2 prior to scale-up. The assessment will establish a pre-intervention baseline for all 150 target households (~900 direct beneficiaries). A repeat assessment in Y3 will measure progress and help determine the extent to which project-supported livelihoods are improving food security and economic resilience.

Although constrained by external factors, the project has made good progress across all four Outcome Indicators. Seizure and species monitoring data show early signs of impact from law enforcement and patrol efforts. Behaviour change messaging and livelihood pilots are advancing in parallel and will scale in Y2. Based on current trends, the project remains well-positioned to deliver a measurable reduction in IWT and contribute to long-term poverty alleviation in Western Equatoria by project close.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Project activities can be implemented in compliance with evolving, national and regional travel and assembly guidelines.	Comment: Holds true. Project activities to date have complied with applicable travel and assembly guidelines.
Assumption 2: Political will to collaborate on and address IWT and its regional dimensions remains in place among South Sudanese authorities.	Comment: Holds true. State-level actors—including the Minister of Local Government and WLS—have actively engaged in the project (Annexes 6, 7 & 34).
Assumption 3: Civil unrest in Sudan does not hinder project implementation.	Comment: This assumption does not fully hold. Civil unrest has impacted project implementation. Mitigation included adaptive work planning and coordination for activities where feasible (see Q14).
Assumption 4: Any increases in patrol coverage may in turn lead to increased detections and seizures.	Comment: Too early to confirm. Early data suggests an increase in seizures, in line with expectations. Monitoring will continue.
Assumption 5: More effective law enforcement will, in time, increase the risk of being caught and may deter some poaching from taking place. This is expected to influence seizure numbers over time, but likely not during the life of this project.	Comment: Too early to confirm. Initial rise in seizures is expected, but deterrence effects are likely to become more visible later in the project.
Assumption 6: Survey samples are large enough to be representative of overall trends among wild meat hunters, sellers, and consumers.	Comment: Holds true. No new surveys were conducted in Y1, but the IWTEV002 methodology and sample sizes remain valid.
Assumption 7: In addition to c.900 direct beneficiaries, the project will indirectly benefit a wider population of c.152,000 people through new economic activity, increased law enforcement capacity, and greater awareness of conservation actions and IWT.	Comment: Too early to tell. The project is at pilot stage.
Assumption 8: Targeted livelihood interventions, chosen based on recommendations from the Evidence grant and refined on an ongoing basis through pilot activities and monitoring, create sufficient incentives for local people to move away from wild meat consumption.	Comment: Too early to confirm. Early engagement in pig farming and grinding mills is positive, but full evaluation will follow scale-up and assessment through assessment tools developed for this project.
Assumption 9: Individuals in the target communities, rural markets and urban centres are receptive and interested in participating in sustainable livelihood activities.	Comment: Holds true. Target communities involved in pilots of sustainable livelihood activities have been receptive and engaged (Annex 20 & 23)
Assumption 10: Respondents in target survey locations remain open to talking about illegal activities in the selected survey format.	Comment: Holds true. No surveys conducted in Y1 but no evidence to the contrary.
Assumption 11: Necessary local permissions to conduct surveys are granted.	Comment: Holds true. Local permissions were secured during Y1 (Annexes 6 & 7).
Assumption 12: Weather patterns do not hinder implementation of sustainable livelihoods pilot activities	Comment: Holds true. No weather-related delays occurred during Y1.

Assumption 13: Political situation in Western Equatoria remains stable and people remain in their communities for the duration of the project.	Comment: This assumption partially holds. Political changes caused delays and disrupted some field activities. The project adopted a conflict-sensitive approach to continue work where possible (see Q14).
Assumption 14: Official records of IWT, which are owned by WLS, are accessible to partners.	Comment: Holds true. WLS data has been shared with FFI and relevant agencies (Annexes 36 & 40).
Assumption 15: WLS retains sufficient staffing in the project area to collect data using the reporting forms and to engage in adaptive management based on evidence and trends; staff turnover remains low with limited impact on trained staff.	Comment: This assumption partially holds. Unpaid salaries caused reduced attendance, but WLS capacity recovered in Y1 Q4. Personnel turnover required renewed relationship-building.
Assumption 16: Corruption does not undermine the ability of law enforcement officers to record data accurately and direct patrol resources accordingly, or influence officers to engage in illegal wild meat trade for personal profit.	Comment: Holds true. No evidence of corruption has been observed in project operations.
Assumption 17: More effective law enforcement will lead to an increase in detections and apprehensions. With sustained law enforcement effort, apprehensions may decrease over time as fear of getting caught may deter some individuals from engaging in illegal activity.	Comment: Too early to confirm. Seizures and apprehensions have increased, as expected in early phases.
Assumption 18: Data systems and protocols are in place and honoured, such that data is used only for its intended purpose.	Comment: Too early to confirm but no evidence to the contrary.
Assumption 19: Apprehensions (instead of arrests) are a more realistic measure in South Sudan at this time and based on law enforcement reach and capacity.	Comment: Holds true. Law enforcement reach and capacity remains limited (Annex 9 & 28) but growing through project efforts.
Assumption 20: Key transboundary stakeholders avail staff and time to participate in meetings.	Comment: This assumption did not hold in Y1. Regional instability limited participation (see Activity 3.2).
Assumption 21: Actions under this output can serve as a starting point to reverse longstanding mistrust between Congolese and South Sudanese agencies.	Comment: Too early to confirm but no evidence to the contrary.
Assumption 22: Overall knowledge of the scope and scale of IWT is relatively low in non-wildlife law enforcement and judicial agencies in South Sudan.	Comment: Holds true. The IWT Interagency Forum revealed knowledge gaps, validating the project's engagement approach (Annexes 9 & 33).
Assumption 23: The Evidence grant affirmed transboundary traffic is occurring; we assume that it continues in the absence of mitigation strategies and actions.	Comment: This assumption holds. IWTEV002 and IWT090 confirmed the ongoing nature of transboundary IWT.
Assumption 24: By focusing on state-level agencies in South Sudan, the project will complement but not overlap or duplicate existing work of others	Comment: Holds true. The project builds on and complements IWT090, which concluded in September 2024.

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

Project Impact: *Biodiversity, including threatened species, in Western Equatoria, South Sudan, is flourishing due to increased enforcement capacity and reduced threats from IWT, supported by sustainable livelihoods interventions that reduce local poverty*

Higher-level impact on illegal wildlife trade (relevant Outcome Indicators 0.1, 0.2, 0.3): The project will both reduce demand for IWT products, resulting in a decrease in number of people purchasing wild meat for household consumption (Outcome Indicator 0.1), and improve law enforcement capacity, including transboundary trade, resulting (in the first instance) in an increase in the number of illegal wildlife products being detected and seized/confiscated by WLS in Western Equatoria (Outcome Indicator 0.2). In Y1, the WLS has been provisioned with essential equipment and infrastructure; WLS officers from across 10 WLS County Offices have had their capacity built, using ToT approaches to enable wider roll-out (Annex 5); IWT/seizure data collection processes have been enhanced (Annex 6-13); and an 'IWT interagency forum' has been formed (Annex 9, 32 & 33). Seizure/confiscation data over a 4-month period shows 39 IWT-related seizures resulting in 882 pieces of wild meat confiscated and 70 apprehensions made. When extrapolated up, this suggests an increase in seizure rate which is expected as law enforcement efforts improve. Longer term, the number of illegal wildlife products being detected and seized/confiscated by WLS in Western Equatoria is expected to gradually decrease over time, as a result of widespread awareness of effective law enforcement combined with viable protein / income alternatives being available.

Higher-level impact on human development and wellbeing (relevant Outcome Indicators 0.4): The project will provide sustainable, diversified economic and food security opportunities for local communities to help alleviate poverty. Specifically, the project will enable 150 hunter and/or seller households to have the skills and knowledge needed to engage in new sustainable livelihood options to substitute for the income or protein previously provided by wild meat, directly benefitting c. 900 people (Outcome Indicator 0.4). In Y1, sustainable livelihood activities that provide alternative protein (e.g. pig husbandry) and income sources (e.g. grinding mills) have been piloted for wider role out in Y2-Y3 (Annex 23). Longer term, 152,000 indirect beneficiaries (the population around the western sector of SNP, BK and BGG Game Reserves (Annex 37)) will benefit from improved natural resource management, personal security and rule of law.

4. Thematic focus

The themes selected in the original application were: (1) reducing demand for IWT products; (3) strengthening law enforcement; and (4) developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT. These three themes continue to be appropriate for the project and activities completed in Y1 contribute to each theme.

Reducing demand for IWT products: Activities delivered under Output 1 are expected to contribute to a reduction in demand for meat from wild animals in Western Equatoria. Results from IWTEV002 demonstrated that people at urban and rural wild meat markets in Western Equatoria rely on wild meat for nutritional and income needs which, combined with the absence of alternatives, creates key drivers for engaging in IWT (Annex 21). In Y1, sustainable livelihood activities that provide alternative protein (e.g. pig husbandry) and income sources (e.g. grinding mills) have been piloted for wider role out in Y2-Y3. These activities provide the opportunity to reduce reliance on wild meat which, when combined with the dissemination of targeted behaviour change messaging to discourage engagement in IWT (which have been developed in Y1), will reduce demand for IWT products.

Strengthening law enforcement: Output 2 is focused on enhancing the capacity of the South Sudanese National WLS and Output 3 is focused on building interagency collaboration between the WLS, other law enforcement agencies and with relevant counterparts in DRC. In Y1, informed by capacity assessments (Annex 9, 28), the WLS has been provisioned with essential equipment and infrastructure to enhance IWT data gathering; 64 (51M,13F) WLS officers from across 10 WLS County Offices have been trained, using ToT approaches to enable wider roll-out (Annex 9), in IWT data collection, processing and storage and safeguarding (Annex 23); IWT/seizure

data collection processes have been enhanced (Annex 10-17). In Y1, an 'IWT interagency forum' has also been successfully launched, bringing together the Ministry of Local Government, wider government agencies, law enforcement (police and other armed forces), and Prosecutors office at state level (15; 14M,1F; Annex 9, 32 & 33).

Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT: Activities delivered under Output 1 are expected to support the development of sustainable livelihoods that benefit people directly affected by IWT. During Y1, sustainable livelihood options identified during IWTCF/Evidence (IWTEV002/2022-2023) were validated with hunters and sellers of wild meat (Annex 19 & 20) to guide the selection of two livelihood activities to be piloted in three target locations in Western Equatoria. Pilots for two livelihood activities (pig husbandry and grinding mills) have been initiated in Y1 (Annex 22 & 23), for further scaling in Y2-3.

5. Impact on species in focus

The project targets a suite of CITES-listed and IUCN Red List species threatened by illegal hunting and wild meat trade in Western Equatoria, including chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, EN), pangolins (*Phataginus tricuspis*, EN and *Smutsia gigantea*, EN), bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus*, NT, declining), yellow-backed duiker (*Cephalophus silvicultor*, LC, but regionally impacted), and giant eland (*Taurotragus derbianus*, VU). These species are highly valued for meat or cultural reasons and are regularly encountered in market seizures and monitoring data.

To track changes in species presence over time, encounter rates recorded during law enforcement and biomonitoring patrols have been used as a proxy for species status under Outcome Indicator 0.3. Patrol data, captured using SMART across BK and BGG show positive trends in relative abundance in Y1.

In comparing SMART encounter rates from Jan–Dec 2024 to the established baseline period (Apr 2022–Mar 2023), increases were recorded for all target species across BK and BGG. These include (Annex 18):

- Chimpanzee encounter rates more than quadrupled in BK (from 0.020 to 0.087/km) and more than doubled in BGG (0.039 to 0.086/km)
- Bongo increased by 174% in BK and 45% in BGG
- Pangolin spp. saw more than a sevenfold increase in BK and doubled in BGG
- Yellow-backed duiker encounter rates increased fivefold in BK and 71% in BGG

The only focal species showing a decline was giant eland in SNP, with encounter rates decreasing slightly from 0.0497 to 0.0471/km. While this change is small, it may reflect site-specific pressures, possibly linked to reduced patrol frequency in remote parts of SNP or ongoing local hunting. This trend will be investigated further in Y2, with additional targeted patrols and integration of intelligence gathered through IWT data collection.

The observed improvements across most species and sites suggest that project interventions, particularly re-established patrols, improved ranger capacity, and law enforcement presence, are beginning to reduce pressure on wildlife. These encounter trends align with anecdotal reports from rangers and local partners and provide a promising indication of recovery or improved detectability in areas where enforcement has stabilised.

As patrol coverage is further strengthened and digital data collection via SMART Mobile is rolled out in Y2, these trends will be monitored more closely. Integration of threat mapping and seizure data will also improve interpretation of species trends in relation to local pressures.

6. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The direct project beneficiaries are people involved in IWT (hunters, traders and sellers) at urban and rural centres in Western Equatoria, who are primarily Azande and Balanda. Communities in Western Equatoria, and across South Sudan, experience very high levels of multi-dimensional poverty [Ref-5] whilst also relying heavily on wild meat for protein [Ref-6; Ref-7] and income

(Annex 20 & 21). The project will help these beneficiaries by establishing more sustainable livelihoods option that provide viable income sources and/or protein alternatives.

Project design has been informed by IWTEV002, which gathered community inputs through urban and rural wild meat surveys reports and consumer Focus Group Discussions (Annex 21) and refined by community engagement around livelihood pilots in Y1 (Annex 19 & 20). The livelihood pilots that have been progressed in Y1 respond to preferences, that align with project objectives, identified through this community engagement. In Y2, before wider roll out of livelihood strategies, basic needs household assessments will be undertaken for the 150 households involved (representing c.900 direct beneficiaries) and this will further inform project design.

Expected direct poverty impacts are that 150 IWT hunter and/or seller households have the skills and knowledge needed to engage in new sustainable livelihood options to substitute for the income or protein previously provided by wild meat, directly benefitting c. 900 people. In Y1, an initial 25 households (representing c.150 direct beneficiaries) have been supported to build these skills and knowledge (Annex 23 & 25). The project does / will employ local South Sudanese nationals as project staff, enumerators, and consultants, providing employment opportunities, including to young adults and women, and procure equipment and supplies locally whenever possible to contribute to the local economy.

Longer term, 152,000 indirect beneficiaries (the population around the western sector of SNP, BK and BGG Game Reserves (Annex 37)) benefit from improved natural resource management, personal security and rule of law.

7. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	X
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

Project approach

A stand-alone gender analysis and a living Gender-and-Stakeholder Action Plan (GSAP) guide implementation (Annex 38). Both are grounded in the six core principles set out in IWTCF GESI guidance:

Principle	Key actions & evidence
Rights	All WLS trainees, enumerators, and community participants sign the FFI Code of Conduct; 64 officers received human-rights and safeguarding training (Annex 27).

Practice	Messaging and livelihood manuals were reviewed for gender bias; terms such as “ <i>family feed plots</i> ” replaced “ <i>male labour plots</i> ”.
Environment	Conflict-sensitive planning avoided market days when women travel long distances; menstrual-health kits were provided to female rangers and CWAs to improve field participation.
Roles & responsibilities	Livelihood pilots deliberately paired women and men redistribute labour and share responsibilities.
Representation	20 % of WLS trainees (13 of 64) were women after explicit nomination requests to County Directors; an 8-member female sellers’ sub-group now sits on each Community Livelihood Committee.
Resources	Women beneficiaries received additional start-up support (labour for sty construction, access to micro-grants) to compensate for land-tenure and capital gaps.

Progress against gender-sensitive outcomes

- Participation targets.
 - Livelihood pilots: 32 % women (8 of 25 households).
 - Law-enforcement training: 20 % women (13 of 64 officers).
 Although below the 50 % aspiration, female engagement is higher than baseline levels (<10 % in IWTEV002) and exceeds the >10 % minimum set for WLS activities.
- Access to assets and skills.

All eight woman livelihood beneficiaries now own productive livestock or will co-own a grinding mill, and have completed MARFT-accredited training, an asset and skill set previously unavailable to them.
- Voice and agency.

Women co-chair two of the three Technical Livelihood Steering Committees; their input shaped the pig-feed cultivation timetable and the design of behaviour-change posters depicting female sellers as “champions of legal trade.”
- Safety and dignity.

Safeguarding focal points were established in each pilot site; an SEAH incident was reported during Y1. Refresher training is scheduled for Y2.

Challenges & lessons

- Deep-rooted distrust of NGO programmes among female sellers in Yambio limited recruitment. Additional pre-sensitisation, led by trusted women leaders, will precede Y2 scale-up.
- Time poverty and mobility constraints required flexible training hours and child-care support; these adaptations will be standardised.
- Intersectional barriers (e.g., widows lacking land titles) surfaced during household assessments; the GSAP now includes referral pathways to local legal-aid partners.

Next steps (Y2–Y3)

- Close the gender gap to ≥40 % female participation in scaled-up livelihoods through targeted outreach and role-model storytelling.
- Embed GESI indicators into the basic-needs survey (e.g., Women’s Dietary Diversity Score, decision-making index).
- Formalise mentorship pairs between trained female WLS officers and new recruits to sustain gains in representation.
- Publish a learning brief on gendered drivers of wild-meat trade, contributing to regional evidence on women’s roles in IWT economies.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for this project is led by FFI, in collaboration with project partners and the Project Steering Committee (PSC). A detailed M&E plan (Annex 39) guides implementation and tracks progress against all outputs and outcomes outlined in the project logframe. The plan defines indicators, data sources, responsible parties, timelines, and tools. It

also incorporates compliance monitoring, gender-disaggregated analysis, and mechanisms for adaptive management.

Quarterly PSC meetings have served as a primary forum for collaborative review, learning, and planning. In addition to reviewing workplans and technical progress, the PSC and technical sub-committees have helped identify emerging risks and respond to implementation delays. Outside of formal meetings, ongoing communication between partners has ensured responsive data sharing and timely adjustments.

Monitoring of outcome indicators has progressed despite some delays linked to project start-up and security. A baseline on wild meat purchasing behaviour (Outcome Indicator 0.1) was established under IWTEV002 across 10 locations. It was originally intended that five additional sites would be surveyed in Y1; however, this activity was postponed due to the unsuccessful complementarity proposal (DIR30EX\1201), start-up delays, and a shifting security context. The focus in Y1 remained on the original 10 locations, with repeat surveys now scheduled for Y3 to assess behaviour change outcomes linked to the roll-out of livelihood and behaviour change interventions.

For Outcome Indicator 0.2, seizure monitoring resumed in November 2024. Over the four-month period to February 2025, 39 seizures were recorded by the WLS, resulting in 70 apprehensions and the confiscation of 882 pieces of wild meat (Annexes 36 & 40). These figures compare favourably with the IWTEV002 baseline and suggest increased detection capacity. For Outcome Indicator 0.3, species encounter data from SMART patrols indicates improvement for all focal species except eland in SNP (see Section 5). These results suggest improved monitoring effort and may reflect early reductions in site-level pressure. Further validation will take place in Y2 as the project transitions to SMART Mobile. For Outcome Indicator 0.4, a basic needs household assessment is scheduled for Y2 to establish a formal baseline across the 150 target households. This will assess changes in household access to income and protein through livelihood engagement.

At the output level, monitoring has been robust. Beneficiary selection and uptake were documented (Annexes 22–24), training records maintained (Annexes 9 and 25), and equipment procurement tracked. A draft data-sharing agreement (Annex 31) was also developed. Sex-disaggregated data collection has been applied throughout, and gender-sensitive indicators will be incorporated into the basic needs survey in Y2. The project's GESI Technical Specialist continues to advise on inclusive and responsive M&E approaches.

M&E findings have already shaped key adaptations. For example, the reallocation of survey locations (Activity 0.3), revised seizure forms (Annexes 10–17), and adjustments to the sequencing and technical support of livelihood activities were all informed by real-time learning. In Y2, M&E will continue to serve as a critical tool for adaptive management, with biannual internal learning sessions planned to consolidate progress and inform planning across all partners..

9. Lessons learnt

Year 1 implementation was shaped by both anticipated and unforeseen challenges, requiring adaptive management and drawing on strong foundational partnerships. Several important lessons have emerged across technical, operational, and relational dimensions of the project.

What worked well

- The long-standing partnership between FFI and the WLS, underpinned by a formal five-year Memorandum of Understanding with the MWCT (Annex 5), was critical to early progress. This trust enabled sensitive discussions on IWT and facilitated multi-agency engagement at State and County levels, despite the complex political and security landscape.
- Despite the anticipated difficulty of securing multi-agency collaboration, the successful launch of the IWT Interagency Forum (Activity 3.4) exceeded expectations. Strong interest from local government, law enforcement, and the judiciary demonstrated latent

political will to address IWT and support the WLS's mandate. The non-political nature of wildlife crime and the project's inclusive approach helped accelerate engagement.

- Livelihood interventions also benefitted from responsive planning. When delays in sub-granting with Caritas Austria arose due to staffing gaps and contracting constraints, FFI worked directly with a national development partner, CEA FoT, to maintain momentum. This unplanned partnership proved effective and resulted in strong field-level ownership of pilot activities. Additionally, collaboration with MARFT enhanced the sustainability of livestock-based livelihoods and built local technical capacity.
- The project also benefitted from learning applied from IWTEV002. For example, the design of IWT training was refined to focus capacity-building efforts on officers most likely to be involved in seizure events, leading to more strategic implementation of IWT activities at County Level.

What didn't work well:

- The cost of livelihood inputs, particularly livestock and feed, was significantly higher than projected due to rapid inflation, while follow-up visits for animal health support were more frequent than anticipated. Although covered through match funding, these cost pressures require careful consideration in future phases of implementation.
- The initial plan for Caritas Austria to lead Output 1 delivery through CEA FoT was impacted by delays in contracting and limited capacity within the IWT project team. While ultimately resolved, this underscored the need for more robust pre-contracting partnership development and contingency planning when engaging new or non-conservation focused partners.

Key learnings:

- Additional time is required during project start-up to develop new partnerships and onboard technical consultants.
- More regular, in-person coordination meetings between FFI and partners are needed to sufficiently plan project activities, address technical questions, and emerging risks.
- The establishment of a technical steering committee for Output 1 has proven valuable and will continue to meet monthly to review progress, identify challenges, and support the effective scale-up of livelihood activities.
- Gender-sensitive adaptations must be integrated early in activity design, particularly where participation of women is currently lower than planned.

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

Feedback received when the project was funded was address in the Y1 HYR, with further updates committed on the following points:

Human rights framework to address risks around human rights and conflict:

Development of a human rights framework has progressed, informed by FFI's Ranger Training and Human Rights in Conservation manual and guidance from the Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility. Human rights and safeguarding training was delivered to all WLS personnel involved in the project, and the Risk Register continues to address SEAH and associated risks. Internal work to formalise human rights protocols is ongoing and will continue into Y2.

Strengthening the Logframe and Outcome Statement:

The Outcome statement was reviewed in Q3, and the project team is preparing to submit a formal change request to IWTCF to ensure the Outcome wording better reflects the project's core objectives and anticipated results, beyond its current emphasis on monitoring and enforcement activities.

11. Risk Management

Funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (fraud, corruption, mishandled or misappropriated): No issues of financial misuse were identified during the reporting period. Existing financial controls and monitoring mechanisms remained effective and appropriate.

Local people do not understand why funds are being spent on environmental issues, over other needs which they perceive as more pressing: Local communities expressed interest in environmental issues and welcomed the opportunity to learn more. As highlighted elsewhere in this report, longstanding aid dependency has shaped expectations, with some individuals anticipating financial compensation for participation in project activities.

Literacy levels among survey respondents creates risk of miscommunication/ interpretation of project information: This risk was effectively mitigated through the use of trained enumerators who spoke local languages. FGDs and trainings were delivered verbally to ensure clear communication and accurate data collection.

Spread of information regarding project activities leads to hostility or lack of engagement: this mitigated through clear communication prior to project activities with local communities, local leader and local government. Project activities were clearly disseminated to local government in line with stakeholder engagement plan. Site visits were also conducted by state level ministry authorities to enhance awareness of sustainable livelihood initiatives.

Abuse of power by government paramilitary forces: All WLS personnel participating in the project received training on Human Rights and Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults, and signed FFI's Code of Conduct. Appropriate use-of-force protocols were extensively covered during training sessions. All WLS staff supported by the project have pledged adherence to the URSA-aligned Ranger Code of Conduct.

Low capacity of government partner limits their ability to participate in activities, use knowledge outputs to affect change in combatting IWT: Despite low institutional capacity, WLS actively engaged in project activities throughout the year. Sustained support will be necessary to maintain momentum and secure long-term impact.

Harm to those working in the field and travelling on poor roads: Refresher Hostile Environment and Awareness Training (HEAT) was provided to all FFI staff as well as project partner staff (Caritas Austria). A Health, Safety and Security (HSS) plan was developed for the FFI South Sudan Programme and is in use. Risk assessments were updated quarterly throughout project period, and vehicle policy and guidelines updated.

Inflation: Hyperinflation posed a significant financial risk. Mitigation measures included securing additional match funding, paying in USD where feasible, and conducting monthly financial forecasting to stay on track.

Environmental/biodiversity impact of livelihood activities: The three pilot locations selected for livelihood interventions are not located near protected areas. No adverse environmental impacts have been identified.

Conflict between and/or among local groups, communities, resource users (e.g. migratory pastoralists) and/or resource manager (e.g. wildlife rangers): Fluctuations in the national and sub-national political instability, particularly following recent changes at the state level, have periodically disrupted field activities over the reporting period. FFI maintained a neutral stance and applied a conflict-sensitive implementation approach, allowing activities to proceed where safe to do so.

Staff illness/prolonged absence due to malaria, typhoid, dengue, Covid or other illness: Whilst it did not cause prolonged absence, key personnel contracted malaria and other medical issues during the project and reporting period. While this did not result in long-term absence, the need to remain adaptive in project team management was evident. FFI provides insurance and paid sick leave for all staff and reassigns responsibilities as needed to minimise disruption.

12. Scalability and durability

FFI and partners anticipate maintaining a presence in Western Equatoria post-project, recognising that South Sudan's complexities require long-term investment in order to achieve and sustain impact. Fundraising efforts to enable this remain ongoing (e.g. International Climate Initiative – thematic call November 2024; EU Green and Resilient Economy Programme in South

Sudan). Whilst an ongoing presence is expected, sustainability is a critical aspect of project design for both project legacy and scale-up.

ToT approaches are being adopted for capacity building activities with WLS. For example, in Y1 training on IWT data handling and collection was provided to 64 (51M,13F) WLS officers (Annex 9). ToT approaches were used to enable dissemination of training material to additional WLS officers throughout the state with the aim of further training 3-5 WLS officers in each county. This approach will embed capacity, and the skills for future capacity building, within the WLS so that it is available post-project.

Initial livelihood pilots have required significant oversight by project partners but, increasingly, ToT approaches for project officers will also be integrated into the wider roll out of livelihood activities in Y2-3. Livelihood activities have been designed to promote self-sufficiency versus ongoing dependency on external inputs. For example, connection has been made with the MARFT at state level in an effort to secure sustainable support to beneficiaries that is not dependent on project resourcing. Likewise, training on financial management will be provided to equip beneficiaries with the necessary skills to effectively manage ongoing maintenance and operational costs associated with livelihood activities.

Interagency collaboration is being built through institutional relationships and commitments that progress is resilient to future staffing changes. For example, the 'IWT interagency forum' established in Y1 has been created through institutional commitments to this collaboration (Annex 9, 32 & 33). Similar approaches will be adopted when transboundary collaboration activities are able to progress.

At the time of application, it was hoped that complementary activities under DIR30EX\1201 would support embedding project approaches and learning into state and national government policies and plans, to further support sustainability and scaling. Whilst DIR30EX\1201 was not successful, these activities remain critical aspects of FFI's wider work in South Sudan and, resources allowing, will be progress through other funding. For example, FFI has initiated a series of informal national-level technical meetings under the banner of "Conservation Coffee" to strengthen coordination between actors in the conservation and development sectors. Supported by the FCDO, these gatherings bring together a range of stakeholders, including INGOs, national NGOs, and donor agencies, to share updates, identify synergies, and explore areas of strategic alignment. The informal format has created a trusted space for open dialogue, helping to highlight overlapping priorities and promote collaboration at the intersection of biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and peacebuilding. Conservation Coffee has also been used as a constructive platform to develop shared messaging and common talking points to guide engagement with national government stakeholders on emerging policy and programme priorities. A future session will focus specifically on IWT during which initial findings and learning from this project will be presented, particularly as a case study of how conservation and development actors can work collaboratively to achieve sustainable development outcomes while addressing drivers of wild meat consumption. Feedback has been positive, with participants recognising the forum's value in reducing duplication, enhancing coordination, and fostering cross-sectoral learning.

13. IWT Challenge Fund identity

The IWT Challenge Fund funded work has been recognised as a distinct project by all project partners. The IWT Challenge Fund has been acknowledged as a donor of this project, and its logo has been included in related reports which have been / will be shared with project partners and other key stakeholders (including government and international donors).

14. Safeguarding

15. Project expenditure

The 2024/25 figures above reflect change request reference N0441 approved by IWT Challenge Fund (Annex 41 & 42).

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2024-March 2025)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	214,682.48	214,682.72		

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Alegria Olmedo. Technical Specialist, Wildlife Trade	
Cath Lawson. Senior Programme Manager, Eastern Africa	
Clement Salvatore - Programme Officer, Community Liaison	
Douglas Tigere. Technical Specialist, Governance Equity & Rights, South Sudan	
Eliakim Wamite. Finance Manager, South Sudan	
Emma Scott. Senior Technical Specialist, Agriculture	
Emmanuel Kutote. Programme Officer, Biomonitoring, Yambio, South Sudan	
Evangeline Bakasoro. Finance Officer, Yambio, South Sudan	
Jacob Ngatia. Project Manager, Game Reserves, South Sudan	
Jacob Sumbuda. Biomonitoring Assistant, Yambio, South Sudan	
Lauren Macneil. Landscape Manager, Western Equatoria, South Sudan	
Michelle Moeller. Country Manager, South Sudan (Project Lead)	
Mwezi Mugerwa. Technical Specialist, Biodiversity & Conservation Monitoring, Eastern Africa	
Olanya Khamis. Logistics Officer, Yambio, South Sudan	
William Kasamba. Grants & Operations Manager, South Sudan	
TOTAL	£104,940.42

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
Computer Hardware (Desktops / Laptops) Office upgrades Motorbikes Milling machines	
TOTAL	

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
Computer Software Handheld devices for IWT data collection Printer for IWT office Printer supplies Computer screen for IWT office Internet Costs - Yambio office Mobile Data and airtime Bank Charges	
TOTAL	

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Arcadia/Halcyon
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			Lion Recovery Fund, Elephant Crisis Fund. Further fundraising efforts in 2025/26.

16. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

17. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description,	Social media accounts and websites to be	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)

		country and credit	tagged (leave blank if none)	
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact: Biodiversity, including threatened species, in Western Equatoria, South Sudan, is flourishing due to increased enforcement capacity and reduced threats from IWT, supported by sustainable livelihoods interventions that reduce local poverty.	39 IWT seizures occurred, resulting in 70 apprehensions and a total of 882 pieces of meat were confiscated. 150 direct beneficiaries engaged in sustainable livelihood pilots which offer alternative sources of household income and / or protein	
Outcome: Evidence-based solutions to reduce the use of wild meat, together with stronger law enforcement capacity, systems, and transboundary networks, reduce IWT and contribute to poverty reduction in Western Equatoria.		
Outcome indicator 0.1: By project end, the number of individuals purchasing wild meat for household consumption declines by 10% compared to baseline, including from species of conservation concern: chimpanzees, pangolins, giant elands and yellow-backed duiker. (2023 Baseline: 59% of 411 respondents reported purchasing wild meat in the last year)	Baselines established under IWTEV002. Replication in 5 additional locations not possible due to DIR30EX\1201 being unsuccessful, delay in project start and the changing security climate, focus on the original 10 locations was prioritised.	Repeat surveys will be conducted in Y3 to monitor change in buying practices and evaluate the influence of behaviour change messaging.
Outcome indicator 0.2: By project end, more effective law enforcement leads to a greater number of illegal wildlife products being detected and seized/confiscated by the Wildlife Service (WLS) in Western Equatoria state. (10/2022-05/2023 baseline: 89 seizure records)	Data from November 2024 – February 2024 (4 months): 39 seizures occurred, resulting in 70 apprehensions and a total of 882 pieces of meat were confiscated (Annex 36). If the data from 4 months is extrapolated and compared to the baseline this suggests an increase in the number of illegal wildlife products being detected and seized/confiscated, as expected given efforts to enhance law enforcement.	Ongoing seizure/confiscation data collection Upscale of data collection forms fully into Survey123 and trial with WLS
Outcome indicator 0.3: By project end, populations of protected species are stable or increasing in Bangangai (BGG) and Bire Kpatuo (BK) Game Reserves, and Southern National Park (SNP), compared to baseline. April 2022-March 2023 Baseline encounter rate/km:- BK: Chimpanzee: 0.020, Elephant: 0.024, Bongo: 0.058, Pangolin spp: 0.008, Yellow-backed duiker: 0.028- BGG: Chimpanzee: 0.039, Bongo: 0.137, Pangolin spp: 0.043 Yellow-backed duiker: 0.135- SNP: Giant Eland: 0.04969	WLS patrols utilised SMART to record wildlife activity data (wildlife encounter rate/km Jan-Dec 2024: BK: Chimpanzee: 0.087, Elephant: 0.091, Bongo: 0.159, Pangolin spp: 0.060, Yellow-backed duiker: 0.143; BGG: Chimpanzee: 0.086, Bongo: 0.199, Pangolin spp: 0.086 Yellow-backed duiker: 0.231; SNP: Giant Eland: 0.047) and human activity data (Annex 18). Data is provided between Jan-Dec 2024 due to insecurity more recently limiting access to field sites.	Maintain law enforcement and biomonitoring patrols in BGG and BK Game Reserves and SNP. Train WLS rangers in use of SMART mobile
Outcome indicator 0.4: Number of households engaged in sustainable livelihoods that have experienced an increase in alternative source of household income and / or protein as a result	25 households (c. 150 direct beneficiaries) have already been engaged in sustainable livelihood pilots which offer alternative sources of household income and / or protein. Initial monitoring	Scale up livelihood activities to an additional 125 households.

of engagement. (Baseline: 0; target: 150 households (representing c.900 direct beneficiaries)	(Annex 23) indicates positive engagement and progress towards indicator.	Conduct household basic needs assessment with all 150 beneficiaries to establish baseline.
Output 1: Sustainable livelihoods provide viable income sources and/or protein alternatives to 150 households and, supported by behaviour change messaging, contribute to reducing the rates of wild meat hunting and selling.		
Output indicator 1.1: By end of Y2, 150 households, (representing c.900 direct beneficiaries) from target groups (hunters and sellers) demonstrate increased knowledge and skills needed to implement sustainable livelihoods activities. (2023 baseline: 0)	Sustainable livelihood pilot activities were implemented for 25 households (17M, 8F; c. 150 beneficiaries). Training provided to households involved in the pilot to enhance knowledge and skills relevant to implementing selected sustainable livelihood activities (Annexes 20, 23, 24 & 25).	Scale up livelihood activities to an additional 125 households. Conduct household basic needs assessment with all 150 beneficiaries to establish baseline.
Output indicator 1.2: By project end, 75% of individuals/households who took part in livelihood activities continue to implement targeted livelihood strategies, six or more months after training.	Planned for Y2	Conduct participant interviews, disaggregated by gender and stakeholder group, ≥6 months after training
Output indicator 1.3: By Y1, behaviour change messaging is designed, produced, and disseminated to discourage engagement in IWT (target: at least one printed material and one radio show).	Behaviour change messages that target buyers, sellers and hunters have been developed (Annex 26). These were developed between FFI IWT experts and in-country consultants with communication expertise, informed by social research collected under IWTEV002.	Test and refine behaviour change messages Disseminate behaviour change messaging over 4 target location in Western Equatoria
Output indicator 1.4: By project end, rates of hunting and selling of species of conservation concern are reduced, compared to 2023 baselines: - Chimpanzees: hunted by 6% of hunters; sold by 14% of wild meat sellers. - Pangolins: hunted by 15% of hunters; sold by 14% of wild meat sellers. - Yellow-backed duiker: hunted by 42% of hunters; sold by 57% of wild meat sellers. - Giant eland: hunted by 14% of hunters; sold by 12% of wild meat sellers.	Baselines established under IWTEV002. Replication in 5 additional locations not possible due to DIR30EX\1201 being unsuccessful, delay in project start and the changing security climate, focus on the original 10 locations was prioritised.	Repeat surveys will be conducted in Y3 to assess change in rates of hunting and selling of species of conservation concern
Output indicator 1.5: Knowledge from market and community surveys (also informing indicators 0.1 and 0.4) support monitoring and adaptive management of livelihood and behaviour change interventions on hunting, selling and purchasing decisions (Y1-3). Baseline: results from 411 surveys in Evidence grant currently informing livelihood selection and behaviour change messages.	Knowledge from market and community surveys conducted under IWTEV002 (Annex 21) informed selection of the 3 target locations for the pilot livelihood interventions and development of the behaviour change messaging. The approach for pilot livelihood FGDs replicated methodologies developed during IWTEV002.	Ongoing integration of learning

Output 2: Capacity and systems to monitor and adaptively manage IWT and confiscate/seize wild animal products are in place and operational in the Wildlife Service across all counties of Western Equatoria, informed by up-to-date knowledge of place networks and trade dynamics.		
Output indicator 2.1: >25% increase on average of WLS officers (n=50, representing all 10 counties of Western Equatoria) demonstrating improved understanding of wildlife laws, human rights, and capability on IWT data collection and seizures following training, compared to baseline (2022/2023 baseline: 38% demonstrated understanding of 'Knowledge of IWT, laws and approaches at international and national levels;' 69% demonstrated understanding of 'Capacity for data collection and information management;' 17% demonstrated understanding of 'Knowledge of the correct procedures for handling persons caught with wild/bushmeat.')	WLS's capacity and systems have been enhanced, through training across 10 WLS County Offices and the WLS State Headquarters in Yambio (Annex 9 & 27) and infrastructure improvements (Activity 2.1). Training conducted improved understanding of South Sudan's wildlife laws and human rights, and increased WLS capacity for IWT data collection, data handling protocols, and IWT-related seizures.	Post-training capacity assessments for all 10 WLS County Offices
Output indicator 2.2: By end Y1, eight teams of WLS rangers (2 BGG, 2 BK, 4 SNP) conduct monthly law enforcement patrols. (2023 baseline: 4 for Game Reserves, 0 for SNP)	Monthly law enforcement patrols have been conducted in each of the Protected Areas (BGG, BK and SNP) throughout Y1 (Annex 18).	Maintain target number of patrols Strengthen strategic patrol planning to improve the effectiveness and coverage of patrols
Output indicator 2.3: By end of project and based on increased WLS detection and evidence gathering ability, the number of people apprehended and/or fined for wildlife crimes in Western Equatoria increases. (Baseline: 0 apprehensions recorded in 2023)	Data from November 2024 – February 2024 (4 months): 39 seizures occurred, resulting in 70 apprehensions and a total of 882 pieces of meat were confiscated (Annex 36).	Ongoing seizure / confiscation / apprehension data collection. Increased follow up on evidence detection and seizures at WLS County Offices.
Output indicator 2.4: By end Y1, IWT database (owned and managed by WLS, with data sharing agreement in place) established and consistently used to collect and analyse IWT incidences and trends and to inform WLS response. (Baseline: limited record-keeping using wild meat confiscation Excel sheet)	IWT data collection processes developed in IWTEV002 were refined in Y1 (Annex 10-17). Trialling of the revised data templates in Survey123 was conducted internally during Y1 in preparation for full upscale to the centralised IWT database.	Finalised Survey123 forms trialled with WLS County Officers and relevant feedback incorporated. Capacity training on smartphone-based data collection and SOPs to all 10 WLS County Offices.
Output 3: Increased interagency collaboration between the Wildlife Service, other law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary in Western Equatoria and South Sudan, and with relevant counterparts in DRC, improves understanding of transboundary IWT.		
Output indicator 3.1: By Y1, initial transboundary dialogue established between WLS and counterparts in DRC. (Baseline: no functional partnership or collaboration between agencies)	Delayed due to security and governmental changes, but planning is underway.	When security allows, organise annual meeting between WLS and counterparts from DRC

Output indicator 3.2: In Y2, one learning and exchange visit conducted with WLS and ≥2 DRC counterparts.	Planned for Y2	When security allows, organise an exchange visit between relevant Congolese counterparts and WLS
Output indicator 3.3: Trade routes information (gleaned from existing and new surveys and WLS seizure database) summarised and shared interagency and cross-border with DRC authorities (Y1, Y2, Y3).	Delayed due to security and governmental changes, will follow initiation of Activity 3.1	Once data collection forms are scaled up using Survey123 (see Activity 2.3), information on trade routes collected from seizures will be used to map key trade routes, for sharing interagency and cross-border with DRC authorities.
Output indicator 3.4: By end Y2, WLS initiates first-time or increased interagency collaboration with Ministry of Local Government, police, and prosecutors' office (Yambio) on wildlife crime within Western Equatoria and South Sudan, focused on raising the profile of IWT and wildlife laws.	IWT Interagency Forum established to promote interagency collaboration between the WLS, state-level government and law enforcement agencies, other armed forces and the judiciary (Annex 9, 32 & 33)	Frequency of IWT Interagency Forum meetings to increase to be quarterly. Explore the feasibility of local courts acting as satellite hubs for wildlife crime judicial processes
Output 4: Project learning and recommendations are documented and shared with key national and regional stakeholders.		
Output indicator 4.1: By end of project, at least one case study documenting project findings published and disseminated to key national and regional stakeholders.	Planned for Y3	Ongoing documentation of project activities and learning
Output indicator 4.2: At least one national and one Western Equatoria State government institution demonstrate enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and IWT threat through biannual stakeholder meetings.	Formal and informal engagements, particularly at state level (see Activity 4.3), have contributed to enhancing the awareness and understanding of biodiversity and IWT in government institutions. MWCT engagement at national level took place during the originally anticipated project period, but due to the delay in funding being confirmed, this is not captured within the Y1 period. Subsequent Juba-based meetings were not possible due to the changing security climate (Annex 8 & 35)	Ongoing regular engagement with key government authorities and wider stakeholders at state and national level to increase understanding and awareness of IWT and the WLS's work.

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Biodiversity, including threatened species, in Western Equatoria, South Sudan, is flourishing due to increased enforcement capacity and reduced threats from IWT, supported by sustainable livelihoods interventions that reduce local poverty.			
Outcome: Evidence-based solutions to reduce the use of wild meat, together with stronger law enforcement capacity, systems, and transboundary networks, reduce IWT and contribute to poverty reduction in Western Equatoria.	<p>0.1 By project end, the number of individuals purchasing wild meat for household consumption declines by 10% compared to baseline, including from species of conservation concern: chimpanzees, pangolins, giant elands and yellow-backed duiker. (2023 Baseline: 59% of 411 respondents reported purchasing wild meat in the last year) <i>[previously: IWTCF-C06; now: same]</i></p> <p>0.2 By project end, more effective law enforcement leads to a greater number of illegal wildlife products being detected and seized/confiscated by the Wildlife Service (WLS) in Western Equatoria state. (10/2022-05/2023 baseline: 89 seizure records) <i>[previously: IWTCF-B07; now: IWTCF-B02]</i></p> <p>0.3 By project end, populations of protected species are stable or increasing in Bangangai (BGG) and Bire Kpatuo (BK) Game Reserves, and Southern National Park (SNP), compared to baseline. April 2022-March 2023 Baseline encounter rate/km:- BK: Chimpanzee: 0.020, Elephant: 0.024, Bongo: 0.058, Pangolin spp: 0.008, Yellow-backed duiker: 0.028- BGG: Chimpanzee: 0.039, Bongo: 0.137, Pangolin spp: 0.043 Yellow-backed duiker: 0.135- SNP: Giant Eland:</p>	<p>0.1 Market and community survey reports; data from consumer focus group discussions (FGDs), disaggregated by gender and age group</p> <p>0.2 WLS illegal wildlife trade seizure / confiscation data; patrol coverage from SMART reports</p> <p>0.3 Species monitoring data from biomonitoring and anti-poaching patrols (SMART records), disaggregated by species, conservation area, and year</p> <p>0.4 Pre- and post- alternative livelihood intervention basic needs household assessments</p>	<p>Project activities can be implemented in compliance with evolving, national and regional travel and assembly guidelines.</p> <p>Political will to collaborate on and address IWT and its regional dimensions remains in place among South Sudanese authorities.</p> <p>Civil unrest in Sudan does not hinder project implementation.</p> <p>Any increases in patrol coverage may in turn lead to increased detections and seizures.</p> <p>More effective law enforcement will, in time, increase the risk of being caught and may deter some poaching from taking place. This is expected to influence seizure numbers over time, but likely not during the life of this project.</p> <p>Survey samples are large enough to be representative of overall trends among wild meat hunters, sellers, and consumers.</p> <p>In addition to c.900 direct beneficiaries, the project will indirectly benefit a wider population of c.152,000 people through new economic activity, increased law enforcement capacity, and greater awareness of conservation actions and IWT.</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>0.04969 <i>[previously: IWTCF-D25; now: IWTCF-D11]</i></p> <p>0.4 Number of households engaged in sustainable livelihoods that have experienced an increase in alternative source of household income and / or protein as a result of engagement. (Baseline: 0; target: 150 households (representing c.900 direct beneficiaries) <i>[previously: IWTCF-A13; now: IWTCF-A01 (b)]</i></p>		
<p>Output 1: Sustainable livelihoods provide viable income sources and/or protein alternatives to 150 households and, supported by behaviour change messaging, contribute to reducing the rates of wild meat hunting and selling.</p>	<p>1.1 By end of Y2, 150 households, (representing c.900 direct beneficiaries) from target groups (hunters and sellers) demonstrate increased knowledge and skills needed to implement sustainable livelihoods activities. (2023 baseline: 0) <i>[previously: IWTCF-A01; now: IWTCF-A01 (a)]</i></p> <p>1.2 By project end, 75% of individuals/households who took part in livelihood activities continue to implement targeted livelihood strategies, six or more months after training. <i>[previously: IWTCF-A02; now: IWTCF-D02]</i></p> <p>1.3 By Y1, behaviour change messaging is designed, produced, and disseminated to discourage engagement in IWT (target: at least one printed material and one radio show). <i>[previously: IWTCF-C02; now: IWTCF-C01]</i></p> <p>1.4 By project end, rates of hunting and selling of species of conservation</p>	<p>1.1 Pre- and post-training surveys, disaggregated by gender and stakeholder group; training reports</p> <p>1.2 Participant interviews, disaggregated by gender and stakeholder group</p> <p>1.3 Materials; photographic and/or multimedia evidence of dissemination; distribution records/estimates, disaggregated by audience type</p> <p>1.4 Market surveys and focus group discussion data and reports, disaggregated by gender and stakeholder group</p> <p>1.5 Survey reports, with data disaggregated by age, gender, and stakeholder group</p>	<p>Targeted livelihood interventions, chosen based on recommendations from the Evidence grant and refined on an ongoing basis through pilot activities and monitoring, create sufficient incentives for local people to move away from wild meat consumption.</p> <p>Individuals in the target communities, rural markets and urban centres are receptive and interested in participating in sustainable livelihood activities.</p> <p>Respondents in target survey locations remain open to talking about illegal activities in the selected survey format. Necessary local permissions to conduct surveys are granted.</p> <p>Weather patterns do not hinder implementation of sustainable livelihoods pilot activities.</p> <p>Political situation in Western Equatoria remains stable and people remain in their communities for the duration of the project.</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>concern are reduced, compared to 2023 baselines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chimpanzees: hunted by 6% of hunters; sold by 14% of wild meat sellers. - Pangolins: hunted by 15% of hunters; sold by 14% of wild meat sellers. - Yellow-backed duiker: hunted by 42% of hunters; sold by 57% of wild meat sellers. - Giant eland: hunted by 14% of hunters; sold by 12% of wild meat sellers. <p>1.5 Knowledge from market and community surveys (also informing indicators 0.1 and 0.4) support monitoring and adaptive management of livelihood and behaviour change interventions on hunting, selling and purchasing decisions (Y1-3). Baseline: results from 411 surveys in Evidence grant currently informing livelihood selection and behaviour change messages.</p>		
<p>Output 2: Capacity and systems to monitor and adaptively manage IWT and confiscate/seize wild animal products are in place and operational in the Wildlife Service across all counties of Western Equatoria, informed by up-to-date knowledge of place networks and trade dynamics.</p>	<p>2.1 >25% increase on average of WLS officers (n=50, representing all 10 counties of Western Equatoria) demonstrating improved understanding of wildlife laws, human rights, and capability on IWT data collection and seizures following training, compared to baseline (2022/2023 baseline: 38% demonstrated understanding of 'Knowledge of IWT, laws and approaches at international and national levels;' 69% demonstrated understanding of 'Capacity for data collection and information management;' 17% demonstrated</p>	<p>2.1 Training reports and pre/post training capacity assessments, disaggregated by gender, age, and stakeholder group</p> <p>2.2 SMART reports</p> <p>2.3 Apprehension / seizure reports exported from IWT database, disaggregated by offence type</p> <p>2.4 Database reports; informal audits and analysis of data quality; quarterly reports inclusive of spatial and temporal trends</p>	<p>Official records of IWT, which are owned by WLS, are accessible to partners.</p> <p>WLS retains sufficient staffing in the project area to collect data using the reporting forms and to engage in adaptive management based on evidence and trends; staff turnover remains low with limited impact on trained staff.</p> <p>Corruption does not undermine the ability of law enforcement officers to record data accurately and direct patrol</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>understanding of 'Knowledge of the correct procedures for handling persons caught with wild/bushmeat.')</p> <p><i>[previously: IWTCF-B01; now: IWTCF-D01]</i></p> <p>2.2 By end Y1, eight teams of WLS rangers (2 BGG, 2 BK, 4 SNP) conduct monthly law enforcement patrols. (2023 baseline: 4 for Game Reserves, 0 for SNP) <i>[previously: IWTCF-B09; now: IWTCF-B03]</i></p> <p>2.3 By end of project and based on increased WLS detection and evidence gathering ability, the number of people apprehended and/or fined for wildlife crimes in Western Equatoria increases. (Baseline: 0 apprehensions recorded in 2023) <i>[previously: IWTCF-B10; now: IWTCF-B05]</i></p> <p>2.4 By end Y1, IWT database (owned and managed by WLS, with data sharing agreement in place) established and consistently used to collect and analyse IWT incidences and trends and to inform WLS response. (Baseline: limited record-keeping using wild meat confiscation Excel sheet) <i>[previously: IWTCF-B23; now: IWTCF-B17]</i></p> <p>2.5 Increased number of instances when IWT data directly influenced WLS management decisions regarding patrol deployment, investigations and/or other responses to suspected wildlife crime. (Baseline: 0/unknown)</p>	2.5 Formal and/or informal WLS reporting	<p>resources accordingly, or influence officers to engage in illegal wild meat trade for personal profit.</p> <p>More effective law enforcement will lead to an increase in detections and apprehensions. With sustained law enforcement effort, apprehensions may decrease over time as fear of getting caught may deter some individuals from engaging in illegal activity.</p> <p>Data systems and protocols are in place and honoured, such that data is used only for its intended purpose.</p> <p>Apprehensions (instead of arrests) are a more realistic measure in South Sudan at this time and based on law enforcement reach and capacity.</p>
Output 3: Increased interagency collaboration between the Wildlife	3.1 By Y1, initial transboundary dialogue established between WLS and	3.1 Meeting minutes	Key transboundary stakeholders avail staff and time to participate in meetings.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Service, other law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary in Western Equatoria and South Sudan, and with relevant counterparts in DRC, improves understanding of transboundary IWT.	<p>counterparts in DRC. (Baseline: no functional partnership or collaboration between agencies) <i>[previously: IWTCF-D27; now: N/A]</i></p> <p>3.2 In Y2, one learning and exchange visit conducted with WLS and ≥2 DRC counterparts.</p> <p>3.3 Trade routes information (gleaned from existing and new surveys and WLS seizure database) summarised and shared interagency and cross-border with DRC authorities (Y1, Y2, Y3).</p> <p>3.4 By end Y2, WLS initiates first-time or increased interagency collaboration with Ministry of Local Government, police, and prosecutors' office (Yambio) on wildlife crime within Western Equatoria and South Sudan, focused on raising the profile of IWT and wildlife laws.</p>	<p>3.2 Report from exchange visit</p> <p>3.3 Dissemination records</p> <p>3.4 Meeting minutes; reports</p>	<p>Actions under this output can serve as a starting point to reverse longstanding mistrust between Congolese and South Sudanese agencies.</p> <p>Overall knowledge of the scope and scale of IWT is relatively low in non-wildlife law enforcement and judicial agencies in South Sudan.</p> <p>The Evidence grant affirmed transboundary traffic is occurring; we assume that it continues in the absence of mitigation strategies and actions.</p> <p>By focusing on state-level agencies in South Sudan, the project will complement but not overlap or duplicate existing work of others.</p>
Output 4: Project learning and recommendations are documented and shared with key national and regional stakeholders.	<p>4.1 By end of project, at least one case study documenting project findings published and disseminated to key national and regional stakeholders. <i>[previously: IWTCF-D17; now: IWTCF-D16]</i></p> <p>4.2 At least one national and one Western Equatoria State government institution demonstrate enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and IWT threat through biannual stakeholder meetings. <i>[previously: IWTCF-B24; now: IWTCF-C05]</i></p>	<p>4.1 Case study; dissemination records, disaggregated by country and entity type (government, civil society, academic)</p> <p>4.2 Meeting minutes; knowledge assessment results, disaggregated by organization type (e.g., Ministry, local government, transboundary stakeholder)</p>	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<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>Outcome Activities:</p> <p>0.1 Establish a project steering committee composed of project partners; conduct biannual meetings. (Y1&3)</p> <p>0.2 Secure market and community survey permissions; affirm support from local government and community leaders; recruit and train Zande-speaking enumerators. (Y1&3)</p> <p>0.3 Conduct wild meat consumption/trade surveys and FGDs in ≥15 markets/communities to track trends and effects of project livelihood and behaviour change interventions. (Y1&3)</p> <p>0.4 Conduct basic needs assessment (n=150 households). (Y2&3)</p> <p>0.5 Produce quarterly IWT seizure reports using Survey123 (see Output 2). (Y1-3)</p> <p>0.6 Produce quarterly patrol reports using SMART. (Y1-3)</p> <p><u>Output 1: Sustainable livelihoods provide viable income sources and protein alternatives to 150 households and, supported by behaviour change messaging, contribute to reducing the rates of wild meat hunting and selling.</u></p> <p>1.1 Conduct gender-sensitive assessment/FGDs to validate livelihood options' viability and potential impact on wild meat sales/consumption, establish household baselines. (Y1, Caritas-Austria & FFI)</p> <p>1.2 Using assessment results and Evidence outputs, select beneficiaries and prioritise site-specific livelihood interventions (e.g., small-animal husbandry, fish-farming, beekeeping, coffee farming, vocational development, women's/savings group). (Y1)</p> <p>1.3 Pilot-test at least two livelihood schemes with ≥25 hunter/seller households in ≥1 community/ies; monitor; analyse results on well-being and wild meat offtake/sales/consumption. (Y1-2; Caritas-Austria)</p> <p>1.4. Design and facilitate livelihoods skills trainings for 150 households that currently rely on wild meat for income/food/protein from ≥3 targeted communities. (Y2-3; Caritas-Austria)</p> <p>1.5 Integrate pilot learning; scale-up and monitor livelihoods implementation to 125 additional households (150 total), reaching 900 direct beneficiaries. (Y2-3; Caritas-Austria)</p> <p>1.6 Develop behaviour change messages targeting consumers, sellers, and hunters, leveraging existing data (Evidence Grant, 2022-2023) to reduce consumption, trading and/or hunting of wild meat. (Y1)</p> <p>1.7 Test behaviour change messages using FGDs in rural/urban markets and reserve-adjacent communities; adapt messages accordingly; identify communication channels. (Y1-2)</p> <p>1.8 Deliver evidence-based, audience-specific behaviour change messages to those involved in wild meat consumption, selling and/or hunting. (Y2-3)</p> <p>1.9 Analyse behaviour change message effectiveness in reducing wild meat purchasing, trading and/or hunting (leveraging survey data from 0.3). (Y3)</p> <p><u>Output 2: Capacity and systems to monitor and adaptively manage IWT and confiscate/seize wild animal products are in place and operational in the Wildlife Service within all counties of Western Equatoria, informed by up-to-date knowledge of place networks and trade dynamics.</u></p> <p>2.1 Improve IWT data gathering (e.g., to include wildlife products in addition to wild meat), processing, and reporting protocols; purchase and install information-systems infrastructure. (Y1)</p> <p>2.2 Train 50 WLS officers on IWT data collection, processing and storage in all counties of Western Equatoria, including refresher training. (Y1,2,3)</p> <p>2.3 Support WLS officers in 10 counties to collect IWT/seizure data using Survey123 (or paper in areas without mobile data), and relay data/information to WLS/HQ/Yambio. (Y1,2,3)</p> <p>2.4 Conduct capacity assessments of 50 WLS personnel to evaluate training and proficiency to collect and process IWT data. (Y1,2,3)</p>			

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>2.5 Provide training and mentorship to WLS IWT team to analyse IWT/law enforcement data to determine spatial and temporal trends and species targeted annually. (Y2-3)</p> <p>2.6 Using ArcGIS, spatially map key places facilitating trade. (Y1,3)</p> <p>2.7 Provide training and mentorship to WLS managers on integrating IWT data into planning and management decision-making and communicating with the public on IWT laws/mitigation. (Y2)</p> <p>2.8 Work with WLS to develop and implement a data-sharing agreement and data management/collection/security protocols following national legislation and international best practice. (Y1)</p> <p><u>Output 3: Increased interagency collaboration between the Wildlife Service, other law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary within Western Equatoria and South Sudan, and with relevant counterparts in DRC, improves understanding of transboundary IWT.</u></p> <p>3.1 Organise annual meetings between WLS and counterparts from DRC to build trust, share information and discuss opportunities to collaborate to address transboundary trade. (Y2,3)</p> <p>3.2 Establish one transboundary, bilingual working group between WLS and their counterparts in DRC. (Y1)</p> <p>3.3 Hold exchange visit between relevant Congolese counterparts and WLS to share experiences, learning and ideas for information sharing mechanisms. (Y2)</p> <p>3.4 Work with WLS to organise annual, IWT-focused meetings with Ministry of Local Government, Police and Prosecutors office. (Y1,2,3)</p> <p>3.5 Host workshop on IWT and related awareness raising in Yambio with Western Equatoria State law enforcement entities and judiciary. (Y2,3)</p> <p>3.6 Support and encourage WLS to initiate specific, concrete interagency collaborative action on IWT such as seasonal roadblocks. (Y3)</p> <p><u>Output 4: Project learning and recommendations are documented and shared with key national and regional stakeholders.</u></p> <p>4.1 Document project findings and disseminate to key stakeholders, including national and regional stakeholders. (Y3)</p> <p>4.2 Write one case study related to wildlife trade findings and learning stemming from the project and share with stakeholders. (Y3)</p> <p>4.3 Hold annual meetings with relevant, state-level government authorities in Yambio to increase understanding of WLS's work and partnership with FFI. (Y1,2,3)</p> <p>4.4 Hold annual meetings with Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism/Juba to increase understanding of wildlife trade extent and project progress/impact in Western Equatoria. (Y1,2,3)</p> <p>4.5 Conduct rapid knowledge assessment with local government agencies in Yambio to measure enhanced awareness of illegal wildlife trade and biodiversity issues. (Y1,3)</p>			

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	x
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the subject line.	x
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	N/A
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	x
Have you provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encourage to develop a risk register.	x
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 17)?	N/A
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	x
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	x
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	