**Annex 11: Feedback on the recommendations on the 1st stage Support Measure proposal:**

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| **No** | **Recommendation** | **Feedback** |
| **1** | The context and relevance of the proposal shall be expanded to clarify how our jointly supported programme is embedded into the national objectives of biodiversity, to demonstrate the complementarities with other existing and planned instruments and mechanisms. This addition shall be presented in plain language and thus complement the current more technical part of the proposal. | The Support Measure contributes directly to the implementation of the Estonian Environmental Development Plan until 2030 (draft). According to the draft plan the goal of nature conservation is that the status of native species, ecosystems and landscapes has improved. The Support Measure has a clear connection with Estonian Environmental Strategy for 2030 and with requirements and obligations stated in EU directives. For more information look for chapter 2.2. |
| **2** | The stakeholder analysis needs to be presented in a more comprehensive way, including the roles and level of involvement of important – and currently left-out – groups, such as environmental NGOs, scientific institutions or national and local authorities. It shall be further highlighted how various stakeholder groups will be involved and participate in the policy dialogue, which will be an integral part of the programme | On June 5, 2023 stakeholders consultaion took place with 32 participants from NGO´s, universities, local authorities. NGO-s and universities have been important service providers and partners in conducting wildlife inventories, monitoring and compiling methods for monitoring and inventories. They have the necessary expertise to point out problems in the field of biodiversity and propose ideas how to make relevant changes and overcome existing obstacles.  The event introduced the goals and expected outcomes of the Programme. Main focus was on discussions where we received proposals and recommendations to refine the programme's activities. Please see chapter 4.5 for more information.  Also Environmental Board plans during the implementation activities tight cooperation with local authorities, discussions on how local authorities can integrate management plans into general planning (please see activity 2 in chapter 10.2). |
| **3** | A description of the situation at programme end shall be included on the basis of a deeper analysis which also explains how the system will achieve sustainability and thus function after the end of Swiss co-funding. | The sustainability of Programme Components is described in respective chapters. Thanks to programme wildlife monitoring will be taken on to next level. Thanks to the development of the IT systems, less human work is necessary and saved budget will be used to maintain the systems. The Support Measure will help to review current conservation management planning practices in order to match them with contemporary needs.  Please find the updated information in chapters 2.8, 7.4 and 10.4. |
| **4** | It is encouraged to strengthen the civil society pillar in the programme, which will create added value to the programme. | Please find information in chapter 7.2 “Activities and Expected Results” and also in Annex 8-1 (activity “Promoting citizen science and creating network of volunteers”).  Use of citizen science and involvement of volunteers in environmental monitoring is an increasingly important topic around the world. It creates new opportunities to engage people, collect more data and improve the quality of data, promote cooperation between different parties, involve civil society organisations in policymaking, prevent and solve problems as well as increase environmental awareness in society. Among other things, it helps to pay greater attention to emerging environmental problems, prevent loopholes both in legislation and monitoring data as well as improve data collection process. A network of volunteers will be created in the frames of Programme Component 1, voluntary monitoring will be integrated into wildlife monitoring methodologies. |
| **5** | The impact hypothesis and intervention strategy shall be completed, considering the above mentioned comments on relevance, sustainability, stakeholder analysis and civil society. | We confirm that we reviewed and elaborated those aspects throughout the entire proposal. The impact hypothesis was elaborated (annex 1). |