Annex I

**Information on the progress**

**of cross-border consultations with Romania on the project Reconstruction of construction facilities "Construction of a deep-water shipping lane**

**Danube River - Black Sea in the Ukrainian part of the delta"**

1. On 16.06.2020, the customer of the planned activity, the State Enterprise "Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority" represented by the branch "Delta Pilot" of the State Enterprise "USPA", informed the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine of its intention to carry out the environmental impact assessment procedure for the project Reconstruction of construction facilities "Construction of a deep-water shipping route from the Danube River to the Black Sea in the Ukrainian part of the Delta".

2. Based on the results of the review of the information received, the Ministry of Ecology by letter

dated 07.07.2020 No. 5/1-50/333-20 (Annex 1.1.) sent a notification to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests of Romania (via e-mail and diplomatic channels).

3. By letter dated 08.07.2020 No. DEICP/5496/08.07.2020 (Annex 1.2.), the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests of Romania informed about its intention to participate in the environmental impact assessment procedure regarding the planned activities of the Delta Pilot Branch of SE USPA "Reconstruction of construction facilities "Construction of a deep-water shipping route of the Danube-Black Sea in the Ukrainian section of the Delta".

4. By letter dated 04.08.2020 No. DEICP/5496/04.08.2020 (Annex 1.3.), the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests of Romania provided comments and suggestions on the planned activities, the scope of research and the level of detail of information to be included in the environmental impact assessment report.

5. During 2020-2022 (before the beginning of the aggressive war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine), the studies necessary for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report were carried out, as well as those necessary to take into account the comments and suggestions on the planned activities, the scope of studies and the level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report received from the Romanian side.

6. In early 2023, the customer of the planned activity finalized the work on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and in May 2023, the Ministry of Environment issued a letter

No. 25/5-21/6721-23 dated 02.05.2023 (Annex 1.4.) submitted the Environmental Impact Assessment Report to the Romanian side (via e-mail and diplomatic channels).

7. The Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests of Romania, by letter dated 13.07.2023 No. DGEICPSC/107958/13.07.2023 (Annex 1.5.), provided comments to the EIA Report on the planned activity "Reconstruction of the construction facilities "Construction of the Danube-Black Sea deep-water shipping lane in the Ukrainian part of the delta".

8. The Ministry of Ecology, by letter dated 07.08.2023 No. 25/5-21/12867-23 (Annex 1.6), sent responses to the comments to the EIA Report to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests of Romania.

9. Ukraine proposed to Romania to hold expert consultations to discuss issues related to the project Reconstruction of Construction Objects "Construction of a Deep Water Navigation Route from the Danube River to the Black Sea in the Ukrainian Section of the Delta".

10. On September 01, 2023, Ukraine and Romania held expert consultations on this project. By early November, the text of the protocol was being agreed upon in a working manner through e-mail correspondence. On November 14, 2023, Ukraine received the protocol of expert consultations signed by the Romanian side (Annex 1.7). During the expert consultations, the Romanian side voiced, and the Ukrainian side provided answers to the questions that arose as a result of the discussion with the public and the expert community of Romania of the materials on environmental impact assessment in the transboundary context regarding the planned activities. Based on the results of the consultations, both Parties agreed that the signing of the minutes of the meeting is considered to be the completion of expert consultations under the Espoo Convention and the bilateral Agreement on the Implementation of the Espoo Convention 2022 between the Government of Ukraine and Romania.

11. On November 17, 2023, Ukraine held a meeting of the Interagency Coordination Council on the Implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context in Ukraine, which approved the Decision on the consideration of the results of the transboundary environmental impact assessment.

12. On November 20, 2023, the Ministry of Ecology issued the final conclusion on the environmental impact assessment of the Reconstruction of Construction Objects "Construction of a Deep Water Navigation Route from the Danube River to the Black Sea in the Ukrainian part of the Delta". On November 21, 2023, the Ministry informed Romania (via e-mail) about the completion of the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure and the way in which the comments and observations of the Romanian side were taken into account (letter of the Ministry of Environment dated November 20, 2023, No. 25/5-21/17971-23, Annex (1.8)).

In addition, it should be emphasized that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, which was provided to the Romanian side during the transboundary consultations (Annex 1. 9) contains the Section "Transboundary Impact Assessment", the Section "Summary of Monitoring and Control Programs for Environmental Impact during the Implementation of Planned Activities and Post-Project Monitoring Plans", the Section "Description of the Measures Envisaged to Prevent, Prevent, Avoid, Reduce, Eliminate Significant Adverse Environmental Impact, including Compensation Measures", and separately contains the "Calculations of Compensation for Damage to Fish Stocks and the Aquatic Environment".

Summarizing the above, it is worth noting that the procedure for assessing the transboundary impact of the Reconstruction of Construction Objects "Construction of a Deep Water Navigation Route from the Danube River to the Black Sea in the Ukrainian Section of the Delta" was carried out in accordance with the requirements of transparency and openness, at an early stage before the final decision on the implementation of the activity.

A consensus was reached between the parties on conducting monitoring studies, in particular, on the monitoring and conservation of sturgeons before and after the start of project activities. Both parties agreed that the conditions for the implementation of such sturgeon monitoring and conservation projects will be determined at additionally organized meetings.