

Report: Ukraine Zoos Emergency Fund, 2024 activities

March 2025

Introduction

Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Within days of the war starting, EAZA established the Ukraine Zoos Emergency Fund with a dedicated [Fund Protocol](#) and [Claims List](#). EAZA's Candidate for Membership programme, which mentors zoos and aquariums seeking to achieve our Standards, includes three zoos in Ukraine: Kyiv Zoo, Kharkiv Zoo and Mykolaiv Zoo. It was agreed that funds raised could be used to assist these institutions and other Ukrainian zoos to continue to provide food and care to animals in conditions of relative welfare and safety, as well as providing support for care staff and management at the zoos. The Fund enabled individuals and organisations to donate to EAZA as a central collection point. A [dedicated webpage](#) was set up and various communications were shared on how to donate.

The Ukraine Zoos Emergency Fund provides direct financial assistance to institutions as well as coordinating efforts with the Association of Zoos of Ukraine (AZU) who are able to receive money from EAZA and distribute to those most in need. With the war sadly entering its third year, and no immediate peace in sight, EAZA remained in Phase 2: Secondary crisis phase as outlined in the Fund protocol. The Fund will provide money that allows for longer term care of animals until there is a possibility for recovery. This may include the care of animals originating in Ukrainian zoos at facilities outside Ukraine.

EAZA commits to full transparency on the collection and distribution of funds for Ukraine, with 100% of donations going to help Ukrainian zoos and aquariums. This report builds on previous annual reports. It summarises activities throughout the 2024 period.

Donations and Spending

Since the EAZA Ukraine Zoos Emergency Fund started there has been:

- Donated: € 2,092,295.99
- Spent: €1,982,385.78

Resulting in €109,910.21 remaining at the end of 2024. The majority of donations were received in the first few months after the war started, with a total of €1,743,898.96 donated in 2022, €239,925.60 in 2023, and €50,971.43 in 2024.

Small donations from individuals continued to be received every month throughout 2024. EAZA specifically called for renewed support in March and August 2024. Individuals across the world have made nearly 12,000 donations so far, with many making multiple donations. Individuals are acknowledged by name on the Ukraine website page. Two hundred and twenty one EAZA Members and other organisations worldwide have made donations, again sometimes multiple ones. EAZA thanks all the donors for their generosity and would like to **especially acknowledge the following organisations for their high level of support in 2024:**

€10,000 and more

Wilhelma Zoo, DE

€5,000 and more

Burgers' Royal Zoo, NL

Mandai Wildlife Group, SG

Opel-Zoo, DE

Tallinn Zoo, EE

WAZA, ES

€1,000 and more

Erfurt Zoo, DE

Friends of the Charles Paddock Zoo, USA

Munich Zoo, DE

Wrocław Zoo, PL

Note: Data filtered from 12,000 donations; some transfers had the name of person paying but not institution, thus the list may not be fully complete.

Meetings are held by a Ukraine Fund group to review new donations and agree spending. A due diligence process is in place to check the validity of those requesting support, develop cooperation agreements, and agree reporting on use of funds.

In 2024 the Fund provided direct financial aid to institutions to support purchase of generators as well as organising a food delivery with the cooperation of EAZA Corporate Member [intipa](#) to multiple institutions.

EAZA continues to be grateful to all Members who have arranged their own aid for zoos in Ukraine. Wherever possible EAZA has sought to combine and coordinate with these efforts so that maximum benefits can be received by as many organisations as possible.

Funds have been distributed to the following 24 institutions in Ukraine, often in multiple donations over the years. Those with a * indicate institutions receiving support in 2024:

Askania Nova Reserve	Mena (Mensky) Zoo
Berdiansk Zoo	Mykolaiv Zoo *
BION Terrarium Center	Odesa Zoo
BioPark Odessa	Oles Honchar Dnipro National University
Cherkasy Zoo	Oscar Dolphinarium
Ecopark Kovalivka	Podilsky Zoo
EkZoterra	Rivne Zoo
Feldman Ecopark	Safari Park on the Arabat Arrow
Home Zoo Center	XII Months Zoo
Kharkiv Zoo *	Zolotoj Fazan (Golden Pheasant)
Kyiv Zoo *	ZooMir
Limpopo Zoo	
Lutsk Zoo	

The institutions provided receipts and photo evidence of how the funds have been spent. A sample of their images is provided below.

A limited amount of money remains in the Fund: we are reserving it to support animal evacuations if they become needed. Since the outbreak of the war, most animals in need of rehoming have been moved within the country. International rescues are an exception, only when they are in the animals' best interest and when safety of animals and humans can be safeguarded. For animals of EEP species, feasibility is assessed on a case-by-case basis in EEPs and TAGs, with support from the EEO, to carefully manage the impact on the EEP population and its roles and goals. EAZA remains in contact with a group of animal rescue organisations to assist with coordination of information regarding relocations from other zoos and animal rescue centres to zoos outside Ukraine when needed.

The Fund remains open however, the majority has now been spent out. Calls for donations will continue and EAZA remains committed to supporting zoos and aquariums in Ukraine care for their animals and staff.

Figure 1: Food supplies for Kharkiv, Kyiv and Mykolaiv Zoos.



Figure 2: Food supplies at Mykolaiv Zoo.



Figure 3. Generators to Kharkiv Zoo



Figure 4. Generators to Kharkiv Zoo

