



EAZA Update on Ukrainian Zoos

Amsterdam 10 March 2020: The situation for zoos in Ukraine continues to be appalling. Our three Candidates for Membership (CfM) in the country, located in key cities currently under attack by the Russian armed forces continue to update us, and we are also receiving reports from other zoos in contact with our Members.

The CfM zoos currently indicate that they have no plans to evacuate the animals in their care. This is due to the extreme danger to people and animals of crating, loading and transporting animals across these active conflict zones. As a result, for the moment we will be concentrating EAZA's efforts on providing whatever assistance we can to the staff of the zoos with a view to the continued care of animals on site. This also applies to other facilities in Ukraine, with the recognition that other measures (including evacuation) may become possible. EAZA will support these measures as appropriate.

EAZA recognizes that Members in countries bordering Ukraine have been working to support zoos in Ukraine including ongoing planning to evacuate animals and would like to thank them for their work. We support these and other efforts and will provide more concrete assistance where requested and safely practicable. We also recognize that some zoos have official status as rescue centres and must work in accordance with the directives of their governments; we stand ready to support governmental efforts at their request to process incoming animals as well.

While we currently do not know whether evacuations from the CfMs and other institutions will be possible, we are doing preparatory work to assess the capacities and capabilities of our network to assist in the temporary housing and veterinary care of animals. EAZA has also joined a working group established by the European Alliance of Rescue Centres and Sanctuaries (EARS) on the coordination of efforts to remove non-domestic animals from facilities across the country.

Lastly, we would like to thank our Members and other organisations and individuals for their extraordinary generosity in raising funds to support the zoos in Ukraine. We are still collecting funds and are in contact with the Ukrainian zoo association (among others) to assess how best to use these funds to support zoos in the country. We will continue to provide updates to let you know how these funds are being used and will publish a full list of donors when possible.
