

# Report: Ukraine Zoos Emergency Fund, 2023 activities

January 2024

## 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 second year, and no immediate peace in sight, EAZA recognised the need to move to 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 the [first report](#) provided in April 2023. It summarises activities throughout the 2023 period.

## Donations and Spending

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

- Donated: €1,983,824.56
- Spent: €1,867,276.51

Resulting in €116,548.05 remaining at the end of 2023. The majority of donations were received in the first few months after the war started (see Figure 1), with a total of €1,743,898.96 donated in 2022 and €239,925.60 in 2023.

Small donations from individuals continued to be received every month throughout 2023. EAZA specifically [called for renewed support in February 2023](#), one year after the war started, and in November 2023, to help focus donations pre the winter period. The November fundraiser included a [range of support materials](#) provided by Ukraine zoos and the EAZA Executive Office, as well as a special offer from EAZA Corporate Member Petjes World to donate a proportion of every plush toy sold. One hundred percent of the summer auction of books from the closure of the EAZA library also went towards the Fund.



The flyer is titled "Are you fundraising for Ukrainian zoos?". It features a blue and yellow color scheme. On the left, there is a blue box with the text "YOU HAVE THE POWER TO HELP" and a yellow box with a heart icon and the text "SUPPORT UKRAINIAN ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS". The main text on the right encourages EAZA Member organisations to join a coordinated fundraising effort in November to strengthen the EAZA Ukraine Zoos Emergency Fund. It provides instructions on how to participate, such as adding a link to the EAZA Fund on a website or holding a bake sale. It also mentions a special offer from EAZA Corporate Member Petjes World. At the bottom, it reports on a new initiative from EAZA Corporate Member Petjes World, where 19 plush toys are sold, with €0.25 from each sale going to the EAZA Ukraine Fund.

Are you fundraising for Ukrainian zoos?

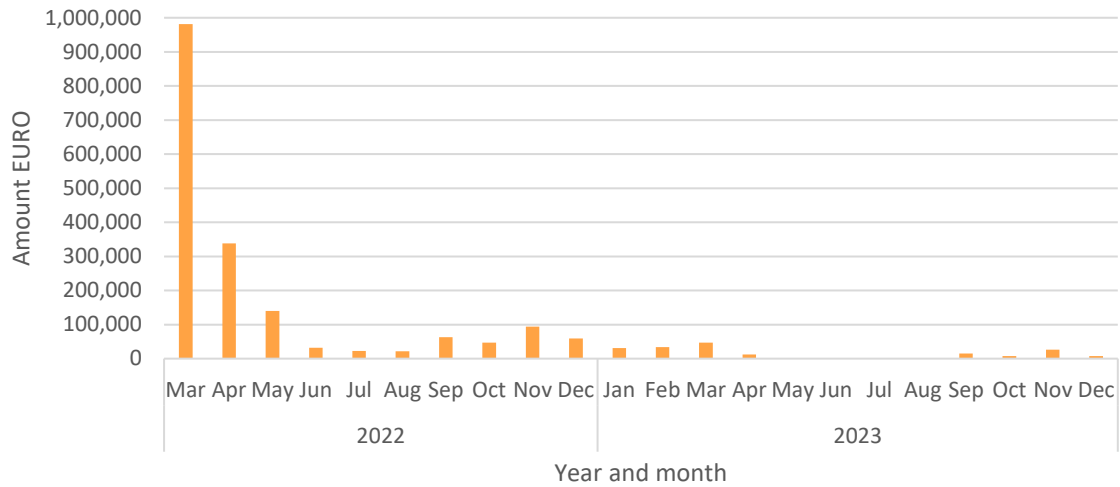
As announced previously, we encourage EAZA Member organisations to join a coordinated fundraising effort in November to strengthen the EAZA Ukraine Zoos Emergency Fund.

It can be as simple as adding a link to the EAZA Fund on your website, as elaborate as a month-long bake sale, or anything in between. Each euro counts. **You have the power to help!**

[Find here](#) more information and visuals free to use. If you are planning to join this initiative, please let us know by emailing [Sandrine Camus](#), so that we can report on all your activities and determine the winners of the three awards: the biggest amount collected, the most creative fundraiser, and the fundraiser showing the most team spirit! 🐾

We are happy to report about **Nature Friends**, a new initiative from EAZA Corporate Member **Petjes World**. For each toy sold, from a collection of 19 plush toys, they will donate €0.25 to the EAZA Ukraine Fund. Thanks in advance for your support!

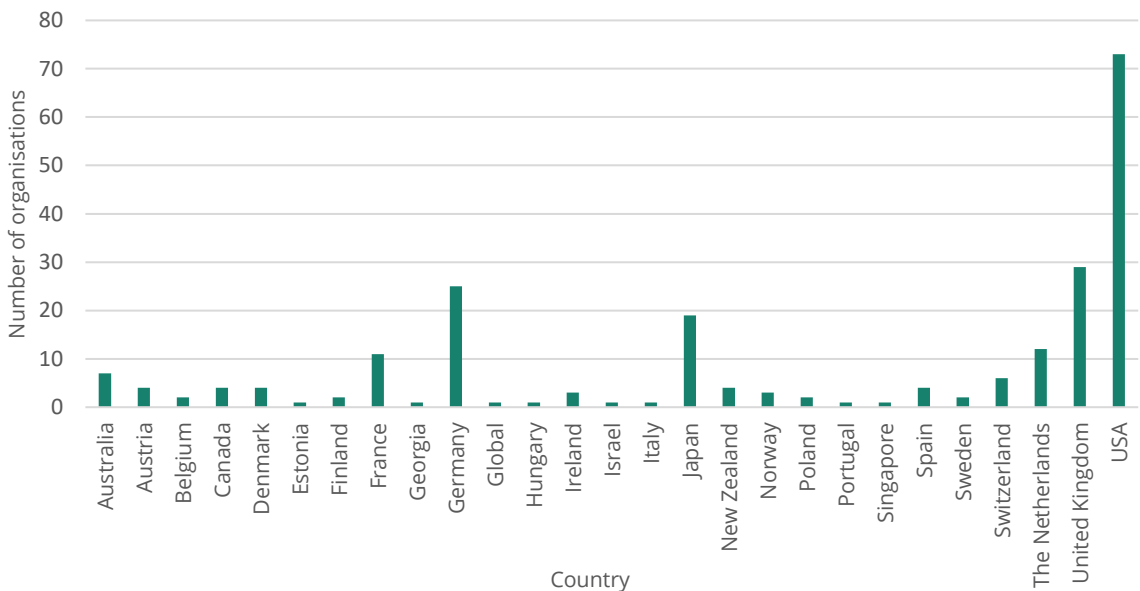
Figure 1: Funds raised per month



Regular 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.

Individuals across the world have made 11,771 donations so far, with many making multiple donations ([see list of names here](#)). Two hundred and twenty EAZA Members and other organisations worldwide have made donations, again sometimes multiple ones. The spread of donations from organisations per country is given in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Number donating organisations per country



The full list of organisational donors since the start of the Fund can be found on the [Ukraine Zoos Emergency Fund webpage](#). EAZA thanks all the donors for their generosity and would like to especially acknowledge the following organisations for their high level of support in 2023:

**€40,000 and more**

ZAA and Members, Australasia

**€10,000 and more**

Ähtäri Zoo, FI  
 Calgary Zoo, CA  
 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, USA  
 Cologne Zoo, DE  
 Georgia Aquarium, USA  
 Houston Zoo, USA  
 Kolmården Foundation, SE  
 Opel-Zoo, DE  
 Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, UK  
 WAZA, ES  
 Wilhelma Zoo, DE

**€1,000 and more**

Aquatic Animal Health Club, USA  
 Bergen aquarium, NO  
 Dallas Zoo, USA  
 Drusillas Zoo, UK  
 Helsinki Zoo, FI  
 Maryland Zoo, USA  
 Saitama Childrens Zoo, JP  
 Wellington Zoo, NZ  
 Yokohama Greenery Foundation, JP  
 Zoomarine Portugal, PT

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

In 2023 the Fund not only provided direct financial aid to institutions but also paid for six generators to be transported into Ukraine and distributed to institutions.

EAZA is also 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 17 institutions receiving additional support in 2023:

Askania Nova Reserve	Mena (Mensky) Zoo *
Berdyansk 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 *	

Table 1 shows how the funds were distributed across different institutions in 2023. The highest level of spend was to the large EAZA Candidate for Membership zoos and zoos who are members of AZU.

**Table 1: Summary of total spent by number of institutions in receipt of that amount**

Total spent amount €	Number Institutions
0-10,000	6
10,001-50,000	7
50,001-100,000	1
100,001 +	2

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

Amongst the Ukrainian zoos there has been a continuing strong preference to support each other internally and move animals in need of extra care or accommodation to other Ukrainian zoos. To date, there has not been a large need to relocate animals from the supported organisations to zoos outside Ukraine. At the same time, EAZA has been in contact with a group of animal rescue organisations and assisted with 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 3: Six generators sent from The Netherlands to zoos in Ukraine to assist with heating and lighting over the winter period after usual energy supplies became restricted.**



**Figure 4: Chimpanzees at Kharkiv Zoo**



Figure 5: Elephants at Mykolaiv Zoo

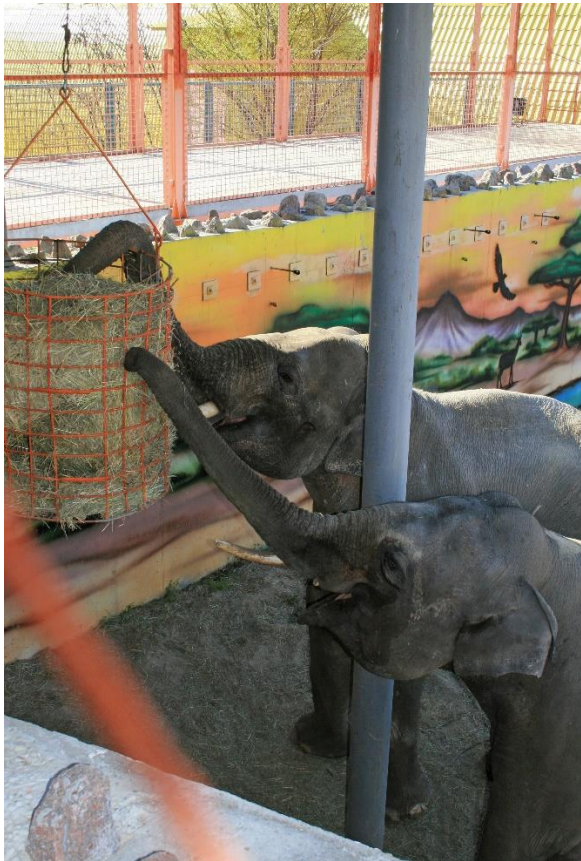


Figure 7: Animal interactions with those affected by the war, Kyiv Zoo

