



Ukraine Zoos Emergency Fund Protocol

The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) is the organizer of the fundraising campaign to assist Ukrainian zoos, aquariums, and other facilities caring for wild animals ¹ (i.e., not domestic animals) (henceforth “zoos”). The administration of the fund and disbursement of money to recipients is also undertaken by EAZA via the EAZA Executive Office, based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, which includes the bombardment of Ukrainian cities, presents unique problems for zoological institutions in the country. The tactics used by Russian forces also limit the possible safe actions and responses available to the zoos and to partners providing funds to assist them. Response efforts are further complicated by the need to respect EU and other sanctions on Russia and avoid where possible the risk of funds falling into the wrong hands or being used for purposes that are not related to the appeal. This document provides a framework for the gathering and use of funds to assist zoos, aquariums and other facilities caring for wild animals in Ukraine.

Standard procedure for the raising of funds for emergency relief identifies several phases of a crisis, and EAZA will work according to the following model:

Phase 1: Primary crisis phase: While fighting continues in Ukraine, we will provide funds to zoos to allow them to care for animals in place in their institutions, or, where possible requested by the zoos and safe for animals and humans, to move the animals out of the immediate combat area to other institutions that can provide adequate care.

Phase 2: Secondary crisis phase: The fund will need to consider whether the war is likely to continue over the medium to long terms and 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.

Phase 3: Recovery phase: Following the end of the war, or where fighting is confined to areas away from zoos and their logistical supply routes, or where essential infrastructure is available and where its use will not hamper civil recovery efforts, funds will be allocated to help zoos to provide safe, welfare positive environments for animals, including possible rebuild of enclosures and other facilities.

¹ This includes wild animal sanctuaries and other facilities caring for wild animals. EAZA will consider requests from this kind of facility based on individual requests and under the same terms as for zoos, especially where we can leverage joint resources with other interested parties.

USE OF FUNDS

PHASE 1

Under the strictest possible terms of due diligence (see below), for the primary crisis phase, funds may be used for the following:

1. **Care of animals and staff** in the institutions, as per the [Fund's Claim List](#)
2. **Logistics** for provision of resources to zoos caring for animals in place.
3. **Evacuation of staff:** provision of resources to evacuated staff in Ukraine or abroad.
4. **Evacuation of animals:** If animals can be evacuated safely from zoos to other facilities and this has been agreed by the EAZA Crisis Team², the fund can also be used for expenses related to such operations.

During Phase 1, funds will be disbursed according to the requests of zoos in Ukraine, with the following provisos:

1. Zoos undertake to provide as full a record as possible of their spending, and agree to use funds for these items only
2. Zoos agree to maintain the safest possible environment for animal care staff while fighting continues, and will not use funds provided to undertake actions that place staff or third parties in conditions of significantly elevated risk (i.e., a risk over and above the level of risk already extant)

Decisions on funding will be taken by the EAZA Crisis Team according to these requests and will take into account the need to preserve some funding for future phases. This is to say that funds disbursed in phase one are intended to meet the immediate needs of zoos. Sums disbursed will take into account:

1. Accessibility of the zoos if supplies are being provided, and safety of any party delivering them
2. Accessibility of reliable banking mechanisms if funds are provided directly, including assessments of the medium to long term accessibility of these facilities (i.e., where the assessment finds that banking facilities will become less available in the immediate future, the Crisis Team will consider the provision of larger sums)
3. Potential for misuse of funds: where large cash sums are provided, the Crisis Team would aim to limit the potential damage caused by confiscation or theft.

Assessments will be carried out in association with the Ukrainian zoos, the [EAZA Technical Assistance Committee Mentors](#), and a thorough review of the latest developments as reported by reputable news providers.

² The EAZA Crisis Team is made up of Director level staff at the EAZA Executive Office supported by the EAZA Technical Assistance Committee (who has links to Ukrainian institutions) and Executive Committee (the Executive Board of the Association)

PHASE 2

During the secondary crisis phase, funds may be allocated for the following:

1. **Continued care of animals in place** in institutions as per Phase 1 and including all items on the Claims List.
2. **Care of animals in Ukrainian institutions away from the front line** if available, where basic welfare considerations can be addressed safely. This assumes that some animals would have been evacuated from combat zoos to other facilities within Ukraine. This includes all items on the Claims List.
3. **Provision of resources to evacuated staff** in Ukraine or abroad.
4. **Care of animals originating in Ukrainian zoos and temporarily housed in non-Ukrainian institutions** provided that all legal conditions of their export from Ukraine and all reasonable safety precautions are met to remove them from the country, as per Phase 1 point 3 above.
5. **Short term repair and stabilization** of animal enclosures and care facilities in current or recent combat zones

Decisions on disbursement of funds will follow the model outlined above for Phase 1, with potentially additional conditions applied as EAZA and its partners understand more about the development of the situation in Ukraine. These will be published in an appendix to this protocol when EAZA announces publicly that we will move to Phase 2 from Phase 1.

PHASE 3

During the Recovery Phase, assuming that Ukraine is free of Russian forces and occupation infrastructure³ (i.e., not subject to international sanctions), the fund may be used for the following:

1. **Continued supply of food, medicine** and other items as per the Claims List
2. **Support for rebuilding appropriate populations** of animals in zoos according to EAZA Population Management principles, including but not exclusive to the return of animals from evacuation sites.
3. **Costs associated with the rebuild of zoo enclosures**, buildings, infrastructure and so on.
4. **Costs associated with the return of evacuated or refugee staff** to their point of origin in Ukraine.

Assuming that the end of the conflict will allow for a much greater degree of accountability for the spend of monies collected, EAZA will provide funds according to the needs of individual institutions following submission of a proposal. EAZA will encourage all zoos in Ukraine to rebuild enclosures to a modern standard, and where possible to the [EAZA Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals in Zoos and Aquariums](#), the [EAZA Population Management Manual](#) and other guiding documents of EAZA – with a view to ensuring an overall improvement in the level of care and welfare for animals in Ukrainian zoos.

³ Or as above, where fighting is reasonably assumed to be finished and not likely to return to the site of the facility or its environs

Funding Schedule:

Due to the need to make funds available for all of these phases, EAZA will necessarily retain some funds over the relative long term.

In a worst-case scenario, if funds cannot be disbursed to Ukrainian zoos due to Russian occupation, complete or irreparable destruction of zoos or other force majeure, EAZA will hold a consultation with donors to decide how to spend monies left over.

Availability of Funds

Money from this fund will be available to all Ukrainian zoos, not just those with EAZA affiliations. Nonetheless, EAZA will take steps to ensure that money provided is used appropriately and any institution receiving funds will be required to commit to high standards of animal care and the principle of legal and ethical acquisition and disposition of animals following the end of the war, to reinforce the principles set out by CITES and to eliminate the illegal trade in animals.

For the duration of the crisis, EAZA's priority will be on the care and welfare of wild animals in human care, whatever their provenance and regardless of previously existing practices in the institutions that care for them; there is an expectation that funds provided to Ukrainian zoos must be used to commit to high standards across the board as soon as possible.

Reporting and due diligence

EAZA commits to full transparency in the administration of the fund and the spending of donations provided to it. This will include a general report that will include details of all the spending, with the understanding that some loss of money or its misuse is inevitable in times of war. EAZA will consult with organisations experienced in emergency relief to ensure that any such losses are within the parameters expected by these agencies.

Donors with specific requests for the spend of their money will receive additional evidence of the results of their donations, however, while EAZA will do everything it can to meet the conditions of donors, we cannot guarantee that all monies will be spent according to the requests of donors. In these cases, we will revert to the donor to consult on other options for the use of these funds.

We ask for the understanding of donors that the situational analysis provided from Ukraine may mean that money is required for urgent actions that fall outside of the conditions of donation – we nonetheless commit to spending any donation in a way that meets as closely as possible the needs of donors, and which fall fully within the terms of reference described above.