

Report: Ukraine Zoos Emergency Fund, 2025 activities

February 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. When the war sadly entered its third year, and with 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 2025 period.

Donations and Spending

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

- Donated: €2,156,144.95
- Spent: €2,000,256.45

Resulting in €155,888.50 remaining at the end of 2025. The majority of donations were received in the first few months after the war started, with a total of €1,755,689.21 donated in 2022, €289,925.60 in 2023, €78,141.51 in 2024, and €32,388.63 in 2025.

Small donations from individuals continued to be received every month throughout 2025, and there were a few larger donations across the year. EAZA specifically called for renewed support in March, August and December 2025. Individuals across the world have made over 12,000 donations so far, with many making multiple donations. Individuals are acknowledged by name on the Ukraine website page. Over two hundred and twenty 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 2025:**

€10,000 and more	€5,000 and more	€1,000 and more
Opel-Zoo, DE	Big Cats Sanctuary, UK	Munich Zoo
	Wilhelma Zoo, DE	Seul/Sony Europe
		Woodland Park Zoological Society, USA

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.

The focus for 2025 was prioritising support for the three Candidate for Membership zoos. Dry feed was especially in short supply. Most of the money remaining in the Fund has been allocated towards meeting this need, and it is currently being coordinated with the cooperation of EAZA Corporate Member [intipa](#).

We are aware that other zoos in Ukraine have requested support however, there are currently limited funds available to assist them. EAZA will continue to call for donations and is appreciative of all that is given.

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.

EAZA remains committed to supporting zoos and aquariums in Ukraine care for their animals and staff.