



EAZA Update on the status of Ukrainian zoos

Amsterdam, 22 April 2022: The situation for Ukrainian zoos remains mixed. For zoos in the west of the country and including the Kyiv area, the withdrawal of defeated Russian forces means that the direct threat is now considerably reduced since our last update; however, indiscriminate bombing and artillery attacks continue, and these by their nature pose a continued threat to the staff and animals of the zoos in those areas. Their animals are receiving food and care, and the zoos are not asking for animals to be relocated. Due to the redeployment of Russian soldiers to the east of Ukraine and a renewed offensive in the area, the threat to the zoos in or near Kharkiv remains very high. It is increasingly difficult for us to remain in contact with Kharkiv Zoo, and Feldman Ecopark has been severely damaged; many of the animals from Feldman Ecopark have been relocated to other facilities, however, some remain on site; they are being fed daily and the zoo has plans to evacuate them when it becomes possible. While it is impossible for us to predict what will happen in the Kharkiv area over the next period, EAZA and its partners will continue to provide whatever support we can until the danger has passed.

EAZA has also seen reports about the discovery of the bodies of two zookeepers from Feldman Ecopark, apparently murdered by Russian occupation forces. These compassionate and dedicated people chose to remain at the zoo site to look after animals despite the dangers to their safety. As animal carers, none of those killed at Feldman Ecopark had any connection to the war, and their deaths are inexcusable; the deliberate murder of these two keepers in our opinion constitutes a war crime and brings further shame on Russia. EAZA calls for the perpetrators to be brought to justice in Ukraine at the earliest possible opportunity.

The EAZA Emergency Fund for Ukrainian Zoos stands now at €1,181,849, an extraordinary total that will help zoos continue to care for their animals in the short term and work to rehabilitate animals and repair infrastructure over the long term. All of us at EAZA thank you for your donations and offers of assistance. Money from the fund has now been allocated to the following zoos:

Askania Nova Nature Reserve, Berdyansk Zoo, BioPark Odesa, Feldman Ecopark, Kharkiv Zoo, Kyiv Zoo, Mena Zoo, Mykolaiv Zoo, Rivne Zoo and ZooMir Bilytske

Additionally, supplies have been delivered to the following zoos via Warsaw, Łódź and Rivne Zoos:

XII Months Zoo, BioPark Odesa, Cherkasy Zoo, Feldman Ecopark, Kharkiv Zoo, Limpopo Zoo, Lutsk Zoo, Mykolaiv Zoo, Poltava Zoo, Odesa State Zoo, Rivne Zoo, Vinnytsia Zoo and ZooMir Bilytske

The [Emergency Fund](#) remains open to donations. Updates on the situation will also continue to be posted on our website and on our social media channels when new information is received.