

Endangered Species Reserve Fund - 2023 Budget

Date: November 14, 2022

To: Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo

From: Chief Executive Officer

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The Endangered Species Reserve Fund (ESRF) supports conservation and education projects to benefit endangered species in Canada and around the world. The 2023 Endangered Species Reserve Fund Budget is attached for approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that:

1. The Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo approve the Endangered Species Reserve Fund Projects listed in Appendix I with net expenditures of \$155,000.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Incurring the proposed expenditures will result in a projected fund balance of \$563,446 by year-end 2023 (including earned interest). Based on anticipated revenue and interest income of \$33,219, the ESRF balance would decrease by \$121,781 on a net basis for 2023, versus the prior year.

DECISION HISTORY

As part of its conservation mission to connect people, animals, and conservation science to fight extinction, the Toronto Zoo undertakes many conservation and research projects. These projects take place locally, nationally, and internationally for the benefit of threatened and endangered species, promoting species survival, reproduction, and habitat preservation.

The Zoo's Endangered Species Reserve Fund (ESRF) was established for the purpose of fulfilling this mission and increasing investment for these activities. Funds have historically been collected through fundraising on site and accumulated interest from the Fund balance. Bequests are on deposit in the ESRF from previous years. Approval by the Board is required for all disbursements from the ESRF.

COMMENTS

The fund balance as of 2022-11-01 was \$685,227 and is influenced by the timing of expenditures, interest income and revenue from various donations. The current balance of the fund and projection of income for 2023 will result in a projected fund balance of \$563,446 by year-end 2023 (including earned interest). A summary of the 2023 projects is attached for your review (Appendix I).

The establishment of the Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy (Wildlife Conservancy) in 2019 has increased the funding available to support conservation initiatives. In 2022 the Wildlife Conservancy made a 10-year, \$500,000 commitment for orangutan and gorilla conservation, which brings the total investment in conservation initiatives from both organizations to over \$200,000 annually. Over the next 4 to 6 years the Zoo's ESRF will be invested in conservation initiatives until exhausted and a new model established with funding being provided through the Wildlife Conservancy and the migration of operations-critical projects into the Zoo base budget.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix I - ESRF 2023 Project List and Budget
Schedule A - Project Descriptions