

Endangered Species Reserve Fund - 2024 Budget

Date: January 25, 2024

To: Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo

From: Senior Director, Wildlife Science

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 2024 Endangered Species Reserve Fund Budget is attached for approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Senior Director, Wildlife Science 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 \$150,000.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Incurring the proposed expenditures will result in a projected fund balance of \$447,820 by year-end 2024 (including earned interest). Based on anticipated interest income of \$28,468, the ESRF balance would decrease by \$121,532 on a net basis for 2024, 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 2023-12-31 was \$569,353 and is influenced by the timing of expenditures and interest income. The current balance of the fund and projection of income for 2024 will result in a projected fund balance of \$447,820 by year-end 2024 (including earned interest). A summary of the 2024 projects is attached for your review (Appendix I).

In addition to initiatives from the ESRF of the Toronto Zoo, the Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy (Wildlife Conservancy) has increased the funding available to support conservation initiatives through Wilding Endangered Species Preservation Fund (Wilding Fund).

In 2023, the Wildlife Conservancy made a 10-year, \$1.05M commitment for various conservation projects for Orangutans, Gorillas, African penguins, Red pandas and Amur tigers. The combined effort between the ESRF from the Toronto Zoo and the Wilding fund from Wildlife Conservancy will invest more than \$200,000 in conservation initiatives on an annual basis. The ESRF will be depleted in the next 3 to 4 years until exhausted, and a new model will be established with funding from 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

Attachment I - ESRF 2024 Project List and Budget
Attachment II - Schedule A - Project Descriptions