

Endangered Species Reserve Fund - 2025 Budget

Date: February 14, 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 2025 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 approves the Endangered Species Reserve Fund Projects with net expenditures of \$150,000.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Incurring the proposed expenditure will result in a projected fund balance of \$499,000 by year-end 2025 (including earned interest) if no further draws are made. Based on an anticipated interest income of \$30,000, the ESRF balance would decrease by \$120,000 on a net basis for 2025, 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 2024-12-31 was \$619,000 and is influenced by the timing of expenditures and interest income. The current balance of the fund and projection of income for 2025 will result in a projected fund balance of \$499,000 by year-end 2025 (including earned interest). A summary of the 2025 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 2024, the Wildlife Conservancy made a 10-year, \$1.1M 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 is expected to be fully utilized within the next two to three years, after which a new funding model will be introduced. This model will rely on support from the Wildlife Conservancy and the integration of essential operational projects into the Zoo's core budget.

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