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WILD ANIMAL RECOVERY CENTER (MODERNIZATION OF THE CITY OF  
ZAGREB ZOO PHASE III) – preserving urban biodiversity through  
mitigating human-animal conflicts

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The City of Zagreb, like other urban environments, wants to ensure quality living conditions for its citizens. Green infrastructure contributes greatly to the quality of life. At the same time, preservation of plant life, and especially forests, automatically leads to the creation of habitats for numerous animal species, sometimes even unwanted interactions between people and animals.

The City of Zagreb has recognized the importance of recovery center for wild animals as an important tool for mitigating existing conflict situations and a platform for helping and recovering animals.





GIFT

Project value: EUR 3.120.000,00 EU funding  
796.336,85 EUR, Environmental Protection Fund -120.501,25 EUR, 388.196,26 EUR-  
Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds  
City of Zagreb- 1.814.965,64 EUR.

Start/end date: 01.07.2020.- (31.12.2023.) 27.6.2024.

The project secured co-financing based on the application to the Call:

**Specific objective: 6iii2** - Establishment of a framework for sustainable management of biodiversity (primarily the ecological network Natura 2000)

**Title of call:** Improvement and increase of the capacity of the recovery center for wild animals



EUROPSKA UNIJA  
Zajedno do fondova EU.  
Projekt je sufinancirala Europska  
unija iz kohezijskog fonda.



Operativni program  
KONKURENTNOST  
I KOHEZIJA



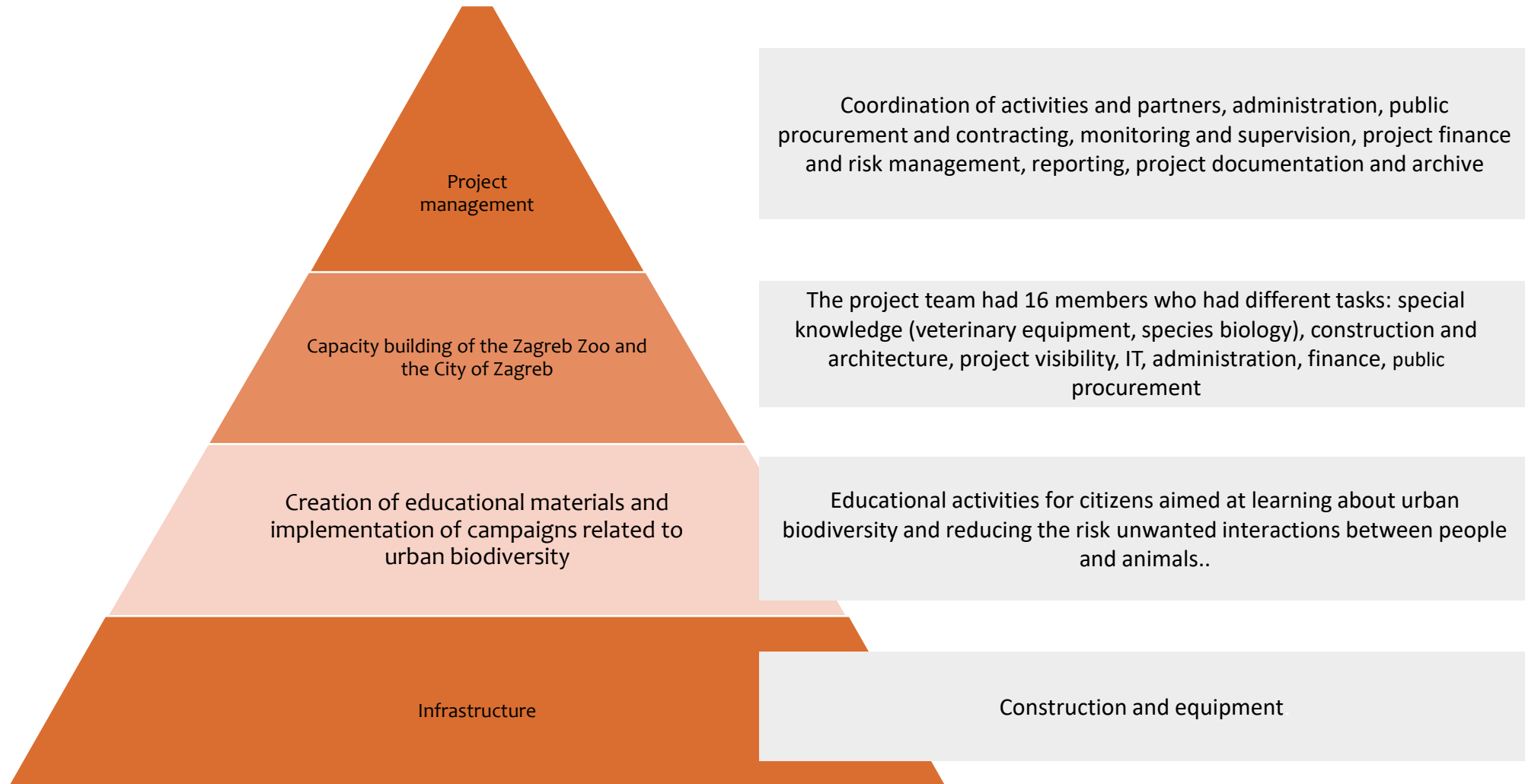
## WILD ANIMAL RECOVERY CENTER - MODERNIZATION OF THE CITY OF ZAGREB ZOO PHASE III

General objective of the project	Specific project objectives
<p>Development of a system for nature protection, biodiversity conservation and strengthening the Green Infrastructure of the City of Zagreb and the Republic of Croatia through the development of a system for the care of native wild species found exhausted, sick, injured, wounded or poisoned, as well as confiscated strictly protected animals, by improving and building new capacities of recovery sites (ex situ protection of wild species).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Construction and equipping of a new rehabilitation facility.</li><li>2. A new recovery center equipped with a modern clinic and a new equipped vehicle for transporting animals</li><li>3. Increased public awareness of the importance of preserving wildlife and nature, and especially urban biodiversity</li></ol>





# THE PROJECT COMPONENTS



# IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

**WILDLIFE REHABILITATION FACILITY** built and equipped.



**FREE FLIGHT AVIARY** built Next to the main accommodation facility is a flight aviary where birds practice their flight before returning to nature.

## SOLAR CELLS ON THE ROOF

- solar power plant for the production of electricity with a power of 38.43 kW
- 126 solar panels
- 42.952 kWh/year

**VEHICLE** specialized for transporting animals was purchased



# IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

Educational materials related to the protection of wildlife in the city and urban areas were created and published.



Continuation of **capacity building of organizations** that participated in the project implementation. During 2024. info centre for the citizens received 35 650 calls related to the injured animals or situations that needs human intervention.





# NEW FACILITY – RESCUE CENTER FOR WILD ANIMALS





# NEW FACILITY – RESCUE CENTER FOR WILD ANIMALS





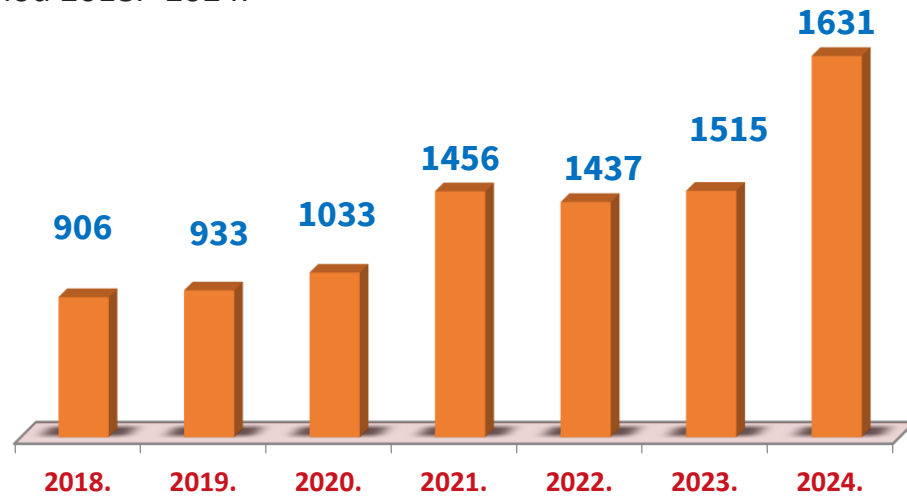
**WHO WE HAVE TAKEN CARE OF SO FAR...**



# WORK OF THE RESCUE CENTER IN NUMBERS

On the streets of the City of Zagreb, there are a large number of different animal species staff of the rescue center gather according to the protocols developed with the Ministry of the Interior, Veterinary Inspection, Fire Brigade, Mountain Rescue Service, Center 112 and on reports from citizens and institutions.

Number of wild animals taken care of in Zagreb, period 2018. -2024.



Number of animals taken care of in the period

2018. – 2024.

2022.-2024.

Number of species 162

Number of specimens 8911 4.583





# THE MOST NUMEROUS SPECIES



BATS



COMMON KESTREL



LONG EARED OWL



WHITE STORK



BUZZARD



SCOPS OWL



TESTUDO SP.



GREAT TIT



PIGEON



CROW



HEDGEHOG



ROE DEER



MALLARD



BLACKBIRD



DOVE



# CONFISCATED ANIMALS



252,000 pieces of a strictly protected species of European eel, were confiscated at the airport in Zagreb. The smugglers were arrested, and the eels were placed in the Rescue Center of the Zagreb Zoo.

One of the cobras seized at Zagreb Airport and placed in Recovery center.



Burmese python 5.5 meters long and weighing more than 50 kilograms arrived at the Rescue Center. It was confiscated from the owner in the city center.



Ministry of Environmental Protection and Energy seized 10 individuals of *Ambystoma mexicanum*, a critically endangered species from Mexican lakes.



Four-month-old (*Puma concolor*) cougar cub arrived at the Zagreb Zoo Rescue Center.

# WILDLIFE PROTECTION PROGRAM – MEASURES TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO WILDLIFE AND FROM WILDLIFE

- Education and cooperation with owners and users of areas outside the hunting grounds
- Billboards
- Flyer Removing the crow's nest in a legal way – respecting the welfare of the animals
- Distribution of repellents to repel wild boars
- Program "Control and monitoring of wild boars"





# WILD ANIMALS AND CONFLICT WITH CITIZENS

## Crows

- ❖ Faeces
- ❖ Noise
- ❖ Attack on people

- ✓ The period of breeding (04.01.-05.15.)
- ✓ Nest building period (03/01-04/15)
- ✓ Period of fledgling(01.05.-15.06.)
- ✓ Adaptation to feeding with household food



## Wild boars

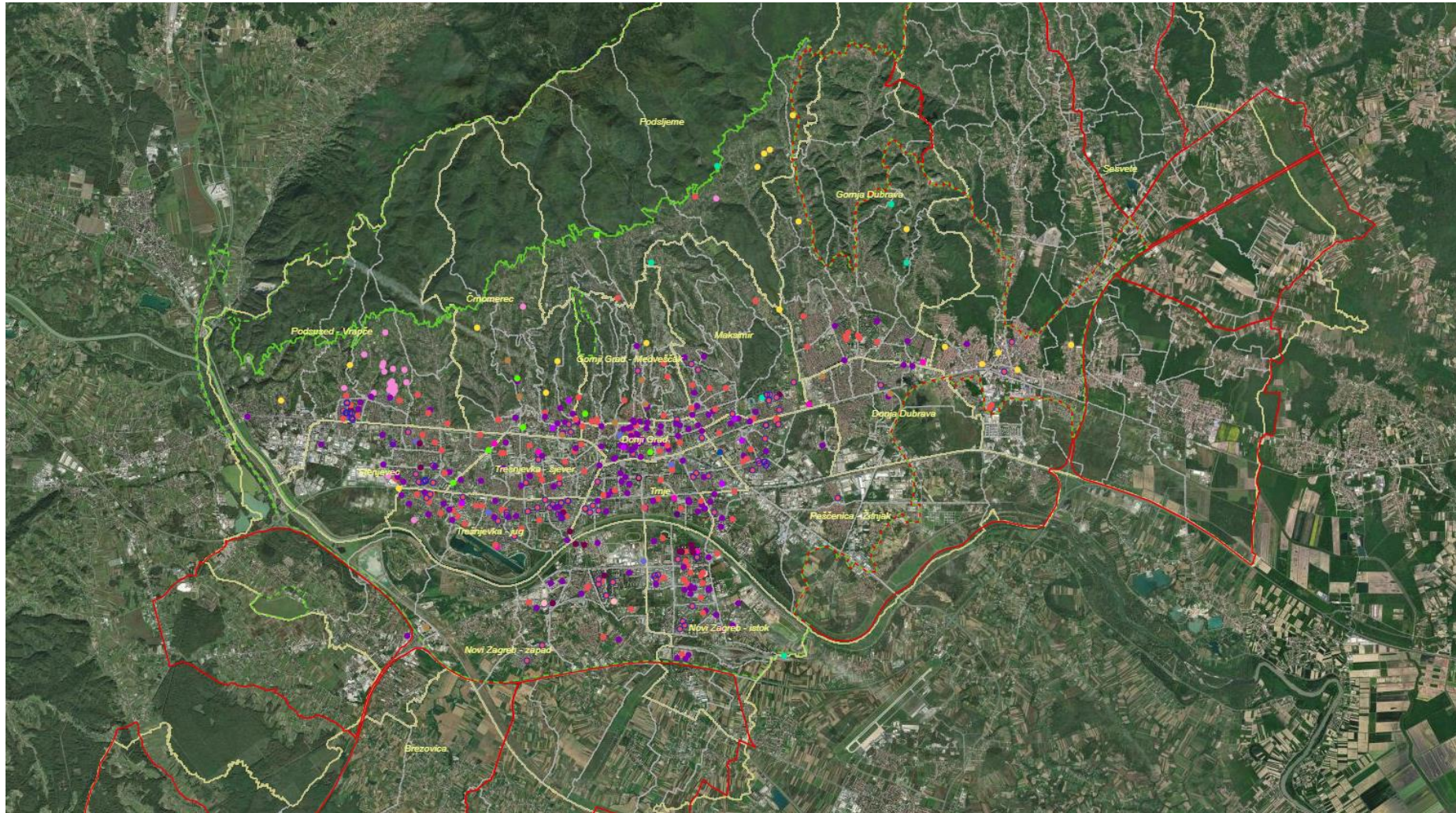
- ❖ Damage to crops, yards, orchards, entry into fenced plots
- ❖ Fear of an attack

- ✓ Well adapted to different habitats, especially cities
- ✓ Food source of anthropogenic origin (waste)
- ✓ Unmaintained surfaces that provide natural corridors





## ANIMAL FINDINGS ENTERED INTO GIS PROGRAMME



The arrival of the rescues team on the field is marked with different colors, depending on the species of animal that need help, which provides a good overview of the interventions and a good basis for further planning.

## LONG TERM IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

- **Building a system for managing urban biodiversity** in situations where problems of human-animal interaction occur in the City.
- **Educating people** about the fact that the expansion of urban areas into green zones can lead to interaction with animals and how to proceed in such cases.
- **Protecting both people and animals**, and thus protecting green areas, by creating explanations for individual animal species that are acceptable to citizens.
- Bringing green policies closer to the citizens of the City of Zagreb **preparing and implementing campaigns aimed at nature conservation**.
- **Building infrastructure and human resources** potential for participation in nature protection programs and the protection of protected animal species.



## BENEFITS FOR THE CITY AND POSSIBILITIES FOR OTHER STEKEHOLDERS TO IMPLEMENT GOOD PRACTICE

Issues we have addressed in this presentation are identical for numerous cities in Europe and around the world. Although they often differ in terms of legal frameworks and obligations, citizens will most often call for help and action - local city services.

The project was aimed at building the infrastructure that was missing and is necessary for the protection of urban biodiversity.

In the practice of the City of Zagreb, it has proven necessary to operate an info center whose employees are contacted by citizens with all inquiries related to wild animals. The info center employees also contact the emergency center, firefighters, police and others.

The preparation, implementation and establishment of the system required the coordination of various professions and the coordination of various services and institutions.

Informing and educating citizens on how to behave when encountering wild animals is done through a series of campaigns that use educational materials created during the project.

Creating new value, improving the quality of and preserving the urban biodiversity of the City of Zagreb and ensuring that this value is preserved for future generations.



# Thank you!



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