

To: Animal Acquisition Committee
From: Tom Mason
Subject: New species for Demonstration
Date: 2010-08-23

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Toronto Zoo acquire a Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*) from African Lion Safari. This is a new species for Toronto Zoo and it is in the collection plan as being a species to display in the newly developed Eurasia region.

Financial Impact:

The cost of this bird is approximately \$1,000 and funds are available the Animal Acquisition Budget.

Background:

The Eurasian eagle-owl has been discussed with our outreach staff for many years. The species is often used by falconry and bird show people because of its impressive size and trainability. With the loss of our outreach, great horned owls and with the Eurasian eagle-owl being on the short list for display in the new North Development region of Eurasia, this species fits several key features for a new species at Toronto Zoo.

Comments/Discussion:

The eagle-owl is the largest owl on earth. Their diet would be approximately the same as a great horned owl. The bird will be trained for Demonstration Outreach and thus has the potential to bring income to the Zoo. The bird was requested by the staff and space is already available for this bird.

The Eurasian eagle-owl is one of the most impressive birds in the world. It is both desired by the outreach staff and in our collection plans. It is also one of those species that can be trained for outreach and still be used in a breeding situation later on. The species is also a species recommended by the Raptor TAG of the AZA.

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