

Dear Club Members and Sympathizers, Naturalists!

We appeal to you with a request to support our Organization! Never before have public collections been a significant element in the financing of the Club's activity, we have been raising funds from subsidies and we have been earning money as part of a broadly developed business activity. It gave us independence. Today, ecological non-governmental organisations are treated in Poland as "development restraint" not worth supporting. Many of them, due to lack of funds, have closed the offices and minimized their activity. This situation also forces us to reach for forms of financing which we have not used so far, including social generosity.

We have 36-year history of work for the protection of nature, firstly in the Lubusz Land, then the whole country. We started from small things, but how spectacular then. In the 1990s, we bought grasslands in Owczary, saving them from destruction by the Yamal gas pipeline, later we developed their active protection in the Oder and Warta valleys and even distant Lublin lands, efficiently raising domestic and then European funds. In the early 2000s, we began to actively protect peatlands, among others, as the first beneficiaries of the LIFE fund in Poland. The following years include several dozen smaller and larger projects - protecting endangered habitats and species throughout the country. Several hundred publications, the quarterly Nature Review (Przegląd Przyrodniczy), the monographs of species and numerous nature conservation guides. We have contributed to the creation of several dozens of nature reserves, we have developed several hundred documentation and conservation plans for reserves, national parks or Natura 2000 sites. Our activities have helped to stop degradation and improve the state of nature on at least a dozen or so thousands of hectares - as much as a medium-sized national park! We own almost 150 ha of valuable and endangered meadows, grasslands and peatlands, and we lease next 150 ha for active protection. The entire spectrum of our past, current and planned activities can be found on our website: <http://www.kp.org.pl/pl/>.

All our projects were possible due to the hard work of the Club staff and volunteers, but above all the support of many people and institutions. Unfortunately, for several years as an independent non-governmental organization, we can count on institutional support to a smaller extent. In order to preserve the valuable habitats whose active protection we have started, to conduct educational, publishing, scientific and intervention activities, to monitor the establishment and enforcement of the law, we must obtain at least PLN 2 million this year. About 90% of this amount will be worked out as a part of economic activity or we will get from subsidies, but today we can see that to run our business in the current scope or to develop it, we will run out of about 10% of the amount.

This is 200,000 zł. We hope to get it from the social generosity. We are convinced that we can count on the support of those for whom our work is familiar and not indifferent. To this end, we run this one-time and unique collection. We count on **collecting 100,000 PLN for 100 days**. We do not conceal in any way that it is not a fund-raising campaign on which it is easy to raise funds - buying a battered animal, surgery of ill person or buying swamps over Rospuda. For your support we will buy postage stamps, spare parts for mowers, we will support the print of the Nature Review, we will provide own contribution to projects to protect valuable grasslands and peatlands or to save the historic building of our Field Station in Uniemyśl. We will independently announce the target fundraising, in which we hope to collect the remaining PLN 100,000 - for the implementation of specific projects, for example supporting the development of the nature reserves network or land purchase. But it is this collection that you are reading about, though perhaps not very spectacular, is the most important - it will allow us to continue to work efficiently in all these fields.

The need to reach for public collection is not the result of our mismanagement. It's the cumulative impact of many adverse phenomena occurring in our social and political environment. Perhaps also a sign of time - crowdfunding is beginning to be a significant source of funding for many projects. We know that many people would like to give us 1% tax, but we are not a Public Benefit Organization, being it would complicate significantly conducting business activity so important for us.

We encourage you to generosity! We will be grateful for any financial assistance, as well as the dissemination of this information to friends who care about nature. Below are the account numbers through which you can support us by entering in the transfer title - "support for Club". For transfers in PLN: **28 1090 1593 0000 0001 0243 0645** (SWIFT/BIC code: **WBKPPLPP**) and in EUR: **PL 29 1090 1593 0000 0001 1611 2283** (SWIFT/BIC code: **WBKPPLPP**).

For the next 100 days, from March 12th to June 20th, we will show the results of the collection on our website. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact: andjerma@wp.pl.

The Naturalists' Club Board