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**Rescue the Wildness Foundation to be the first Polish foundation  
protecting African lions**

Rescue the Wildness Foundation (*Fundacja Ocalmy Dzikość*) as the first Polish non-governmental organization undertook to conserve West African lions (*P. l. senegalensis*) from extinction.

West African lions are a lion population, which is critically endangered with extinction. The animals live in strictly limited areas of West Africa, particularly in the territories of Benin and Burkina Faso, where about 200 of them live in Pendjari National Park and adjacent Protected Areas. The international number of those lions is around 240 individuals. Moreover, the population number of West African lions has decreased by about a half in recent years, therefore it is likely that the animals may die out completely before 2020.

Rescue the Wildness Foundation has undertaken to conduct a pioneering project named "Rescue the Kings", which is oriented at conserving the West African lions, as well as at educating and sensitizing the local and international community with regard to the necessity to protect those creatures from extinction. The project is planned to be completed in the period 2017-2020.

The largest challenge in lion conservation is to mitigate the human-lion conflict resulting from lions' attacks on livestock of local farmers, who therefore kill the lions responsible for their losses, in form of retaliatory actions. As a part of the Project the Foundation plans to construct strengthened bomas, that is special enclosures, which will protect the livestock of local communities in Benin and Burkina Faso from lion aggression. Also, the project involves educating local communities, especially children, with regard to the necessity to protect and conserve lions and the entire nature. Moreover, the Foundation also plans to undertake operations oriented at sensitizing the international community, particularly the citizens of Poland, with regard to threats, status and fate of lions.