



Białowieża, 3.03.2022

**Statement
of the Mammal Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences
in response to the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine**

In connection with the military invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine, with the participation of the Republic of Belarus, we decide that the Mammal Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences is suspending our formal scientific cooperation with scientific institutions based in the Russian Federation and Belarus.

Our decision is an expression of solidarity with the Ukrainian Nation, which has become the object of unprecedented and unjustified aggression by the Russian Federation. As a result of the military actions against the neighboring country, cities are being destroyed and civilians are being killed, and while the Russian invaders are intensifying their efforts the situation is becoming more and more serious. Among the victims of the Russian aggressors are also our Ukrainian partners, for instance those from the V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University – in a city that yesterday was ruthlessly bombed by the Russian army.

We understand that the world of natural sciences cannot be directly linked with political decisions and we are aware of the fact that substantial proportion of scientific community in Russia and Belarus is not supportive of the military actions against Ukraine. However, in present situation, we cannot continue formal cooperation with official Russian and Belarusian scientific institutions when acts of brutal violence by the Russian army on civilians is unfolding in front of our eyes. That is why we decided to suspend agreements with all Russian and Belarusian scientific institutions with immediate effect. We have no doubts that this gesture of solidarity with the Ukrainian people will not stop the war but we perceive this as our duty.

DIRECTOR

Dr. habil. Michał Żmihorski