

Support, Funding, and Patron Pathways

in Spiralweb Stewardship Association

Function of this document

This text explains how support, funding, and patron pathways are understood in Spiralweb Stewardship Association. Its purpose is practical clarity. It describes what support means, what it can fund, what it does not provide, and how different supporters may relate to the work.

1. Why this text exists

Spiralweb Stewardship Association exists to support regenerative stewardship, public knowledge work, and place-based pilot activity through a transparent and bounded institutional form.

This text exists so that supporters, partners, board members, and external readers can understand how support is handled in practice.

2. What support means

Support to the association is understood as purpose-bound stewardship support.

This means that contributions are received in order to strengthen defined areas of work that serve the association's purpose. Support is not understood as investment capital or as a route to ownership or control.

Support may take several lawful forms, including:

- donations
- grants
- supporting memberships
- patron contributions
- institutional or strategic contributions
- project-specific support compatible with the association's purpose

In all cases, support must remain compatible with the association's non-profit orientation, governance obligations, documentation standards, and basic compliance requirements.

3. What support does not provide

Support to the association does not in itself provide:

- ownership rights
- profit participation

- repayment rights
- dividend expectations
- governance control
- veto rights
- appointment rights
- hidden influence over partners or field priorities
- branding control over the association's public voice or relationships

Support may create relationship, dialogue, and in some cases closer alignment. But it does not purchase control.

4. The three support categories

The association currently works with three primary support categories. These categories make support legible, purpose-bound, and traceable.

A. Land Stewardship Support

This category supports direct ecological and place-based stewardship.

It may include:

- soil and water restoration
- food forest or agroecological groundwork
- biodiversity-supporting practices
- basic tools and materials
- field observation and local documentation
- steward travel or logistics directly tied to land-based work
- minimum viable support for pilot activity at verified field nodes

B. Cultural and Knowledge Support

This category supports the knowledge, publication, protocol, translation, and articulation work that allows the field to become legible and shareable.

It may include:

- writing and editing
- publication work
- translation
- protocol development
- dashboard and documentation frameworks
- citizen-science methods
- archival, educational, and interpretive work

C. Coordination and Partner Infrastructure

This category supports the human and institutional conditions that make continuity possible across people, sites, and processes.

It may include:

- coordination time
- partner communication
- meetings and decision processes
- governance work
- due diligence and compliance preparation
- financial administration
- travel linked to partnership formation or stewardship coordination
- support for maintaining viable operational rhythm across the association

These categories matter because regenerative work is not only ecological. It also depends on language, coordination, governance, and human carrying capacity.

5. How support is governed

The association aims to receive and deploy support in a way that is:

- lawful
- documented
- traceable
- purpose-bound
- proportionate
- reviewable
- protected against capture

In practice, this means support is received into a formal association structure, financial flows are recorded, and relevant decisions are governed through the association's board and adopted frameworks.

Where appropriate, support may be tied to defined purposes, staged release, simple reporting, or other reasonable stewardship guardrails.

The level of formality may vary with the size, source, and nature of the support. Small contributions do not require the same architecture as larger grants or international disbursements. But the principles remain the same.

6. Transparency and boundaries

The association is committed to transparency, but transparency does not mean total exposure.

A serious stewardship body must distinguish between:

- public information that should be openly visible
- extended documentation that may be shared with relevant supporters or partners
- confidential information that must be held responsibly for legal, relational, or compliance reasons

Supporters should therefore expect clarity about purpose, categories, direction, and overall use of funds, while also understanding that some details must remain appropriately bounded.

7. Support pathways

People and institutions may relate to the association through different support pathways.

1. Small supporters

Some people simply wish to help. Their support may be modest, bounded, and without expectation of deeper involvement. This matters. Small support can help anchor real work.

2. Supporting members or support-circle participants

Some people may wish to relate more steadily to the association through a supporting role, a support circle, or a membership form defined by the association's governance.

Whenever this pathway is presented publicly, it should be easy to understand what it includes and what it does not include.

3. Patrons or larger phase-bearing supporters

Some supporters may choose to help carry a phase of the work more substantially.

In this association, patronage does not mean ownership, status, or control. It means a stronger willingness to support viability across land, stewardship, governance, and continuity.

A patron may support:

- an active or emerging field node
- a phase of institutional consolidation
- a publication or protocol effort
- a place-based convergence or delegation
- a defined threshold in the association's development
- steward viability during a critical period

A patron helps carry viable conditions without claiming possession of them.

4. Institutional or strategic supporters

Foundations, philanthropic actors, universities, public institutions, or aligned strategic partners may also support defined parts of the work.

Such support may require more formal agreements, clearer scopes, and additional reporting discipline, provided the support remains compatible with the association's purpose and principles.

8. Why money is needed

The association does not primarily lack ideas.

What it often lacks are the viable material conditions that allow real work to continue without hidden depletion.

Support is therefore needed not only for visible outputs, but for the conditions of continuity itself, including:

- ecological groundwork
- local steward support
- documentation
- coordination
- publication
- translation
- governance
- travel where needed
- institutional stabilization
- the careful carrying of emerging partnerships and pilots

Regenerative work does not become serious only when it touches the ground. It also becomes serious when it develops the human, documentary, and governance conditions required not to collapse.

9. What the association may refuse

The association may refuse support that is incompatible with its purpose or integrity.

This may include support that:

- seeks direct financial return
- seeks ownership or control
- seeks hidden leverage over priorities or partners
- cannot be documented appropriately
- fails basic compliance standards
- would distort the work beyond viable limits
- would place the association in ethically or operationally compromised conditions

The ability to refuse support is part of the association's integrity.