



Press release

## **Take a fresh look at science in the Darwin Centre's Attenborough Studio** **Discussion, debate, shows and films celebrate the legacy and future of science communication**

The Attenborough Studio is a state-of-the-art communication centre where innovative technology, Museum specimens, live animals, spectacular natural history film footage and Museum scientists come together to create an inspiring programme of free daily films and live events.

Inspired by both Sir David Attenborough's lifetime of conveying the wonder of nature to audiences around the world, and the research and collections of the Natural History Museum, you can watch films and take part in live shows or discussions with Museum scientists in an exciting, contemporary environment.

Sir David Attenborough comments, 'In 50 years of filming, I have been lucky enough to see many amazing and beautiful things, from birds of paradise to extraordinary dwarf chameleons and had the opportunity to bring these sights to so many people around the world. Advances in technology and communication have the potential to transform the way we explore the world and share our discoveries. This studio, with its state-of-the-art equipment, will enable us to understand the natural world in new and unique ways. It is my hope that by sharing such experiences, we will be able to inspire the next generation to take a step towards securing our planet's future.'

### **Nature Live**

Discover more about the work of some of the 350 Museum scientists and world-class experts in a daily programme of informal, lively discussions. These live, interactive events allow you to quiz scientists about their work, see and touch real specimens and have your say in controversial and provocative debates, using cutting-edge technologies to fully immerse yourself in the natural world.

The daily programme of events in the studio is varied, many offering you the chance to:

- use state-of-the-art, multi-media technologies to link the studio audience to locations across the world, talking directly to Museum scientists working in the field
- watch scientists doing live dissections or demonstrations in the studio or laboratories
- explore behind the scenes at the Museum using video links into areas not normally open to the public, for example the famous tank room, which is home to the giant squid, or into the collection of precious gems
- join Nature Live events after hours, and discuss topical science issues with eminent guest speakers



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and sport

## Animal Vision

Explore how Museum research uncovered the earliest known eye and why scorpions glow in ultraviolet light. *Animal Vision* is a live animal show that investigates the incredible story of the evolution of the eye and reveals a world only visible to certain reptiles and invertebrates. The event includes encounters with live scorpions, iguanas and snakes.

For school groups in the Attenborough Studio, the latest audio-visual technology and encounters with real scientists will enrich the science curriculum and set the stage for original, interactive science shows for secondary school groups of up to 60 students.

## Past, present and future of natural history film-making

Through the pioneering work of Sir David Attenborough and his team, during a career spanning five decades, television audiences around the globe have been amazed by the natural world, followed the dramatic changes to our environments and been inspired to make a difference in their own lives. The Natural History Museum has worked closely with the BBC's Natural History Unit to create a series of films that celebrate the past, present and future of natural history film-making, and will be screened daily in the Attenborough Studio.

- *David Attenborough: Life on Camera* – a specially made short film celebrating the achievements of Britain's foremost naturalist and featuring some of his most memorable encounters with wildlife, narrated by Simon King.
- *Nature Through the Lens* – enjoy the splendour of the natural world in an exclusive 15-minute film exploring breakthroughs in wildlife film-making. The fascinating insights they've provided into plants and animal behaviour have often contributed to our scientific understanding. Narrated by Simon King.
- *Nature ambients* – three five-minute multi-screen film projections will enable you to immerse yourself in the wildest environments from across the planet.

The Attenborough Studio is supported by the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation.

## Visitor information

Dates:	open from 15 September 2009
Darwin Centre opening times:	every day, 10.00–17.50 (last admission 17.30)
Event times:	
- Nature Live	daily* at 14.30, 12.30 and 14.30 at weekends and during school holidays
- Animal Vision	during school holidays and occasional weekends, see <a href="http://www.nhm.ac.uk/whatson">www.nhm.ac.uk/whatson</a>
- Films	daily at a range of times, see <a href="http://www.nhm.ac.uk/whatson">www.nhm.ac.uk/whatson</a> for specific times
Visitor enquiries:	020 7942 5000
Admission:	All films and events during the day are free but booking may be required for some events. Visit <a href="http://www.nhm.ac.uk/whatson">www.nhm.ac.uk/whatson</a> for more information.
Nearest tube:	South Kensington
Website:	<a href="http://www.nhm.ac.uk">www.nhm.ac.uk</a>

## Ends

### Notes for editors

- \* The Nature Live events will be daily from 15 September with the following planned maintenance days over the first three months: 18 and 25 September, 2 and 9 October, 20 November and 2 December
- The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation is an independent grant-making trust based in the UK, concentrating most of its funding on nature conservation projects in developing countries. The Trustees are proud that the foundation is the principal donor for the Attenborough Studio. The aims of this facility perfectly match those of the foundation and the Natural History Museum – to promote the conservation of the natural environment and protect biodiversity [www.rufford.org](http://www.rufford.org)
- Major supporters of the second phase of the Darwin Centre include the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Wellcome Trust, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Cadogan Family, Professor Anthony and Mrs Angela Marmont, GlaxoSmithKline plc, the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation, the Dr Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation, the Wolfson Foundation and Anglo American plc.
- Selected by *Time Out* in 2007 as one of the Seven Wonders of London, the Natural History Museum is also a world-leading science research centre. Through its collections and scientific expertise, the Museum is helping to protect the extraordinary richness and diversity of the natural world with groundbreaking projects in 68 countries

**For more information and images, please contact the Natural History Museum Press Office:**  
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