

The image features the Natural History Museum logo in the top left corner, consisting of a large white 'N' followed by the words 'NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The background is a photograph of a family—a woman with white hair in a blue top, a young child in a blue patterned sweater, and a man in a grey cardigan—standing in a garden. The child is pointing upwards towards a large, historic stone building with many windows, which is part of the Natural History Museum. A modern glass extension is visible on the left side of the building. The scene is set against a clear blue sky with some greenery in the foreground.

N NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM

Your gift for the future

Supporting the Natural History Museum in your will

From the Director



For generations of children, the Natural History Museum has been a place of excitement and discovery, and many adults still remember the thrill of their first visit. The Museum is where people come to explore our planet and our place within it, where passion for the natural world begins.

As a charity, we rely on the generosity of our friends for vital support. For some, the best way to make their contribution is by leaving gifts in their wills, and these gifts have never been more important to us.

Our planet faces unprecedented environmental challenges: within just a few years, thousands more species will become extinct, because of climate change and habitat loss. The effect of human activity on the environment has grave and far-reaching implications for all of us.

The Museum is at the forefront of global efforts to find solutions to these challenges, to better understand and conserve Earth's biodiversity for the future.

So, when the time comes to write or update your will, please consider a gift to the Natural History Museum.

Your legacy will bring a deeper understanding of our world, inspiring others with the knowledge, passion and urgency required to protect our precious natural environment for generations to come.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Dixon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Dr Michael Dixon

The Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum is home to over 70 million specimens, from the tiniest beetle to the giant sloth. It is the world's most comprehensive and precious record of life. Our mission is not just to care for it, but to use it to understand nature's diversity and inspire better care of our planet.

Each day our scientists use the collection to support research projects in the UK and overseas. From understanding the origins of our planet and human evolution to developing techniques to fight malaria and improving water quality, our scientists are making groundbreaking discoveries and improving life for millions.

Learning is at the heart of all we do, and each year we bring science education to life for thousands of young people, deepening their knowledge and enjoyment of the natural world and inspiring some to take up scientific careers.

A great deal of this work would not be possible without our loyal supporters.

The Museum's new Darwin Centre shows just what a gift in your will could help to achieve: unprecedented access to collections, new working environments for our scientists and new ways for visitors to engage with science.



How your gift could help

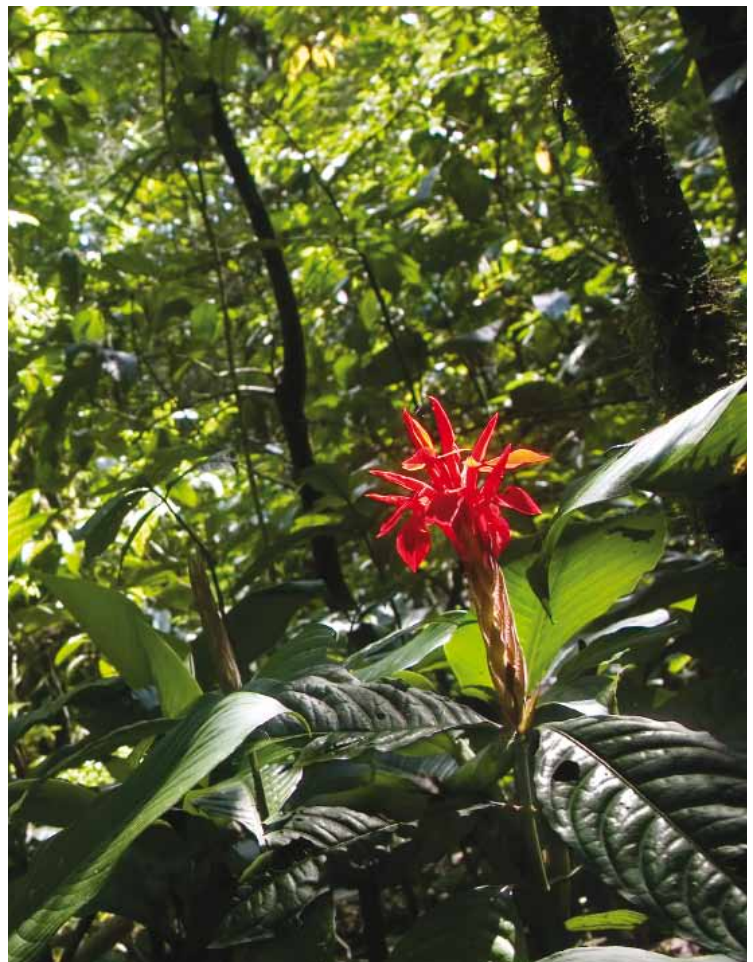
Your gift will be highly valued and carefully invested into projects right across the Museum.


Your gift could protect endangered species by helping to fund the most urgent conservation projects. Our scientists work in some of the world's most biodiversity-rich regions, to help local communities identify, monitor and protect their wildlife before it is too late. The rich flora of Central America, for example, is under threat from deforestation and the Museum is developing tools to help conserve it.

Your gift could help improve the health of millions. Our scientists work to understand and control the spread of devastating diseases. For example, we are a World Health Organisation reference centre for bilharzia, or river blindness, offering expertise on this debilitating condition that affects over 200 million people worldwide. A gift in your will could one day help us eradicate diseases like this.

Your gift could help inspire thousands of young people. From workshops and debates to student summits and hands-on activities, we delivered inspiring, curriculum-linked experiences for upwards of 400,000 under-18s last year. Invested into new learning facilities, your gift could help us reach an even wider audience.

Your gift could breathe new life into the Museum's galleries and open up the collections. A recent legacy of £60,000 is helping to restore one of the original galleries, so we can display some of the collection's natural history art for the very first time. Another legacy of £1,000 helped buy an important collection of hawkmoths, enabling scientists to develop new DNA barcoding techniques, which could reduce the need to use pesticides in farming.



A group of children in a museum are looking at a large fossil specimen. One child is using a magnifying glass to examine it closely. Another child is holding a notebook and a pencil, ready to take notes. The scene is set in a museum with other exhibits visible in the background.

Your gift could help us inspire thousands of young people and encourage them to take up careers in science



The Museum's landmark new Darwin Centre shows what a gift in your will could help achieve

Even small gifts make a big difference

Whatever your involvement, if the Natural History Museum has been important to you, or those close to you, a gift in your will could be the best way to remember and support us.

Absolutely anyone can leave a legacy. It doesn't have to be a huge amount. Even small gifts make a big difference.

Supporting specific areas

An unrestricted gift to the Museum is the simplest and potentially the most beneficial, as it allows us to use it for the most urgent projects. However, if you would like to support a specific area of interest then where you see the phrase 'general purposes' in the suggested wording options, please replace it with one of the following:

- science research
- learning programme
- collections care and development
- gallery spaces and exhibitions
- Wildlife Garden and Museum grounds
- Natural History Museum at Tring



If you are considering leaving a gift in your will to the Natural History Museum, there are five types of gift you can make:

A residuary legacy is the gift of the remainder of your estate, or a percentage of the remainder, after all other gifts to family and friends have been distributed and all debts and expenses paid. Even a small percentage of the residue could benefit the Museum. Our suggested wording is:

‘I give _____ %/all (please specify) of my residuary estate to the Trustees of the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD (exempt charity number X23490/3) for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Director or other authorised officer of the Museum shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executor/s.’

A pecuniary legacy is the gift of a specific sum of money. Our suggested wording is:

‘I give the sum of £ _____ (the exact sum you want to leave the Museum) to the Trustees of the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD (exempt charity number X23490/3) for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Director or other authorised officer of the Museum shall be sufficient discharge to my Executor/s.’

When making a pecuniary legacy, you have the option of making sure the amount increases with inflation, what’s known as index linking. Please contact us for suggested wording.

A specific legacy is the gift of a specific asset such as land, property or stocks and shares rather than a monetary sum. Our suggested wording is:

‘I give _____

_____ (detailed description of specific item) to the Trustees of the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD (exempt charity number X23490/3) for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Director or other authorised officer of the Museum shall be sufficient discharge to my Executor/s.’

If you are considering leaving a specific item to be added to the Museum’s collections, it is very important you contact us directly so our curators can ensure we will be able to meet your wishes.

A reversionary legacy means that you can leave assets to be used by a named beneficiary during their lifetime (usually a spouse), after which time they pass to the Natural History Museum.

A conditional legacy would name the Natural History Museum as a beneficiary should any or all of your other named beneficiaries die before you.

Codicil

If you have already made a will, you can **add a gift** to the Museum by drafting a codicil. Please contact the legacy team directly should you wish to do this on 020 7942 5953.

Your will is one of the most important documents you will ever make so the Natural History Museum recommends that you seek the advice of a solicitor.



Contact us

Your will is a private and confidential matter. If, however, you would like to talk about your plan, we are happy to help. You may want to know more about supporting specific areas of our work or discuss specific wording. If you are planning to make a substantial gift, you may also want to talk about opportunities to recognise your kind donation.

Whatever your query, please do not hesitate to contact us in confidence.

**The Legacy Team
Development Department
The Natural History Museum
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www.nhm.ac.uk/legacies**

We're on nature's side. We support responsible forest management by printing with vegetable inks on Revive 100 offset, a recycled paper containing 100 per cent recovered waste.

