

earthwatch
EUROPE

CAN YOU HELP
SAVE NATURE
FOR **FUTURE**
GENERATIONS?

Your Guide to Leaving a Legacy Gift

A GUIDE ON HOW TO REMEMBER EARTHWATCH EUROPE IN YOUR WILL

Writing your will can feel quite daunting - but it can also be a very positive act. A will helps you focus on what matter most to you, and enables your family and friends to honour your wishes. It's also a time to decide what you want your lasting legacy to be.

You were born as part of the last generation that can still act in time to mitigate the impacts of the biodiversity and climate crises we face. So we are asking you to leave a lasting and profound legacy that will give every future generation the chance to live in a world where nature thrives.

In this guide, we'll talk you through leaving a gift in your will to Earthwatch Europe. You will find out:

What work your legacy will fund

How we will honour you and your wishes

Practical advice on leaving a gift to us.



Credit: John Hunt

Cover image: Richard Hepworth

Nature is in crisis - in just 50 years the planet has lost over two-thirds of its wildlife.

A lack of action to protect nature has taken us close to the point of no return.

BUT WE STILL HAVE TIME TO CHANGE THIS...

WHY EARTHWATCH EUROPE?

In a world besieged by environmental crises, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But at Earthwatch Europe, we know that within each of us lies the power to make a difference. For over 30 years, Earthwatch Europe has been working with people to monitor, protect and restore nature. And our approach gets results. Working collaboratively with communities, scientists and organisations, we've increased our understanding of our planet and begun to address this damage through community-led solutions.

Earthwatch Europe has connected thousands of people with nature and empowered communities everywhere to defend it. With your help, we can leave a thriving, protected planet for every generation to come. Even the smallest gift in your will can make a big difference, and fuel our work. The next 30 years will be a critical time for our planet – as communities reverse the decline of nature in their cities, countryside and rivers, it will be because of you.

In the next few pages, you will discover more about our work – and how your legacy gift will help us fight for the future of the planet.



Credit: Earthwatch Europe

CONNECT PEOPLE WITH NATURE

People are at the heart of all we do – we can only protect and restore nature with the help of people from all walks of life. To save our planet, we know we must forge a deeper connection between humanity and the natural world. Our goal is to give everyone access to the wonders of nature and ignite a passion to protect it. We can only save nature in our cities, countryside and rivers with the involvement of all sectors of society, including under-represented communities and children.

We work with people on the environmental challenges where they can have most impact.

“ No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced. ”

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

ENABLE NATURE TO THRIVE IN OUR TOWNS AND CITIES



Credit: Earthwatch Europe



Credit: iStock

Urbanisation over the last 50 years has had a severe impact on nature – due to loss of habitat and the isolation of wildlife. The pressure on our towns and cities is set to increase with the urban population forecast to double by 2050. However, urban areas can support high levels of biodiversity if we make space for nature. Unsurprisingly, the UK's towns and cities are also where most people can make a

“ I'm really excited about all of it, because I don't have a garden, so I never really get to do any planting at home. ”
GREEN EARTH SCHOOLS PUPIL

connection with nature and act to protect it. Our programmes such as Tiny Forests and Green Earth Schools improve the environment and connect people with nature in areas where it is needed most. With your legacy gift you can help Earthwatch Europe create community-led, green 'stepping stones' in gardens, public spaces and schools that benefit both urban wildlife and people.



Credit: Earthwatch Europe

Credit: Richard Bell



RESTORE NATURE IN OUR COUNTRYSIDE



We can demonstrate what we are already achieving - and where we find that we are having a negative impact, the data will help us understand and improve on this.

FARMER FROM FARMING WITH NATURE PROGRAMME



Agricultural change has been the biggest driver of biodiversity loss over the past 50 years. But we can change this situation by working with farmers and businesses to re-imagine the way we farm and produce food. We partner with farmers to demonstrate how they can reduce their impact on nature and the climate, whilst also supporting innovative individuals who are pioneering new solutions. A legacy helps us to plant the seeds of change and showcase farmers who are farming with nature, not against it.



Credit: iStock

MAKE OUR RIVERS HEALTHY



Credit: John Hunt

Our rivers are in a shocking state. In England, only 14% of rivers are regarded as having good ecological status. Globally, freshwater populations have dropped faster than any other species group. Whilst there is great concern over sewage, pollution from agriculture is often an even bigger threat to nature. You can help us create solutions by identifying pollution hotspots and working collaboratively with communities, landowners and water companies to implement nature-based solutions that protect our rivers.



Credit: Earthwatch Europe

“

The testing has opened my eyes to the river's struggle. It is sick, and we have the evidence to prove that fact.

”

FRESHWATER WATCH
CITIZEN SCIENTIST

TINY FORESTS

Super Tiny and Super Powerful - Tiny Forests are a pioneering solution that addresses the decline of urban nature and works with communities to build meaningful nature connections.

A PIONEERING SOLUTION

These miniature woodlands, roughly the size of a tennis court, consist of 600 trees and employ the pioneering techniques of Dr Akira Miyawaki, a Japanese Botanist. The Miyawaki Method is designed to rapidly restore woodland cover on degraded land using locally native trees. This approach is particularly effective in urban environments, as it accelerates the woodland creation process.

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

We want to bring the beauty of Tiny Forests to towns and cities, where access to green spaces is limited. We believe that everyone deserves the chance to experience nature. That's why we actively reach out to under-represented groups, breaking down barriers and creating inclusive spaces where people from all walks of life can connect with nature and each other.



Credit: Lateral North

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

When it comes to planting Tiny Forests, we rely on the dedication and passion of local people. The community actively participates in planting and monitoring the Tiny Forest's progress, measuring its impact on carbon capture, biodiversity, flood prevention, and temperature regulation. Through citizen science, we empower individuals to be stewards of nature.

Over the past three years, our collective efforts have resulted in the planting of over 120,000 trees across more than 200 Tiny Forests. With your help, we aim to establish 500 Tiny Forests, engaging over 100,000 individuals, in the coming years.

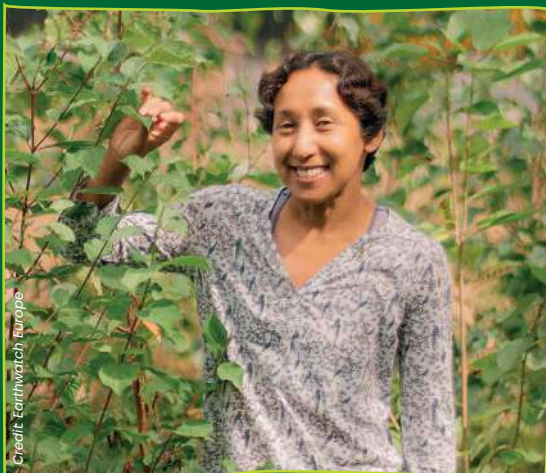


Credit: VW

SHAMITA'S STORY

My name is Shamita – I am a dance and yoga teacher. I was born in the UK, and have spent all my life here after my parents, Mina Ray and J. M. Ray, came over from Calcutta in the 60s. When they passed away, my parents left me a gift, and I wanted to do something good for the planet to honour their memory. I have always been interested in environmental issues, and in the face of the overwhelming environmental crises, I was wondering how I could make a real difference. I found Earthwatch Europe online, and started reading all about their wonderful initiative – Tiny Forests. I was hooked! Earthwatch and I worked together to find a suitable location, and

found one in London, right next to where I live. Every week, I witness its growth, and I feel so excited to see it flourishing. I have also taken some of my friends and family round to visit it – it makes me feel so satisfied to know that I have done something worthwhile, and I know that my parents would be proud, too. If you want to make a difference, and leave a lasting legacy, I urge you to join hands and leave a legacy to Earthwatch Europe. Together, we can plant the seeds of change, cultivating a future where love for the Earth is cherished, and the planet thrives for generations to come.



Credit: Earthwatch Europe

A Tiny Forest is such a brilliant idea. I particularly like that it honours the past, but is enjoyed by future generations as well. My Tiny Forest is a living testament to my parents' legacy.

THREE WAYS YOU CAN LEAVE A LEGACY GIFT TO EARTHWATCH EUROPE

Protecting and restoring nature is vital for the survival of all life on Earth – including ours. Leaving a legacy, large or small, will fund our work to save nature for years to come. There are three different types of gift you can leave:

A SHARE OF YOUR ESTATE

You can leave a percentage of what's left of your estate after your other wishes are carried out (a residuary gift). This is a good option as it keeps its value in line with inflation.

A FIXED AMOUNT OF MONEY

You can give a fixed financial donation (a pecuniary gift). This is still a great option, but the value of this gift will go down over time as inflation increases.

A SPECIFIC ITEM

You can also give an item, such as a valuable painting, jewellery or a property (a specific gift).



“Our Earthwatch Legacy Makers have a lasting impact, enabling us to tackle the environmental challenges that threaten our natural world. Your gift doesn't have to be large to make a difference – no matter how big or small they mean the world to us.

NEIL BAILEY – DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY”



Credit: Stock

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON LEGACY GIFTS

CAN I TAKE CARE OF MY FAMILY AND LEAVE A GIFT TO EARTHWATCH EUROPE?

Absolutely, your loved ones should always come first. But even leaving 1% of your estate to us will have a huge impact, and help support our mission to protect nature long into the future.

HOW CAN EARTHWATCH EUROPE HELP ME WRITE MY WILL?

We have partnered with Octopus Legacy, a leading online will writing service. They make creating your will a very simple process. It can take you less than 15 minutes, and their team of will specialists provide all the advice and guidance you could need. You will find more details about Octopus Legacy on the next page of this guide.

CAN I CHANGE MY EXISTING WILL?

Altering your existing will is quite a straightforward process. You will find more information about this later in the guide, and we have provided a codicil form which can be used to make minor changes to your will such as adding or deleting a gift.

WILL I RECEIVE ANY TAX BENEFITS?

The amount of Inheritance Tax you will pay depends on the value of your estate. But if you do qualify to pay Inheritance Tax, leaving a legacy gift to a charity like Earthwatch Europe can ensure you pay a reduced rate. So, you can gift even more to your loved ones – and the planet.



WRITING YOUR WILL FOR FREE

If you want to create an entirely new will from scratch, our partnership with Octopus Legacy makes it easy and free. Just follow these three simple steps:

1 Spend 15 minutes answering some questions about you, your estate, and your wishes

2 Get your will approved by the Octopus Legacy will specialists

3 Print and sign your will with witnesses

octopuslegacy

As part of our partnership with Octopus Legacy, the cost of your will is covered up to £150. You can write or update a simple will for free or get a will with trust at a discounted rate. If you choose to use this service, there's no requirement to leave a gift to Earthwatch Europe in your will. You can just use it to set out your wishes with no obligation.

To redeem your free will, simply visit earthwatch.org.uk/legacies and enter the voucher code 'EARTHWATCHFREE' at the checkout. If you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland, or would prefer to talk directly with a solicitor, please call 0800 773 4014 to use the telephone service or to arrange a face-to-face appointment.

HOW TO MAKE CHANGES TO YOUR EXISTING WILL

It is a good idea to update your will regularly. This could be to add gifts to charities like Earthwatch Europe, or to reflect any changes in your circumstances.

AMENDING YOUR CURRENT WILL

To include a gift to Earthwatch Europe in your existing will, you will need to fill out the codicil form on page 15. This is a legal document that lets you modify or expand on your wishes. It's an additional document that's stored with your will that you can complete yourself, or with the help of a solicitor.

When amending an existing will, we do recommend seeking professional legal advice.

AMENDING YOUR OCTOPUS LEGACY WILL

If you're making any big changes, like leaving a gift of over 10% of your estate, it's a better idea to create an entirely new will. If you have made a will with Octopus Legacy and need to make any changes, you can simply amend the will itself – so there's no need for any codicils or significant costs.



PLEDGE A GIFT FOR THE PLANET

Leaving a legacy, large or small, will fund our work to protect nature long into the future. And in return, if you have left us a legacy we would love to hear about this so that we can honour you.

When you tell us about a gift in your will, we'll ask you if you'd like to join our exclusive community of Earthwatch Legacy Makers and have your name engraved into our bespoke plaque. This plaque sits in the first Tiny Forest we planted in Oxfordshire. The plaque acts as a long-standing testament to Earthwatch Legacy Makers like you who are creating a thriving world for future generations. If you don't want your name included, you can easily opt out of any engraving but we would still love to hear about your pledge.



Credit: iStock

KEEP US INFORMED

We'd love to know if you've decided to remember Earthwatch Europe in your will, so please do fill out the form below (this form is also available online). We'll keep any details you share with us confidential.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

I AM LEAVING A GIFT TO EARTHWATCH EUROPE

I AM CONSIDERING LEAVING A GIFT TO EARTHWATCH EUROPE

PLEASE CONTACT ME TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER VIA PHONE EMAIL

**If you have any other questions or would like a chat please do get in touch
01865 318838 or email fundraising@earthwatch.org.uk.**

*Earthwatch Europe is the working name of CERT - The Conservation, Education and Research Trust.
Please see our website for our Privacy Policy.*

Earthwatch Europe 102-104 St Aldates, Oxford, OX1 1BT. Charity number 1094467.

Codicil form

Please keep this with (but not stapled to) your will

If you have any questions about writing a codicil or updating your will, you should seek advice from a qualified professional, such as a solicitor.

This is my first/second/third* codicil to my last will (*delete as appropriate)

which is dated _____ of me (name) _____
Address _____
_____ Postcode _____

Insert the date of your will and your full name. Insert your full address and postcode.

01 I give to **Earthwatch Europe**, 102-104 St Aldates Oxford OX1 1BT (Registered charity number 1094467) for its general charitable purposes.

Insert here the share of your estate or the amount of money using both words and figures – for example, one thousand pounds (£1,000) – or the description of the item you wish to leave to Earthwatch Europe.

to be applied to the general purposes of the said charity.

02 In all other respects I confirm my said will and any existing codicils thereto.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed by the above named testator in our joint presence and then by us in his/hers.

Sign and date here in the presence of two independent adult witnesses.

Witness 1

Witness 2

Name _____ Name _____

Address _____ Address _____

Occupation _____ Occupation _____

Date _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Signed _____

Your witnesses must insert their names, addresses and occupations and sign and date here in your presence.

NB: Your witnesses must be over 18 and must not be beneficiaries in your will or their spouse or civil partner.

Send, or give, a copy of the will and codicil (in a sealed envelope, if you prefer) to your executor or other trusted friend, with a note indicating where the original is held.

Thank you for your support

Earthwatch Europe is the working name of CERT – The Conservation, Education and Research Trust. Please see our website for our Privacy Policy.

Earthwatch Europe 102-104 St Aldates, Oxford, OX1 1BT. Charity number 1094467.

earthwatch
EUROPE

Credit: iStock

MAKE YOUR
LASTING LEGACY
A PLANET FULL
OF NATURE



www.earthwatch.org.uk/legacies

Printed with no water, no chemicals, zero waste to landfill, 100% renewable energy.
This booklet removes more carbon from the atmosphere than it is responsible for.