



# HEALTHIER OCEAN. STRONGER PLANET.

**Make this your  
legacy; leave a gift  
in your Will to SAMS**

Your support will help researchers and scientists at SAMS unlock the incredible **POWER** of the seas, enabling us to protect our ocean, for people, and for planet.

# About SAMS

**SAMS is built on an amazing legacy of generosity.**

The first global marine research expedition was made possible when the Royal Navy gifted the use of a strong sturdy ship, HMS Challenger, and others contributed to making her fit for a new life on the seas. In 1872 an intrepid team, including our founder Sir John Murray, began a three & a half year voyage that would completely reshape marine science and research.

The impact of that epic journey changed our relationship with the planet's Ocean forever.

**But there's still so much more to discover, & much we need to understand.**

By leaving the most personal of gifts to SAMS, you can continue to make positive change to our ever-growing environmental challenges for generations to come.

A gift left in your Will to SAMS can boost our pioneering research, leading to new discoveries and new solutions, while also enabling us to remain independent and impartial. Planned giving allows our scientists and researchers to do even more, even faster; unlocking the incredible power of the seas and enabling us to protect our oceans, for people, for planet.



# Why gifts in Wills are so important

A gift left in your Will makes a lasting imprint on the things that were important to you during your lifetime, whether that be to a loved one, or to a charitable cause. A gift to SAMS is not just a donation; it's a profound and lasting contribution to our research, mission, and to the future health of the Ocean.

Your Will ensures that your loved ones and the things you care about, will be provided for in the future. It also ensures your final wishes are made in the way you would like.

Once you've provided for your loved ones, family and friends, gifts to your favourite charities can make sure you have long-lasting impact, even when you're no longer here.

Any legacy, no matter how large or small, will make a huge difference to SAMS.

When it comes to the climate crisis, we're literally running out of time to find solutions to the challenges facing humankind.

Gifts in Wills support researchers and scientists to prevent further damage and degradation of our oceans, protect the overall health of the ocean, and the vast species of animals, plants and organisms living in it, and prepare for the future, by using the ocean to better anticipate the changes to our planet.



You can choose to leave your gift to the work that matters most to you.



If you enjoy a life on the sea, you could help us maintain our fleet of boats; the tools that facilitate our discovery.



If innovation excites you, enable our robotics to develop; providing safer, efficient and more effective ways to collect vital data from extreme landscapes with harsh conditions.



If you're worried about how the future of our planet will affect your family, invest in our students; the next generation of environmental trailblazers who will change the world.



Or consider an unrestricted gift, so we can use it towards the most urgent challenges of the time.

**Healthier  
ocean.  
Stronger  
planet.**

If you are considering directing your gift to a particular area of our work, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss your plans with you before you commit them to a Will. This will also help us to understand your wishes better, so we can implement them as authentically as possible when the time comes.

# How your gift could make a difference

A gift in your Will to SAMS will allow us to respond to the most pressing environmental challenges we face today and tomorrow. The following four funds are our priority focus areas and will remain relevant for the next 25 years:

## THE DISCOVERY FUND

Curiosity, a thirst for knowledge and a desire for answers continues to be part of our DNA today.

The Discovery Fund will ensure a vibrant future of exploration, and scientific breakthrough; being able to pursue the science that matters; without barriers, and without bias. Philanthropy will enable the most meaningful and impactful ocean science, deepening our fundamental knowledge about the planet.



**£1.5m** would fund a piece of multi-year research investigating some of the most complex environmental challenges we face.



**£150,000** would fund a proof-of-concept piece of work if societal applications arise during the research.

## RESTORATION RESILIENCE FUND

Advancing the underpinning knowledge needed for effective marine and coastal restoration, this fund enables crucial scientific tools and methodologies that support rewilding efforts and ensure measurable, effective and long-term success.

Focussing on fragile habitats including salt marshes, seagrass meadows, and oyster reefs – we deploy cutting-edge research to develop marine net gain metrics, and empower small communities to care for their environments, together promoting healthier, more resilient ecosystems.



**£100,000** would allow us to conduct small scale innovation projects, for example, to measure carbon cycles in key blue carbon ecosystems.



**£150,000** would fully-fund a PhD student to work on a key priority area, such as the unknowns of seagrass restoration.

## TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE FUND

SAMS technical team are the lifeblood of our research. Whilst you may not always see them, they are always there. Our skilled technicians create and maintain the environments needed to facilitate effective and successful science. Whether it's ensuring our labs are properly equipped, our vessels are sea-worthy, or our robotics are operational, we want to support and celebrate the crucial role technicians play in science.



£30,000 would help us to maintain SAMS research vessel *Seòl Mara* for an entire year.



£500,000 would enable us to purchase a new vessel, as *Seòl Mara* retires.

## STUDENT SUPPORT FUND

SAMS trains the powerful young trailblazers who will inform and influence solutions for our most pressing environmental issues through their future research and careers. You can help nurture promising young students, irrespective of financial, cultural or socio-economic circumstances, by providing immediate impact through bursaries, scholarships, and paid internships.



£1,500 provides a young person with a bursary to support the purchase of specialist equipment for Arctic studies.



£10,000 creates a paid student internship to bridge the gap between academia and employment.

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**“Having met scientists and researchers involved in all kinds of science at all levels [during my studies], I feel confident in reaching out to experts when I need help—a skill that isn't taught in the classroom but comes from being supported by a welcoming community like SAMS.”**

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# A big decision, but a straightforward process

Making a Will is a big decision, but it needn't be a complicated process.



You're not alone taking this first step. It's estimated that over 60% of people don't have a Will. This means that when you die, you will have little control over who receives your estate.

Include your family & loved ones in the conversations, and once you know how you would like to leave your estate, a solicitor can sensitively advise you on how best to articulate your wishes.

Do-it-yourself wills may seem inexpensive, but if you don't prepare it properly it may not be valid.

To avoid complications further down the line we recommend you use a professional adviser, like a solicitor, so you can make sure your Will is written properly and meets all your needs and requirements.

If your estate is likely to be complicated, it's even more important to seek specialist support.

And remember to keep it up to date. This is the only way you can be sure your wishes will be taken care of properly in the future and is particularly important if your circumstances change.

It's worth reviewing your Will every few years to make sure it still reflects your wishes and making changes where needed.

Contact Julie on [fundraising@sams.ac.uk](mailto:fundraising@sams.ac.uk) for an open, sensitive and confidential conversation about how we can ensure your legacy will contribute to creating a healthier ocean, for a stronger planet.

# Leaving a gift in your Will to SAMS

If you would like to leave a gift to SAMS which will further marine science, the following wording can be adapted by your solicitor to suit the type of gift you wish to leave:

## Example

I give, devise and bequeath to the **Scottish Association For Marine Science** (Charity No: SC009206) of Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA.....

the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ pounds).

or

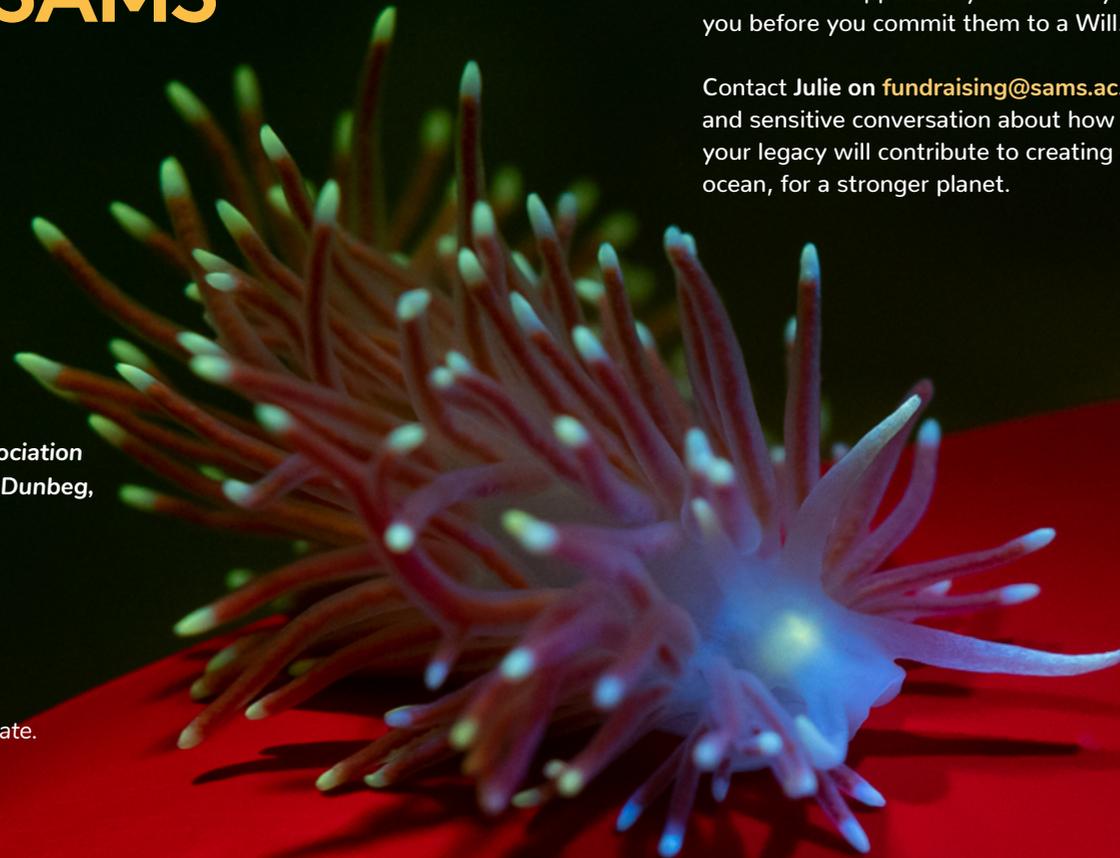
the whole (or \_\_\_\_\_ % share) of my residuary estate.

or

[insert details of a specific gift] to hold on trust for its general charitable purposes. I declare receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.

An unrestricted gift is always the most helpful, so we can use it towards the most pressing challenges of the time. However, if you are considering directing your gift to a particular area of our work, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss your plans with you before you commit them to a Will.

Contact Julie on [fundraising@sams.ac.uk](mailto:fundraising@sams.ac.uk) for an open and sensitive conversation about how we can ensure your legacy will contribute to creating a healthier ocean, for a stronger planet.





"SAMS research and education are of increasing relevance to a society that faces a climate emergency, plastic waste crisis and unprecedented species extinction rates. We scientists must redouble our efforts for a healthy and sustainable marine environment."

**Nick Owens,**  
Director of SAMS

# Be part of our family. Be part of our future. Become a... **LIFETIME EXPLORER!**

If you have remembered SAMS in your Will, we'd absolutely love to hear from you. Not only will this help us plan for the future, but it also means we can thank you properly for your support.

Our Lifetime Explorer programme is exclusively available for those leaving the most personal of gifts and will bring you closer to our people, research and activities during your lifetime.

-  Each year we host a small, informal event at our beautiful coastal laboratory in Oban, to show first-hand how legacies can enable the discovery and knowledge needed to tackle the most challenging environmental issues of our time
-  Stay up to date about SAMS' exciting projects and developments through our e-newsletters and digital Ocean Explorer Magazine
-  Keep us informed of any specific requests about your legacy, including how you would like to be recognised
-  On request, Lifetime Explorers can find out more about specific areas of our work, meet the teams involved and get a better sense for the scale of impact that can be made through a restricted gift

Through the lens of marine science, we are tackling head-on some of the world's most urgent and complex issues, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and providing sustainable resources for an ever-growing human population. Now YOU can be part of that, for years to come.

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"I didn't realise you could leave a legacy to SAMS. Not being a scientist, it's amazing to know that I can actually contribute to some of the most groundbreaking environmental science happening in the UK right now. The discoveries that continue to be made are literally the lifeline our planet needs. Protecting a healthy future for my grandchildren and for their children."

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Described as one of the most exciting recent findings in ocean science, SAMS scientist Professor Andrew Sweetman and his team, published evidence of 'dark oxygen' in 2024.

Polymetallic nodules 4,000 metres below the ocean surface, where no light can penetrate, were found to be carrying very high electric charge, which could lead to the splitting of seawater into hydrogen and oxygen in a process called seawater electrolysis.

# Making the Language of Wills easier to understand

Being a legal document, and due to some old fashioned language and terminology, starting the Will writing process can sometimes feel daunting. We've broken down a few of the main terms, some of which we've already used, into plain English...

## Codicil

This is a note of small change to an existing Will, witnessed in the same way. Codicils can sometimes lead to confusion, so nowadays it's much more common to re-write the whole Will.



## Executor

A person or person(s) who have the legal authority and responsibility to administer the estate.

## Estate

The property and assets of the person who has died.

## Probate

Probate is the legal right to deal with someone's estate when they die. Once a 'grant of probate' is issued, the executor is authorised to sell property, pay off debts, close accounts and distribute assets in accordance with the Will.

## Will

The formal document which details how someone wishes to dispose of their assets after death.

## Beneficiary

A person or organisation to whom a gift is left.

## Specific gift

A gift of a particular item, for example a property, a book or a painting.

## Residuary gift

A share of whatever is left after all debts have been settled and other gifts made.

## Testator/Testatrix

The person making a Will (Male or Female).

## Pecuniary gift

A gift of a fixed sum of money.

# THANK YOU!

Thank you for your interest in supporting our vital research through gifts in Wills.

For 140 years, we've tirelessly dedicated ourselves to building a foundation of marine knowledge, enabling us now to tackle head-on some of the most complex and important challenges humankind has ever faced.

The most personal donation you can ever make will boost resource and capacity, enabling our researchers and scientists to do even more but critically, even faster; unlocking the incredible power of the seas and enabling us to protect our ocean, for people, and for planet.

To discuss these options further please contact our Fundraising department

Telephone: **01631 559000**

Email: [fundraising@sams.ac.uk](mailto:fundraising@sams.ac.uk)

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