

Donation to the Natural History Museum Denmark

The museum has, over the years, greatly benefited from donations — including bequests — from private individuals, collectors, and others with an interest in natural history. If you have an object, photograph, collection, or other material that you believe may be of interest to the museum, you are very welcome to contact us.

How to Contact the Museum

Initially, please send a brief description of the material — preferably with photographs — so we can assess its relevance and refer you to the appropriate staff member. Remember to include information about the material's provenance (where it originally comes from).

For natural history material (objects of zoological, geological, or botanical origin), please email Deputy Museum Director of Collections Laura Pavesi at lpavesi@snm.ku.dk

For photographs, films, audio recordings, manuscripts, correspondence, and similar materials, please email Collection Manager for Library and Archives Ada-Maria Gravgaard at amdg@snm.ku.dk

For living material intended for the Botanical Garden, please email Head of Unit Tonni Eilersen at teilersen@snm.ku.dk

Assessment of Donations

The material will be evaluated according to the museum's internal guidelines, including its relevance for research and public dissemination, its state of preservation, ethical considerations, and whether the necessary documentation is available.

The museum can therefore only accept donations that meet specific criteria. A rejection may, for example, be due to:

- The museum already holding similar material
- The material being in poor condition
- The material falling outside the museum's scope of responsibility
- Insufficient information about the material's provenance

The museum does not have the capacity to display its entire collection, and most material is therefore stored in archives. The collections are continuously used for exhibitions, research, and public outreach, and items are also loaned to other museums. When you donate material to the museum, it will not necessarily be exhibited but will be preserved for future generations.

Special Note on Photographs, Film, and Archival Material

The museum also welcomes films, photographs, and other material documenting research history related to the collections. Please note that visual material such as films and images is subject to various legislation, including copyright law, and any copyright and usage rights must be clarified at the time of transfer.

Transfer of Ownership

If the museum accepts the donation, a donation agreement will be prepared for signature, containing details about the material and the donor. The document also stipulates that ownership is transferred to the Natural History Museum of Denmark.