

A Rocha's Marine Conservation Programme – scientifically informed conservation

A Rocha's International memberships

We are an NGO member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the leading global coalition of state and civil society conservation organisations. We participate in the IUCN World Conservation Congress as a voting member. Additionally, we participate in the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity, UN Climate COPs and the UN Oceans conference. A Rocha is a certified United Nations organization, participating in these UN events as an official delegate. A Rocha is also a member of the European Habitats Forum hosted by IUCN.

Marine Conservation Partnerships

A Rocha partners with NGOs, universities, and government agencies to achieve conservation success. For example, in Kenya we work with Kenya Wildlife Services, the national governing agency of national parks, CORDIO a regional Western Indian Ocean NGO, Pwani University, and Bahari Hai a local NGO. We have multi-country project in collaboration with St Andrews University. In Florida we collaborate with Brevard Zoo, Bethune Cookman University, and have permission to conduct research in Canaveral National Seashore, part of the National Park System in the USA.

Marine Conservation publications (a sample)

Anita George, Rob W.N. van Soest, Robert D. Sluka and S. Lazarus. 2020. A checklist of marine sponges (Porifera) of peninsular India. *Zootaxa* 4885 (2): 277–300

Friedman, W. R., Halpern, B. S., McLeod, E., Beck, M. W., Duarte, C. M., Kappel, C. V., Levine, A., Sluka, R. D., Adler, S., O'Hara, C. C., Sterling, E. J., Tapia-Lewin, S., Losada, I. J., McClanahan, T. R., Pendleton, L., Spring, M., Toomey, J. P., Weiss, K. R., Possingham, H. P., and Montambault, J. R. 2020. Research priorities for achieving healthy marine ecosystems and human communities in a changing climate. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 7:5.

Hannah F. R. Hereward, Louise K. Gentle, Nicholas D. Ray and Robert D. Sluka. 2019. Habitat associations of hawkfish: Depth, distribution, and density at two sites in Kenya. *Bulletin of Marine Science* 95(2):265–276.

Cowburn, B., Musembi, P. M., Sindorf, V., Kohlmeier, D., Raker, C., Nussbaumer, A., Hereward, H.F.R., van Baelenberghe, B., Goebbles, D., Kamire, J., Horion, M., Sluka, R. D., Taylor, M.L., Rogers, A.D. 2018. The Habitats and Biodiversity of Watamu Marine National Park: Evaluating our Knowledge of one of East Africa's oldest Marine Protected Areas. Atoll Research Bulletin no. 618. 45pp.

Gordon, T.A.C., Cowburn, B, and R.D. Sluka. 2015. Defended territories of an aggressive damselfish contain lower juvenile coral density than adjacent non-defended areas on Kenyan lagoon patch reefs. Coral Reefs 34:13–16. DOI 10.1007/s00338-014-1229-z

Marine Conservation presentations (a sample)

Robert D. Sluka, Allison Cutting, Nicholas Davis, and Michaela Stenerson. 2023. Microplastic pollution on the sandy beaches of Florida's Space Coast. Poster presented at Indian River Lagoon Symposium, Florida Academy of Sciences meeting and SHORE conference.

Cowburn, B., Obura, D., Sluka, R., Rogers, A., Taylor, M., Bluemel, J., Couce, E., van Katwijk, M. 2022. Untangling components of reef resilience to bleaching and other pressures to

make effective management decisions. 15th International Coral Reef Symposium, Bremen, Germany 3–8 July.

Sarah French, Lisa Zogab, Nicholas Warren, Robert Sluka, and Seth Appiah-Kubi. 2021. The Roots of Our Ecological Hope. Workshop at IUCN World Conservation Congress, Marseilles, France 2–11 Sept.

Peter Musembi, Benjamin Cowburn and Robert D Sluka. 2017. Conservation of sharks and rays through research and Education in Watamu Marine National Park and Reserve, Kenya. Southern African Shark and Ray Symposium. Hermanus, South Africa, 10–13 Sep.

Marine Conservation grants (a sample)

2023: Quarters for Conservation, Brevard Zoo. Shark and ray project Kenya. **\$10,000**

2021: Murdock Trust, Internships in Marine Conservation. **\$99,000**

2020: Shark Conservation Foundation, Elasmobranch abundance and diversity in Watamu Marine National Park, Kenya. **\$25,000**

2020: Koinonia Foundation, Microplastic research and education on beaches of Florida's Space Coast. **\$1500**

2019: Research Partner (2019–20) Community Capabilities and Marine Protected Area Governance: scaling up and capacity building. Scottish Funding Council Global Challenges Research Fund. **£54 188 (\$66,300)** [With T.Stojanovic A.Davis, M.Dornelas of St Andrews University and A Rocha Kenya]

2018: Horne Family Foundation, Kenya marine conservation. **\$14,000**