



ANNUAL REVIEW

2024

A ROCHA



Ornate sunbird *Cinnyris ornatus* – Credit: Peter Harris



Throughout this review, you will notice these icons appearing next to certain stories. They represent the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly. We are proud of A Rocha's part in the global effort to meet these ambitious goals by 2030. For more information, please visit www.arocha.org/sdgs.

WELCOME



It is my great privilege to have witnessed and heard stories from all over the world of A Rocha staff, volunteers and supporters using their time and expertise to care for this awe-inspiring planet. Please allow yourself time to absorb these pages fully – it is hard not to be filled with joy when reading them. As you do, know they represent just a tiny fraction of our work.

Right at the beginning of the Bible – in the first chapter of Genesis – God charges us to care for 'the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and every other living creature... every seed-bearing plant...and every tree...' (1:28–29). It is a command foundational to our faith and a huge responsibility. As we deepen our love for God, so our love for all he has made will grow. Loving and caring for all God has made is a clear expression of love for our neighbour and a way to create a more just world.

Behind these pages are people loving God, each other and the wider creation with their hearts and minds, restoring and protecting species and habitats, and educating school

children, communities and churches. You'll also see how we have lifted our voice at the UN's Biodiversity and Climate COPs and in global Christian fora – including at the 4th Lausanne Congress, where we chaired the work on producing a significant new document: 'The Korean Invitation: Good News for all the Earth'.

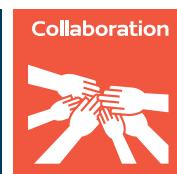
You'll find a few words on strategy – something we spent months prayerfully discussing and discerning as the A Rocha Worldwide Family – and our plans to grow our conservation, strengthen our work with churches, reach more young people and grow to 30 organizations by 2030, focusing on the biodiversity hotspots of South East Asia over the next few years.

Finally, thank you to all involved: staff, trustees, volunteers and supporters. Without you none of this could happen.

Ed Walker
Executive Director,
A Rocha International

A Rocha is a global family of conservation organizations working together to live out God's calling to care for creation and equip others to do likewise

Our five commitments





New joint strategy for the A Rocha Worldwide Family

As a global family of conservation organizations, in 2024 we agreed a joint strategy with four priorities.

Enhance our conservation impact by increasing:

- the area of land or sea designated for nature that is governed with A Rocha's contribution.
- the number of species benefiting from A Rocha's work that are globally, regionally or nationally threatened, or the subject of our focal work.
- the number of participants who gain nature-positive knowledge and attitudes and change their behaviour through A Rocha's environmental education.

Strengthen our engagement with Christian communities by increasing:

- the number of A Rocha organizations leading programmes to engage churches in practical creation care as an expression of Christian discipleship and mission.
- the number of churches engaging in practical creation care as an expression of their discipleship and mission whether in A Rocha countries, via Friends of A Rocha, or directly engaging with A Rocha International.
- the number of partnerships with theological institutions and networks integrating creation care into their core curriculum and mission.



Broaden the participation of younger generations in our work by increasing:

- the number of people under 35 on staff or volunteering, with greater involvement in decision-making.
- the number of campaigns or programmes designed to engage younger generations in conservation efforts and environmental advocacy.
- the number of strategic partnerships with other youth organizations who agree to integrate creation care further into their practice of discipleship.

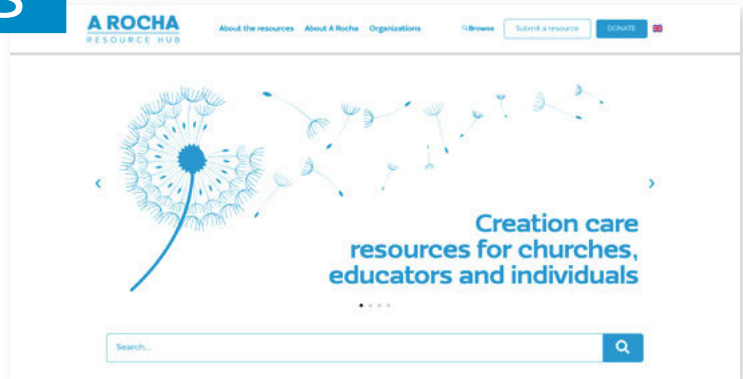
Expand the geographical reach of the Worldwide Family by increasing:

- the number of new A Rocha organizations in priority biodiversity regions, aiming for 30 A Rocha organizations by 2030, prioritizing first SE Asia and then Latin and South America.
- the number of groups in the Friends of A Rocha Network and collaborative partnerships with A Rocha organizations.

Resources

The A Rocha Resource Hub

The A Rocha Resource Hub is a treasure trove of creation care resources in many languages and formats for individuals, churches and educators. If you know of a resource that belongs on the site, we'd love to hear from you! Find the submission form and explore the resources we have already uploaded at resources.arocha.org.



Field notes Podcast

50+ episodes and counting! Have you listened to our top five all-time favourites yet?

Ep 26: Christine Warner – Learning from the snail: joyful living within painful limitations

Ep 34: Peter Harris – Milestones, miracles and migration

Ep 1: Paula Banza – Moths, community and wildfires

Ep 4: Ellen Davis – Biblical ecology, contemporary life and church teaching

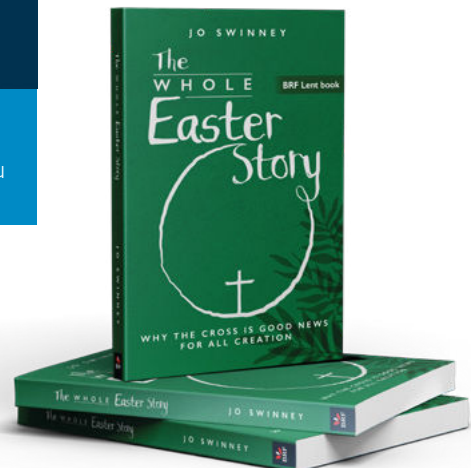
Ep 25: Jo Swinney – Finding a place at the table and a heart for hospitality

A ROCHA Virtual Events

These regular events are an opportunity to learn from and discuss with A Rocha conservationists from around the world. Sign up to our [Field notes e-news](#) to make sure you don't miss the next one.

The Whole Easter Story

Get ahead and organize your church for Lent 2026! Jo Swinney's new book explores God's redemptive plan for all creation and includes 40 daily readings and a six-week small group discussion guide.





Yenhwe mma nsei

We won't look on while something spoils

(Motto of a new community group we work with in Ghana)



For over 20 years, A Rocha has been a witness to the pressure put upon African forests. In response, we have committed for the long-term to protecting unique forests across the continent.



Kwande, Nigeria – Credit: Jeremy Lindsell

A Rocha Ghana and A Rocha Kenya are leading the way with their ambitious ongoing work for the Atewa Forest and Dakatcha Woodland. They have now been joined by further projects to protect the forests of West Bugwe in Uganda, Ferncliffe in South Africa, and Kwande in Nigeria.

The African Forest Programme has engendered new South–South as well as North–South cooperation. Programme members have worked together to deliver a pan–African data mobilization project for conservation; new forest conservation projects have been initiated and funding secured from new sources. All of this is helping us better protect 50,000 hectares of biodiversity–rich forests across these five countries.

The programme has four core interventions:

1. Constituency building
2. Practical conservation interventions and research
3. Green development pathways and environmental education
4. Regional cooperation

We want to see African forests flourish.

The United Nations Sustainable Development goals (SDGs) have a set time horizon of 2030, just six years away. In the face of relentless pressures on the forests across the different landscapes, our efforts need not only to be sustained but increased if we are to meet the SDG ambitions. The African Forest Programme contributes to 11 of the 17 SDGs, and the six–year timeline sharpens our focus on delivering these goals.



Forest updates

West Bugwe Central Forest Reserve, Uganda

West Bugwe is one of the most important natural forests in Eastern Uganda – and yet it often feels forgotten. The chopping down of trees to make charcoal is the leading cause of habitat degradation and loss, an activity which affects 49% of the forest.

Encouragingly, A Rocha's plant, bird, mammal, butterfly and reptile surveys have confirmed that despite this, the forest continues to be a haven for a great diversity of species. In fact, in 2024, our surveys revealed the previously unknown presence of an endangered species of pangolin.

This survey work goes hand and hand with our community and habitat restoration work. Appreciation for the forest has increased since A Rocha started work there, and we look forward to continuing our engagement with the communities to ensure this forest is in better condition and no longer overlooked.



Credit: Nicholas Warren

Atewa, Ghana

We now have a higher degree of confidence that our efforts to prevent mining in Ghana's Atewa Forest for bauxite have made an impact and we can contemplate the forest's permanent protection with the real hope of it being made a national park.

Alongside these efforts, we continue to support and organize local communities to manage their natural resources sustainably through a system known in Ghana as Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs). We are looking at developing the eco-tourism capacity around Atewa Forest and undertake forest monitoring to understand its health and what illegal activities are sadly affecting it.

Dakatcha, Kenya

Since 1999, A Rocha Kenya has worked closely with communities, local authorities and other conservation organizations to restore threatened habitats and protect endangered species along the Kenyan coast. We have so far successfully secured nearly 9,000 acres of the Dakatcha Woodlands, putting them under permanent protection.

To date, the protection of endangered and endemic vertebrates of Dakatcha, like the Sokoke Scops Owl *Otus ireneae*, has directed our conservation strategy. That said, Dakatcha is also home to a number of endangered trees. A new project integrates the protection of threatened tree species to deliver a more complete conservation outcome for the landscape.



Credit: A Rocha Kenya

A ROCHA MARINE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME



Leviathan is an odd character in the Bible. On one hand, this mythical creature symbolizes God's enemies and is an object of terror to Homo sapiens. Yet we see in Psalm 104 that God delights in her and formed her to frolic in the ocean. This passage is often read at marine events and is particularly meaningful near or in the water. Long before humans existed, God took joy and care of his creatures and created a world where they could flourish. Despite words that could easily be taken out of context in Revelation, sea creatures surround the throne of God singing praise to him along with the multitudes from the nations.

An increasing number of A Rocha national organizations are participating in this exciting endeavour to partner with God so that marine biodiversity and habitats can flourish. Some of our projects focus on:

- Shark and rays in Kenya
- Mangroves in Ghana and USA
- Pacific oysters *Crassostrea gigas* in Canada
- Molluscs in Kenya and Portugal
- Seagrass in Canada and USA
- Oi (Grey-faced petrel *Pterodroma gouldi*) and Little blue penguins *Eudyptula minor* in Aotearoa / New Zealand
- Coastal rockpools and beaches in the UK
- Horseshoe crabs *Limulus polyphemus* in USA





India joined the Marine Conservation Programme in 2024, starting an exciting project to care for marine biodiversity and habitats with a special focus on sponges and octocorals, groups of species that to date the A Rocha Worldwide Family has had little expertise or experience in conserving.

One of our programme themes, 'An Ocean of Hope, not Plastic', was embodied in many beach, river and lake cleanups across the worldwide family including A Rocha Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, Sweden, Uganda and many groups in the Friends of A Rocha network. Groups of nurdle hunters contributed important citizen science research to the Great Global Nurdle Hunt. Portugal celebrated five years of monitoring microplastics on beaches near Cruzinha, their field study centre. Their work indicates that polystyrene microplastics are most prevalent and that the nearby fishing and tourism port is the most likely source, pointing to conservation activities to reduce this impact on creation's flourishing. Reducing plastic pollution is habitat restoration.

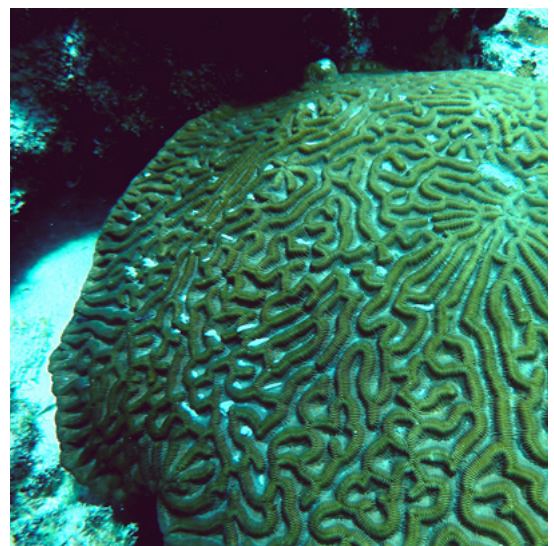
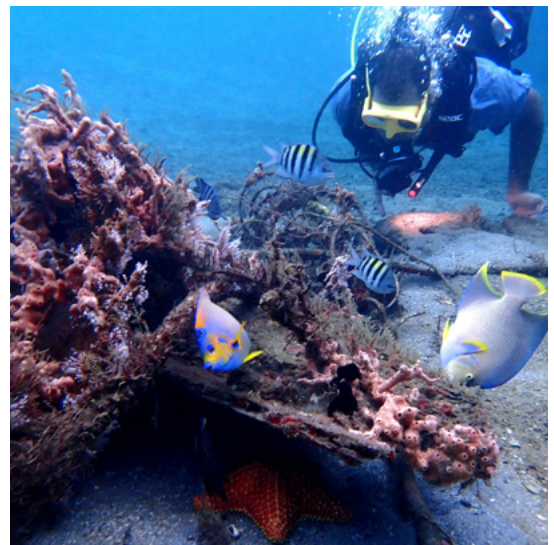
Other restoration projects include:

- Coral reef rewilding in Kenya
- Seagrass beds and oyster reefs in the USA
- Salmon habitat in Canada
- Seabird nesting habitat in Aotearoa / New Zealand
- Mangrove forests in Ghana, Kenya, USA and many Friends of A Rocha groups

Livelihoods, wellbeing and environmental education remain an important part of the programme. Reducing overfishing and changing land-use patterns through alternative sources of income that are pro-conservation seek to heal the relationship between human and non-human creation so that both can flourish as part of the community of creation. 'Blue mind' activities – those that result in wellbeing through interaction with water – connect programme staff, volunteers, interns and visitors through facilitating healing of broken relationships with God, nature, ourselves and each other.

Environmental education activities balance these experiential learning events with important classroom teaching to help engage both young and old with the beauty, wonder and awe of marine life. Staff, volunteers and interns contributed their reflections to our second [Marine Devotional](#) sharing how their interaction with the ocean links to their faith.

This has all occurred with minimal staff and funding, but many volunteers – imagine what could happen as we grow in our capacity and resources in the coming years.



Environmental Education



Every A Rocha organization plays a vital role through environmental education in the communities they serve. A Rocha staff and volunteers around the world engage children, young people and adults, teaching them how to take care of God's world, whether through tree planting, adopting sustainable agriculture practices or reducing reliance on single-use plastic. Here are some highlights from 2024.

Environmental Education Conference

In June 2024, A Rocha International facilitated a five-day environmental education conference at A Rocha Kenya's Mwamba Centre in Watamu. 12 delegates from Nigeria, Ghana, India, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda enjoyed participatory and practical sessions on diverse topics, such as mangrove biodiversity, climate change, nature-based solutions, plastics, the biodiversity plan and education for sustainable development.



Handicrafts, Peru

God uses the beauty of his creation to inspire us. For A Rocha Peru, a key environmental education highlight in 2024 was the handicraft workshops for local women, where they learned jute embroidery inspired by Moche culture and creative recycling of plastic waste. These initiatives linked traditional crafts with environmental awareness and economic resilience.

The Nature Academy, Canada

In 2024, A Rocha Canada's outdoor school programme in Ontario thrived, with a record high registration of 95 students over the spring and autumn terms. Hosted at the Cedar Haven Eco-Centre, the Nature Academy promotes a scientific understanding of the natural world, a deep connection to the environment and practical skill-building through experiential learning. The curriculum is designed to align with public school science curriculum while being rooted in hands-on nature experiences.

Lessons, led by a dedicated team of educators, deepen ecological literacy whilst fostering children's innate sense of wonder and curiosity. Altogether, Cedar Haven welcomed 930 learners and other guests through their onsite programmes and events.



Education for the whole community, Portugal

No one is left behind. A Rocha Portugal advocates that parents, teachers and students all need to participate in conserving their environment. During 2024, the team organized activities for the whole community, including beach clean-ups, guided walks for birds and insects, and open mornings at the centre, in which 1,087 adults took part. Teachers and parents had a training workshop on 'Water and the Climate' and 1,871 students from pre-school to secondary school took part in projects such as 'The birds and habitats of the Ria de Alvor', 'Microplastics and sea pollution' and 'Discovering pollinators'.



Connecting children & nature in Uganda

A Rocha's environmental education often focuses on younger generations. If young people learn to make the environment a priority, their own children will have a better future. A Rocha Uganda organizes Child-Nature-Connect trips to help learners and teachers experience nature and learn about conservation. One of the 2024 trips was to Bugamba Forest: 50 participants from ten schools explored the forest, learning through hands-on experience and discussions. They saw rocks, birds and indigenous tree species, learned about medicinal uses, and ultimately understood the need to conserve nature.

Lasting change, Kenya

Teachers in Kenya had a three-day workshop at the A Rocha Kenya centre, Mwamba, that equipped them with practical conservation skills, sparking innovative classroom projects like the recycled plastic baskets woven by students at Mekatilili Primary School. Teachers learned about best practices, and built capacity, relationships and peer-support to strengthen their environmental education

activities, impacting 8,287 students, including 1,664 wildlife club members. Meanwhile, in Bogamachuko, near Mwamba, a simple kitchen garden training blossomed into a community-wide movement, transforming barren land into thriving food sources: a demonstration of the power of environmental education to cultivate lasting change, one innovative idea and green thumb at a time.

A Rocha Kenya closed out the year by organizing the vibrant Watamu Conservation Festival, showcasing community commitment through lively fishing competitions, artistic performances and recognition of local eco-heroes. As well as celebrating, the festival fostered crucial dialogue on protecting endangered species and sustainable fishing.



A ROCHA THEOLOGY & CHURCHES PROGRAMME



Work with churches

A Rocha organizations continue to grow in church engagement. A Rocha UK's Eco Church programme had over 8,000 registered churches by the end of 2024, introducing a new online survey for churches. A Rocha USA launched Churches of Restoration, a year-long programme to support churches on their journey to care more deeply for God's creation. At a global level, a strategy for growing A Rocha's global work with churches was discussed and agreed. An increasing number of national A Rocha organizations like A Rocha Aotearoa / New Zealand, Ghana and



Kuki Rokhum and Dave Bookless

others are developing church engagement programmes that work in their cultural and language contexts. Lebanon and Portugal are set to initiate Eco Church programmes and India hosted a gathering of leaders and theologians in partnership with other Christian organizations.

Global Christian networks

In 2024 we took on the coordination of the Oikos Network from Tearfund UK, enabling online peer-support groups of creation care practitioners to meet, learn and inspire each other. We worked with Micah Global to make creation care one of their core issues and to help them take on the Renew Our World Network, of which we are a part. We helped the global ecumenical Season of Creation team with planning, promoting and encouraging churches to spend September focusing on God's world. In connection with this, we also attended a high-level ecumenical gathering in Assisi aiming towards a global 'Feast of Creation' in September each year. Dave



Bookless continued as a Lausanne Global Catalyst for Creation Care, and was very involved in planning, leading and giving numerous press interviews for the 4th Lausanne Congress in South Korea. A Global Creation Care Forum (GCCF) was organized afterwards, bringing together over 100 people from 40+ nations, from the Solomon

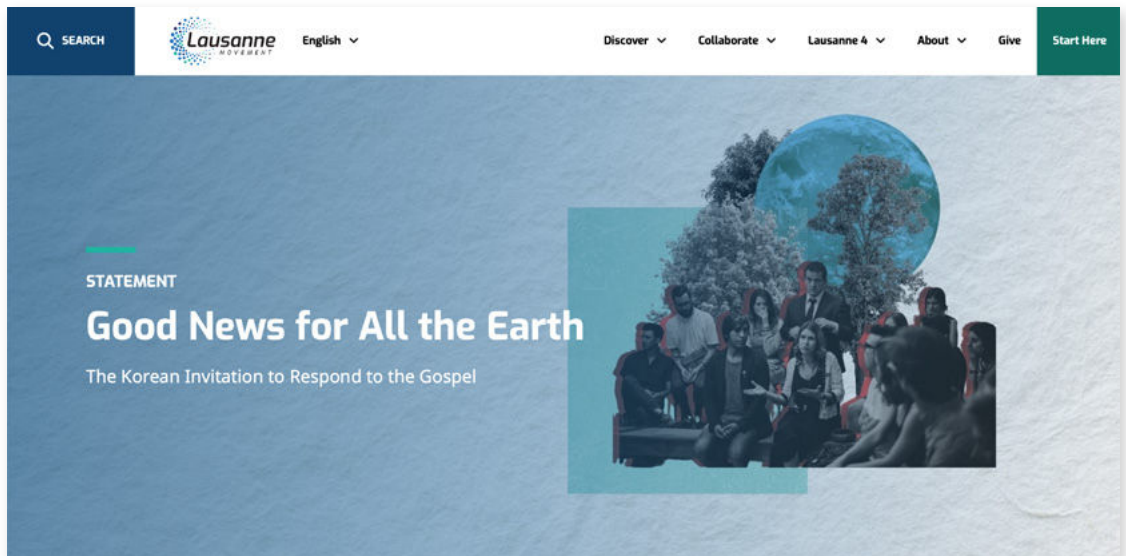
Islands to Guatemala to South Africa! This was a wonderful, if exhausting, time, with friendships built and deepened and it was thrilling to see just how much creation care work is now happening. A Rocha was heavily represented at both Lausanne 4 and the GCCF.



Theological colleges & Bible schools

Dave taught a 12-week online course for students across Malaysia and South-East Asia and helped produce an MA module for London School of Theology. Most significantly, we were able to engage with ICETE (the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education), which includes about 850 Bible schools and

seminaries around the globe. Dave, with others, is now leading an ICETE Impact Team on Creation Care in Theological Education, a multi-year project which will aim to assess what is being taught, produce resources, train lecturers and ensure every church leader has creation care included in their core training.



Writing & speaking

The Christian world still hasn't got the message in many places, and amongst the 5,000+ at Lausanne 4 this became very clear. So, we're getting the message of God's love for all creation out through books, articles, podcasts and more. Dave and Kuki Rokhum contributed to a major new document, [The Korean Invitation: Good News for all the Earth](#), which makes a carefully referenced biblical argument for creation care followed by seven short sections inviting practical response. In addition, Dave's books [Planetwise](#) and [Making a World of Difference](#) were translated into more languages: Japanese, Arabic, Thai, Croatian and Lao this year, and he wrote a regular column for *Preach* magazine, as well as editing the chapter on creation care for Lausanne's 'State of the Great Commission' report.

To save carbon, lectures are increasingly online, including major talks in Japan, Ghana and Sweden, plus in-person conferences for Christian leaders in India, Nepal, Malaysia, Singapore, France, Germany and the UK.



Convention on Biological Diversity COP16



An A Rocha delegation from three A Rocha Organizations and A Rocha International represented A Rocha at the CBD COP16, championing our unique faith-based approach to biodiversity conservation and environmental education. This delegation included: Sarah French, Director of Environmental Education and Conservation Policy, A Rocha International; Dr Seth Appiah Kubi, A Rocha Ghana National Director; Dr María Los Ángeles La Torre Cuadros, Director of Science and Conservation, A Rocha Peru; Avinash Krishnan, National Director, A Rocha India; and Daryl Bosu, A Rocha Ghana Deputy National Director.

At the Nature Positive Pavillion (one of the CBD COP 16's key pavilions), A Rocha International led the event 'Green Muscle Memory: Addressing Global Challenges' where we shared case studies of transformative experiential environmental education from Ghana, India, Peru and elsewhere within the A Rocha Worldwide Family, and showed that the development of an innate 'green muscle memory' enables learners to make environmentally friendly choices instinctively.

In A Rocha's event 'Cafe Hope' at the Nature Positive Pavillion, we discussed how despair would be a natural reaction to the enormity of global crises we face, namely the rapid

loss of our planet's biodiversity.

Together with the A Rocha delegation, speakers, including Dr Janice Weatherly Singh (Director, WCS EU), shared how hope motivates, inspires and grounds us in purpose and action. For more information on CBD COPs and A Rocha, please visit arocha.org/cbd.

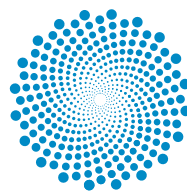


Sarah French speaking at Cafe Hope Event

UNFCCC COP29

COP29 was held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 11 to 22 November 2024, attended by four team members from the A Rocha Worldwide Family. It is the second edition of the Faith Pavilion, where A Rocha's Samuel Chiu was part of a panel session about listening as an important aspect in climate change dialogue and collaboration. He was part of the Christian Climate Observers Program (CCOP) as one of its co-directors and on-site leaders. A Rocha also partnered with other organizations to co-sponsor and host two sessions at the Faith Pavilion.

The Friends of A Rocha Network



During 2024, the Friends of A Rocha Network welcomed eight new organizations and now counts 29 members, with a strong presence in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Some of the new members include:

City to City Taiwan is part of a worldwide church planting and renewal support network. They've held preaching camps focused on creation care and recently translated and published *A Place at the Table* in Mandarin, with plans currently underway to translate *Kingfisher's Fire*. By partnering with A Rocha, City to City Taiwan hopes to expand their efforts to bring creation care theology into mainstream Taiwanese church culture as a whole.



Global Initiative for Environment and Reconciliation is a Rwandan NGO with the vision to witness communities living in peace amongst themselves and in harmony with their ecosystem. They believe that building peace cannot be achieved without also taking care of the environment. They have carried out a review of traditional knowledge associated with conservation, and hosted an international event on community seed banks, culture and nature.

AGIB is putting its knowledge in climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services in addressing forest loss, desertification and the impoverishment of soils in the Western African nation of Guinea. Actions planned include setting up Nature Clubs in village schools, raising awareness on deforestation, living hedges and insect pollinators, and developing sustainable income generation as an alternative to detrimental land management practices.



A Rocha International also offered safeguarding training in four different languages and put up a resources website to help our Friends organizations continue to grow and deepen their work.

Meanwhile, some of our Friends are developing to become A Rocha Organizations in their countries, for example in Costa Rica, DR Congo and Singapore.

If you lead a Christian group with a clear interest in biodiversity conservation, contact us!

A Rocha's work around the world

Each year there are enough A Rocha stories from around the world to fill several books! Here are a few highlights to give you a flavour of the variety of people, species, project scopes and creativity of what we do to care for God's creation. Please do visit the websites and social media feeds of these amazing organizations and find out more!

France



During the winter, A Rocha France cleared almost a hectare of undergrowth to make space for Aristolochia, the host plant of the threatened Southern Festoon butterfly *Zerynthia polyxena*. Wildlife monitoring programmes relaunched in spring, with some remarkable discoveries: the return of the Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, a bird not seen in the Vallée des Baux for 30 years, the reappearance of the Emerald damselfly *Lestes sponsa* in the Ilon marshes, and a record number of breeding pairs of the European Roller *Coracias garrulus*.



India



A Rocha India started the Elephant Anti-Depredation Squad, a novel initiative using trained canines to detect and track elephant presence and movement in forest-farm interfaces to mitigate human-elephant conflict. The dogs particularly help in increasing detection accuracy during the night when conflict is at its peak. The Belgian Malinois is a breed that excels at focusing on the task at hand and subsequent rewards!



Aotearoa / New Zealand



The Karioi Project celebrated its most successful seabird breeding season yet in 2024, fledging more chicks (Grey-faced petrel *Pterodroma gouldi* and Little penguin *Eudyptula minor*) than ever before. New monitoring results also confirmed the presence of Matuku-hūrepo (Australasian bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*), a highly threatened wetland bird, in numerous wetlands where they work – an exciting sign that conservation efforts are making a difference.

Meanwhile, the Eco Church Aotearoa network has expanded rapidly, now connecting with nearly 90 churches.



Philippines (Christians in Conservation)



A new leader for A Rocha in the Philippines, Mico Salas sees his involvement with Christians in Conservation as the answer to a two-decade-old prayer. Having studied chemical engineering, he then co-founded a missions mobilization non-profit, managed facilities, studied for a masters in Christian ministry, and now studies for a masters in environmental science while serving churches and students. Through these, a global congress and a creation care forum, Mico gained understanding of creation care and found what he sought this season: Christians in Conservation. Mico and his wife live in Mount Makiling with their daughter who hopes to be an environmentalist.



Sweden



Välkomna A Rocha Sverige! Founded in 2017 as a Friend, A Rocha KriNa – Kristna för naturvård i Sverige (Christians for Conservation in Sweden) – became A Rocha Sweden in 2024. The team manages the rich biodiversity of a garden and park near Hyllie Park Church in Malmö. In the south, A Rocha partners with a local mowing association and a Lutheran church to cultivate a thriving apple meadow. Projects protecting sand lizards and swifts are launching soon.



Lebanon



After six long years of restoration, the public garden in Mekse opened in 2024. Occupied by the Syrian army during the 1990s, filled by junk and rubble and shut away behind a fence, the work involved was considerable! Now the al-Ghouj Conservatory Gardens is a beautiful haven for all.

UK



A Rocha UK's Eco Church programme went from strength to strength in 2024, ending the year with an astonishing total of 8,046 churches registered. Of course, registration is a first step in becoming a place and community which reflects God's love for his whole creation. To attain an award shows significant commitment and effort to this end. Celebrate with us the 901 bronze, 452 silver and 25 gold awards given during 2024 and the impact on the UK's habitats and species they represent!



Peru



A Rocha Peru continues its work in the Amazon, helping an indigenous community in the Urumbamba River basin maintain their traditional way of life. The Monte Carmelo community manages around 20,000 hectares of tropical forest, over half of which is designated for conservation. A Rocha is supporting them to preserve their cultural traditions and knowledge, as well as conserving the ecosystems and endangered species in their care.



Czech Republic



A Rocha Czech Republic has worked a miraculous transformation of their land over the past several years. What was a monoculture of spruce is now an Eden-like pedagogical garden, offering diverse habitats for a diverse abundance of plants, birds, insects and mammals. In 2024, work began on a similarly radical transformation of The Keith Morris Centre, adjacent to the garden. Thanks to a major EU grant and generous supporters, extensive renovations are underway to create a teaching lab, library and volunteer accommodation.



Portugal



A Rocha Portugal's Centre Directors Rui and Debora Lino-Ramalho put numbers to their first year: seven volunteers and six students under their care, 95 guests welcomed, 300+ meals prepared and served, three coastal cleanups, 23 fruit trees watered, three drains unblocked, 859 emails received, 100+ lifts given to the station, 53 birds ringed and dozens of deep conversations had!

Switzerland



The dream of Gérald Berney, a member of A Rocha Switzerland, came to fruition in 2024: a symbolic seven-week, 730 km walk across Switzerland and France to connect and strengthen the links between the two French-speaking A Rocha Organizations. The walk started with around 40 people on 1 June from the offices of A Rocha Switzerland and ended at Les Courmettes. Along the way, 550 species were identified, including 217 herbaceous plants, 117 birds and 56 insects. 100 people participated in total.



Netherlands



In collaboration with one of the local groups, A Rocha Netherlands works at 'Schor Alteklein', a salt marsh with a rich diversity of plants, such as Marsh Helleborine *Epipactis palustris* and Grassleaf Pepperweed *Lepidium graminifolium*, as well as insects, like the Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera* butterfly. Nightingales *Luscinia megarhynchos* and Icterine Warblers *Hippolais icterina* breed on the site. To safeguard the area's biodiversity, the team works with volunteers to hay the vegetation manually twice a year. Through the efforts of the local group, Schor Alteklein has recently been added to the Dutch Nature Network, making it a protected nature area.



Kenya



2024 marked the 25th anniversary of A Rocha Kenya – a milestone celebrated with 90 staff, friends and partners. Stanley and Colin, two long-term staff, shared stories of the original launch and following growth, an incredible journey from a team of three to a thriving organization of 45.

South Africa



A Rocha South Africa partners with FreeMe Wildlife KZN on The Tortoise Project. We have been encouraged by successful releases and the high survival rates of the tortoises returned to their home ranges in the Eastern and Northern Cape Provinces. The construction of our second rehabilitation enclosure began in December and is nearing completion. Our goal is to construct a complex of 10 enclosures: the more we can build, the more tortoises can be safely and legally returned to the wild to thrive.



Climate Stewards

Climate Stewards supports three local partners in Kenya. One of these, Watersheds Ecosystem Conservation (WEC), works with schools and churches in Kitui County in the dry south-east. After three years of poor rains and floods, 2024 saw good rains, enabling WEC to plant over 5,000 trees with 14 schools and churches. This brings the total to more than 15,000 trees on 48 sites. A grant from the Benefactor Group allowed the hiring of two new intern field officers and the purchase of a motorcycle and office equipment, increasing WEC's practical impact.



Stay in touch

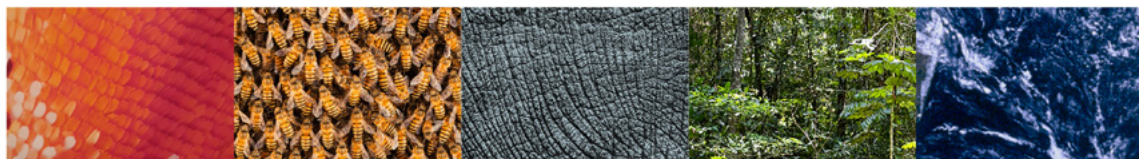
Field notes eNews

Sign up at arochoa.org to get a monthly round-up of global stories, news and links to resources like our blog, podcast and publications.

If you would like updates from a specific A Rocha organization, you can sign up to their newsletters via their websites.



A Rocha International is on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn – come and find us!



micro^{to}macro

Gifts for life on any scale

All conservation – no matter the scale – plays its role in creation care. Great or tiny, every living thing matters to the Lord. From the little mushrooms of the Czech Republic to restoring and protecting West Bugwe forest in Uganda, A Rocha is involved in projects of all sizes: minuscule, small, large, vast and global.

We envision a future where all life on Earth – from the tiniest insect to the largest mammal – is valued, protected and sustained for generations to come.

arochoa.org/micro-to-macro

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