



**ANNUAL REVIEW**  

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**2025**

**A ROCHA**



Gorse Orbweaver Spider *Agalenatea redii* – Credit: Romain Barthel

\*Pull-out statistics from 2024



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](http://www.arocha.org/sdgs).

# WELCOME

It is my pleasure to introduce this overview of A Rocha's work around the world in 2025. This year it is shaped around the four priorities in our global strategy: strengthening the impact of our conservation work, expanding into new places, engaging Christian communities in creation care, and involving young people more deeply in our mission.

As you turn these pages, I hope you will join me in marvelling at the dedication and hope that define A Rocha's work worldwide. Our teams are caring for creation at every scale – from tiny invertebrates in France and Switzerland, through endangered fish in Kenya and Canada, to the Asian Elephant in Bannerghatta National Park, India. Each story reflects patient, faithful work made possible through your encouragement, prayers and support.

Across the globe, we are seeing Christians step forward to care for creation. We are daring to imagine A Rocha organizations in 30 countries by 2030. It was therefore a particular joy to welcome A Rocha Costa Rica and A Rocha Singapore into our family in 2025, followed by A Rocha DR Congo in early 2026 – three new countries in three very different

contexts, all expressing the same A Rocha mission.

Yet this work unfolds in a rapidly changing world. Climate change, pollution and invasive species continue to threaten both people and wildlife, and it is vital that we speak up to influence public policy at every level. Christians have an opportunity not only to participate in this vital work, but to help lead it with courage and hope. Last year, I had the joy, with colleagues, of representing A Rocha at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, while others engaged at COP30, helping influence policy on climate change and shape critical motions.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we look ahead to 2026 and beyond. The stories that follow invite all of us to continue taking part in the restoration of God's creation.

## 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

Christian



Conservation



Cultural diversity



Community



Collaboration



Strategic  
priority

1



# Increase our conservation impact

A Rocha's global conservation work envisions a world where nature flourishes as people live equitably and sustainably. But how do we know we are making progress? By looking at evidence. Conservation works. That's why A Rocha International created the Global Conservation Fund to support innovative community-based projects, and why we were a Christian voice at the 2025 UN Ocean Congress in France and the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi.

## Habitats: African Forest Programme

A Rocha's African Forest Programme protects and restores some of Africa's most important forest landscapes while supporting local communities and contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals. Collaboration and learning are central. We're moving beyond simply 'doing' conservation to 'doing and learning' – building on evidence, sharing good practice and making use of citizen science.



Atewa forest, Ghana – Jeremy Lindsell

On the ground, conservation efforts are delivering tangible results. In Kenya, the Dakatcha Nature Reserve safeguards over 3,800 hectares of unique East African Coastal Forest, providing refuge for endangered species such as the Sokoke Scops Owl *Otus ireneae* and Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew *Rhynchocyon chrysopygus*. Recent surveys recorded 187 bird species (including five globally endangered), 28 mammals, 530 plant species – at least 35 on the IUCN Red List – and 129 butterfly species, including new regional records.

In Ghana, advocacy continues to resist destructive mining of the Atewa Forest while community conservation and ecotourism offer sustainable alternatives. In Uganda, our restoration work in West Bugwe Forest shows strong tree survival rates alongside improved relationships with the National Forestry Authority, strengthening long-term stewardship.

In Nigeria, A Rocha supports six communities in Benue State to promote environmentally sensitive agriculture in response to wildlife loss, reduced tree cover, rising temperatures, longer dry seasons and declining water levels.

With guidance from **A Rocha Ghana**, the team is adapting CREMA (Community Resource Management Area) principles to strengthen community-led governance.

This year, the programme also welcomed **A Rocha DR of Congo**, supporting conservation of the biodiverse Itombwe Forest, home to endangered species such as Grauer's Gorilla *Gorilla beringei graueri*.

The IUCN Congress in Abu Dhabi provided a valuable opportunity to showcase our work, learn from others and celebrate shared achievements. Two reflections stand out: first, A Rocha brings a distinctive and trusted voice to the often overlooked but vital intersection of faith and conservation. Second, we are affirmed by the wider conservation community and encouraged by their desire to explore new partnerships with us.

## Habitats: Marine Conservation Programme



Beach cleanup, Kenya

The vast ocean connects A Rocha's conservation work around the world. Our Marine Conservation Programme spans diverse marine and coastal habitats, from coral reefs in Kenya and seagrass beds in Canada to mangrove forests in Ghana, alongside a particular focus on sandy beaches – a vital yet often overlooked ecosystem.

Sandy beaches face mounting pressures. Coastal development and the construction of jetties or piers can alter water circulation and often accelerate beach erosion, intensified by rising sea levels linked to climate change. Plastic pollution remains one of the most pervasive threats.

In response, A Rocha joined coastal cleanups in France, the Netherlands, the Philippines and Singapore. These efforts are more than litter removal; they are habitat restoration. Beaches are not meant to hold plastic. Removing it helps

restore these places to reflect God's glory more fully and enables his creatures to flourish.

Our newest marine project in southern India combined cleanups with urgent work addressing the aftermath of a plastic pellet spill. The community of Kanyakumari, surrounded on three sides by the Laccadive Sea, depends on healthy marine ecosystems for its livelihoods. **A Rocha India** is taking a participatory approach here that strengthens community stewardship and ensures local voices shape conservation.

A Rocha's microplastic work includes long-term monitoring of beaches in Portugal, helping us understand pollution from the Alvor Estuary and surrounding ocean. Similar studies in Florida, USA reveal patterns of contamination and impacts on marine life. These projects contribute to understanding of global trends affecting sandy beaches.

We address these threats by studying sandy beach ecology, identifying sources of pollution, collaborating with global coalitions to prevent its spread and restoring habitats through active cleanup. Throughout, we integrate connection to God through practices which engage the senses and create space to listen and worship alongside our fellow creatures.

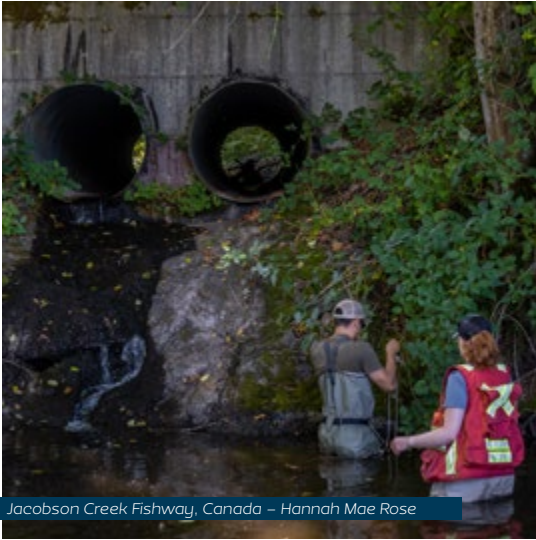


Sandy beach, Florida USA – Michaela Stenerson

## Species

**A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand** works rigorously to restore seabird populations on Mt. Karioi, but the 2025 season began with a devastating loss when numerous adults and chicks were killed by a single ferret. However, thanks to sustained protection, at least 13 Ōi *Pterodroma Gouldi* chicks and several Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor* chicks fledged and headed out to sea.

**A Rocha Portugal's** decades-long bird ringing programme continues to reveal the remarkable journeys of seabirds. This year, an adult European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, ringed in the Algarve in 2007, was recaptured in the Faroe Islands nearly 3,000 km away!



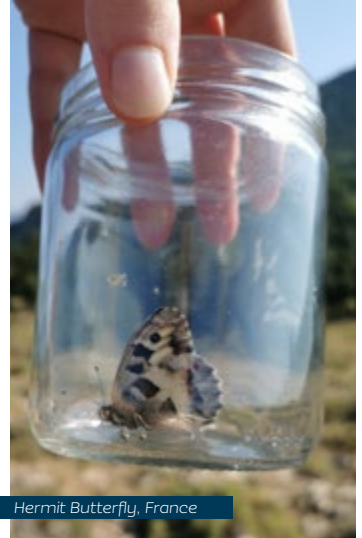
Jacobson Creek Fishway, Canada – Hannah Mae Rose

After three decades blocked by an impassable culvert, migrating salmon can now access 4 km of habitat in Canada's Tatalu watershed. In 2023, **A Rocha Canada** restored passage by constructing a fishway and rehabilitating surrounding habitat. In 2025, Chinook *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* and Coho *Oncorhynchus kisutch* salmon were observed spawning upstream.

**A Rocha Netherlands** saw Black Terns *Chlidonias niger* successfully nesting on the Schellerwade, after artificial rafts were installed. Of 20 rafts, 13 supported breeding in 2025 despite the decline of natural aquatic vegetation.

Although Hermit Butterfly *Chazara briseis* numbers have sharply declined in France, two populations persist at Les Courmettes, monitored by **A Rocha France**.

In 2025, the team found a new population and collected ten genetic samples, an opportunity to understand better the ecological needs and population health of this elusive butterfly.



Hermit Butterfly, France

**A Rocha Sweden** is working alongside NGOs, local authorities and residents to maintain and restore the warm sandy areas in which the endangered Sand Lizard *Lacerta agilis* thrives. Newly hatched lizards were recorded at more than half of monitored sites in Småland!



Sand lizard hatchling, Sweden

In India, **A Rocha India** is addressing human–elephant conflict in Bannerghatta National Park through innovative approaches, including the Elephant Anti-Depredation Dog Squad: trained Belgian Malinois track elephant movement, enabling early detection and helping prevent crop loss.

## Livelihoods and justice

Biodiversity conservation and human flourishing are deeply intertwined. At its three 'casas', **A Rocha Costa Rica** pursues justice for all creatures and the ecosystems that sustain them. Casa Esperanza provides refuge for migrants through lodging, meals, psychosocial care and spiritual accompaniment. Despite shifting migration patterns – now north to south – A Rocha remains committed to holistic care.

Conservation often extends beyond direct ecological restoration. While teaching environmental education in local schools, **A Rocha Uganda** discovered that even subsidized education remains unaffordable for some. By providing goats to these families, they have created a sustainable income source while teaching children animal husbandry. To date, 52 children have benefited, leading to higher school



Bee keeping workshop, Peru

enrolment and greater community openness to A Rocha's creation care message.

Sustainable livelihoods are another way A Rocha supports human dignity and well-being through the responsible use of natural resources. At Mekse Nature Park, **A Rocha Lebanon** installed beehives which produced 50kg of honey in 2025, the beginning of a project to expand their range of locally produced goods.

**A Rocha Peru** also uses beekeeping to create opportunities for communities around the threatened Dry Forest. They also host workshops on traditional crafts, agroecology and raising micro-livestock, activities which reduce pressure on the Dry Forest while enriching the communities' connection with nature and culture.



A family receiving a goat in Uganda

# Strategic priority 2

>13k  
Churches  
engaged



## Strengthen our engagement with Christian communities

A quiet transformation is taking place. A Rocha organizations are inspiring and equipping local churches to care for creation as an expression of Christian discipleship and mission. Together, the A Rocha Worldwide Family hopes to engage at least 45,000 churches by 2030. Alongside this grassroots work, partnerships with global Christian networks and institutions are opening opportunities to encourage and influence the wider Church.

### Influencing the Global Church

In recent years, creation care has moved closer to the centre of global Christian conversations.

**Micah Global** – a network of more than 300 Christian organizations working in justice, humanitarian relief and advocacy with whom we have worked for some years – has now adopted Creation Care as a strategic priority, inviting A Rocha International to take the lead. In September 2025, its Global Consultation in South Africa included a Creation Care track led by A Rocha International's Kuki Rokhum and Dave Bookless.

A Rocha also helps lead the **Lausanne / World Evangelical Alliance Creation Care Network**, gathering Christians worldwide through regular webinars and the quarterly Pollinator newsletter.



Kuki Rokhum and Dave Bookless at Micah Global 2025

Globally, the **Season of Creation** (1 September to 4 October) is a particularly pertinent time celebrated by churches worldwide, including Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, the World



Council of Churches and Evangelical churches. A Rocha serves on advisory and leadership teams, helping shape themes, resources and events. The 2025 theme, Peace with Creation (Isaiah 32:14–18), invited churches to imagine restored relationships between people, land and God.



ICETE Creation Care Impact team

## Theological institutions

Imagine if every new church leader received biblical teaching on caring for God's world alongside stories of churches already living this calling. This vision is guiding a global Impact Team on Creation Care in Theological Education, formed in 2025 under the **International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE)**, a global network of regional bodies, including around 850 Bible schools,

seminaries and colleges, many in the global south.

Co-led by A Rocha's Dave Bookless, the initiative already brings together 40 theologians from more than 30 countries to assess what is currently being taught (or not) and what opportunities exist to help develop resources and train lecturers.

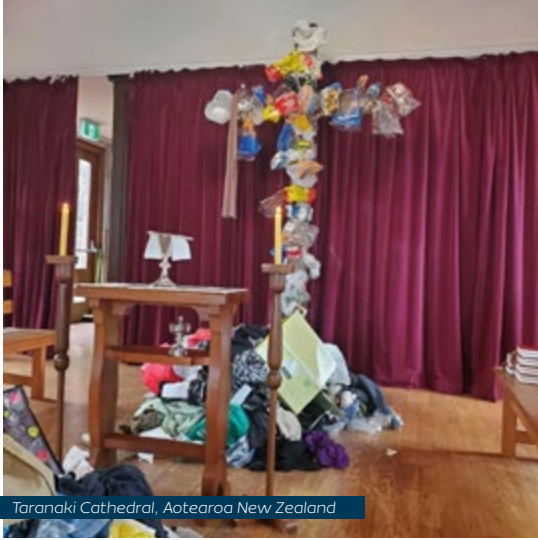
## Local church engagement around the world

Across countries and cultures, A Rocha's church programmes share a common rhythm: evaluating what churches are already doing for creation, equipping them for practical action and celebrating progress. At the same time, each country reflects its own culture and church context.

Creation care theology is taking root in the lands where the Bible emerged. Launched by **A Rocha Lebanon** in partnership with the Middle East Council of Churches, **Eco Church Middle East** connects Christian communities from Morocco to Iran across more than 20 denominations. The Eco Church team reflects

this diversity, including a Maronite priest, an Armenian Orthodox Christian and the third woman to be ordained a pastor in Lebanon.

In Switzerland, **Eco Eglise** invites Christians to evaluate the 'frenetic pace' of modern lifestyles and embrace the long, slow work of creation care. Many parishes participate in the 'Detox la Terre' ('Detox the Earth') Lent challenge, rethinking consumption across food, transport, shopping, digital habits and housing. Through actions like gardens, seasonal celebrations, reducing waste and sourcing food locally, churches model more intentional ways of living with creation.



Taranaki Cathedral, Aotearoa New Zealand

In **Aotearoa / New Zealand**, the Eco Church network – known as whānau, Māori for extended family – invites churches and creation to journey together as kin. Art and storytelling sit alongside practical action in this ecumenical movement. During the Season of Creation, for example, Taranaki Cathedral created a rubbish-covered cross as a reminder of the cost of consumerism. Parishioner Karen Durbin reflected:

*'Throughout the Season of Creation, we tried to remain more than usually aware. Then, in the midst of the very real tragedies unfolding around us, we ended with this shared meal. Together we feasted and celebrated the hope we hold – the beauty of abundant spring flowers a reminder of the promise of eventual new creation.'*

New Eco Church schemes are also emerging in **Australia** and **Portugal**. In Australia, the wide range of climates and ecosystems makes it difficult to prescribe one approach, but planting indigenous plant species for native bees, birds and other wildlife is encouraged nationwide. In Portugal, Eco Igrejas fosters cooperation between Roman Catholic, Evangelical and historic Protestant churches towards a common goal and using shared language accessible across traditions.



**A Rocha UK's** Eco Church programme, launched a decade ago, continues to shape the Christian landscape in England and Wales, with over 10,000 churches embedding creation care into worship, learning and everyday church life. At St Sadwrn's Church in Wales – one of 119 Eco Churches with a Gold Award – the community has rallied around a thriving biodiversity garden, improved energy use and an innovative project, 'Warm Space'. Every week, volunteers collect surplus food from local supermarkets and create delicious meals for the community, reducing waste while addressing isolation and need.

In the **United States**, A Rocha is championing caring for creation through the Churches of Restoration program. Rev Sarah Robinson, pastor at Audubon Park Covenant, explains: 'Beyond just simply loving what God loves, we were created out of the earth and dependent on it.' The programme supports church leaders navigating climate anxiety and alienation from the natural world through a year-long journey through conversation, spiritual formation and practical action.



Audubon Park Church, Florida USA

**A Rocha India** partnered with A Rocha International and local organizations to conduct three regional two-day creation care conferences for theologians and pastors in 2025, each gathering 50–100 participants who shared richly about creation care in their local contexts. Through shared learning and theological reflection, we hope new movements for creation care will be sparked across the country.



## Creation care resources

Supporting this global momentum requires shared learning and accessible resources. Online, A Rocha's Resource Hub hosts a wealth of creation care resources in different languages, including small group studies, sermon outlines, prayers, articles, short films and podcasts.

# A ROCHA

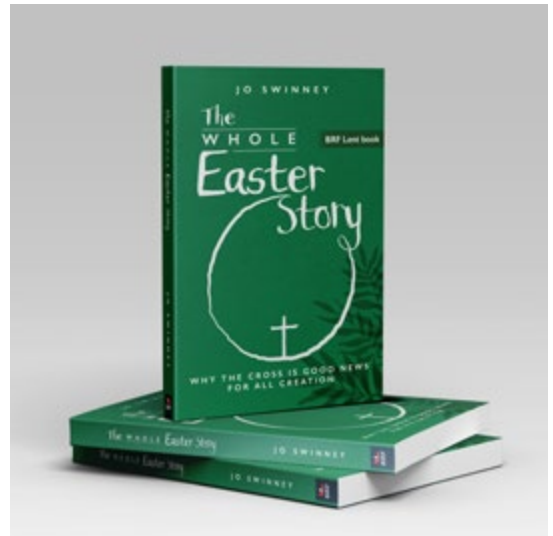
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## RESOURCE HUB

In book form, 2025 saw the birth of **The Whole Easter Story: Why the Cross is Good News for All Creation**, a 40-day devotional by A Rocha International's Jo Swinney. Exploring how Christ's work of reconciliation extends to all creation, it includes a six-week small group discussion guide. All royalties go to A Rocha's conservation work around the world.

The Oikos Network – now led by A Rocha and in collaboration with partners – completed its first cohort in 2025, bringing together participants from 27 countries. Some were already mobilizing churches and communities for creation care; others were just beginning. One participant said:

*'Meeting all of you and hearing your stories has been a blessing... I am grateful for this community that helped me grow in my faith and purpose.'*



Strategic  
priority

3

1,906  
Volunteers  
& interns



## Increase participation of younger generations in our work

A Rocha around the world is committed to increasing the number of under 35-year-olds on our staff, our boards and as volunteers. We are excited by strategic partnerships forming with organizations like Scripture Union International and Bible Society, through which we can reach large numbers of children and teenagers with biblical creation care resources and experiences. We also continue to deliver creative and transformative environmental education activities – here are some highlights.

### Volunteers and interns



Noah Guthrie

**Noah from the USA** volunteered with **A Rocha Peru's** Amazon project, collecting seeds, caring for plants and interviewing members

of the Machiguenga community. He gathered cultural knowledge of ecological indicators – such as when fish lay eggs or when to plant or hunt – and helped transcribe ancestral legends. 'I had the opportunity to listen to the stories, myths and legends of the community, and being able to work on them has been incredibly valuable,' he says.

**Cynthia from Kenya** became a Terrestrial Science Intern with **A Rocha Kenya** after

completing a diploma in wildlife management. Initially uninterested in butterflies and moths, she now calls the moth trap her best friend.

'As I look at the data I collected last year, I see how much I've grown in my understanding of moths and butterflies...I'm still refining my data collection methods, but I'm motivated to keep improving.'

Another volunteer at **A Rocha Kenya**, **Jonah from Australia**, painted a mural on the research office wall featuring a Blacktip Reef Shark, a Golden-rumped Sengi and a Sokoke Scops Owl, much to the delight of the team.



Cynthia



Héloïse Ribot

**Héloïse** spent a year as a Civic Service volunteer with the **A Rocha France** national team. Her main tasks were to support the coordination of the Ambassadors Network, participate in communicating scientific work, and think about creating resources for young people. She says, 'Before joining A Rocha, I was already aware of ecology in general, but without any

deep connection to my faith. Over the last few months, I have come to understand the importance for Christians to care for creation. Some of my assignments were related to what I studied, while I also discovered other areas, which greatly enriched my skills. What's more, the team is very warm and welcoming. I feel at home and have grown from everything I've discovered.'



A mural of a Blacktip Reef Shark by Jonah

## Environmental education

### The A Rocha Conservation Certificate

In 2025 A Rocha International launched a one year part-time virtual course to equip Christians to be hopeful and effective conservationists. A cohort of 16 from 12 countries across six continents has been working through modules on creation care theology, conservation theory and practice, advocacy and communications, and leadership. Each student has been assigned a mentor and is working on a substantive project in their own context. Student feedback has been encouraging and we hope to go from strength to strength in the second year and beyond.

*'The certificate has helped to deepen my understanding of both the theology of creation care and the conservation behind protecting the incredible ecosystems of our world. The course leaders are supportive and welcoming. The range of lecturers has been excellent and have so much knowledge in their specialist areas. And I have loved journeying alongside people from all over the world and widening my perspectives and understanding of conservation on a global scale.'*

**First year student**

## Children's camps & expeditions

Many A Rocha organizations run nature-themed summer camps. In 2025, **A Rocha Aotearoa NZ**, along with SUNZ and Adventure Specialties, led amazing wilderness expeditions in three locations for 17 to 25 year-olds. Through shared experiences like back-country cooking, citizen science and practical conservation, participants deepened their relationships with others, with God and with God's creation.



Day Camp, A Rocha Canada

**A Rocha Canada** ran one-day nature camps in Ontario for 5 to 13 year-olds. Through science experiments, storytelling, art and games, the children explored nature from both familiar and new perspectives, building friendships and lasting memories.

## Families

**A Rocha USA's** 'Picnics en el Arroyo' programme offers underserved Hispanic families in the Austin, Texas area safe and supported access to parks, helping them connect with nature through games, hikes and hands-on activities. Families build community, enjoy positive experiences outdoors and are encouraged to spend more time in nature.

In 2025, **A Rocha France** welcomed over 160 children and their carers to the garden at Les Courmettes for sowing and planting, harvesting and tastings, and outdoor art projects. A young Civic Service volunteer cared for the plot throughout the year, contributing to a particularly abundant harvest.

**A Rocha Switzerland** worked with Crêt Bérard to run a summer camp for 9 to 13 year-olds, 'Camp Vitamin N' (N for nature!). It was the perfect experience to explore the natural world, spend a night under the stars, try new ways of cooking and even shower using solar energy, while reflecting on God's view of the Earth.

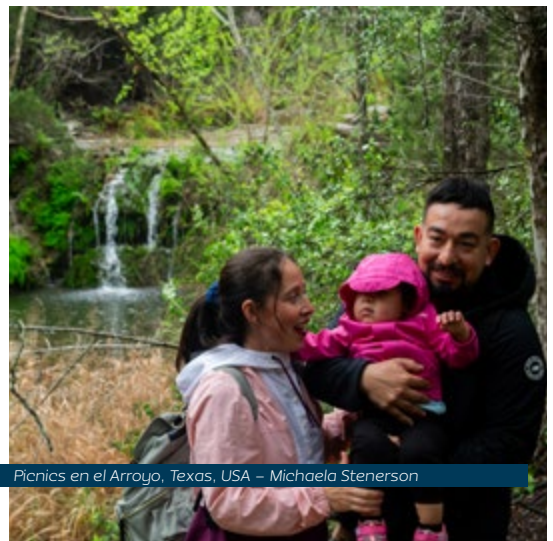


## A Rocha Kenya's

camp for 95 students supported through their eco-bursary programme, 'Assets', combined hands-on conservation, presentations and group activities. Students took part in bird ringing, walked through Mida Creek and learned about butterflies, corals and marine life. By the end, 80% reported a stronger commitment to protecting their local ecosystems.



Assets Camp, Kenya



Picnics en el Arroyo, Texas, USA – Michaela Stenerson



Les Courmettes, A Rocha France



KNUST student group tree planting at Kwamo, A Rocha Ghana

### Schools & universities

Environmental education (EE) continues to thrive across the A Rocha family. Eco-schools run with **A Rocha Uganda** encourage young people to be active in conservation and give youth a voice in the school's environmental policies. A workshop with 22 Conservation Club student leaders led to projects like tree planting, plastic recycling and charcoal briquette production, supported by A Rocha. What starts in one classroom expands to the school and eventually fosters change in the community at large.

**A Rocha Ghana's** KNUST student group is also cultivating passionate conservation leaders. In 2025, they organized a conservation day at the Bobiri Forest and Butterfly Sanctuary, visited the KNUST Agro-Meteorological Station, learned about camera traps and planted trees.

**A Rocha Portugal's** EE programme is so popular that visit slots are booked out as soon as they open. Creativity abounds – in 2025, the team designed posters for Pollinators Week as part of Portimão City Council's Youth March programme, and collaborated with a local primary school to collect toothbrushes to be recycled into surfboards for people with disabilities!



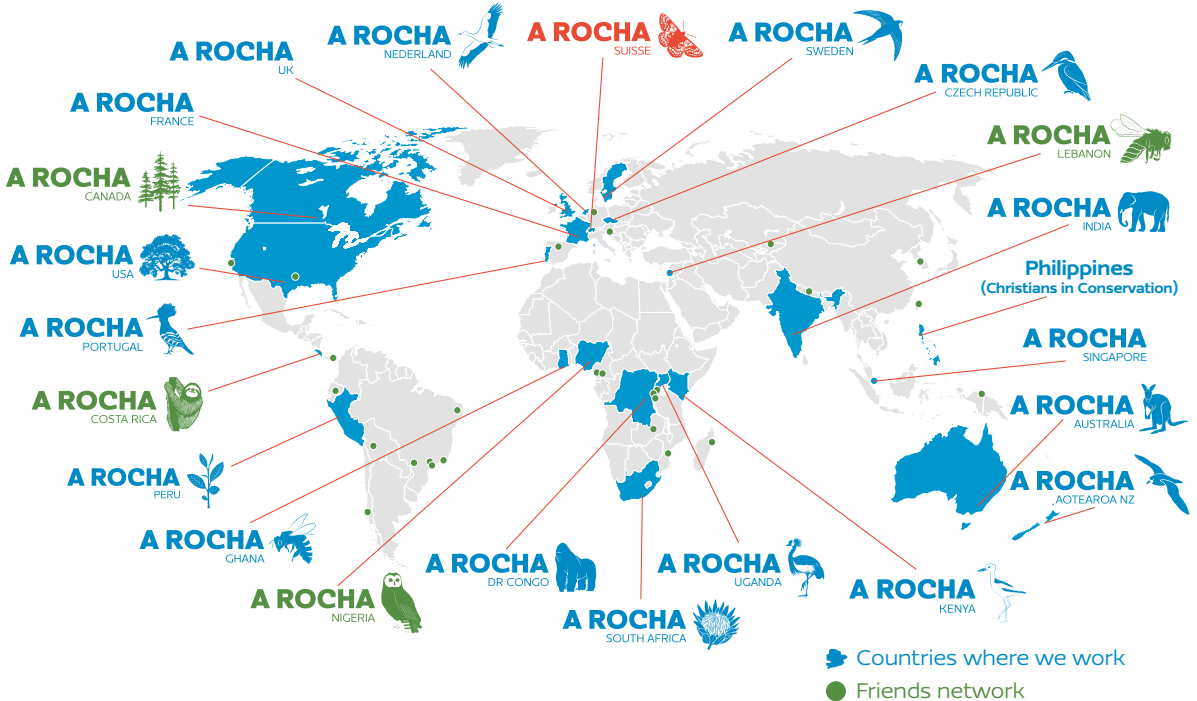
# Strategic priority 4

5,975  
Visitors  
at Field  
centres



## Expanding the geographical reach of the Worldwide Family

A Rocha is in a season of growth! Our goal is to become a family of 30 organizations by 2030, while remaining true to our identity and contextualised expression of our five core commitments. Our priority areas for growth are Southeast Asia and Latin and South America because of their high biodiversity and strong Christian communities.



Climate Stewards is part of the A Rocha Worldwide Family. Find out more about them at [www.climatestewards.org](http://www.climatestewards.org).

## New A Rocha organizations

### A ROCHA COSTA RICA



Keel-billed Toucan, A Rocha Costa Rica – Jeremy Lindsell

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) describes Costa Rica as one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. Its tropical rainforests, cloud forests and coastal ecosystems support an extraordinary range of species. **A Rocha Costa Rica** was previously known as Asociación Casa Adobe, founded in 2013 to create spaces for meaningful connection between people and their environment. Over the years, the organization has achieved important milestones, educational opportunities, ecological justice and support for migrants and refugees. Their mission is to be good neighbours to both people and place: conserving, restoring and renewing relationships broken by neglect, conflict and indifference, and envisioning a future where nature and community flourish together.

### A ROCHA SINGAPORE



A Rocha Singapore – Mel Ong

Singapore may be small and highly urbanized, but it is also blessed with rich biodiversity and is known for its pioneering integration of nature into urban planning through initiatives such as the Singapore Green Plan. **A Rocha Singapore** plans to serve as a resource and catalyst for conservation in Southeast Asia – their team is rich in experience, connections and energy! A Rocha Singapore is also our first organization with a business and finance stream of work; they are exploring partnerships with sustainable finance initiatives to support conservation efforts, alongside their practical conservation projects and church engagement activities. There has been a Friends of A Rocha group in the country for many years and we are delighted now to call them family.

### A ROCHA NIGERIA



Formally known as Eden Creation Care Initiative, **A Rocha Nigeria** became a full national A Rocha organization in 2025. The team carries out biodiversity surveys, habitat restoration, environmental education, sustainable livelihood training and species monitoring at several locations around the country. They have regular slots on television

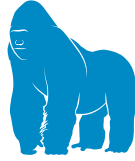


A Rocha Nigeria

and radio with estimated audience figures well over a million!

# A ROCHA

## DR CONGO



The Democratic Republic of Congo is known both for its extraordinary biodiversity and for the long shadow cast by conflict. Into this fragile, vibrant context steps **A Rocha DR Congo**, which began as TRAFFED in 2003 in Bukavu, South Kivu. Their work stretches across eastern Congo's globally significant

landscapes, from community forests on Mount Kabobo to conservation efforts protecting Grauer's Gorilla *Gorilla beringei graueri* in the Itombwe region. They partner with pastors to address deforestation around Kahuzi-Biega National Park, support women's eco-entrepreneurship across South Kivu, and advocate for sustainable fisheries near Lake Albert. At the heart of it all is a deep commitment to faith, integrating biblical teaching with conservation and equipping churches as agents of hope.

## Network news



Iglesia Punto de Gracia in the Bolivian Andes

Five new organizations joined our Friends of A Rocha Network in 2025. By December, the network included 32 members in 22 countries, with a strong presence in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

New members include **Iglesia Punto de Gracia** in the Bolivian Andes, protecting an endemic bird species through environmental education; **Villa de Brome**, a retreat centre in francophone Canada putting creation care into practice; and **ECHO**, an international organization supporting farmers in reforestation, carbon reduction, and reliance on native species while managing invasives.

We remain committed to supporting our Friends as they strengthen safeguarding for children and adults at risk. For example, Friends access our 'Why Safeguarding Matters' course on our online learning platform.

## Friends of A ROCHA



Villa de Brome, Canada

In 2025, we visited Friends in Ecuador and Brazil to learn more about their work and explore the A Rocha organization application process. If you lead a Christian group with an interest in biodiversity conservation, contact A Rocha International!



Red-and-green Macaw (*Ara chloropterus*), Ecuador

## Spotlight on field centres

Community is one of A Rocha's core commitments. An A Rocha field centre is one place where this is most clearly experienced! In many cases, this has led to the birth of new organizations, as people catch the vision and carry it back to their own country. Here is a flavour.

### Cruzinha, Portugal

The very first A Rocha centre is now managed by Rui and Débora Lino-Ramalho, who live there with their young children. In 2025 they hosted 21



Environmental education at Cruzinha  
– Isabel Cunha Soares

volunteers, 7 long-term students and 53 visitors, and prepared around 400 meals. Hundreds of school children visit during term time, and on Thursday mornings coffee and cake are served after bird ringing demonstrations and time to explore the grounds.

### BC Centre, Canada



A Rocha Canada Tatalu Conservation Residents

Near Vancouver, A Rocha Canada's centre is a 27-acre living lab of forest, river habitat, organic gardens and heritage buildings. The unique combination of sensitive wildlife habitat and agricultural land means this a place where critical environmental issues are researched, addressed and solved. In addition to running a guest house, the team welcomes Tatalu Conservation Residents and volunteers to

join in their work. Anyone who stays at the BC Centre is invited into a community, way of life and expression of faith that seeks the flourishing of both people and places.

### Krupárna, Czech Republic

A Rocha Czech Republic's centre has recently undergone major renovations, greatly improving its facilities for environmental education and



Krupárna, Czech Republic

hospitality. The land has been lovingly restored into a rich mosaic of ponds, woodland, meadow and stream, with bug hotels, reptile habitats and hides for observing wildlife.

### Casa Nube, Costa Rica



Casa Nube, Costa Rica – Jeremy Lindsell

Casa Nube's 13 hectares of parkland and secondary forest contribute to the environmental sustainability of the Tárcoles River basin through research, conservation, education and hospitality. In 2025, the team implemented an Environmental Management Plan that includes waste management, composting, a vegetable garden, efficient resource use and measuring their carbon footprint with the goal of carbon neutrality. A species inventory recorded 17 bat species, 24 mammals (including tapir, puma and sloth), 87 bird species, 7 reptile, 6 amphibian and 24 arachnid species!

# Stay in touch

## Field notes eNews

Sign up at [arocha.org](https://arocha.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.



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A Rocha International is on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn – come and find us!



A Rocha has always been a voice of hope in the environmental space. The Field notes podcast, hosted by Rick Faw and Jo Swinney, is an exploration of the ideas, practice and experience making a difference on the ground, through conversations with people who really know what they are talking about. Listen wherever you usually find your podcasts. [arocha.org/field-notes-podcast](https://arocha.org/field-notes-podcast)

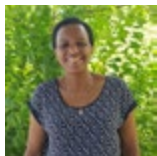
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