



ANNUAL | 2019
REVIEW | 2020

A ROCHA
Conservation and Hope



European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*



WELCOME



I am delighted to introduce this edition of the Annual Review which reaches you after a tumultuous year of distress and challenge, both for the A Rocha family worldwide, and for many of us personally. However, throughout human history, the transformation of places and people has proved truly possible against such overwhelmingly hard backdrops – there is nothing new in grief, or plague, or ecological devastation. A Rocha has certainly known all of them before at different times during our nearly 40 years of history. And so it is with hope, resilience and anticipation that we offer you this review of the year and suggest what may lie ahead.

We can tell you of new leadership as Dr Simon Stuart becomes our Executive Director after some years as an International Trustee (page 6). Our African Forest Programme and Marine Conservation Programme have made great strides (pages 8–11), and national organizations have responded creatively and courageously to the challenges of COVID-19 (page 7).

In recent months the world and the church have understood in a new way how dramatic changes to our relationship with God's earth must come about. It has become starkly clear that choosing short-term financial gain can bring global catastrophe. In consequence we have seen that our work, with its embodied message of hope through practical conservation, is more welcome, more in demand, and more important than ever.

You can read the stories that follow as case studies, or signs of that hope. We hope to show that Christian convictions can be translated into practical projects and programmes for all – that is how their worth is truly demonstrated over timescales that matter. Please join us in any support, in any way, that you can!

Peter Harris

(Peter and Miranda founded A Rocha in 1983. Peter retired at the end of May 2020 and continues to serve the organization as a volunteer.)

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Throughout this review, you will notice the icons appearing next to certain stories. These represent the United Nations 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

A Rocha grieves key leaders

On 28 October 2019, A Rocha founders Peter and Miranda Harris along with Executive Director Chris Naylor and his wife Susanna, were in a terrible road accident in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Chris, Susanna and Miranda were killed, and Peter was critically injured.

We cannot adequately express the shock and sorrow experienced by the worldwide A Rocha family at the loss of these three beloved people. The accident left us reeling. But God is good, and we are grateful for the outpouring of love, comfort and support from our friends and supporters. Thank you for your ongoing prayers as we build on their legacy and look to the future.

Chris Naylor

Chris, along with Susanna, founded A Rocha Lebanon in 1997. Working with landowners and tenant farmers, they protected and expanded the botanically diverse and internationally significant Aammiq Wetland.

In 2010, Chris became A Rocha International's Executive Director. He was greatly appreciated for his calm, decisive leadership which enabled A Rocha to become a leading global voice in creation care.





Susanna Naylor

Susanna led A Rocha Lebanon with Chris for thirteen years, her gifts in hospitality, teaching and accountancy were integral. With Chris, she oversaw the development of an environmental education programme, the Arabic language site, *wildlebanon.org* and an eco-restaurant in the Bekaa Valley. Susanna was known for her intelligence, courage and desire to see others flourish.

Miranda Harris

Miranda founded A Rocha in Portugal along with her husband, Peter, in 1983. She was an instrumental influence on A Rocha's culture of warm hospitality and embracing of the arts. As A Rocha grew, she played a significant pastoral role, connecting with and encouraging the A Rocha family around the world as well as communicating the heart of the organization in a diversity of contexts.



Your gifts in memory

Following the tragedy and immense sorrow and grief, many kindly donated to A Rocha in memory of Miranda, Chris and Susanna. With these generous gifts, the trustees of A Rocha International have agreed to develop a new initiative to honour their memories. This legacy project will focus on developing leaders for the next generation to think and live all things in life, such as business, arts, community, peacebuilding and more, through the lens of creation care. More details will be announced in due course. Please pray that appropriate personnel and resources will be gathered. The fund is still open and can be found at justgiving.com/campaign/Harris-Naylor

Meet our new Executive Director

Dr Simon Stuart

Chris Naylor was always going to be a hard act to follow but God has provided an outstanding person to take us into the next chapter. Simon is a world-class conservation scientist, a committed Christian and a long-time A Rocha International (ARI) trustee, whose calibre, credentials and experience make him uniquely suited for this role.

Simon writes, 'I am both excited and humbled to be taking this new position with A Rocha International – an



organization I have grown to love over many years. The A Rocha family is in many ways groundbreaking as it brings together practical conservation action with Christian faith. We are facing an unprecedented ecological crisis, and it is imperative that Christians are at the forefront of the fight to save and recover nature.'

Simon's career includes his work on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and his chairing of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. He will leave his current position as Director of Strategic Conservation at Synchronicity Earth to join A Rocha in December 2020.

Awards

The John C. Phillips Memorial Medal – awarded to Prof Alfred Oteng-Yeboah, Board Chair of A Rocha Ghana. This is the highest conservation award bestowed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



The Blue Planet Prize – awarded to Dr Simon Stuart, A Rocha International Executive Director from December 2020. This prize recognizes significant contributions to the resolution of global environmental problems.



A Rocha & COVID-19



A Rocha India food distribution in action

From suspended fieldwork, staff layoffs and funding questions, coronavirus has hit A Rocha hard. In Peru, community members were unable to look after the tree seedlings planted as part of the reforestation programme. At Karioi in New Zealand, predator control work was halted, putting the returning Ōi (or Grey-faced Petrels) *Pterodroma gouldi* at risk. A Rocha India's staff have been confined to their centre, from where they have been feeding 1,200 local people! We are thankful for the resilience of our teams and that we are part of a family who cares for and supports each other in what remains a very difficult situation.

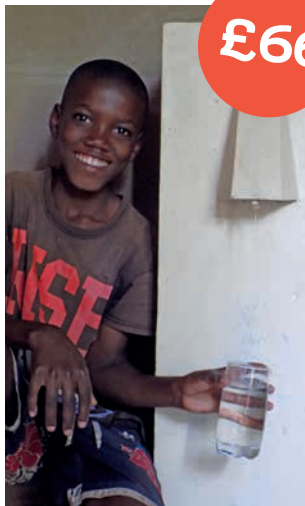


Gifts
with a
Difference

shop.arocha.org

'During this lockdown we are almost having no income. I thank God that my family can get enough drinking water from the filter without spending money on charcoal to boil it.'

Nabisere Esther
from Kampala



£66

Bio-sand filters provide clean, safe drinking water without the need to cut down trees for charcoal.



£5

Tippy taps offer families a water-saving solution to good hand hygiene, helping prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Introducing...

A ROCHA AFRICAN FOREST PROGRAMME



Five A Rocha organizations have joined forces to establish an African Forest Programme which aims to conserve 50,000 hectares of biodiversity-rich but threatened forests across Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and Kenya.

The programme brings together four projects, including our long-standing commitment to the people and nature of Atewa in Ghana and Dakatcha in Kenya; further initiatives include the forests of Benue and Taraba in Nigeria, and West Bugwe in Uganda.

Critically endangered species in Atewa

A new frog – Afiabirago Puddle Frog *Phrynobatrachus afiabirago*, almost entirely confined to Atewa forest – has now been assessed by IUCN as Critically Endangered with extinction. Two monkeys found in Atewa have also been put in the higher risk category of Critically Endangered, bringing the total of such high priority species in Atewa to six.



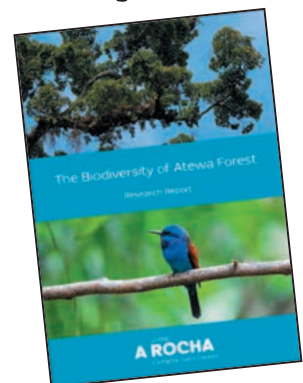
Monoclyanthus vignei (William Hawthorne)

Caught on camera

Leopard *Panthera pardus*, Serval *Leptailurus serval*, Caracal *Caracal caracal*, Porcupine *Hystrix* sp. and Golden-rumped Sengi (Elephant-shrew) *Rhynchocyon chrysopygus* have all been captured on camera in Dakatcha. The Leopard was the first recorded sighting on the Kenya coast in many years.

New catalogue

For the first time we have catalogued all the species known to have been recorded from within and around Atewa. You can find the report at aroc.me/biodiversity-Atewa





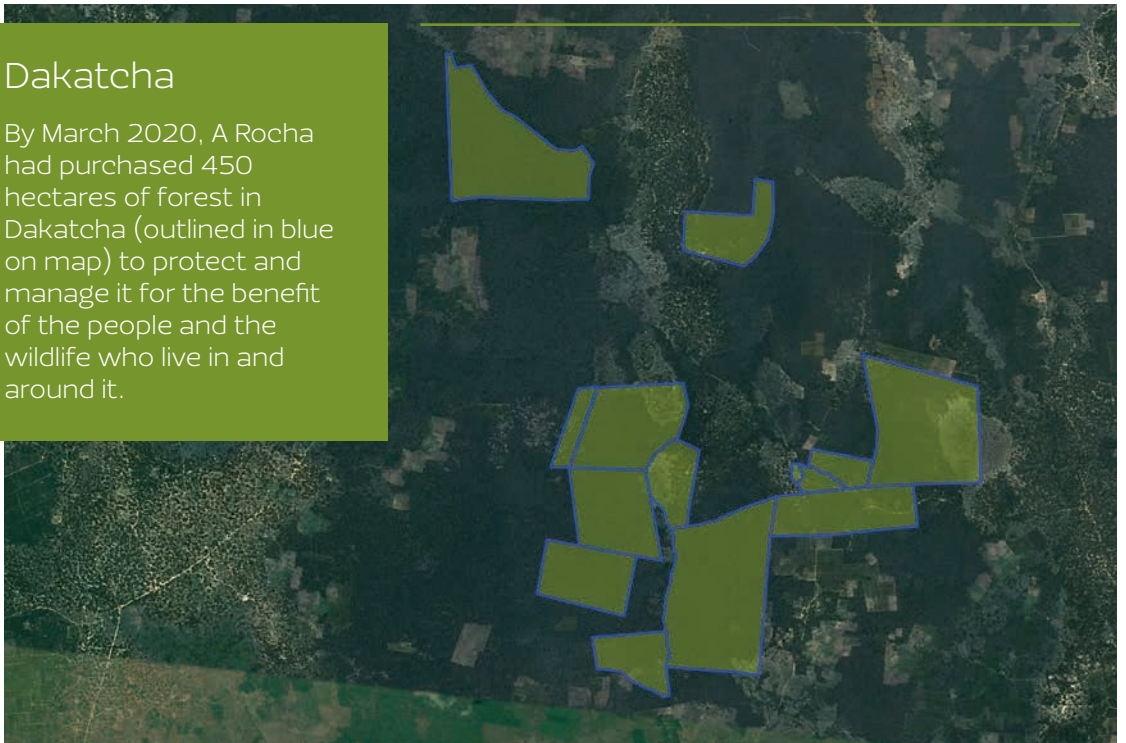
Campaign update

Sadly the fight to protect Atewa Forest is far from over. In early 2020 we were one of seven organizations plus four individuals to file court proceedings against the Ghanaian government to halt bauxite mining in the most critical part of the forest.



Dakatcha

By March 2020, A Rocha had purchased 450 hectares of forest in Dakatcha (outlined in blue on map) to protect and manage it for the benefit of the people and the wildlife who live in and around it.



Your part

Thank you for supporting A Rocha's work protecting African forests. Our Easter appeal raised over £8,000 to protect vulnerable landscapes and communities across Africa. We are grateful for your partnership and prayers.

Introducing...

A ROCHA MARINE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME



Our projects

The Kenyan team has finished the first survey of microplastics on their coast, implemented a Marine Governance project in partnership with St Andrews University in Scotland, and continued to study important biodiversity and habitats in Watamu Marine National Park. Kenya Wildlife Service has released their new management plan for the park which draws heavily on A Rocha Kenya data

The team in Aotearoa, New Zealand is conserving seabird nesting habitat and working to reduce plastic pollution on beaches. In Portugal, microplastic monitoring continues as does the long running European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* monitoring in collaboration with Cardiff University. Our work in Canada contributed significantly to restoring spawning habitats for salmon and protecting Semiahmoo Bay. Our work in the USA has increased dramatically in Florida, partnering with local NGOs to monitor American Horseshoe Crab *Limulus polyphemus* nesting, working towards habitat restoration of mangroves and oyster beds, hosting interns and visitors, and developing reflective kayaking experiences. The USA team is conducting microplastic research on both Florida coasts working with state and national parks. Marine Livelihoods projects have particularly flourished in Kenya and Ghana and education programmes occur in each of our projects globally.



American Horseshoe Crab
Limulus polyphemus

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* (Ben Porter)



Our reach

Our Marine Team has grown to 11 scientists, both inside and outside A Rocha, working on projects across the world. The team spoke at numerous conferences and local events, including the International Congress on Conservation Biology. We published various papers and reports, most notably coauthoring 'Research priorities for achieving healthy marine ecosystems and human

communities in a changing climate' in *Frontiers in Marine Science*.

Our work has increased and we are excited about how the Marine Team will continue to work locally to protect marine spaces and the people who use them, as well as serve the A Rocha family by increasing our collaboration and number of projects globally.



Dr Robert Sluka, Lead Scientist Marine Conservation Programme



Our events

We continue to work together as a global family on three annual marine events: 13 countries participated in the International Coastal Cleanup, three contributed to the Great Global Nurdle Hunt and five promoted World Oceans Day through media events.

A nurdle (plastic pellet)



Introducing...



A ROCHA THEOLOGY & CHURCHES PROGRAMME



As the worldwide church wakes up to environmental issues, opportunities for A Rocha have grown exponentially. A Rocha International works both to resource and connect our global family of national organizations, and externally, from local churches to global movements, in embedding the DNA of creation care. This has led to many opportunities in countries, networks, writing projects and speaking opportunities in 2019, here are selected highlights.

Strategy

Having completed his PhD in early 2019, Rev Dr Dave Bookless (pictured) is developing a global theology and churches strategy. 16 national A Rocha organizations have contributed to this process, aiming to identify and train key speakers, create and curate online resources, engage influential theological institutions, disseminate church engagement

programmes (such as Eco Church and Eglise Verte), and multiply A Rocha's reach through partnerships with global networks. One example of the latter is *The Pollinator*, a monthly e-newsletter Dave co-edits, going to 2,000+ leaders in over 120 countries.





Partnerships

As well as the Lausanne Movement, where Dave remains as a Global Catalyst for Creation Care, we've joined the Renew Our World coalition, and work closely with World Evangelical Alliance, Micah Global, and the Season of Creation movement amongst others. This means A Rocha's influence is felt in countries and churches well beyond our own members.



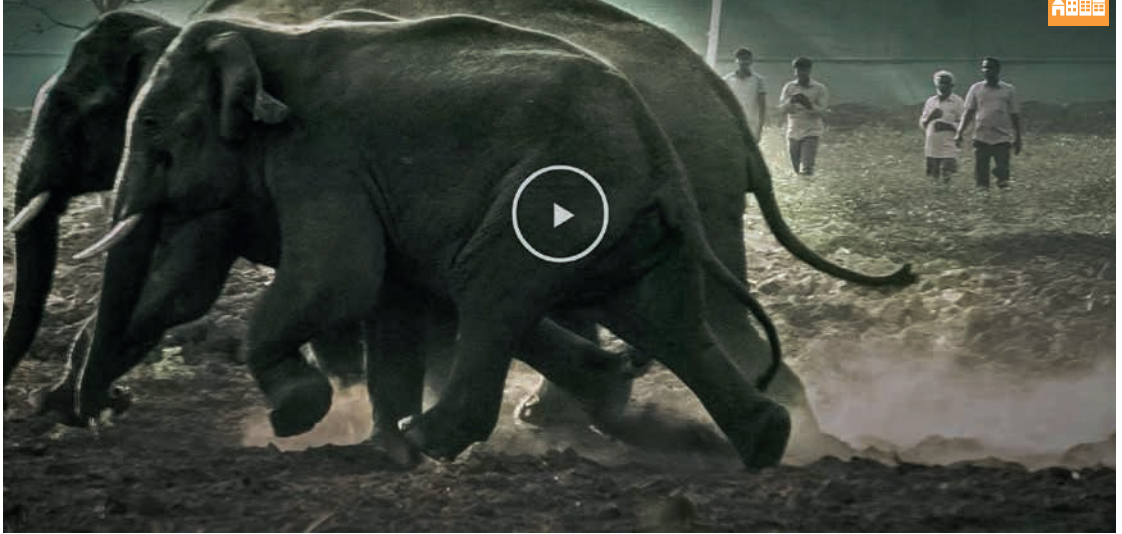
Publications

Dave's book *Planetwise* was published in Spanish and Dutch, and *God Doesn't do Waste* was published in French.

Also published this year was 'God's Gardeners: Creation Care Stories from Singapore and Malaysia' by A Rocha's Melissa Ong (Author) and Prarthini M. Selveindran (Editor).



'Driving Elephants'



2020 saw the release of a short feature film highlighting the work of A Rocha India to address the grave consequences of human and elephant conflict in the Bangalore-

Bannerghatta landscape. Written and directed by Kirsty Wells, it is available to stream at: kondorfilms.co.uk/driving-elephants



A new National Director for A Rocha Switzerland



In September 2019, Ursula Peutot took over from Cécile Moser as the National Director of A Rocha Switzerland. After studying environmental engineering, Ursula specialized in water and worked for 15 years on projects

around the world. After a pause in her career to be at home full-time caring for her two children, she is delighted to be working for A Rocha, where she can reconcile her faith and her love for the environment.

The long-haul with the humble



The word ecology comes from the Greek word *oikos*, meaning household. A Rocha pays attention to all members of the household, regardless of their seeming insignificance, knowing each species is valued by God and plays its unique role in our common home.

One such species A Rocha Canada has given its sustained attention to is the Northern Red-legged Frog *Rana aurora*. Since 2009, A Rocha staff and interns have surveyed egg masses in ponds and

wetlands, discovering the detrimental impact of human activity and an introduced predator, the American Bullfrog *Lithobates*

catesbeianus. The impressive and growing dataset is informing policy makers and resulting management actions.



A Rocha Canada's Frog Squad of scientists and interns prepare for protecting the Northern Red-legged Frog at Brooksdale.

Environmental Education

Workshop participants in Uganda (Amigos Kira Farm)



Farming God's Way (Amigos Kira Farm)



Thanks to generous donations from supporters during the Big Give Christmas Challenge, 2019 was a great year for Environmental Education. Amongst many highlights, in June, A Rocha International carried out environmental workshops in Uganda for 40 teachers. With an average class size of 74, they teach almost 3,000 children between them!

They learnt about climate change, plastic pollution and Farming God's Way. One session took them to visit Namulonge Church of Uganda Primary School. This is an eco-school and pupils have created an orchard, nursery beds and medicinal garden. Participants left enthused about integrating creation care in their curricula and implementing what they had learnt in their schools.

A big year for Climate Stewards

Rising awareness of the urgency of climate change in 2019 meant that we were in the right place at the right time to help people think about, reduce and offset their carbon footprint. Our increased funding enabled our seven partner projects to mitigate over 15,500 tonnes of CO₂ while bringing local benefits to the communities where they work.

2019 also saw the launch of our new look carbon calculator, and in Spring 2020, *360carbon.org* went live: a free online carbon footprint tool for churches and charities developed in partnership with A Rocha UK and the Church of England.



A victory for Quinta da Rocha



A Rocha Portugal is celebrating a milestone in the legal journey which began with the destruction of key species and habitats on Quinta da Rocha in 2006. All three cases and appeals were won on behalf of the environment in 2019.

Please continue to pray as the company is now trying to alter the official planning map to allow building in currently protected areas. The team is currently preparing new legal action against this approach. May justice prevail and this precious corner of God's planet be preserved.



Cruzinha, A Rocha Portugal's centre in the Algarve

Peru's Dry Forest Project

Since 2019, A Rocha Peru has reforested over 8 hectares with 971 seedlings of native species including Algarrobo *Prosopis pallida*, Espino *Vachellia macracantha* and Sapote *Colicodendron scabridum*. Three agreements were made with landholders and agricultural associations to restore and conserve relict dry forest.

Four dry forest patrols resulted in an arrest for illegal logging, and the team carried out a number of training sessions on reforestation and conservation for local community members. Please pray they will be able to restart activities soon once the restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 are lifted.



A Rocha Artist Partners



Songwriting retreat – Laity Lodge, Texas



Caring for God's creation takes creativity. While we're all called to be caretakers, we recognize that artists have a special role in the work of creation care. Songs, photos, films, and paintings can lead us to wonder and lament, to praise and repent, to love and to act.

In 2019, A Rocha USA launched A Rocha Artist Partners as a way to connect with musical and visual artists around the country who resonate with the work of A Rocha. Together, they share the vision for Christians to be actively and creatively engaged in the flourishing of God's earth by restoring people and places.



Fundraising heroes



We love the creative ways people fundraise for A Rocha. Here are just a few of the wonderful people using their talents and time to raise money to support our work:

For 2020, Ka Yee Stark and three friends decided to set themselves a challenge: to run 2020 miles in support of A Rocha's marine plastics work. As a scuba diver, Ka Yee has seen first-hand the damage caused by plastic pollution: 'it broke my heart seeing how we are killing our marine life, our ocean.'

'My name is Kate and I'm 12.' At Christmas, Kate Norris went busking with a friend and together they raised £200. 'I decided to give my half to A Rocha because I am passionate about keeping the environment happy and healthy.'



In memory of Susanna Naylor (page 5), who, just six weeks into her role, had already made a significant impression, Christ Church Cathedral School (Oxford) decided to make A Rocha their charity of the year, donating money raised from Christmas card sales, events and pupils' personal fundraising challenges.



ARI's 2019 Financial review

61% of ARI's expenditure went towards supporting A Rocha Organizations

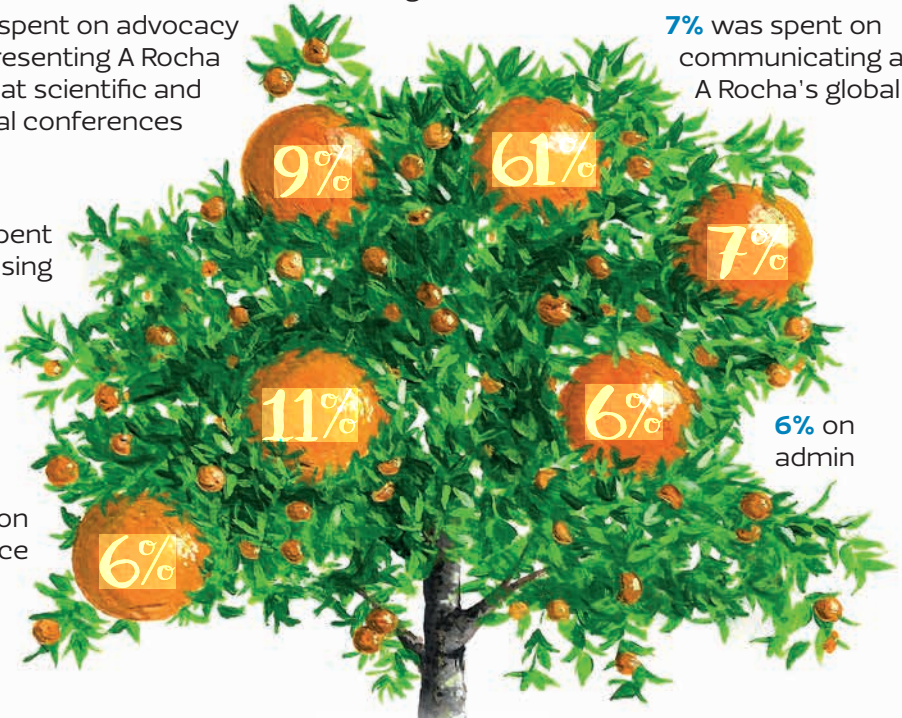
9% was spent on advocacy and representing A Rocha globally at scientific and theological conferences

7% was spent on communicating about A Rocha's global work

11% was spent on fundraising

6% on governance

6% on admin



The global income for A Rocha increased by 5% in 2019 to £5.5m.

Australia, Netherlands, Peru, Switzerland, UK, USA, A Rocha International (ARI) and Climate Stewards saw income grow significantly, in contrast with France, Ghana, Kenya, Lebanon, New Zealand and Portugal where it has reduced. For a breakdown of each country's income visit arocha.org/meet-a-rocha

We are profoundly grateful to all who have faithfully and generously funded our work this year. Thank you.

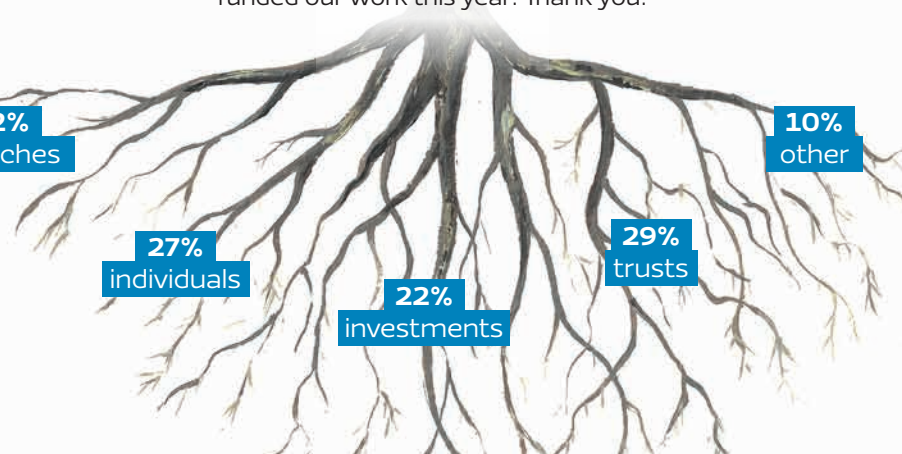
12% churches

27% individuals

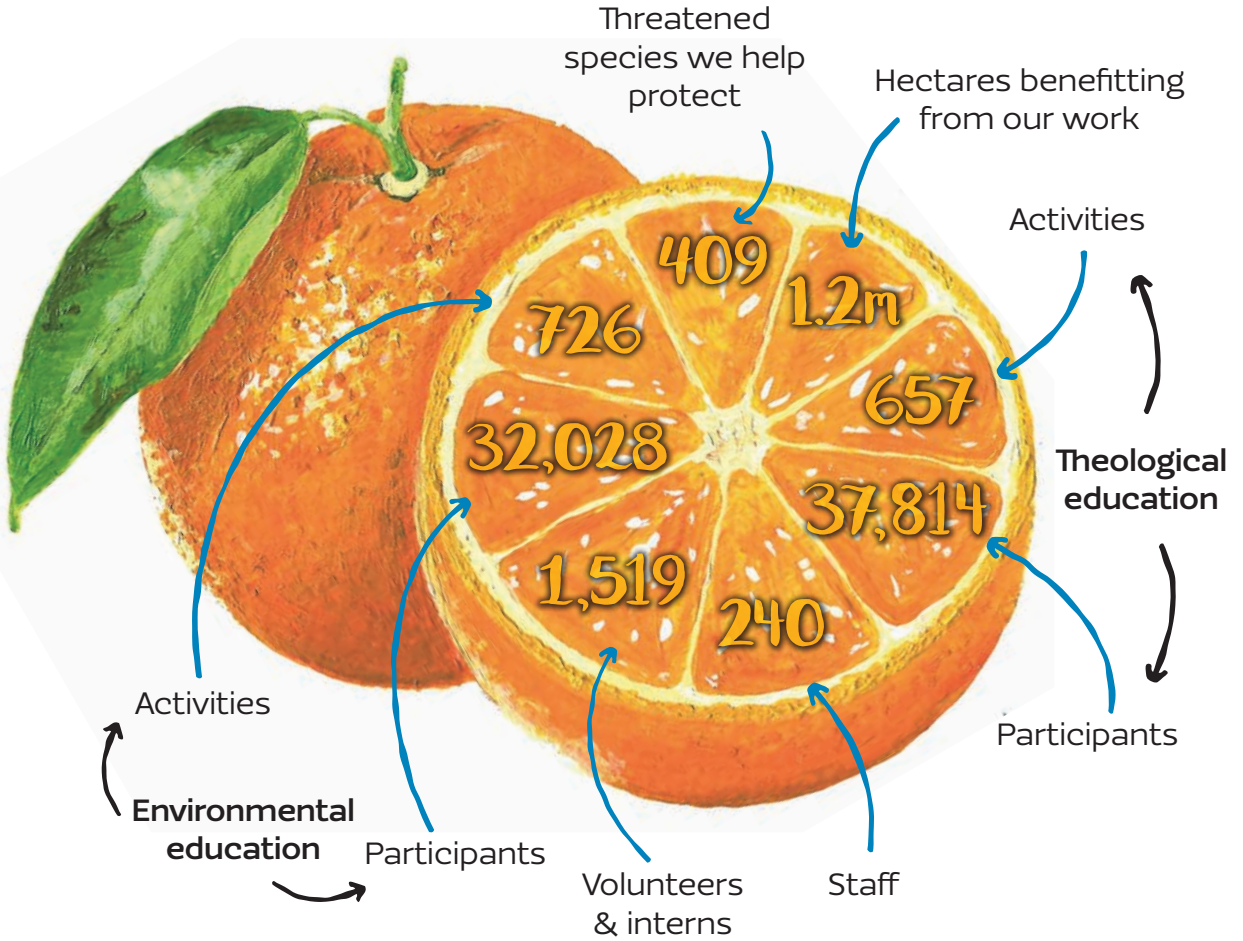
22% investments

29% trusts

10% other



The A Rocha worldwide family in 2019



Original artwork by Sarah Young

A Rocha International, 180 Piccadilly, London, W1J 9HF, UK.
 t: +44 (0) 300 770 1346 | e: international@arocha.org | w: arocha.org

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 International Union for the Conservation of Nature.