

INDIA
A ROCHA
Conservation and Hope



Urgent appeal for funds to buy land

NOVEMBER 2022

A Rocha is a Christian organization which, inspired by God's love, engages in scientific research, community-based conservation projects, environmental education and theological training. Our first initiative was a field study centre in Portugal, so our name is Portuguese and means 'The Rock.' We now work in 20 countries over six continents.

A Rocha in India

Bannerghatta National Park lies just outside Bangalore, India's third largest city. The park provides critical habitat for people and nature, including Asian Elephants, Tigers, Leopards and other endangered plants and animals. Yet the sprawling growth of the city has led to increasing conflict between humans and wildlife. A Rocha India has been working here since 2004, engaging communities in the conservation of the park through environmental education, outreach, citizen science and hands-on projects.

Recent achievements

- Our elephant proof barrier along the 285 km perimeter of Bannerghatta National Park and our recommendations for managing these fences has reduced crop damage in villages by 50%.
- We have discovered several rare and threatened species never before recorded in the park, including the Honey Badger, Tiger, Four-horned Antelope and Ruddy Mongoose.
- In 2020, our environmental education programmes reached over 700 students.
- We have published the first ever field guide to the mammals of Bannerghatta.
- In 2021, more than 20 training and capacity building programmes for forest frontline staff, students and nature enthusiasts took place at the centre.
- Already in 2022, over 72 bird species have been reported, as well as Asian Elephants and a pregnant Indian Leopard establishing her territory.



Our centre

All our activities from research, environmental education, training, eco-tourism and practical conservation are carried out from a centre which we have rented on a monthly basis since September 2015. During the pandemic, it also provided a base for supplying 1,500 essential food kits to members of the community struggling to survive.



The property also includes a man-made lake used to supply water to the centre and surrounding villages. There are three little cottages on the land where our staff live, and a 700-sapling plantation planted by volunteers from Dell.

Our need

Due to COVID-19, the family that owns the centre and the 4.9 acres on which it sits, needs to sell some of the land. They intend to complete the sale by the end of 2022.

Investing in the future of Bannerghatta National Park

For our vital work to continue, we need to purchase the 2.6 acres (made up of two parcels of land) where our office and most of our activities are based. The value set by the government is 60 lakhs per acre which we are hopeful will be acceptable to the landlord.

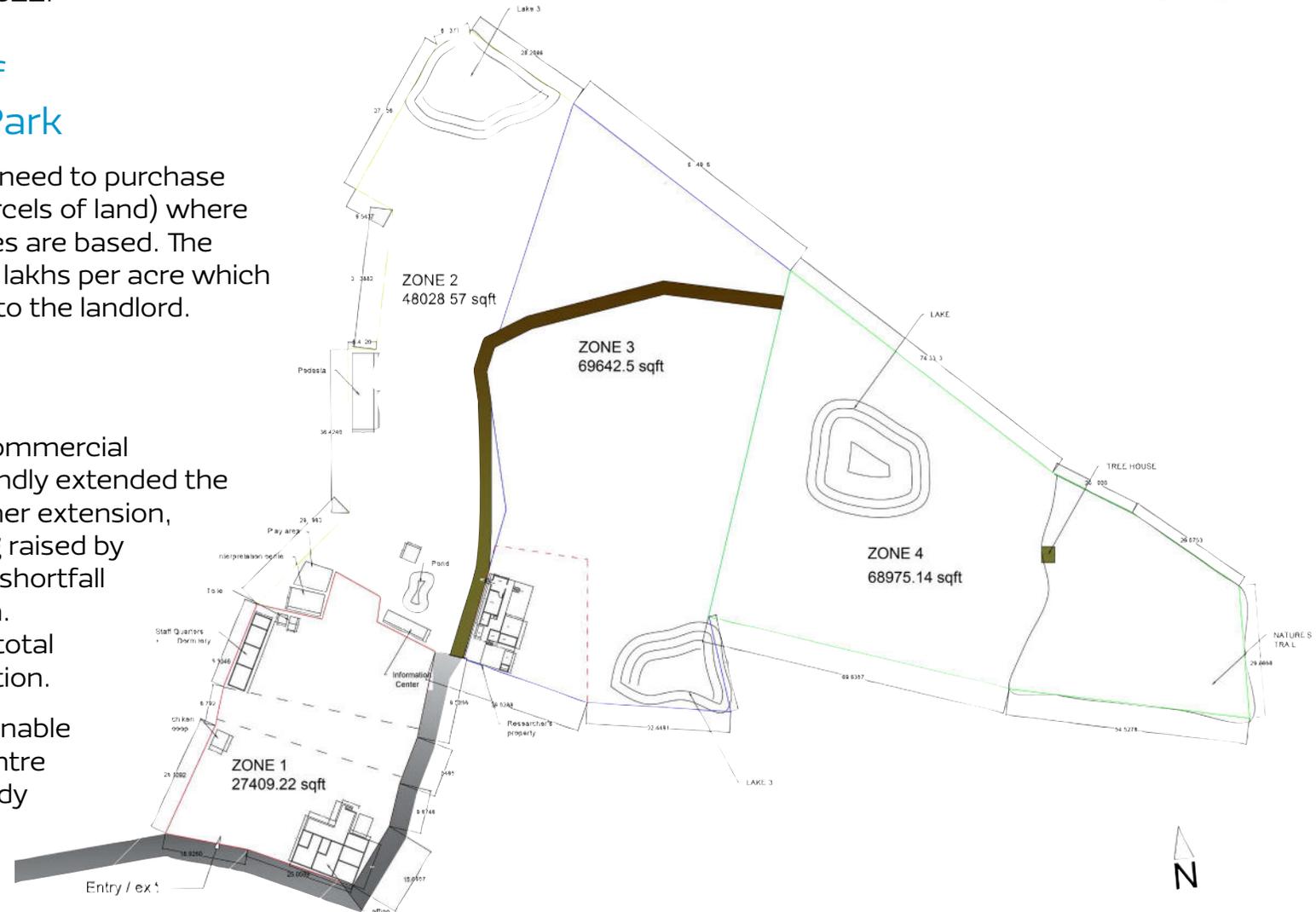
Needed now

Despite pressure from potential commercial buyers, the landlord has already kindly extended the sale deadline and agreed to a further extension, subject to a portion of funds being raised by 16 December. There is currently a shortfall of £80,000 to meet this condition. £200,000 is needed to cover the total purchase and all legal documentation.

In the event that A Rocha India is unable to raise sufficient funds for the centre to be purchased, any money already received will be used to continue the vital ongoing conservation efforts in this landscape.

Donate at arocha.org/donate

If you are donating from outside the UK, please contact us at giving@arocha.org to find out the best way to give.





Thank you

We are grateful for your interest in our difficult situation and would be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Please contact sarah.french@arocha.org for more information.



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