A ROCHA SOUTHAFRICA

Annual Review 2022

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A ROCHA SOUTH AFRICA

A Rocha South Africa is a national Christian organisation which equips, motivates and mobilises people to care for God's creation, through theology, sustainable livelihoods, research and projects.



A Rocha South Africa is a registered Non-Profit Organisation: NPO Number 038-193 and Public Benefit Organisation: PBO Number 930020406

Chairman's Report

In 2022, A Rocha South Africa has returned to more normalised operations post Covid and God is growing the organisation. Our income and involvement in projects has increased substantially from 2021 and it is satisfying to be partnering with Philipskop, with Kuzuko Foundation and other organisations, in projects in conservation and livelihood.

As you will see from our annual financials, we are still using reserves (although at a reduced rate) to sustain operations. Please continue with this as an item for prayer and action as we need to become net zero in our use of reserves. I urge all of our supporters to give, organise fund-raising events, and use any other ideas that God might bless you with so that we have the resources to continue the work in creation care.

Murray, Margie and I had the opportunity and privilege of attending

the A Rocha International Forum at Les Courmettes in the hills above Nice. It is Natura 2000 reserve а and an international base for environmental awareness, education and training, with activities, conferences, and facilities for holidavs children's family and God provided visas in a faithcamps. challenging way. A revised covenant, vision and mission was agreed and is being implemented. We are involved in the ongoing working group on strategic worldwide direction. It was a growing time and one where I returned with many dreams and ideas as to how A Rocha South Africa could better serve Jesus in the extension of His kingdom through creation care. Ideas of an interns' programme, residential centres where we can develop and mentor in community, growth in our partner programme, links with universities to get funding for scientific research, birdringing and sustainable livelihood ideas are some of the learnings from the Les Courmettes gathering.



I am praying that Jesus will raise up you and others as committed volunteers to champion and run with some of them, which will mean that we can implement those ideas that He wants to plant and grow.

Organisationally, I wish to thank Godfrey for his able financial stewardship. welcome Tanya Morton as our new financial administrator and the other board members for their support. We wish Sydney well as he has stepped down from the board. We continue with expanding the Board. The portfolios Environmental Science and are: Research. NGO Sector, Community/ Youth Experience and Church/ Theology. An initial meeting with some possible candidates has been held. If any of you feel led to join us please contact me so we can discuss it A new website is up and further. operational for A Rocha globally and for A Rocha South Africa.

To all of our supporters, again my thanks for your faithful giving during 2022 and I look forward to seeing what Jesus will do through us in 2023. My ongoing thanks to Murray for his leadership and passion.

Dave Gertzen Chairman - A Rocha South Africa



National Director's Report

2022 has been an extremely significant year for A Rocha South Africa on a number of fronts. In response to the A Rocha Board's 2021 recognition that and conservation community development must work together in South Africa, we embarked upon our first green economy project in the first half of 2022. To this end we had opportunity to employ 10 people for alien invasive plant removal and the conducting of water quality surveys for a six-month period. We're appreciative to the Amanzi Ethu Nobuntu organisation for providing us with this opportunity.

In the same way, the last quarter of 2022 saw us commence a beekeeping focusing project with qoals on community livelihood creation and conservation. For this we appreciate the involvement of the Kuzuko Foundation and grant funding from the John Templeton Foundation.

Another significant accomplishment was the construction of our first tortoise rehabilitation enclosure which will make a small but meaningful impact in addressing the massive problem of illegally-held captive tortoise in South Africa. We value our partnership with FreeMe Wildlife on this project and look forward to working with them in the future towards the conservation of our tortoise species.

A further significant development was A Rocha South Africa being invited to present our first series of lectures on biblical creation care to bible college students in South Africa. In this regard, we value the growing relationship with Union Bible Institute and look forward to adding value to this institution for years to come.

Another notable opportunity developed with a signing of a Memorandum of

Understanding with IDAMASA for A Rocha South Africa to present theological training on creation care amongst the organisations 1500 African pastors.



This and other developments have been made possible because of the support base of A Rocha South Africa. including our monthly donors, those who pray for us and those who assist in many significant ways. To each one of you I say a big thank you. A special mention must be made of our financial team, consisting of Tanya Morton, Godfrey Harris, Carl Neilson and Joshua Bean who have managed our ethically efficiently. finances and Testimony of this lies in the praise

received from our financial auditors who have expressed their gratitude for the extremely well-presented financials provided to them. This speaks volumes of the quality systems that have been implemented by our bookkeeper and financial team.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank David and the board of A Rocha South Africa for their constant support. A big thank you to my wife, Brenda, for her constant love and support that enables me to continue caring for people and place though the ministry of A Rocha South Africa. Thank you to all who partner with us and for the churches and Christian communities who have opened your doors to us. A big thank you to each and every individual whom I have had the privilege of working alongside on projects and ministry events over the year, and a special word of thanks to the one who reminded me how to eat an elephant.

Murray Tessendorf

National Director - A Rocha South Africa



Church and Community

Uniquely operating as a biodiversity conservation organisation within the Christian tradition, A Rocha South Africa is strategically equipped to engage with South Africa's largest religious grouping in matters of environmental care and biodiversity conservation.

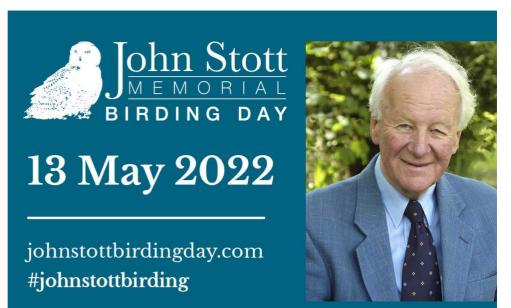
During 2022, representatives of A Rocha South Africa engaged with local churches, Christian community groups and theological institutions in a number of significant ways. These included:

- The development of a six-week Bible study series entitled "Why Care for God's Creation", available in English and Afrikaans.
- Once-off interactions with various bible study home groups outlining the biblical theology of creation care and the work of A Rocha South Africa.
- Presentations to mid-week ladies' groups on biblical creation care.
- Sermons preached in churches on Sundays offering a biblical motivation to care for God's creation.
- Speaking engagements at multi-day eco-conference addressing biblical creation care theology and its practical outworking.
- Nature walks for church groups conducted by a trained field guide who can point participants to the wonders of God's creation.
- Lectures covering the topic of biblical creation care to seminary students.
- Online webinars discussing biblical creation care.
- Speaking engagements at youth groups motivating emerging generations to care for the environment to the glory of God.
- Creation care workshops for pastors who desire to understand the theology and practice of caring for God's creation.



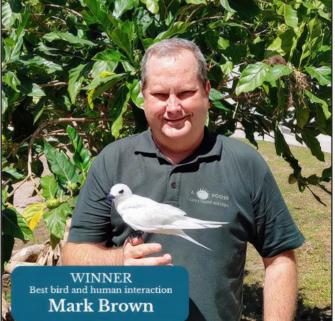
John Stott Birding Day

Each vear. teams around the world take part in the John Stott Memorial Birding Day organised by A Rocha International to commemorate and celebrate our great friend and supporter John Stott's legacy as a theologian, pastor and birdwatcher. This day is a significant event in the A Rocha South Africa diary as it allows friends from across the country to



join together and participate in a global A Rocha event. During 2022, A Rocha South Africa teams participated in Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal, the Western Cape and at Kuzuko in the Eastern Cape. A noteworthy 108 species was recorded by the Kuzuko A Rocha Memorial Bird Hide team. A Rocha South Africa also made noteworthy observations further afield with A Rocha South Africa's Board of Reference member, Mark Brown, winning the photographic category for Best Bird and Human Interaction with his photo of a Fairy Tern photographed in the Seychelles, while A Rocha South Africa's Murray Tessendorf won the category Best Bird Photo with a photograph of a Shoebill from the swamps of Uganda.





Kuzuko Honey Project

The Kuzuko Foundation and A Rocha South Africa have collaborated to develop a honey initiative on the Kuzuko Private Game Reserve. Funded by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation, the project has three main focal areas, namely pollinator conservation, environmental education and environmentally positive livelihood creation.

With the project commencing in November 2022, A Rocha South Africa worked with beneficiaries of the Kuzuko Foundation to train them in hive box construction and preparation, setting catch boxes out to attract swarming bees and initial monitoring of these catch boxes. With an initial 18 hive boxes placed, 12 of them had been occupied by the end of 2022. The goals for the coming year are:

- for A Rocha South Africa will continue to work with beneficiaries to set up a 100-hive apiary project over a 15 000 hectare private big five game reserve;
- to provide ongoing training and a full year's practical mentorship to participating beneficiaries;
- to develop training material to equip Kuzuko Lodge field guides help guests understand the importance of pollinator conservation;,
- to develop environmental education material for local schools on pollinator conservation; and
- to position bee hives strategically to protect specific tree species from destruction by elephants.

By the completion of the project set for March 2024, A Rocha South Africa will be able to hand over a fully developed project to the Kuzuko Foundation for them to empower local community members through a bee keeping mentorship and livelihood creation project.



Why beekeeping?

We believe that training. equipping and supporting community beekeepers exceeds the qoals of sustainable development to be an environmentally positive form of livelihood creation. Not only are trained beekeepers able to supplement income their through beekeeping but also become invested caretakers of the environment since their livelihoods are directly linked to a healthy environment. To this end we see the value of local beekeepers becoming stewards of their environment. In addition. if carefully managed, we see community beekeeping as a tool for positive relationship building communities between and nature reserves, particularly within the private sector, where communities can directly benefit from conserving land without any environmental harm or cost to the landowner. With the experience gained through the Kuzuko Honey Project, A Rocha South Africa becomes well develop positioned to and community honey manage projects in conservation and environmentally sensitive areas.





The Tortoise Project

The Tortoise Project exists for three main purposes, namely for the conservation of the four Terrestrial Tortoise species found in KZN, for implementing, testing and perfecting of tortoise rehabilitation protocols, and to provide a viable and legal option for the reintroduction of South Africa's captive tortoise population back into the wild.

The Tortoise Project, initiated and led by FreeMe Wildlife, is a collaborative project which multiple includes role-players including A Rocha South Africa. The highlights of 2022 included the measurable success of the first release of rehabilitated Natal and Eastern Hinged Tortoise into their natural range in the Zululand area of KwaZulu-Natal. With all of the radio-tracked tortoise surviving for a full year in the wild, we can conclude that they are able to survive and thrive in the wild after having undergone the rehabilitation process in captivity. A further success relates to the accessing of recently published describing the genetic data Tortoise variations in Leopard throughout populations South Africa. This has allowed FreeMe Wildlife, through genetic testing of their captive Leopard Tortoise population, to isolate the area of origin and potential release site of



each animal in their care. This important development fulfils another requirement towards the eventual legally permitted release of these animals into the wild.



A Rocha South Africa's commitment within this collaborative partnership relates to the funding and construction of tortoise rehabilitation enclosures. These purposebuilt enclosures allow for the first phase of the animals' rehabilitation process. The enclosures are designed to house the captive-held tortoise for the first three months of their rehabilitation during which time they can be closely monitored and receive necessary health checks while being introduced to the types of food plants they would find in the wild.



To this end, A Rocha South Africa funded the completion of the first tortoise enclosure in January 2022 and, with the assistance of learners from Howick High School, were able to landscape the enclosure with the planting of indigenous plants. This enclosure alone will create capacity for up to 40 animals to enter the rehabilitation process each all permit vear once requirements have been issued by the relevant wildlife authorities. Α Rocha South Africa has secured part funding for construction of a the further tortoise enclosure and is hoping to begin construction in the second half of 2023 should the remainder of the funds be secured.



Thank you for helping us care for Sylvester!

Through an appeal by A Rocha South Africa, our supporters generously donated enough for us to cover the veterinary costs of having the world's most famous lion fitted with a satellite tracking collar.

You may remember Sylvester as that 'Houdini' lion that back in 2015 escaped from Karoo National Park: twice. They gave him the nickname 'Spook' (Afrikaans for Ghost) because on his more than 370km sojourn he was almost impossible to find, emerging from out of thickets momentarily and disappearing just as quickly. Considered to be a 'problem animal', this magnificent lion faced destruction but fortunately media interest (which renamed him 'Sylvester') and public outcry ensured that this wandering lion would be relocated to Kuzuko Private Nature Reserve and given one last chance. Since 2016, Sylvester has made Kuzuko Private Nature Reserve his home, forming a coalition with another lion and becoming a proud father of a litter of cubs. His wandering days are over...we hope! But just to make sure, A Rocha South Africa's supporters donated generously towards the fitting of a satellite tracking collar.

As part of the appeal, an incentive was given for one lucky donor to win a copy of the book "Sylvester" authored by Gerhard de Lange. Congratulations to Joan Houston who won, and has enjoyed reading the book. Thank you to all who donated and made A Rocha South Africa a small part of this ongoing conservation success story.





Ferncliffe Nature Reserve

Fifteen years ago, A Rocha South Africa commenced on what was envisioned as a reforestation and carbon sequestration project on a portion of clear-felled plantation in the Ferncliffe Nature Reserve. Through many volunteer-driven tree planting and alien invasive plant hacks over the years, what was once a weedy and overgrown tract of land is now a young canopied Eastern Mistbelt Forest filled with tree species, some of which were last seen there in the mid 1800's. During 2022, volunteer efforts continued with a focus placed on planting primary forest tree species which will one day canopy high above the invasive plants species and outcompete them for light.



As a founding member of the Ferncliffe Forest Voluntary Association, A Rocha South Africa continues to work alongside various role-players in an effort to complete the Biodiversity Stewardship process for Ferncliffe Forest which was started in 2021. Great progress has been made towards having a 650 hectare area of the Ferncliffe Nature Reserve formally designated as a protected area which will afford the reserve legal protection. With a property boundary survey remaining the greatest outstanding requirement, it is hoped that sufficient funds will be raised in the near future for this process to reach completion.



further significant Α development for our Ferncliffe restoration project in 2022 came with A Rocha South Africa's membership into the African Forest Programme. African Forest The Programme, which runs under the auspices of A Rocha International. provides а



valuable platform for networking, learning and resourcing amongst all the African A Rocha organisations which are working in forest conservation. This membership places our work in the Ferncliffe Nature Reserve alongside A Rocha Ghana's work in the great Atewa Forest, A Rocha Uganda's work in the West Bugwe Forest, A Rocha Nigeria's work in the Kwande-Obanliku forests and A Rocha Kenya's incredible work in the Dichacha Woodland.

Atewa Forest, Ghana

Atewa Forest in Ghana is the finest example of upland evergreen forest in the Upper Guinean Forest region. It is home to more than 100 species currently at risk of extinction. Five million people depend on the forest for a clean water supply.



West Bugwe Forest, Uganda

West Bugwe is one of only three natural forests remaining in Eastern Uganda. Unfortunately unsustainable and unmanaged human activities are threatening its integrity. Yet, there is a local desire to conserve the forest through a process of collaborative forest management.

Kwande-Obanliku, Nigeria

Along the border of Cameroon in north-eastern Cross River, southeastern Benue and southern Taraba States, Nigeria, lies an area of poorly-known lowland forest supporting many vulnerable wildlife populations.

Dakatcha, Kenya

Dakatcha is part of the fragmented Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa, counted as one of the ten most threatened forest hotspots in the world. A Rocha's survey work has revealed a yet rich and diverse wildlife population with good numbers of the endemic Golden-rumped Sengi among 24 species of mammals, 200 birds and over 90 butterfly species – and counting.

Government has started assigning formal land titles in Dakatcha. This has resulted in a frenzy of land purchasing by speculators from far and wide – and an unprecedented level of destruction of this unique forest and its wildlife. There is an urgent need to secure what remaining forest there is before it is destroyed.

Amanzi Ethu Nobuntu

During the first six months of 2022, A Rocha South Africa participated in the Amanzi Ethu Ubuntu programme focused on alien invasive vegetation clearing along the Town Bush catchment area and tributary near Pietermaritzburg. Partnering with landowners and role-players in and around the Ferncliffe Nature Reserve, A Rocha South Africa was allocated the management of a team of ten Enviro Champs who worked on alien invasive plant control and water



#OurWaterOurPeople

monitoring. Funded by the Department of Science and Innovation and implemented by Amanzi Ethu Nobuntu, A Rocha South Africa competently administered all aspects of the team's employment while creating a livelihood opportunity for each person in the team for the project duration of six months. With the recognition that successful conservation in South Africa must work hand-in-hand with sustainable community development, and in response to the goal set out in 2021 by the Board of A Rocha SA to explore green livelihoods as a tool of community development, the EcoChamps programme is significant in being our first success in implementing a green livelihood project.



A Rocha South Africa EcoYouth

'Footsteps to Good Hope' EcoYouth, situated in the Belleville area of Cape Town, consists of a group on energetic young people convinced of their role and responsibility as Christians to care for God's creation. Over a number of years, this self-motivated group has been active in caring for a portion of the Kuils River in the Western Cape. During 2022, the team organised and conducted four community clean-ups of the Kuils River, removing a significant quantity of litter at each event. During October 2022, two of the group's most active members had the opportunity to attend the A Rocha EcoAdventure Camp help at the Kuzuko Private Nature Reserve in the Eastern Cape. This gave them opportunity to explore a biome that was unfamiliar to them and which inspired them with fresh ideas to take back to their EcoYouth group.





EcoAdventure Camps

EcoAdventure Camps are an adventure of new experiences and opportunities for discovery outside of a teen's normal surroundings. EcoAdventure Camps are designed to give participants new experiences of the natural world while providing valuable hands-on environmental education opportunities. The experience is designed to ignite the participants' interest in the natural environment, providing knowledge that fuels a growing fascination of wild things and builds a foundation of environmental knowledge that the individual can build on for the rest of their life.



During 2022. two EcoAdventure Camps were run in partnership with the Kuzuko Foundation on the Kuzuko Private Nature Reserve in the Eastern Cape. Catering for learners in grades 9 to 11, participants had opportunities for a multitude of experiences. These new included, amongst others, an encounter, equine nature walks, game drives in a big five nature reserve, a visit to a San rock art site, interacting with conservation professionals, exploring career opportunities in conservation, introduction to а case study in lion conservation. learning how animals use different types of camouflage, conducting water assessments quality and constructing soil erosion control structures.



A particular thank you must go to the donors who made valuable contributions towards the running of these camps. These included Godfrey Harris, who raised funds by sponsorship in running the Addo Adventure Trail, and James Irlam, who





raised funds through his participation in the Two Oceans Marathon, A Rocha South Africa is also appreciative of a grant provided by the John Templeton Foundation towards the funding of these and future EcoAdventure Camps.





Happy Earth Festival

August 2022 saw A Rocha South Africa participating in the Happy Earth Environmental Education Festival held at the Pietermaritzburg Botanical Gardens. Held over two days, the festival provides an opportunity for local school children to learn about different aspects of the environment from the sixteen participating environmental and conservation organisations in attendance.

As a participating organisation, A Rocha South Africa introduced children to 'the biggest conservation problem in South Africa that nobody is talking about', namely that of soil erosion. Other than providing the delightful opportunity for the 1400 children in attendance to play in the mud, we were also able to communicate the concept, causes and control of soil erosion. Through hands-on experiments conducted by the children, they came to understand concepts such as soil texture, raindrop splash effect and the importance of mulch to reduce soil erosion. In addition to fantastic participation by the children, A Rocha SA also received extremely positive comments from educators representing the other environmental organisations.





A Rocha Partner Organisation

A Rocha Partner Organisations (APO's) share A Rocha SA's ethos of caring for God's creation and commit themselves to achieve measurable goals in biodiversity conservation, stewardship of natural habitats and sustainable living. Partners are encouraged to set annual conservation targets, measure their progress and celebrate conservation achievements.



As an A Rocha Partner Organisation, Phillipskop Mountain Reserve in the Western Cape has made a number of significant achievements during 2022. These include:

- Conducting 8 volunteer-attended invasive vegetation clearing events.
- Clearing alien invasive plants from 19 hectares of Fynbos vegetation.
- Participating in the John Stott Birding day, logging a total of 32 bird species on the 250 hectare property.
- Participating in the Great Southern BioBlitz, logging over 450 plant and animal species on iNaturalist.
- Logging over 1500 plant and animal sightings on iNaturalist during the course of the year.
- Developing environmental education materials for hikers who utilise the nature reserve.
- Facilitating the A Rocha South Africa-developed, "Why care for God's creation" Bible study material with a local group.





During 2022, A Rocha South Africa has administered a grant provided by the Gesellschaft für Fleischfressende Pflanzen (German Carnivorous Plant Association) to Phillipskop Mountain Reserve. This grant provided for the construction of a mountain hut on the upper reaches of the mountain reserve, which will provide overnight accommodation for alien invasive vegetation clearing teams. This mountain hut, which should be completed in the first half of 2023, will be a valuable tool in furthering the work of eradicating exotic plant species that invade and threaten the fynbos vegetation.

A Rocha South Africa Vital Statistics 2022

Non Profit Organisation - NPO Number 038-193 Public Benefit Organisation - PBO Number 930020406

Board of Trustees:

David Gertzen (National Chairperson) Christine Cuénod (Secretary) Martin de Wit (Western Cape & EcoYouth) Godfrey Harris (Treasurer) Murray Tessendorf (National Director)

<u>Finance</u>: Godfrey Harris Tanya Morton Carl Neilson (Dulverton Financial Services) Tori Neilson (Dulverton Financial Services) Joshua Bean

Auditors:

Jacques van Rooyen Chartered Accountant (SA) will continue in office for the 2023 financial year.

<u>National Team</u>: Murray Tessendorf (National Director) Tanya Morton (Finance) Estelle Home (Website design)

Board of Reference: Mark Brown Michael Cassidy Ray Durrheim Philip Le Feuvre Les Underhill



A Rocha South Africa Financial Statement 2022

A Rocha South Africa

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2022

	Notes	<u>2022</u> <u>R</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>R</u>
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	736	6
Current Assets		1 260 408	273 698
Trade and other receivables		29 217	20 333
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	1 231 191	253 365
Total Assets		1 261 144	273 704
Equity and Liabilities			
Equity			
Retained Earnings		1 258 366	271 668
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables		2 778	2 036
Total Equity and Liabilities		1 261 144	273 704

Audited annual financial statements in compliance with the Non-Profit Organisation Act 1997, independently audited by Savunde Accountants / AhvRJ.

Full report available from info@arocha.org.za



A Rocha SA would like to acknowledge the valuable and varied contributions the following organisations have made to further our work during 2022.

We are thankful for the part they have played in our ongoing story of conservation and hope.



Account holder: Bank: Account number: Branch: Universal branch code: International Swift code: A Rocha South Africa NPO First National Bank 62918100380 Midlands Mall 250655 FIRNZAJJ

Connect With Us



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