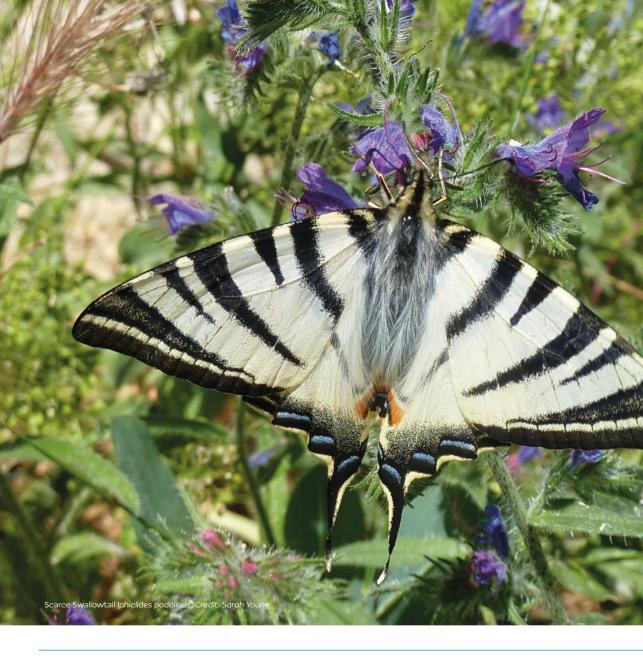


ANNUAL **2021** REVIEW **2022**

A ROCHA





WELCOME

Welcome to this annual review, highlighting the incredible work of A Rocha teams around the world between April 2021 and March 2022.

During the pandemic, many of us experienced a new kind of isolation. Our outgoing friends immediately craved human contact, but even the more introverted gradually realized they were not built to be so on their own. We were made for community. Throughout the Bible, there are examples of how much more we can do when we work together. Jesus gathered around him a community of apostles to support him in his task of preaching the gospel and healing the sick. When Elijah was in his deepest despair, fearing for his life, God called Elisha to help him. As Liz Marsh explained in a recent article on the A Rocha blog: 'To refuse the paralysis of despair, even in the midst of suffering, and come together in solidarity is to open ourselves once again to the possibility of a better world.'

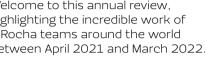
In these turbulent

times, it can be easy to lose sight of the people and projects making a positive impact in the world. Even during the pandemic, we were encouraged by stories of people on the frontlines working tirelessly to save lives, and reports of neighbourhoods coming together to look after their most vulnerable. There are many examples in A Rocha's work too. Throughout this review, you'll read stories of restored habitats welcoming back native wildlife, young environmental ambassadors speaking up for their environment, landscapes receiving formal recognition and protection for their biodiversity value and churches committing to caring for creation. All are evidence of how much more we can do together and surely a cause for hope when we need it most.

Dr Simon Stuart

Executive Director. A Rocha International

Throughout this review, you will notice B DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH these icons below appearing next to certain stories. These 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 of the global effort to meet these ambitious goals by 2030. For more information, please visit PARTNERSHIPS For the goals www.arocha.org/sdgs













Introducing the Friends of A Rocha Network



The Friends of A Rocha Network is for groups or organizations led by committed Christians acting towards biodiversity conservation and interested in sharing and learning with other groups from around the world. It is free to join and the application process is simple. Visit **arocha.org/friends** to find out more.

The Network currently has six Friends groups over three continents:

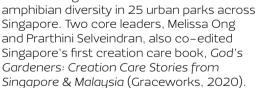
Germany: Hoffnung für Mensch und Natur ('Hope for people and nature')

This national network of people is committed to

protecting nature, biodiversity and the climate by initiating and implementing education, research and conservation projects together with other stakeholders.

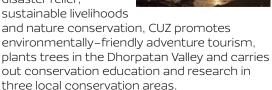
Singapore: Friends of A Rocha in Singapore

The group has completed a two-year project documenting



Nepal: The Christian Union of Gaumukhi and Dhorpatan (CUZ)

Active in natural disaster relief, sustainable livelihoods



Brazil: Reserva Ecológica Verdes Pastos (Green Pastures Nature Reserve)

Established in 1978, the Green Pastures Nature Reserve is located in Brazil's Northeast Region



and is dedicated to protecting and restoring a 122-hectare area in the heart of the Caatinga dry shrubland ecoregion. The reserve includes a small school, church and retreat centre.

Croatia: Nada za ljude i prirodu ('Hope for people and nature' – HPN)



HPN's vision is to equip Christians in

Croatia for their God-given role to care for creation and to engage in practical activities to protect and restore local environments and communities, contributing to the country's ecological beauty and biodiversity.

Spain: Centro Evangélico Cascadas

The work at Cascadas focuses on four thematic pillars: arts and creativity; study,



reflection and discussion; hospitality; and care for creation. They are working on practical conservation activities such as cleaning up the local Lozoya River and developing an organic garden.

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

Faith, hope and hospitality

A new A Rocha book, by co-founder Miranda Harris and her daughter Jo Swinney (Director of Communications, A Rocha International), is about hospitality and belonging and what they have looked like for A Rocha over the years and across the world.

A Place at the Table includes reflections, stories and imaginatively retold accounts of biblical meals. It is a chance to reconsider the place of hospitality in the Christian life, and for those who knew and loved Miranda, a chance to enjoy her company once again.

PLACE

THE

TABLE

Miranda Harris

Jo Swinney

All royalties will support the work of A Rocha.

www.placeatthetable.info

'Beautifully written, thoughtprovoking and at times poignant, this book weaves together one family's story of love and rootedness with the wisdom born of experience. Jo Swinney draws on biblical insights and practical examples from her own life and the writings of her mother, Miranda Harris, to explore how giving and receiving hospitality is at the heart of Christian faith.' Canon Dr Hilary Marlow, Girton

College, Cambridge – Trustee, A Rocha International A PLACE AT THE TABLE Faith, hope and hospitality Miranda Harris & Jo Swinney

Bird biodiversity surveys

in Australia

Working at four sites across four states (South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland), A Rocha Australia has undertaken a series of bird biodiversity surveys. These surveys have established and expanded inventories of bird species; monitored their abundance, breeding and seasonality; and helped to protect and manage their habitats. In undertaking the surveys, A Rocha Australia collaborated with local government, landowners and community groups. In particular, staff members and community volunteers have been working to restore areas invaded by creeping plants – and their efforts paid off! A Painted Button–quail Turnix varius returned to one site after years of drought, as well as a breeding Black-breasted Button-quail Turnix melanogaster, listed as a Near Threatened species by IUCN.



An ecological corridor in Aotearoa New Zealand



A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand is working to create landscape-scale predator-free areas in order for seabirds and forest birds previously common on the coast to thrive again. To do this, A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand, via the Karioi Project, supports the work of the local community to establish an ecological corridor between Mt Pirongia and Karioi. The work done has already re-established Ōi / Grey-faced Petrels *Pterodroma gouldi* to breeding status. With the worldwide decline of seabirds, the work that A Rocha is doing in the creation of ecological corridors and protection of landscapes may seem small – but for these bird species, wildlife and habitat, it is crucial.

Over 18 years studying the 🐱 Western Pearlshell Mussel

The Western Pearlshell Margaritifera falcata is a species of freshwater mussel that is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. A Rocha Canada has studied the mussels in the TATALU river for over 18 years and, over that time, has built up a picture of the population. The health of the population and that of the river are closely intertwined, and data collected in 2021 will be analysed in order to provide an indicator of how the ecosystem has fared. It's not



just the Western Pearlshell that A Rocha Canada is looking out for – they are monitoring many other species at risk, including Barn Swallows, Western Toads and Red–legged Frogs.

Street plays in India

A Rocha India has been raising awareness about the importance of continuous landscapes for elephants and other wildlife through a creative medium... acting! With the help of local students, A Rocha India has put on street plays in various villages

around Bannerghatta National Park to engage the public and raise awareness of environmental and social issues. Local communities and other stakeholders appreciated the initiative, and it has allowed A Rocha India to engage in further dialogue. This project was undertaken as part of the Asian Elephant Conservation Programme (AECP).





Environmental Olympics

This year, a regional environmental competition was hosted by A Rocha Czech Republic for students from secondary schools across the region. Traditionally called Ekologická olympiáda (Environmental Olympics), the students were to come to the A Rocha's centre for two days but, sadly, due to Covid–19, the event moved online. Regardless, it was a success! The A Rocha team facilitated ecology lessons, outdoor games and shared their Christian testimony. It gave A Rocha Czech Republic's reputation a positive boost with the regional authorities and gave good local visibility, with many



groups hoping that Ekologická olympiáda will take place again – in person – in the future.

French Ambassadors Network going strong



The A Rocha France Ambassadors network has grown significantly this year. The Ambassadors are trained to represent A Rocha in all kinds of situations including, church meetings, conferences, public debates and in the media. This allows A Rocha France and their work in caring for creation to have a much greater visibility. With now 60 people regularly involved, a full-time salaried staff member was employed in February 2022 to support its growth. Many people are finding community and hope through the network. One Ambassador said:

'I know that I fell in love with A Rocha this year [and I know] I'll be able to invest myself with you for the long term... The Ambassadors network brings me enormous, enormous joy... I look forward to continuing to find my place in it.'

Ecological cookstoves ease pressure on Peru's dry forests

An increasing demand for firewood has put pressure on Peru's dry forests. In 2021, A Rocha Peru's Dry Forest Project installed 30 fuel-efficient cookstoves in local communities that surround the forests. These locally manufactured and constructed ecological cookstoves require significantly less fuel when compared to the rustic open fires previously used, and notably reduce carbon dioxide output. María Emperatriz Garrido Jara and her family, from the Santa María village, received one of the cookstoves and describes the benefits of their use: 'Before my kitchen was installed, I used to cook over an open fire with two adobe bricks on the sides. My whole house was filled with smoke, which was harmful to my health as I have eye problems. After the installation of my ecological cookstove, the smoke no longer stays in my house and I use less firewood.'



Formal protection of Ferncliffe Nature Reserve edges closer

The Ferncliffe Reserve is situated on an escarpment overlooking Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu–Natal and, at only 6.5 km from the city, is enjoyed by many from the local area. The land is around 250 hectares in size but sadly contains highly degraded forests and grasslands. There are also plantations of exotic timber on the site. This year, A Rocha South Africa continued the work of tree planting and eradicating invasive vegetation and began the biodiversity stewardship process towards formal recognition and protection of the Ferncliffe Nature Reserve. A Rocha South Africa has developed a voluntary



association to designate themselves and other participating NGOs as the comanaging authority of the reserve.



A new Executive Director for A Rocha Netherlands

This year has been an exciting one for A Rocha Netherlands, but also one of much change. Embert Messelink founded A Rocha Netherlands in November 2003 and served as National Director until October 2021. It was the end of an era for the organization but also the start of a new chapter – Annemarthe Westerbeek joined the team in February 2022 as the new National Director. Annemarthe comes to A Rocha after seven years as coordinator of Micah Netherlands and is passionate about combating climate change and contributing to nature conservation.



School Agroforestry Project inspires Ugandan youth

The practice of agroforesty seeks to grow both trees and agricultural or horticultural crops on the same piece of land. This protects, conserves and diversifies the land and its resources. A Rocha Uganda has undertaken agroforesty projects in 20 schools, including planting 2,000 trees and establishing medicinal gardens. The project inspires younger

generations to become environmental ambassadors and enhances conservation knowledge in the area. A Rocha Uganda has also continued their environmental education programme in 15 schools. Kiwenda Primary School even shared a poster in a meeting with the Climate Action Network Uganda and the Ministry of Water and Environment!

Nature walks for new immigrants to Sweden



This year, A Rocha welcomed its newest member: A Rocha KriNa (short for Kristna för naturvård i Sverige, or Christians for Nature Conservation in Sweden in English). Amongst many other projects, KriNa has partnered with a local school for adult education which teaches Swedish to newly arrived immigrants. In the spring, A Rocha KriNa trained the teachers to lead walks in parks, nature reserves and on KriNa's own nature trail. More than 60 teachers participated and then brought their students out to have the same experience. More than 600 students have so far experienced and been educated about nature – and the response has been very positive! One insight was that immigrants from urban areas sometimes lack vocabulary for nature, even in their own language. However, illiterate immigrants from the countryside sometimes had more profound knowledge of, and language for, nature.

A Rocha UK – Eco Church

This year marked the fifth anniversary of Eco Church,



which has grown into a community of 4,400+ churches across different denominations. Many of these churches are undertaking sustained action on the environment, as evidenced by the 1,600+ awards. 2022 saw all the Eco Church resources updated, including translation of key documents into Welsh. The Eco Denominational Award Scheme grew to see all Anglican dioceses across England (42) and Wales (6) registered for Eco Diocese. This indicates high level support for grassroots action because eco denominational awards work in tandem with parish level action. The credibility of the programme has contributed to the Church of England Net Zero target and interest in new denominational area schemes.

Climate Stewards at COP26

Two of the Climate Stewards team attended COP26 this year, along with other members of the A Rocha family. The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference was held in Glasgow and gave Climate Stewards an opportunity to spread news about their work. As part of the event, Climate Stewards spoke to the media about climate justice and the impact of carbon offsetting and discovered new contacts with potential UK and overseas partners. It was also an important opportunity to strengthen ties within the A Rocha family, given the rare opportunity for several A Rocha organizations to be together in the same place!



A ROCHA THEOLOGY & CHURCHES PROGRAMME

2021-2022

heology really matters! What we believe about God, ourselves and the world links directly to our attitudes and behaviour. Nowhere is that clearer than environmentally. If we believe God made the world exclusively for humanity, we tend to devalue other species and their habitats. If we believe Jesus will return to destroy the planet, we may even want to hasten that destruction. However, if we believe the world and everything in it exists for God's glory, it should drive us to respect, cherish and conserve God's world. If our God–given role is to tend the garden of God's creation, enabling every creature to worship God according to its kind, we will seek the flourishing of wildlife and habitats.

Within A Rocha International's Theology & Churches work, our role is:

- to support the 20+ countries where A Rocha works, coordinating, resourcing and innovating collaboratively
- to represent A Rocha at a global level
- and to ensure we uphold solid biblical principles in doing all this.

After careful listening to the worldwide A Rocha family, we're developing a global strategy for Theology & Churches, bringing greater cohesion to the excellent work already being done, and seeking to find more resource at national and regional levels.

We work with key Bible colleges and seminaries to integrate creation care into the training of future church leaders, and 2021–2022 involved giving courses (in person or virtually) in England, Romania, Scotland and Sweden to students from over 30 countries, and helping design curricula in Nigeria.

We respond as capacity allows to invitations to speak at national and international conferences, mainly online but sometimes in person. Highlights included several A Rocha presentations at the Micah Global 'Kushamiri' forum hosted from Africa, the Lausanne European Congress, national conferences in Panama and South Korea (the latter for the launch of Dave Bookless' *Planetwise* in Korean) and major opportunities linked to COP26, including a BBC Radio Sunday Service, addressing Christians in Parliament and interfaith events for Morgan Stanley Bank and the Treasury Beliefs Network.

In addition, we work closely with the World Evangelical Alliance, the Lausanne Movement, Renew Our World, Micah Global and several other faith-based ecological networks.



2021-2022

e all depend on forests in some way, be it for wood, livelihoods, climate regulation, carbon storage, soil protection, clean water provision, the great biodiversity they hold and, of course, for our own wellbeing. Yet despite an understanding of our reliance on them, forests across the African continent continue to be severely threatened, degraded and cut down. The reasons for this are

complex – an interplay of local and global unsustainable practices, all too often stemming from the belief that humanity is separate from nature.

Healthy forests should be everyone's expectation and responsibility. That is the foundation of A Rocha's African Forest Programme, which helps protect 450,000 hectares of naturerich but threatened forests across four African landscapes.

Mobilizing data for conservation

Getting biodiversity data out of notebooks and collections so it can be shared and used for conservation lies at the heart of our project funded by the JRS Biodiversity Foundation. Thanks to the work of our consortium of partners¹, we are making scientific information on Africa's biodiversity accessible through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility. You can now find online information about the butterflies of the Kenyan coast, the birds of Kwande in Nigeria, the forests in eastern Uganda or the mushrooms of the Ayum Forest Reserve in Ghana. As more information is published, we will turn our attention to using this information to guide conservation work.

Turning to the courts to save the Atewa forest, Ghana

A Rocha Ghana's work in and around the Atewa Range Forest Reserve to secure its long-term future is ongoing as they campaign for it to be declared a national park. The Government of Ghana continues to state its intention to carry out bauxite mining in the forest and A Rocha Ghana is leading a legal challenge to this plan in the High Court of Ghana.

1 These include, the Ghanaian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Food Research Institute, the African Butterfly Research Institute, the National Museums of Kenya – Ornithology & Mammalogy Sections, the Kenya Wildlife Service, A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute as well as five A Rocha organizations

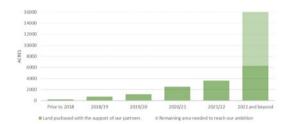
Creating a wildlife reserve in Dakatcha, Kenya

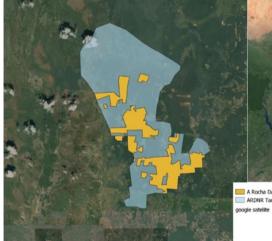
The continued degradation and deforestation of the Dakatcha woodland has reinforced the need for protected refuges in the landscape.

Thanks to many partners and supporters², our nature reserve stands at 6,000 acres, up from 2,400 acres last year. We hope to expand it to 16,000 acres to save key remaining habitat for endangered and migratory species.

Why this woodland? Until recently, very little was known about the biodiversity of the area

other than it was home to the Sokoke Scops Owl Otus ireneae. Our extensive camera trapping in the woodland has now revealed a wealth of species from porcupines and civets to caracals and leopards and confirmed an established population of the Endangered Golden-rumped Sengi Rhunchocyon chrusopyaus north of the Sabaki. You can view a choice selection of the 80.000 camera trap images in A Rocha Kenya's collection (aroc.me/wildlifeinsights)







A Rocha Dakatacha Nature Reserve (ARDNR) Feb22 ARDNR Target area (16,000 acres)



A broader view of forest conservation in Uganda

A Rocha engages churches to become communities of change. In the West Bugwe forest reserve in eastern Uganda, A Rocha Uganda is seeking to restore the all-but-lost forest cover in partnership with the local church communities.

The forest of West Bugwe in Uganda is surrounded by churches (photo from Google Maps)





How many are your works, Lord!
In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number living things both large and small.
There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

Psalm 104:24-26

ne of the themes within the Marine Conservation Programme is Biodiversity and Beauty. The projects focus on helping species, habitats and ecosystems to flourish. Read on for a few examples – we think you will be as astonished as we are by their beauty. What a wonderful world God has made.



Halavi Guitarfish Glaucostegus halavi

(Kenya) – Found only in the ocean between Kenya and India, including the Red Sea and Persian Gulf, it is considered Critically Endangered. That indicates a greater than 50% chance that this species could go extinct in the wild in the next 30 years!





 Coral reefs (Kenya and USA) – A Rocha looks after the coral reefs offshore of our field study centre on the coast of Kenya, working with the local authorities and communities to reduce human disturbance to these important centres of biodiversity. Coral work in Florida, USA began in 2022.

Semiahmoo Bay (British Columbia, Canada) – A Rocha is working with the Semiahmoo First Nation to protect this bay where the traditional shellfish harvest is threatened.



Alvor Estuary
 (Portugal) – Regular
 scientific surveys and
 continuing legal battles have
 protected this important
 place. The Alvor Estuary
 flourishes and its inhabitants
 praise God in a way that the
 overdeveloped areas nearby
 do not.

Oi/Grey-faced Petrel Pterodroma gouldi (Aotearoa New Zealand) – Just 200 years ago, seabirds filled every ecological niche on Karioi from the beach and coastal forests to the mountaintop and every year thousands flocked here to raise their chicks. Things are very different now, but with others we are working to enable the Oi to breed here successfully again.



Indian River Lagoon (Florida, USA) – Over

4,500 species have been recorded from this lagoon. We work with the local zoo to re-establish oyster reefs, mangrove shorelines and clams that were overfished years ago.

American Horseshoe Crab Limulus polyphemus (Florida, USA) – Crawling along the bottom, feeding until they are about 10 years old, this species then moves up the shore to spawn. Titusville is the most important nesting beach for horseshoe crabs in Florida and we partner with other NGOs to monitor them there.

Making a difference

In 2020, during lockdown, Thomas Blumire and his dad set themselves a challenge: to see how many different species of wildlife they could observe in their garden. They finished the year on an amazing 384 species and decided to have another go in 2021, this time raising funds for A Rocha. Their targets were to spot 400 species and raise £1,000, both of which they exceeded – with a final list of 410 species and £1,659 raised!

Thomas suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and was not able to leave his house during the peak of the pandemic. He says, 'Throughout the lockdowns and shielding ... it has been our love for wildlife, God's creation and his sustaining love for us that has kept us all going.'

Read on to discover the impact that the funds Thomas raised will have!

Tortoise kitchen gardens, South Africa

South Africa is home to 14 terrestrial tortoise species, the highest diversity of any country in the world. However, a substantial number of tortoises are held illegally and without the correct permits. In October 2020, A Rocha South Africa and FreeMe KZN entered into



a partnership to re-wild captive tortoises with the goal of releasing them into protected areas. The kitchen garden is being established to research the kinds of plants that are favoured by the

tortoises, create a nursery to propagate the plants and use them to landscape the enclosures at the new tortoise rehabilitation centre.

Thomas' fundraising raised enough money to set up a kitchen garden and cover its running costs for the first two months, making a range of supplementary food plants available to the tortoises during their rehabilitation process.

You can make a difference too! By purchasing our 'Tortoise kitchen garden' Gift with a Difference, you can cover the costs of running the kitchen garden for one week.



shop.arocha.org/tortoise-kitchen-garden-south-africa

Sack gardening, Uganda

Sack gardens offer families a way to grow their own vegetables where space is limited or flooding is frequent. Gardening not only provides a healthier diet, but also brings people closer to nature. Thanks to the money Thomas raised, he was able to provide training to more than 500 community members in Uganda, allowing them to learn how to make and care for their sack gardens.

You can make a difference too! With our 'Sack gardening' Gift with a Difference, you can provide one day of training for 10 people in Uganda.



We are extremely grateful to all the generous supporters who donated to A Rocha International during the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2021. We exceeded our original target, raising a grand total of £35,252 to support A Rocha's global environmental education activities. Thanks to this generosity, A Rocha International was able to host a five-day environmental education conference for A Rocha staff in Uganda, as well as workshops to equip local teachers and church leaders. The conference was part of A Rocha International's ongoing work to strengthen capacity for environmental education and build on the excellent work already being carried out by A Rocha organizations across Africa. Participants learned about the role of environmental education for reconnecting people and nature and for inspiring action for a sustainable world. Teachers and church leaders also went home enthused and committed to caring for creation in their own work and communities.











A Rocha International's 2021 financial review

62% went towards supporting A Rocha Organizations

62%

Expenditure

7% was spent on fundraising

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

8% on admin

9% on governance

Income

42%

individuals

7%

churches

8% was spent on advocacy and representing A Rocha

23%

other

8%

1%

legacies

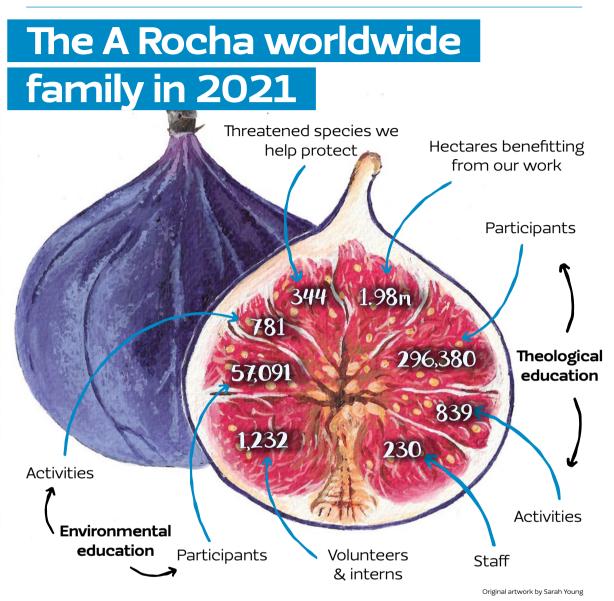
We are tremendously grateful to all who have so faithfully and generously supported our work this year. Thank you.

13%

trusts



18





Our brand new regular donor community

Find out more at **arocha.org/table**



Ways to stay in touch

The result of the second se

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



Twice a year we produce a themed newsletter packed with theological, scientific and practical insight on topics such as farming, endangered species and climate change. You can request a hard copy or view the latest version online at arocha.org/publications





A Rocha has always been a voice of hope in the environmental space. The Field Notes podcast, hosted by Peter Harris and Bryony Loveless, 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 or visit arocha.org/podcast

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

Registered Charity No. 1136041 Company Registration No. 6852417



f /arocha.international







A Rocha International is a member of IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature.