



ANNUAL | 20  
REVIEW | 19

KENYA  
**A ROCHA**  
Conservation and Hope





# DISCOVER

A Rocha Kenya

A Rocha Kenya (ARK) is one of 21 national organisations of A Rocha, an international Christian conservation organisation that is committed to practical biodiversity conservation through scientific research, environmental education and sustainable community-based conservation programmes.

A Rocha bases its work on the recognition that the Bible has clear teaching about the importance of the environment as God's creation, of his love for it and of our responsibility to look after it and not over exploit, destroy or degrade it.

# OPENING WORDS



Conservationists are all too often known as messengers of gloom and doom - and for sure, the environment in 2019 was in a worse state than ever before: the second hottest year on record, record levels of ocean temperatures, 40% of insect species in decline and 1/3 of these endangered among many other such statistics.

However, I hope you will find encouragement in the stories outlined in these pages, highlighting the positive things happening in the face of our local environmental challenges, and reminding us of the deeper hope we have in God, who loves us and the world he designed. It's this that I love about working with A Rocha: having an **authentic hope over and above the challenges we see in conservation**, and revelling in the delight of 'thinking God's thoughts after him' (how Johannes Kepler described science).

You will therefore read how, taking this hope to heart, the ARK team has **built relationships with people living in the biodiversity-rich Dakatcha Woodlands**, sharing with them God's plan for his amazing world with us as the implementers. Combining this message with practical help, we trained communities in sustainable farming methods to improve food security and generate an income. Ultimately, our hope for this threatened patch of forest is grounded not only in our relations with communities, but also in the expanding area of **land purchased towards the A Rocha Dakatcha Nature Reserve**. A highlight of our work in this area was the first ever images of the rare and unique Golden-rumped Elephant-shrew north of the Sabaki River, captured on camera traps.

In spite of reduced funding, our marine team has maintained surveys of sharks and

rays and continued to work closely with our partners the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to better understand the marine park and improve its management. **Partnership is a core component of A Rocha's work** and so we appreciated working closely with KWS and National Museums of Kenya (NMK) to successfully complete a project digitizing tens of thousands of biodiversity data from Arabuko-Sokoke Forest to publish them as open source datasets on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).

Similarly, we appreciated working with Turtle Bay Beach Club and Ocean Sports with solid support from the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to run the **second Sokoke Forest MTB Challenge bike race**. This event raised funds for our ASSETS scheme, benefiting both the forest and its adjacent communities. Read about this colourful and highly successful event and its impacts - and plan to join us for the next one!

Looking ahead, we are excited with plans to connect further with partners through our Nairobi property to develop a hub for conservation activities including environmental restoration and urban conservation action.

We could not have done any of this without the generous help of our faithful supporters, thank you for your continued prayers and donations.

Enjoy the read!



Dr. Colin Jackson  
A Rocha Kenya Founder and Director

# THE ORGANIZATION IN A SNAPSHOT



🏠 Karara



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## Dakatcha Woodland

Targeted ARK  
Nature Reserve



## Mwamba



## Arabuko-Sokoke Forest



## Watamu Marine Reserve



# EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION WITH ASSETS

The **Arabuko-Sokoke Schools & Eco-Tourism Scheme** (ASSETS) is our flagship community conservation programme. ASSETS uses funds generated from eco-tourism to provide eco-bursaries for local children to attend secondary school. These bursaries are closely tied to the conservation of threatened habitats and species.

Through the provision of secondary school bursaries, ASSETS meets the economic and social needs of the local communities, whilst promoting the conservation of two of Africa's most important ecosystems: Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and Mida Creek.

**In 2019, we supported 133 students**, bringing the total number of beneficiaries supported since 2001 to 668, with 204 girls and 464 boys.

Beyond bursary disbursement, a key component of the programme is conservation. Regular meetings with the beneficiaries and their parents are of utmost importance.

Yearly, two camps are held: one takes place in the schools close to where the students live. The other brings students to the A Rocha Conservation Centre, where they play conservation education games, receive career advice and explore the coral reef in Watamu Marine National Park. For most students, this is their first snorkelling experience - a highlight for many. They also visit Gede Ruins and Mida Creek and get to interact with Kenya Wildlife Service.

In response to ASSETS, the parents of beneficiaries formed a conservation association called Muvira wa ASSETS ('Thank you, ASSETS'), with the objective of reducing pressure on the forest and creek through sustainable alternative sources of income. Muvira also acts as a conservation ambassador for A Rocha as they endeavour to pass on what they learn to community members around them.



668  
Beneficiaries



## Muvera Wa ASSETS

### An educational game

In our ASSETS camps, we used a new **tailor-made educational game to raise awareness about the globally Endangered Golden-rumped Elephant-shrew.**

The game follows the life of an elephant-shrew in 15-minute intervals from dawn to dusk. Players roll a dice to discover if they'll find a tasty grasshopper or millipede to eat or become dinner themselves for a cobra or Southern Banded Snake-eagle. Only a few make it to the end of the day alive, but all players have fun – and learn what elephant-shrews need to survive and the threats they face.

### Tree planting and tree nurseries

The parents of ASSETS beneficiaries **planted over 2,000 trees around Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.** Three indigenous tree nurseries established in ASSETS beneficiary schools and a total of 14,000 seedlings were distributed to schools and homes.

### Market clean up

We engaged 150 community members from Mijomboni in the **first market clean-up**, to raise awareness about plastic pollution and promote general waste management principles. It was the first time many of them took part in cleaning their village centre.



### The face behind the programme

Festus has been leading the ASSETS programme for the past 10 years with great commitment and passion.





## A GROWING NATURE RESERVE TO PROTECT DAKATCHA WOODLAND IBA

The Dakatcha Woodland is home to **five globally threatened species**: the Sokoke Scops Owl (*Otus irenae*), the Clarke's Weaver (*Ploceus golandi*), the Sokoke Pipit (*Anthus sokokensis*), the Golden-rumped Elephant-shrew (*Rhynchocyon chrysopygus*) all classified as Endangered by IUCN, and the Pepperbark Tree (*Warburgia stuhlmanni*) (Vulnerable).

In spite of its rich biodiversity, the Woodland is undergoing rapid change which threatens its future. Illegal logging, charcoal burning and the expansion of unmanaged pineapple plantations are destroying the forest at an alarming rate and degrading this unique habitat. A Rocha Kenya is working with the local communities, government and other stakeholders to secure a better future for the woodlands, its people and the wildlife.

With funding from supporters and donors, ARK has secured 458 ha of forest to **safeguard it as a Nature Reserve**. This is good progress, yet land purchase efforts must urgently continue as the removal of forest cover is intensifying. The goal is to create a reserve that covers at least 1,800 ha to protect an area large enough to protect viable populations of Sokoke Scops Owls, elephant-shrews and the overall biodiversity in the area.



Golden-rumped Sengi (Lars Petersson)



Sokoke Pipit (Nick Athanas)

## A land purchase strategy based on scientific monitoring

We secure parcels of forest which contain populations of the target threatened species and also the areas of intervening land to link them up. To identify areas for purchase, we carry out intense targeted surveys of birds, butterflies and plants, as well as using monitoring technologies such as camera traps for mammals and recording devices for detecting owl calls at night.

## An exciting discovery

In July 2019, our camera trapping proved for the first time the presence of the Golden-rumped Elephant-shrew north of the Sabaki River.

Previously there had only been a handful of sight records.

*“It is wonderful to confirm the presence of this unique species in the Dakatcha Woodland. Dakatcha is known for its rare birds but photographing the Golden-rumped Sengi in the A Rocha Reserve makes Dakatcha all the more important for conservation. This species and its forest habitat should be celebrated and protected as much as possible by all of us living in this county.”*

Dr. Colin Jackson, Director of A Rocha Kenya



Illegal logging for charcoal threatens the Woodland



ARK Science team carrying out a Bioblitz survey



## The face behind the programme

Stanley heads up our Community Conservation programme and has been leading our land purchase efforts.



# ENGAGING DAKATCHA COMMUNITIES IN CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Land purchase on its own is not a long-term solution especially for the communities living around the forest. They need be brought on board to understand why and how they can sustainably benefit from the forest.

244

learners reached through Environmental education sessions

## Environmental Education

Alongside creating a nature reserve, A Rocha is working with schools to **achieve renewed enthusiasm, action and commitment to environmental conservation** among the residents of Dakatcha. We engaged 10 schools in environmental education through after-school wildlife club sessions, Nature Reserve visits and implementation of micro-projects such as tree growing and waste management.

330

churchgoers reached through the Creation Care programme

## Creation Care

With Dakatcha being a predominantly Christian context, churches are a fundamental channel to reach local communities. Through our Creation Care programme, we help local communities understand the **biblical basis for caring for creation**. In 2019, our Creation Care Officer, George, worked with seven churches in the area, joining them in fellowship and leading them through a four-week sermon series on Creation.

50

farmers trained in sustainable agriculture practices

## Farming God's Way

To complement theological teaching, we **train farmers in sustainable farming practices through the Farming God's Way programme**. Within a biblical framework, this programme improves soil fertility over time through techniques including zero tillage, mulching and crop rotation. Improving crop yield from smaller plots reduces pressure to clear huge tracks of land for low yield farming. A win-win for both farmers and biodiversity.



A FGW Plot - zero tillage, mulching and crop rotation improve crop yields



Creation Care teaches people the biblical bases for conservation



With FGW, farmers learn how to farm sustainably

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



A Marine EE session held at a local primary school's Wildlife Club

Environmental Education (EE) in 2019 concentrated on reaching out to schools in three areas:

## 1 Dakatcha Woodland Schools

Our efforts focused on making initial contact with schools, setting up Wildlife Clubs, raising awareness about the local environment and engaging students in practical conservation projects.

We saw children's enthusiasm grow, demonstrated by their commitment to caring for the trees planted. In order for students to learn about the local forest habitat, we organized a scavenger hunt in our Nature Reserve, where students enthusiastically searched for different forms of biodiversity.

## 2 Marine EE

In collaboration with the ARK Marine research team, we held EE sessions on sharks and rays and micro-plastics in schools around the Marine Park and Reserve, as well as Mida Creek.

A highlight was the "Great Nurdle Hunt"<sup>1</sup> organized with 36 club members and their two patrons. Combining this practical conservation activity with an EE session on micro-plastics proved particularly effective in raising awareness about plastic pollution.

1. A nurdle is a very small pellet of plastic which serves as raw material for plastic products.

## Success story:

### Danisa Primary School

Students from Danisa Primary school in Dakatcha **planted 60 trees with seeds sourced from their local area**. The idea was driven by a need to increase tree cover as well as grow Moringa trees whose leaves make good eating. By the end of October, 43 trees had survived and ARK assisted in mulching and creating a management plan for the holiday that would see the trees survive to December.

With the guidance of the patron, the school also conducted a **clean-up** and set up **dustbins in classes** and within the school compound. Through continued contact with the school, we hope to see them take even more action towards caring for God's Creation.



Engaging local students in practical conservation efforts

## 3 Arabuko-Sokoke Schools

We engaged schools adjacent to Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, ASSETS beneficiaries and parents in **conservation activities promoting the conservation of the threatened habitats and species of the forest and Mida Creek**.

We conducted an education review which showed that the clubs are well conversant with the forest conservation needs but less versed in other issues and actions. This baseline can be used in the future to engage schools in relevant environmental projects within their schools.

## The face behind the programme

Our Environmental Officer Maggie has been working with ARK for almost two years, sharing the beauty of God's creation with hundreds of local students.



# MARINE GOVERNANCE

2019 saw the **launch of an exciting new programme** for A Rocha Kenya. In August, we started a Marine Governance Programme in collaboration with the University of St. Andrews (UK) and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

This programme seeks to **bring together various stakeholders to develop a common vision for the Watamu Marine Protected Area (MPA)**. All people and organisations who have interest in the MPA come together and discuss how to improve their cooperation in the management of the marine park through a process collectively referred to as marine governance.

To improve the governance of the Watamu MPA, we first looked back at the past and at how the marine area, including both the Park and the Reserve, have been protected so far. We then look at what is happening currently due to past decisions. Based on these two factors, we plan for the future of the marine area.

The implementation of this programme is informed by a prior scoping study, which highlighted three key problems identified by stakeholders:

- unsustainable fishing and recreational practices
- exclusion of marginal groups
- decline of habitats and species upon which livelihoods depend





The key outcomes were to host a multi-stakeholder workshop, identify **environmentally sustainable alternative livelihoods**, and support the transition towards these activities, particularly amongst marginal groups.

In addition, the programme envisions giving marine protected area governance a stronger fit with poverty alleviation. Thus, we focus on building capacities of communities to contribute to the governance of WMNP through knowledge exchange and platforms for participation. Furthermore, the project facilitates the **sharing of lessons learned across networks of practice** operating at community, national and international scales through a South-South exchange which will be spearheaded by A Rocha Kenya, A Rocha Ghana and Natiora Ahy from Madagascar.

## *The face behind the programme*

Allan first joined A Rocha as a volunteer with the ASSETS programme. He quickly got involved with other initiatives, and joined the marine governance project in December 2019.



Communities in Mida Creek rely on fishing for their livelihoods

# MARINE RESEARCH



Watamu Marine National Park is one of Kenya's oldest marine parks

The Marine Conservation Programme has continued to work on priority issues previously identified by ARK during biodiversity and habitat surveys in the Watamu Marine National Park (WMNP). In particular, we have focused on three areas of importance for the Park.

## Red-Listed Elasmobranchs in WMNP

1. Halavi Guitarfish *Critically Endangered*
2. Black tip reef shark *Near-Threatened*
3. Bluespotted Ribbon tail Ray *Near-Threatened*
4. Spotted Eagle Ray *Near-Threatened*
5. White-tip Reef Shark *Near-Threatened*
6. Whale shark *Vulnerable*
7. Honeycomb stingray *Vulnerable*
8. Marbled electric ray *Data deficient*

## *The face behind the programme*

Eric, our Marine Research Assistant joined ARK in 2018 as an intern and is now leading our sharks and rays project and seagrass studies.



## Elasmobranchs

Elasmobranchs include sharks, rays and guitarfish. They have been identified by IUCN as **priority species for conservation and research**.

The Park is an **important nursery area** for young sharks, rays and guitarfish. We are focusing on securing funding to study habitat usage, especially for juveniles.

To gain better understanding of the abundance and behaviour of sharks and rays in several habitats, we carried out surveys using Baited Remote Underwater Video Stations (BRUVS) and timed snorkelling swims.



The Halavi Guitarfish is Critically Endangered



Seagrass makes up 40% of the WMNP cover

## Seagrass & Rockpools

Seagrass beds and rockpools are critical habitats that have received less focus for conservation and research relative to coral reefs. Out of the 12 species of seagrass recorded in Kenya, 11 have been found in WMNP, and one, *Zostera capensis*, is listed as Vulnerable by IUCN.

We conducted regular surveys of the rockpools and completed a study of sea urchin biodiversity in seagrass beds. We produced a **Seagrass Identification Guide**<sup>2</sup> to facilitate Park monitoring for partners, researchers and citizen scientists.

## Microplastics

In collaboration with A Rocha International, we carried out microplastic research, using A Rocha's **online Microplastics Toolbox**<sup>2</sup>. We submitted the first report on microplastics for WMNP to Kenya Wildlife Service, the management authority for the park.

In addition, we carried out weekly beach clean-ups with staff, guests and volunteers, and organized nurdle hunts with local schools.

2. <http://blog.arocha.or.ke/uncategorized/seagrass-species-observed-in-watamu-marine-national-park/>

3. [www.arocha.org/en/work/scientific-research/marine-coastal/microplastics-toolbox/](http://www.arocha.org/en/work/scientific-research/marine-coastal/microplastics-toolbox/)



Nurdles are small plastic pellets found in the sea

# TERRESTRIAL SCIENCE

Roseate Tern Breeding colony on Whale Island

A Rocha Kenya is committed to contributing to the **long-term survival of the internationally recognised Important Bird Areas (IBAs)** near Watamu and Malindi. These include Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Mida Creek, the Watamu-Malindi Marine Reserve, Gede Ruins National Monument, Sabaki River Mouth and the Dakatcha Woodlands. ARK's science programme also contributes to national bird conservation initiatives.

## Waterbird Counts

Waterbird counts were carried out on 14 sites along the coast, from Shimoni to Tana River Delta, with monthly visits to Mida and Sabaki. A total of **60,569 birds were counted of 103 species**.

## Dakatcha Woodland

**10 camera traps** deployed across the Dakatcha Nature Reserve photographed **12 mammal species** including the Golden-rumped Elephant-shrew and Spotted Hyena.

Two intense 'BioBlitz' surveys were carried out producing 85 tree species, 69 birds and 70 butterfly species. The Sokoke Scops Owl was found in **14 different locations** across the reserve area.

## Whale Island Tern Colony

Ten surveys were carried out to monitor the Whale Island colony. An estimated **700-750 nests** were present, mainly Roseate Terns with a handful of Sooty Tern. However, due possibly to adverse weather, a large number were abandoned this season.

## Mwamba Biodiversity Surveys

On the Mwamba nature trail, 45 plant phenology surveys were done in 2019 to monitor growth, flowering and fruiting of trees. 79 moth and butterfly surveys by interns recorded **2,991 individuals of 73 butterfly species** and many more moths. Most were photographed and uploaded to the Virtual Museum for identification and long-term curation.

## Arabuko-Sokoke Forest

Fortnightly **monitoring surveys of illegal activities** were carried out in Arabuko-Sokoke to track and report the extent and location of forest destruction for management. 54 surveys were done and **1,038 snares** and **1,729 cut stems** mapped. The team also recorded charcoal kilns, carving and hunter camps.

## Kenya Bird Map

A Rocha is a lead partner for this project of mapping Kenya's birds. It has continued to expand and in 2019 with **1 412 full protocol species lists** covering 417 atlas squares and recording a total of **869 species**.



Great White Pelicans, Tana River Waterbird Count



Grey-headed Bushshrike ringed at ARK Conservation Centre



African Line Blue (Dave Jenner)



Mwamba Nature Trail

## Ngulia Bird Migration Project

A Rocha Kenya is the lead partner of this project, working with KWS to run one of the **longest-running bird monitoring programmes in Africa** through trapping, ringing and releasing thousands of birds. 2019 marked the 51<sup>st</sup> year of the project and 9,099 Eurasian migrant birds were ringed.

## Training Kenyan Birders

Fundamentals of Ornithology is an intensive one-week course that **teaches the basics of bird identification and biology**. Held at the Elsamere Field study Centre, Lake Naivasha, the course is jointly run by the Ornithology Section of National Museums of Kenya, Tropical Biology Association and A Rocha.

2019 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> course with 23 participants taking part in the course. Over 500 birders have been trained since the course started in 1996.

## The face behind the programme

A past ASSETS beneficiary, Kirao first joined ARK as a volunteer in 2012. Passionate about plants at heart, he has also become an accomplished birder and bird ringer. Kirao coordinates and leads much of the terrestrial fieldwork.



# MWAMBA CONSERVATION CENTRE



## Guests

Over the years, Mwamba has hosted hundreds of guests, researchers, school groups and volunteers. In 2019 we hosted **348 guests**, mainly from Europe, Kenya, and the UK.

Over the years the centre has relied on word of mouth to attract guests to the centre. We are grateful to have welcomed several repeat guests, who have made this their get-away and have invited others to do so too.

To extend the invitation to many, the centre was listed on Booking.com and Airbnb. These platforms have broadened the profile of our guests, enabling us to share our work and faith with many.

## Volunteers

Worldwide, A Rocha operates largely with the help of volunteers who contribute their skills and time. They may be at the front line of our work, collecting data for scientific studies, providing hospitality to guests, helping with environmental education, doing essential record keeping and administration and helping the centre run efficiently. They are highly valued and essential members of our teams.

In 2019, we hosted **32 volunteers** including many Kenyan recent university graduate interns who served at A Rocha Kenya for a period of two to nine months. Our vision is to **build capacity among young Kenyans** and train them up to be future conservation leaders in their context.



## Staff - An organisation is as good as its team

We are very grateful to have such a wonderful team that makes up the A Rocha Kenya family. The team has slowly grown from one person to a team of 27 people. ARK has been blessed to have such a wide range of expertise come through over the last 20 years.

**Good byes** - It was with heavy hearts that we said goodbye to two team members who have worked with ARK for a number of years, and have now moved on to new adventures. Festus Masha faithfully led the ASSETS programme for ten years and John Mark Odera helped Carol manage our accounts for eight years. We are grateful for the time we had with them and their commitment to the work of ARK.





## *Racing for conservation*

Apart from being a great biking event, the Sokoke Forest MTB Challenge aims to conserve the rare and unique wildlife in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and give children living in poverty around the forest a chance of an education and a future.

The Ksh 794,736 raised through this event have funded 23 ASSETS eco-bursaries for children in communities living adjacent to Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and Mida Creek.

[sokokeforestmtb.or.ke](http://sokokeforestmtb.or.ke)





# SOKOKE FOREST MTB CHALLENGE

The second Sokoke Forest Mountain Bike (MTB) Challenge was another **highly successful biking event** held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in Watamu. A charity event raising funds for the conservation of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, the Challenge drew 72 cyclists from all over Kenya and even one from Uganda – up from 29 starters in 2018.

The event brought together communities around the forest (Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service), organisers (A Rocha Kenya, Turtle Bay Beach Club and Ocean Sports Resort) and core sponsors (Lordship Africa and NIC Bank) to raise awareness about the Forest and raise funds for ASSETS eco-bursaries for children living adjacent to the Forest and Mida Creek.

The event attracted keen mountain biking enthusiasts as well as six of the top MTB teams in Kenya. The organisers and sponsors recognise the importance of due reward and thus awarded over Ksh 200,000 in prize money. The Sokoke Forest MTB Challenge is notably, and proudly, the first and only mountain bike race in Kenya to offer the same cash prize to both men and women. Overall, the event was regarded as a tremendous success by all those involved including the participants and once again strong interest shown in participating in next years event.





Karara Conservation Centre welcomed X school groups in 2019

## KARARA CONSERVATION CENTRE

Karara Conservation Centre is an area of 14 acres of highland forest on the outskirts of Nairobi, offering an **ideal base for environmental education and practical conservation activities for urban dwellers**. With local school groups, we teach about biodiversity, soil, water and air conservation, as well as composting and farming methods and take them on forest walks to expose the children with some of Nairobi's diverse forest wildlife.

With an increasing urban population, coupled with ever-growing consumption patterns, waste production is expected to increase in this century. To respond to this challenge, we **helped local school groups respond creatively with artistic upcycling initiatives**.

Our vision for Karara is to develop a Regional Conservation Hub with conservation partners alongside A Rocha's Conservation Education Centre, allowing for **dynamic synergies and collaborative work for conservation**.

OVER **1 000**  
LEARNERS REACHED

**30** INDIGENOUS  
TREES PLANTED  
WITH 100% SUCCESS RATE

**20**  
PIECES  
OF ART-  
TO-WORK  
CREATED



## What does a visit to Karara Involve?

When welcoming school groups, we get our hands dirty and introduce **practical conservation concepts to complement the theory learned in the classroom.**

For example, Braeburn School students learned about biodiversity conservation, soil management and how to make compost manure: they went through the steps of setting up and making a compost heap. They also learned about Farming God's Way and the importance of mulching and minimal tillage for soil conservation. Next, we presented different tree varieties in our nursery, highlighting their various uses and role in the environment. Finally, a tour of the forest exposed them to forest conservation, invasive species management and the myriad of biodiversity interactions.

### *The face behind the programme*

Banton is the Conservation Assistant at Karara. He has established and tends to the Farming God's Way plots at the centre, and manages the tree nursery.



Hypolimnastis misippus

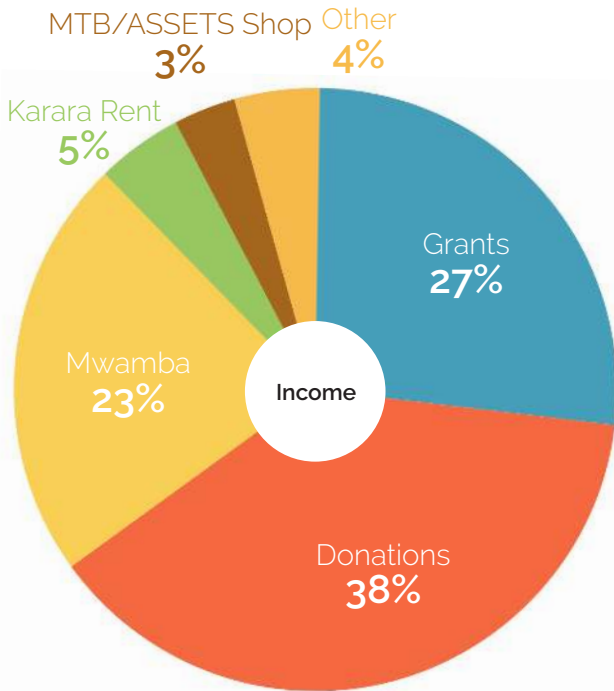


Narina Trogon



# FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING

For the last 20 years, God has graciously provided for ARK and sent people who have been a blessing to us in many ways. In 2019, **the A Rocha Kenya income was Ksh 26 776 500 (\$ 267 765)**. We are grateful to donors, partners, friends, foundations, organisations and churches that have supported us this far. Every gift that we have received has been helpful in keeping the work of A Rocha going.



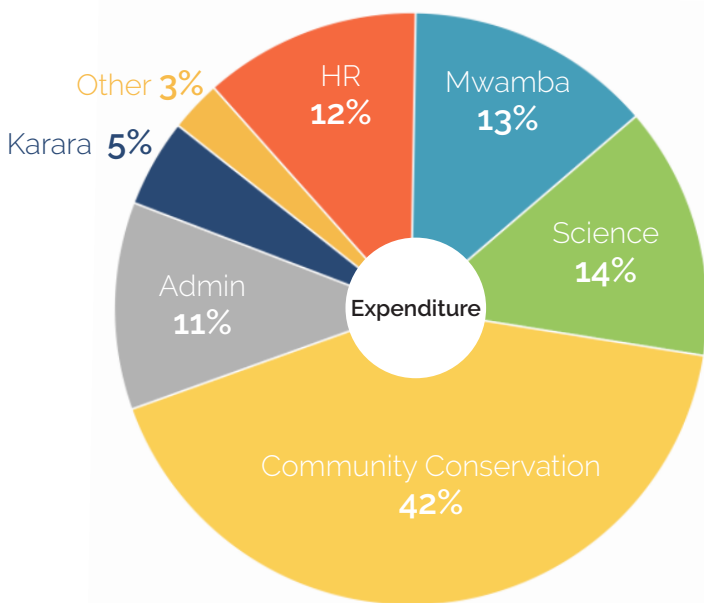
## Spotlights

### Land Purchase in Dakatcha

KES 4 514 768 (\$ 45 147) were dedicated to purchasing land in the Dakatcha Woodlands and building a 458 hectare-wide (1300 acres) Nature Reserve. These efforts will continue into 2020.

### ASSETS Eco-Bursaries

KES 1 305 100 (\$13 051) were used to fund one year of secondary school education for 133 local children, as well as environmental education sessions, camps, and conservation activities with their parents.



### The face behind the programme

Carol has faithfully managed A Rocha Kenya's finances and human resources for the past 14 years, patiently helping us navigate grants, donor requirements, and our many programmes!



## Making music to make a difference

Finishing school in style, Sara and Ellinor from Sweden, organized a music concert with their friends and gave the proceeds towards ASSETS.

*"We chose to do this concert to benefit A Rocha Kenya because we wanted to support an organization that did something both for people and the environment. Two years ago, we heard about A Rocha through Jacob Carlzon who was talking about it on a summer camp for teenagers we attended. So, when it was time for us to decide what to support with our concert, it was an easy choice! We met Jacob who told us about the different projects within A Rocha Kenya and we felt that the ASSETS program was perfect with the focus on community conservation, for both people and the planet."*



## 2019 Appeal: Buying Forest, Growing Hope

Our annual appeal sought to raise £40 000 to advance our land purchase efforts in Dakatcha Woodlands, in order to protect the Sokoke Scops Owl and Golden-rumped Elephant-shrew, as well as supporting children in need to get an education linked to conservation action with our ASSETS scheme. Thanks to the generous support of churches, trusts, foundations and many individuals we

raised a total of £37 167. Your support is essential for us to continue our scientific monitoring of threatened ecosystems, theological teaching and community-based conservation programmes can continue.

By supporting A Rocha Kenya, you are helping to restore and protect God's creation, and reduce poverty on the coast of Kenya.



KENYA  
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Conservation and Hope

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