



Dear friends of A Rocha Lebanon,

This issue is full of "goodbyes" but also a "hello!"

After 14 years in Lebanon Chris, Susanna, Sam, Chloe and Josh are finally leaving to start a new chapter in their lives in the U.K. Originally working as teachers & counselors in schools in Zahle and the Bekaa it did not take them long to see there was a huge need to address the environmental problems of the communities they were serving. In particular they set about raising awareness in the Churches and other civic groups of the gospel imperative to steward the earth. The editor asked Chris & Susanna what some of the high points have been as they have ridden the roller coaster that has been Lebanon over the last decade and a half. Chris replies;



"Bringing the family up in such a beautiful country, getting to know and work with so many great friends and colleagues, being part of the Lebanese environmental movement at such a key period in the country's life have all been hugely significant for us." In terms of events or achievements of the project, the highlights have been:

- The restoration of the Aammiq wetland
- The Important Bird Area research project – identifying 11 new IBAs
- The development of a completely new way of doing environmental education – hands on- with the thousands of students who have passed through the schools program
- The production of many new resources for churches and others to work out their response to the environmental crisis"

On return to the UK Chris will be taking up the role of Operations Director for A Rocha International so he will still be available for A Rocha Lebanon and the whole family plan to be back!



So Goodbye the Naylor's, but Hello Mirna Chaaya Safi, who will be joining the team as National Director. We asked Mirna to tell us a little about herself: "I was born in Ain Saadeh, Mount Lebanon, and am the eldest of four siblings. After graduating from high school, I decided to study Biology to pursue my passion for science. I then taught for eight years at the Baptist school in Beirut, during which time I obtained my Master's degree in Bio-Chemistry. I am active as a volunteer leader in children's camps and in youth ministry. I am newly married to Nabil Safi who is a great support to my ministry. I feel I am active and self motivated and want to leap with A Rocha Lebanon into new territories since I find myself called to serve through science and environmental stewardship."

New contact details

If you want to get in touch with the team the best address is still: lebanon@arocha.org If you want to get in touch with Chris & Susanna: chris.naylor@arocha.org

Thanks for reading to the end. Don't forget to visit our website: www.arocha.org

Best wishes, The A Rocha Lebanon Team lebanon@arocha.org

A Rocha Lebanon newsletters are available in 2 languages!!!

If you are reading this newsletter in English but would prefer to have it in Arabic, email us and we will send you your preferred version.



A ROCHA

Together, caring for God's creation