



## **2010 International Year of Biodiversity**

Every day, human activities place ever-increasing pressures on our planet's species and ecosystems. Eight years ago, governments from around the world agreed to reduce biodiversity loss by 2010.

With this time now upon us, 2010 has been designated the International Year of Biodiversity and everyone is encouraged to get involved.

A Rocha is playing its part by taking practical action at key sites, such as forests in Kenya and Papua New Guinea, savannah in Ghana and wetlands in Portugal, France, Lebanon and Canada.

We are also working hard to shape the policies that affect biodiversity. Last month our Conservation Manager participated in a conference in Madrid which brought together hundreds of individuals from NGOs and governments across Europe to discuss the future of biodiversity.

*To raise awareness of the variety of life that exists on our planet, IUCN is featuring a different Red List species every day on their website, as well as information on the threats it faces. Why not discover a new species today?*



*Small image: A tree frog, found in Papua New Guinea, which is potentially new to science. (Credit: CI Steve Richards)*

### **Inspiring people to care for creation**

At A Rocha, we believe that everyone can make a difference, as individuals and as part of a group.

Eco-congregation, a project of A Rocha UK, provides one way to help churches address environmental issues in all areas of their life: from their worship and teaching, the way that they manage their buildings and grounds and in reaching out to the wider community.

St Luke's Church in Great Crosby, Liverpool, has embraced this challenge and, with the help of Eco-congregation, transformed their grounds for people and wildlife. [Watch this film](#) of their community gardening project.

### **Preparing Ugandan leaders for climate change**

A Rocha and Tearfund led a training workshop last month in Kampala, using the 'Climate Change and Environmental Degradation Risk and Adaptation' field tool (CEDRA). The workshop was attended by 27 people from 17 organisations and provided the opportunity for each to assess the possible impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on their work. Together they planned ways of involving their communities in identifying possible adaptation strategies.

One church leader shared his experience of a response to more frequent droughts. As part of a 'Food for Work' scheme, community leaders were encouraging local people to dig channels to catch rainwater. Despite erratic rainfall this past season, the community still gathered bumper harvests, as they were able to irrigate their crops during the dry spells.

