

YOUR LEGACY BRINGING HEALING AND HOPE

INTERNATIONAL
A ROCHA
Conservation and Hope

A large adult elephant and a smaller calf are walking on a dirt road in a savanna landscape. The adult elephant is on the right, and the calf is on the left. The background shows a dirt road leading into a savanna with scattered trees and bushes under a clear sky.



‘When considering the end of our days in this present creation, the question of our legacy inevitably comes to mind. For many of us, there is a clear hope that we can leave behind some trace of all we have cared most deeply about during our lifetime. People who are dear to us will most likely be uppermost – those in our families, or those who have joined us on the journey. We also realize with every passing year that if we care about people, then their world cannot escape our concern. Even more than that, the first thing the Bible tells us about being human is that we are to care for God’s creation. Without a living planet, so much that we care for can have little future.

Throughout our lives, we have all struggled at times to know how to respond to so many needs. It is good to be reminded that it is God’s world, and that we enter into a new relationship with the world as a response to the love of God – we cannot save it, he has and he will. We discover that the love of God draws us into generosity; and that generosity extends from what we learn of God within his creation to our own generosity in living. His handiwork merits our respect and our attention.

So, deciding on our giving and our legacy draws directly on our gratitude for God himself and our recognition that we are called to be like him. Throughout the history of the church, it has been the thoughtful and long-term generosity of the Christian family that has laid the foundations for innumerable demonstrations of God’s love, enduring for generations.

A Rocha is seeking to be a faithful witness to God’s care for his creation in hundreds of local and loving projects all over the world. They bring healing to creation and hope of renewed community for thousands of people in many cultures. If you care about that too, we hope you may feel that your own legacy can be part of our future.’

Peter Harris, Founder and President of A Rocha



PROTECT THREATENED HABITATS

Over a three year period, scientists and bird experts from A Rocha Lebanon and SPNL (BirdLife's national partner in Lebanon) conducted the most extensive bird research project ever undertaken in Lebanon. The data continues to be used to examine biodiversity trends in the Mediterranean and the conservation status of key wetlands like Aammiq. Studies of migratory bird species have also resulted in the development of regional databases and more than trebled the designations of 'Important Bird Areas' in the country from 4 to 15. *Photo: Aammiq Wetland (A Rocha Lebanon)*

WHY WRITE A WILL?

A properly expressed Will is the only way to make sure your intentions are carried out, that your family is looked after, and the charities you care most about are provided for. Without it, these wishes may not be recognized and it could create a complicated situation for people left behind to sort out.

Your Will can also be used to reduce the tax burden on your friends and family. For instance, in the UK, any gift left to a charity is exempt from Inheritance Tax. Your solicitor will be able to advise you on how to make it as tax efficient as possible.

HOW TO MAKE A WILL

When it comes to drawing up or re-writing your Will, we strongly recommend that you use a solicitor, as even a small error can invalidate it. Nevertheless, the process is surprisingly straightforward:

1. Remember your friends and family – ensure they are properly provided for before deciding to which charities you will leave a gift.
2. Decide on the type of gift that you would like to leave to A Rocha. This could be either a fixed sum or a portion of your estate.
3. Talk to your solicitor to ensure that the wording of your Will is both useful and accurate. A few examples are enclosed for convenience.

It is also important to review your Will every few years to make sure that it is kept up-to-date, particularly if your family or financial situations change. A simple codicil (a separate legal document which makes changes to the provisions of your existing Will) may be all that is required.



ENABLE YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONNECT WITH NATURE

In Uganda, A Rocha is working through school nature clubs to show children how they can grow their own vegetables using sustainable farming practices. They also learn how to use sacks where space is limited, or where flooding is frequent. Gardening not only provides a healthier diet, but also brings the children closer to nature as they have fun digging in the soil and looking after their plants. *Photo: Growing sack gardens (A Rocha Uganda)*

HOW YOUR GIFT COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By remembering A Rocha in your Will, you ensure that your savings continue to work for the care of God's creation.

Your gift would:

Strengthen A Rocha's **CHRISTIAN** witness to God the Creator.

Help the **CONSERVATION** of important habitats and species.

Bring people together in **COMMUNITY** for environmental education and action.

Enable the **CROSS-CULTURAL** exchange of ideas and skills, especially in places where resources for conservation and Christian witness are limited.

Support A Rocha's work in **COOPERATION** with other organizations and individuals who share our commitment to a sustainable world.

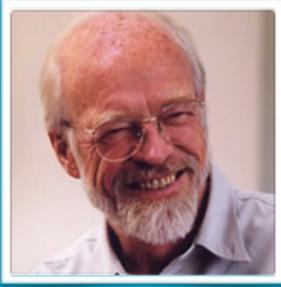
Please be assured that any gift you make, small or large, will be of enormous value to us.

THANK YOU!



SUPPORT CONSERVATION-BASED RESEARCH

Since our early years, A Rocha has been researching the wildlife and habitats of southern Portugal in order to aid their protection. The team has studied Kentish Plovers and Little Terns on the Alvor dunes, involving local schoolchildren in roping off the nesting areas and designing information boards. Botanical monitoring and the collection of plant specimens around the Ria de Alvor provided crucial scientific evidence of habitat destruction which helped us win a legal action aimed at protecting this outstanding estuary from inappropriate development. *Photo: European Bee-eaters, Portugal (Peter Harris)*



REVD EUGENE PETERSON, AUTHOR OF *THE MESSAGE*:

‘When Genesis and Jesus meet, what do you get? A Rocha, that’s what – an evangelical Christian mission to gather and train followers of Jesus to appreciate and conserve this marvelous creation over which Jesus is Lord ... For years I have been heartily commending this leadership and urging my friends to join in.’

DR SIMON STUART, CHAIR OF THE IUCN SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION:

‘When I look at the Red List of Threatened Species, for which I am responsible, I see that long-term conservation programmes are usually the most successful. And one reason I like A Rocha is that it works in places long-term. Once it’s committed to conserving a place, that’s basically a permanent commitment for A Rocha. And that is how conservation does work and should work.’



If you would be happy to tell us that you have left a gift in your Will, we would love to hear from you, as it will help us plan for the future and we would like to thank you. Of course, you are always free to change your mind.

If you would like to discuss the best way your legacy can be used by A Rocha, we are also always happy to have an informal and confidential chat. Simply fill in the form enclosed or contact us using the email address or phone number provided.

Visit us online at arocha.org/legacy

Cover photo: African Elephants © Craig Mercer