



INTERNATIONAL REVIEW
2014/15

INTERNATIONAL
A ROCHA
Conservation and Hope

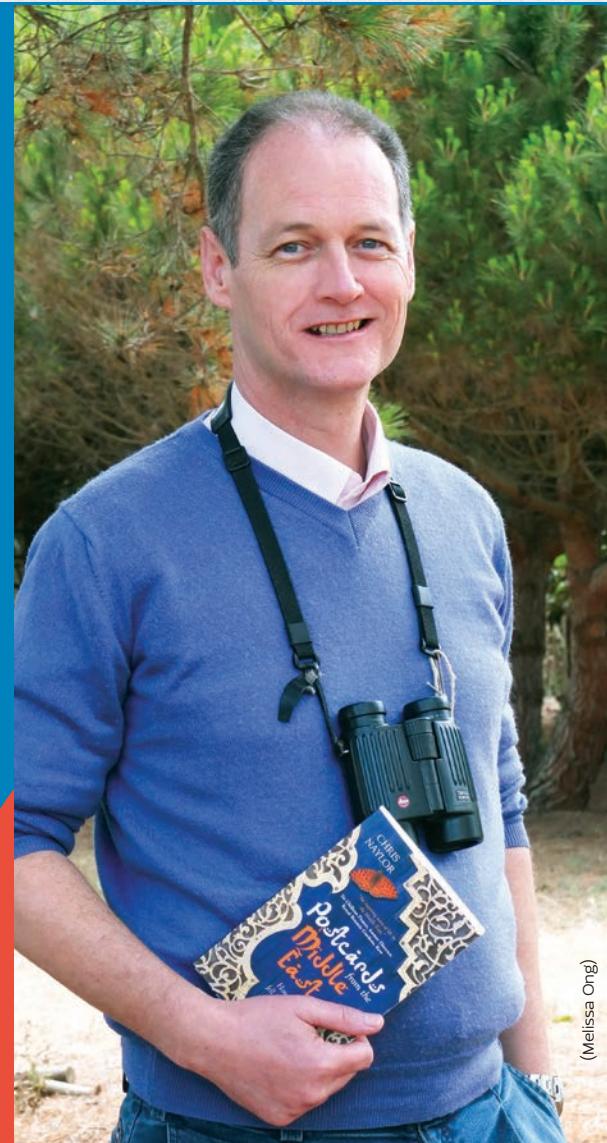
Working together

Ecology is the study of the relationships of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings. So it should be no surprise that projects designed to protect these plants and animals require a network of relationships too. A Rocha projects involve a rich variety of partners, all of us working together to see precious habitats, rare species and human communities thrive. This review explores just a small sample of these relationships: from Christian colleges to museum departments, and government agencies to some of the economically poorest communities on the planet.

Postcards from the Middle East, published in May, tells a rich story of relationships forged around the protection of Lebanon's most important sites for bird conservation. It was as A Rocha Lebanon worked alongside landowners and farmers, Bedouin shepherds and school children, government departments and international agencies that I learnt what the stories in this review so beautifully demonstrate: conservation is all about collaboration.

Chris Naylor

Executive Director,
A Rocha International (ARI)



Chris Naylor with his new book, *Postcards from the Middle East: How our family fell in love with the Arab world*. You can order a copy or enjoy excerpts at arocha.org/postcards

Working with the global church

All around the world, A Rocha is providing training and resources to enable more Christians, of many denominations, to care for the earth and seas. At the local level, we involve people in our conservation projects, and teach at churches, conferences and bible colleges. A Rocha often has country-wide influence through 'eco-congregation' and similar initiatives, e.g. in Canada, Brazil, New Zealand, England and Wales. Internationally, we are active within the Lausanne Movement, which links influencers and ideas for global mission. During 2014 and early 2015, A Rocha helped facilitate Lausanne regional conferences in SE Asia and East Africa, with several more this year and in 2016.

SE Asia: building networks

A Rocha played an important part in the Lausanne SE Asia Regional Conference at Manila in March 2014. The aim was to build towards national creation care networks with groups from the Philippines, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. Our Director of Theology, Rev Dave Bookless, was a keynote speaker, whilst Samuel Chiu, our East Asia Projects Coordinator and

Melissa Ong, our filmmaker based in Singapore, contributed substantially to seminars, videoing and discussions. There is clearly an urgent need for action in the face of rapid deforestation and biodiversity loss in many parts of the region. Since then, national groups have carried the work forward, for instance in Singapore, where former ARI Intern Hoi Wen is leading a group planning a national creation care conference.



Samuel describes his work in the Asian-Pacific regions: 'I'm helping to develop creation care movements at different stages. In Taiwan I'm just beginning to connect people, but I support groups in Singapore, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur, and in the Philippines there is a well established group keen to become an A Rocha Associated Project, so I'm guiding them through our requirements.'

Working with the global church

continued ...

South America: mobilizing churches to start socio-environmental projects



North America: training college students

In early 2015, A Rocha Canada entered into a partnership with Regent College, Vancouver, one of the world's foremost graduate schools of Christian studies. Each term the faculty teaches over 600 students from more than 40 countries, representing many denominations and vocations. Together we will collaborate on resourcing, designing and delivering creation care educational events, courses and programmes. We have a history of integration, as some A Rocha team members are Regent College alumni and two of Regent's courses, 'Food: Communion, Community and Creation' and 'Technology, Wilderness and Creation' routinely include A Rocha instructors.

'Regent students can expect a lot out of this partnership in terms of internships, practicums, supervised ministry placements, and joint research and writing projects. Students have the chance to get their hands dirty, restoring salmon habitats, for example. We are partners in a biblical enterprise that is both exciting and promising.'

Jeff Greenman, President and Academic Dean at Regent College

A Rocha Brazil trains church leaders and provides teaching materials throughout the country. Funded by Tearfund, they have empowered churches to start environmental projects in socially deprived regions. After attending a workshop in São Luis, Pastor Agostinha (centre, with seed packets) set up a composting project. Now some of the poorest families are growing their own food.

'A Rocha Brazil taught me integral mission,' says Agostinha, 'Jesus is the Creator and we are stewards in the care of people and the environment.'

Europe: linking poverty reduction and conservation

'Fighting poverty means protecting the environment'. That was the theme of the Micah Challenge / Stop Poverty conference at Biel in October 2014. A Rocha Switzerland invited several A Rocha team members to take leading roles, including Sarah French, ARI's Director of Operations, who ran a workshop exploring how nature conservation can provide opportunities for local development, using A Rocha case studies.

A key speaker was Rev Dave Bookless, ARI's Director of Theology and author of *Planewise* which compellingly examines the biblical teaching on environmental stewardship. The book has persuaded many people to get involved in caring for the earth since its publication in 2008 and so ARI has part-funded its translation for francophone Africa. It was launched at the conference with the new title of *Dieu, L'écologie et Moi*.



Working with local communities

A Rocha protects habitats of global, national and local importance, seeking the wellbeing of people as well as wildlife. Many of our teams are based at field study and environmental education centres or regional offices, which root them in the community. This facilitates strong relationships and an understanding of the reasons for threats to sites and species which might not be obvious to outsiders. Conservation activities and education are interwoven, so that a community better understands and appreciates the land on which they often depend for life's necessities.

Restoring dry forests in NW Peru

In January 2014, A Rocha Peru started a four-year project to restore Peruvian dry forest – one of the world's most threatened ecosystems – and promote social development in and around a wind farm in Talara. The project is a partnership between A Rocha Peru, eight neighbourhood councils and ContourGlobal, an international energy company that owns the wind farm and is financing the project.

Through this alliance, 17 hectares will be reforested with native trees providing a crucial habitat for many endemic species, including an endangered bird, the Peruvian Plantcutter, *Phytotoma raymondii*. Complementary environmental education activities enable local people, particularly children, to learn about the importance of dry forest conservation, helping to ensure the long-term protection of this unique ecosystem.

A Rocha has set up 'The Friends of the Plants Club' in Felipe Santiago Salaverry School where children learn how to care for their environment through games, crafts and gardening, and pass their new values on to their parents. The club's chairperson, Naomi, tells what she has learnt, 'We played a game about trees and birds. The chairs were the trees and the children were the birds. When the music stopped, we had to sit down. The bird that was left died because the woodcutter had cut down its tree. When there were two birds left, I realized that every time we cut down a tree, birds lose their food, their habitat, their home.' Naomi continues: 'I used to throw away rubbish anywhere, but after the talks they held with us, I realized that what I was doing was wrong.'

Naomi planting seeds in the school garden. (Hugo Marcos Loyola)



Watch this short video: arocha.org/harvestinghope which features Naomi.



Men and women from eight neighbourhoods around Talara wind farm are being employed to plant and nurture tree seedlings for reforestation in this arid area. (Stalin Rosales Delgado)

Working with local communities

continued ...

Protecting the rivers in Atewa rainforest, Ghana

Three major river systems rise in Atewa Range Forest Reserve providing domestic, agricultural and industrial water supplies for five million Ghanaians. Since 2005, three prospecting initiatives for bauxite mining have taken place in the forest. As the inevitable consequences of open cast mining would be logging, river pollution and massive ecological damage to one of West Africa's most biologically unique forests, three years ago A Rocha Ghana began a major campaign (Atewa Critical Conservation Action Program) to avert mining and have the forest declared a National Park.

A new programme was launched in November 2014, 'Living water from the mountain – protecting Atewa water resources'. One of the key objectives is to strengthen the role of local communities in decisions affecting their land. They will be made more aware of the risks from logging and mining and be able to take action against illegal activities in the forest. They'll also be trained in conservation-friendly livelihoods. In the first quarter of 2015, activities at a local level included four

durbars which engaged 178 people in the need to conserve the forest, its rivers and wildlife whilst videos drew 8,800 people from 22 communities. People used these sessions to ask questions and learn about their legal rights.

We also saw major progress at government level, with mining licences withdrawn and an agreement by the Forestry Commission that Atewa will, in time, become a National Park managed by their Wildlife Division, whose good reputation is well established.

Godwin Ofori lives in Segimase, a village fringing the Atewa forest. He was among the first 90 people whom A Rocha trained in nature-based livelihoods in February 2014 under the Atewa Critical Conservation Action Program. He immediately started a fungi farm and is now selling mushrooms in the local market, supermarkets, restaurants and hotels.

A Rocha not only provided the training, but also gave him help in negotiating fair prices, a fridge to store his crop and this bicycle so that he can reach his customers. (A Rocha Ghana)



Working with the conservation world

Field-based research and the field training of young biologists are often undertaken in partnership with universities and colleges or NGOs, for example, during 2014, ARI formed a new partnership with Cambridge University and the RSPB for the monitoring of tropical forests. Likewise, when campaigning is necessary, we collaborate widely with other conservation organizations. We are also keen to make our conservation science data available and last year contributed to conferences on marine science and ethno-botany.



Chege interacting with children while teaching during the Fundamentals of Ornithology course, April 2015. (Jaap Gijsbertsen)

Training Kenyan ornithologists with National Museums of Kenya

A Rocha Kenya has a long-standing partnership with National Museums of Kenya (NMK). We share data and resources and partner on research projects, such as recent entomological fieldwork in Dakatcha Woodlands. NMK staff use A Rocha's field study centre on the coast as a base for work in nearby Important Bird Areas. Each April, a week-long 'Fundamentals of Ornithology' course is organized by A Rocha Kenya, NMK and the Tropical Biology Association. Twenty students take part, mostly from Kenya but also from Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania. Colin Jackson, A Rocha Kenya's Science Director, has taught part of the course almost every year since 1996, as has Peter Njoroge, Head of NMK's Ornithology Dept. Peter says,

'The vibrant bird ringing scene in Kenya (unlike many sub-Saharan countries where ringing is unheard of!) is one shining example of A Rocha Kenya's success. Through the ringing programme we have managed to bring many young people into conservation circles. Recently our collaboration with A Rocha and others launched a citizen science-based second bird atlas for Kenya: see kenyabirdmap.adu.org.za/. A Rocha Kenya is an inspiration and a testament to what faith, focus and total conviction can achieve.'

Chege wa Kariuki has been birdwatching for nearly 20 years and the 'Fundamentals of Ornithology' course was an essential part of his training as a field ornithologist and guide. He recalls, 'My interest started when I was a teenager in Nairobi. I used to draw birds in the forest and then, because I couldn't afford a bird book, I would go to the National Museum to ►'



Working with the conservation world

continued ...



► identify the species from their collections. The main lesson I learned during the identification part of the course was attention to details. I also developed a deeper understanding of ecology.

Afterwards I joined NMK as a volunteer and helped in a study of Sokoke Scops Owl *Otus ireneae* in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. I also volunteered with A Rocha Kenya, bird monitoring, and learned a lot from Colin. Visiting researchers asked me to help them, an opportunity to get some income and develop my skills. In 2005 I started my own safari company: Birdwatching East Africa. It has been rough but I have seen growth every year. I pay back to the community (for the services and blessings I received) by teaching on the course.' Chege is also a member of NatureKenya's Bird Committee.

Andy Lester, A Rocha UK's Conservation Director, joined Sir David Attenborough and 250 other environmental experts at the Conference for Nature in September.

Organized by a coalition of 26 NGOs – including A Rocha UK, RSPB and Butterfly Conservation – the London event attracted key figures from industry and government.

Sir David and Andy both lectured on the need for all society to be involved in saving nature, exploring new solutions and creative partnerships. 'This provided us with a unique opportunity to showcase the work of the faith community nationwide,' said Andy.



Carla Dik, a Dutch ChristenUnie MP who is benefiting from the ecological expertise of A Rocha Pro. (Rogier Bos)

A network for Dutch conservationists

A Rocha Pro is a new network for Christians who work in conservation organizations throughout The Netherlands. The group unites almost a hundred professionals who have been meeting twice a year since 2013. The chair of A Rocha Netherlands, Jan van der Stoep, explains, 'Many of our members are discouraged at church, where other Christians don't share their concerns, and discouraged at work, where they often meet opposition from Christian farmers and fishermen. One of our aims is to inspire each other.' Other benefits are emerging: last year, for example, they were able to advise Carla Dik, a Member of Parliament at The Hague, on how to shape a new nature conservation law. Ms Dik has adopted a green lifestyle at home and wants to use her position to reduce food waste and inefficient use of fossil fuels throughout the country. She is also working to improve the relationship between conservation and agriculture. After meeting with A Rocha Pro in Arnhem last year, she said, 'I have learned a lot. I'm going home with many sensible ideas which will shape my policies. Now I know who to consult when God's creation is at stake!'

Working with our National Organizations

Providing support and information

As usual, members of the International Team visited many National Organizations during the last year, spending time with National Boards and Teams. They helped with issues as diverse as strategic planning, governance, finance, scientific research, advocacy and fundraising.

Improving communication

'We feel a lot closer to the rest of the A Rocha family now,' says Andrea Ramos Santos, Director of A Rocha Brazil. During 2014, each National Organization was twinned with an ARI focal point

as their 'go-to' person for any aspect of their work, and already the benefits are being felt. João Martinez da Cruz, ARI's Operations Manager and focal point for Brazil and Portugal adds, 'I grew up in Brazil so I speak the language, but it's the link with one person instead of different people for different needs that seems to be most important. I help the teams with practical issues such as writing funding proposals, and am always happy to talk over ideas or difficulties. I'm also suggesting ways in which the two teams can benefit from each other's experience. Portugal, for example, developed a wonderful travelling exhibition for use in churches, which we hope to take to Brazil.'

João introducing A Rocha's worldwide work to church leaders and bible college students in Manaus, alongside Brazilian colleagues
(A Rocha Brazil)

A Rocha Founders, Peter and Miranda Harris, with South African volunteers on a clean-up of the Kuils River, during a visit at which they spoke at public events in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Pietermaritzburg.

(A Rocha South Africa)



Strategizing for growth – a new project in Nigeria

In order to respond to increasing demand for affiliation with A Rocha, ARI has established a new process and criteria for admitting additional projects. An A Rocha organization may now start as an Associated Project or as a National Organization, the main difference being that the former is not expected to have national reach. An Associated Project may, in time, become a National Organization. In 2014, the Eden Creation Care Initiative in Nigeria became A Rocha's first Associated Project. Based in Jos, Eden helps communities protect areas important for their biodiversity through educational programmes and scientific research. They are currently running two conservation projects: increasing habitat diversity at Rockwater Fish Farm (below) on the fringes of the Jos metropolis, and working to provide effective protection for Mushere Forest, one of northern Nigeria's most severely threatened habitats.

(Teyei Joel Pam)



Working with our donors

As a conservation organization, we value biodiversity. As a charity, dependent in large part on grants and donations, we value the glorious diversity of our funders. A Rocha's work during this last year would not have been possible without the support of generous individuals: new supporters as well as old friends who have given faithfully since the earliest beginnings in Portugal. Churches, large and small, contribute to our general funds or forge strong links with an A Rocha National Organization.

Then there are grant-makers, some faith-based such as the Imago Dei Fund and some broadly based, such as UNESCO and the AG Leventis Foundation with its focus on society, education and culture. We work closely with relief and development NGOs, including Tearfund in several countries, World Vision in Canada, USAID in Ghana and Samaritan's Purse UK in Uganda. We also depend on conservation agencies such as IUCN Netherlands, IUCN Ghana, IUCN International and the GEF Small Grants Programme.

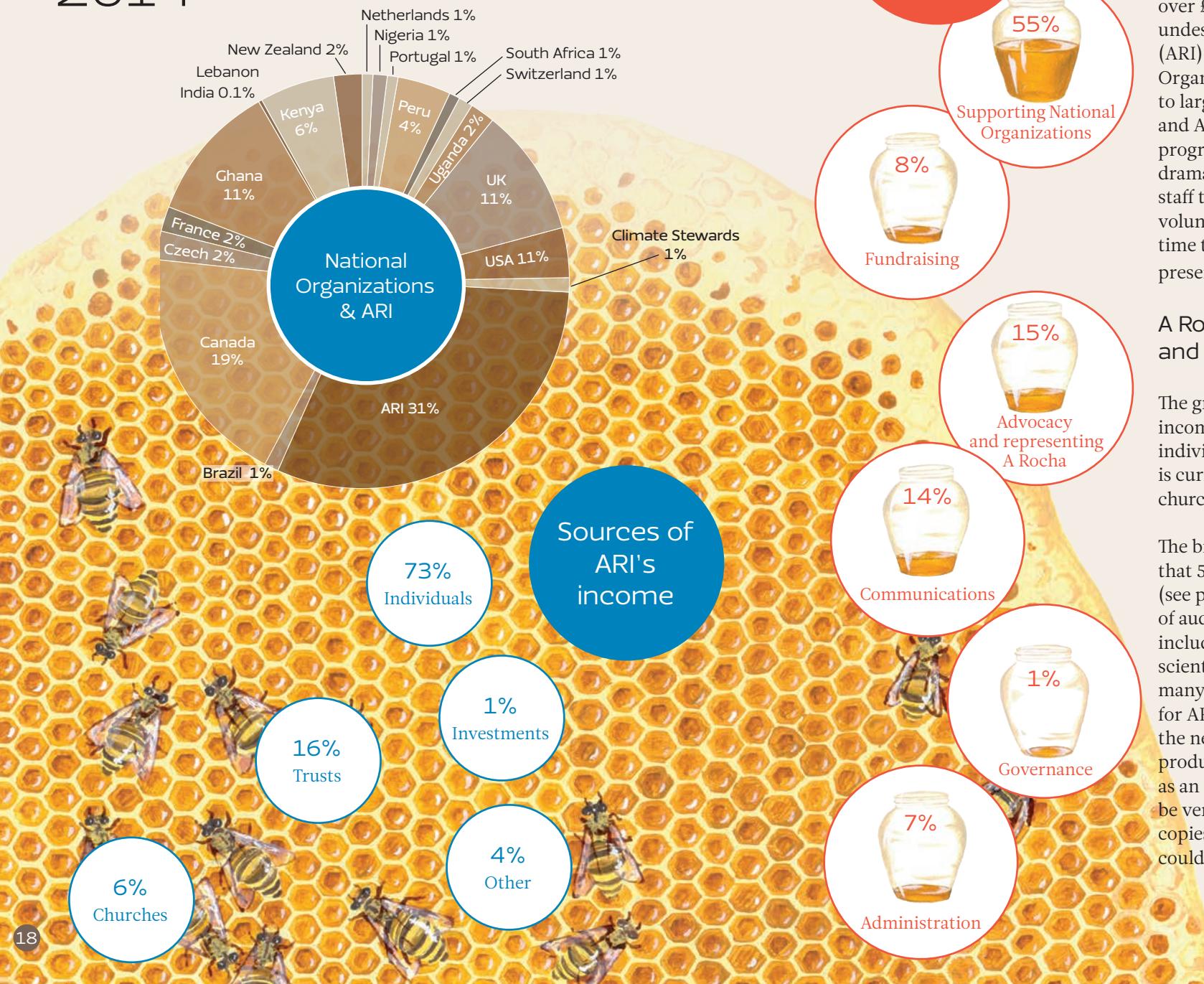
It's our deep desire that these relationships be as mutually beneficial as possible, bringing satisfaction and even joy to those who play such an essential role in our work. Our residential centres offer the opportunity for you to visit and see projects in action. You might like to consider a holiday in Portugal, France or Kenya or volunteer with one of our national teams. Find out more at arocha.org/get-involved



'Having spent time with A Rocha Kenya, we decided to donate our wedding ceremony offering to support their work,' say Raphaël and Améline Nussbaumer, from Lausanne, Switzerland. 'Two reasons why we love A Rocha: the way people are put at the heart of conservation efforts and the community lifestyle as a way of living out Christian values.'

Financial review

2014



A Rocha's global income

We are delighted to report that global income rose by 11%, from £3.6 million in 2013 to just over £4 million in 2014. The pie chart shows the undesignated income for A Rocha International (ARI) and the total income for the National Organizations. Some of the increase is due to large grants received by A Rocha Peru and A Rocha Ghana for their tropical forest programmes. The number of employees rose dramatically, from the equivalent of 94 full-time staff to 142. We are deeply grateful for the 900 volunteers and interns who contributed their time to help A Rocha manage or advise on the preservation of over 1.1 million acres of land.

A Rocha International's [income](#) and [expenditure](#)

The graphics also show the sources of ARI's income and highlight the importance of individual donors. The income from churches is currently 6% and we would love to get more churches involved in supporting A Rocha's work.

The breakdown of ARI's expenditure shows that 55% supported our National Organizations (see pages 14 to 15). Advocacy to a wide range of audiences accounted for 15% of expenditure, including the British Birdwatching Fair, scientific conferences and church events in many countries. It was a particularly busy year for ARI's Communication Team who developed the new website launched in April 2015 and also produced new banners for conferences, as well as an *Introducing A Rocha* leaflet. We would be very glad to send you the new leaflet, extra copies of this review or our legacy leaflet if you could use them.

Have you visited our new website?

www.arocha.org

It's now even easier to:

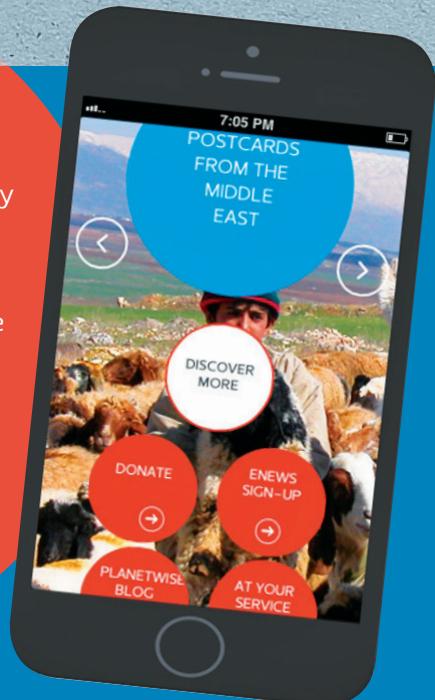
- Be generous: donate in any currency
- Be inspired: watch the latest short video
- Be up to date: read all the news
- Be challenged: enjoy our Planetwise blogs
- Be equipped to teach: 'At Your Service' resources
- Be part of an A Rocha team: see 'Opportunities'



New address!

We've moved from Cambridge to London.

If you contact us by post, please use our new registered address below.



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

Front cover photo: The Grey-crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*, Uganda's national emblem, is declining. A Rocha Uganda is working to reduce pollution at Lubigi Wetland, Kampala, where it still occurs in small numbers. ©Shutterstock