



INTERNATIONAL  
**A ROCCHA**  
Conservation and Hope

Introducing  
A Rocha

# Who we are

A Rocha is an interdenominational Christian organization which, inspired by God's love, engages in scientific research, community-based conservation projects, environmental education and theological training.

Our first initiative was a field study centre in Portugal, and so our name is Portuguese and means 'The Rock'.



Lunchtime at the A Rocha Kenya centre. Our field study centres and field bases facilitate long-term research and monitoring, rooting us in the communities where we work. (Benjamin Cowburn)

Underlying all we do is our **CHRISTIAN** faith. We believe in the living God, who made the world, loves it and entrusts it to our care.

We carry out research for the **CONSERVATION** of important habitats and species and run environmental education programmes for people of all ages.

We aim to develop good relationships within both the A Rocha family and the wider **COMMUNITY** bringing people together for environmental education and action.

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

We work in **COOPERATION** with other organizations and individuals who share our commitment to a sustainable world.

## Community conservation

We work with many kinds of communities to protect their local habitats. A Rocha Netherlands, for example, has 11 groups scattered throughout the country, bringing Christians together for habitat management at sites of conservation importance. Here, on the River IJssel, the Zwolle group regularly pollards the willows, partly to maintain the historical landscape and also to create nesting opportunities for Little Owl *Athene noctua*. (Rogier Bos)





# What we do

A Rocha protects and restores forests, grasslands, freshwater wetlands and coasts by working with the local people who depend, as we all do, on healthy ecosystems.

Community is at the heart of A Rocha's work:

- Our research and conservation programmes are community-based
- Our eight residential field study and environmental interpretation centres welcome hundreds of students, volunteers, researchers and interns each year
- Our community gardens bring good food, better health and a sense of belonging to some of the neediest local people, whilst also introducing them to conservation issues, such as the loss of insect pollinators
- Our Bible-based resources and training programmes help motivate and facilitate Christian communities to care for creation.



A Rocha Switzerland helps farmers to manage dry grassland for insects, including Cynthia's Fritillary *Euphydryas cynthia* (Friedrich Böhringer, 2011).



## Environmental education

Through positive and practical encounters with nature, A Rocha is helping people of all ages to better care for the earth. Every year, thousands of children take part in our programmes as part of their school curriculum, or in wildlife clubs or camps. Each summer, A Rocha USA works through churches to run Nature Care Camps for children aged 5–12, exploring local woods and creeks through hands-on activities that bring together God's word, science and art, fun and games.

(Nashville A Rocha)



# How can I get involved?

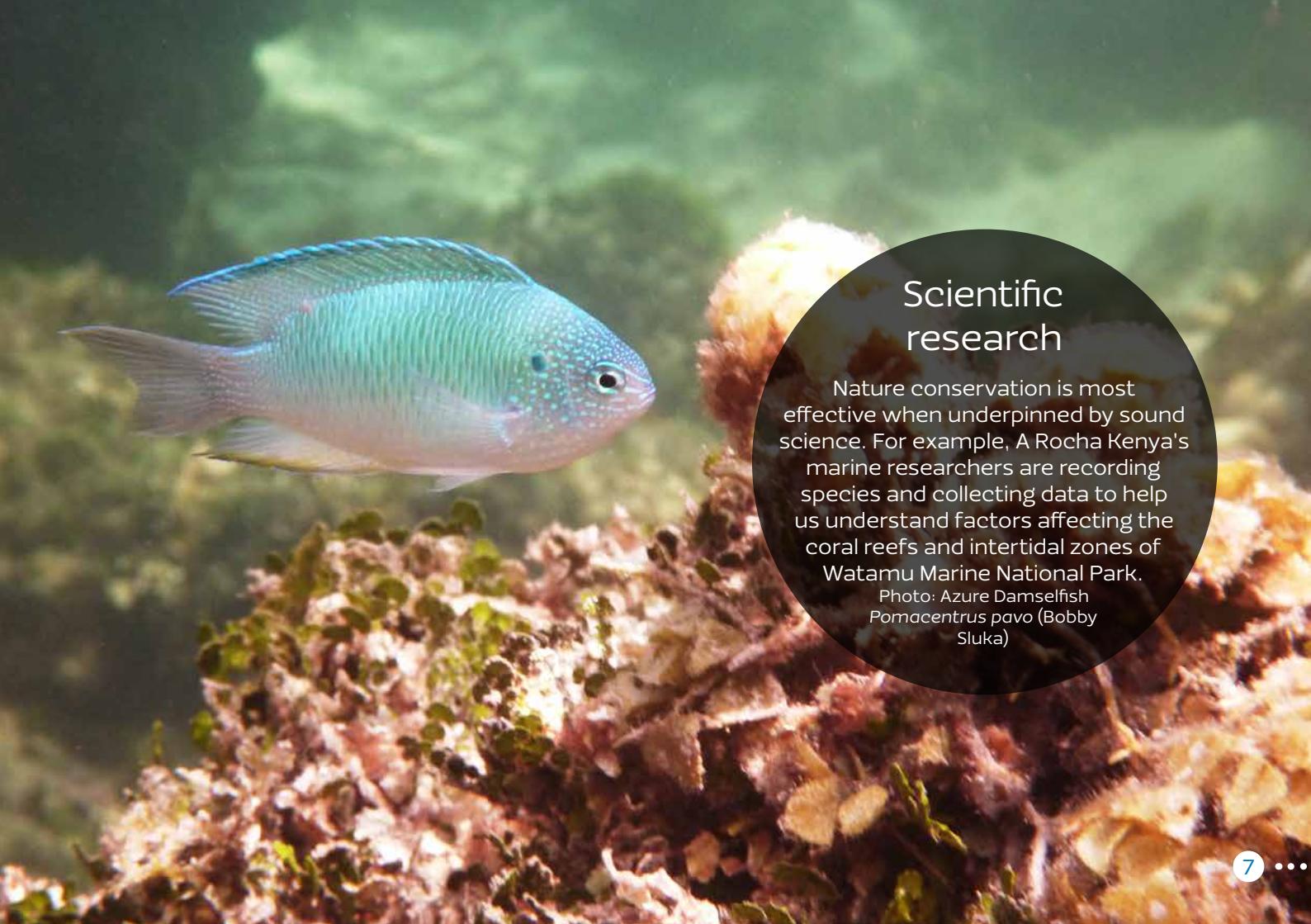
A Rocha works in Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Ghana, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Switzerland, UK, Uganda and USA. If you live in one of these 20 countries and would like to get involved, please contact your National Organization at [arocha.org/contact-us](http://arocha.org/contact-us)

**Spend time with us:** If you have time to give, you might like to become a volunteer. All kinds of skills are welcome. Some projects need volunteers who live nearby; others welcome volunteers from overseas. Alternatively, why not enjoy a holiday or training course at one of our centres? Read more about all our current opportunities at [arocha.org/opportunities](http://arocha.org/opportunities)

**Donate:** We rely on the generosity of individuals and churches, as well as on grants and income-generating activities. Please visit [arocha.org/donate](http://arocha.org/donate) to give online or download our Standing Order and Gift Aid form at [arocha.org/donate/so](http://arocha.org/donate/so)

**Fundraise:** It's easy to raise money for A Rocha by creating an online fundraising page. You can collect donations for any sponsored event, a birthday or wedding anniversary or in memory of someone special. Visit [justgiving.com/arocha](http://justgiving.com/arocha) or [give.net](http://give.net) to get started.

**Stay in touch:** If you want to be kept up-to-date, or could pray for A Rocha's work, you can sign up for our monthly International Enews at [arocha.org/enews](http://arocha.org/enews). It will link you to new videos and inspiring, encouraging stories from around the world.

A close-up photograph of an Azure Damselfish (Pomacentrus pavo) swimming over a coral reef. The fish has a bright blue body with a yellow belly and a distinct black vertical stripe near its eye. It is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. The background is a blurred greenish-blue, suggesting an underwater environment.

## Scientific research

Nature conservation is most effective when underpinned by sound science. For example, A Rocha Kenya's marine researchers are recording species and collecting data to help us understand factors affecting the coral reefs and intertidal zones of Watamu Marine National Park.

Photo: Azure Damselfish  
*Pomacentrus pavo* (Bobby Sluka)

## Marlene Aquino Candia

A Rocha Huarango Project volunteer, Ica, Peru

'A Rocha Peru has given life to desert areas, like my home region of Ica, where native Huarango trees have been reforested; and helped local people, like me, to learn about reforestation, conservation and team work, so that we can work together for our environment and community.'



## Jill Phillips

Singer-songwriter, Nashville, USA

'A Rocha helped me put words and action to a stirring in my heart for God's creation. Being a part of this organization has inspired a new awareness of the place I live – everything from the plants to the people. As I have been learning to respond to this call to stewardship I have found these issues naturally overflowing into my songwriting.'



## Robert Kelsh

Professor of Stem Cell and Developmental Genetics, Bath, UK



'As an agnostic eager to ask questions of Christian faith, it was exciting and refreshing to be immersed in an environment where no question was out-of-bounds.'



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Cover: A Rocha Ghana is working in villages around Atewa Range Forest Reserve to reduce activities which negatively impact its wildlife, including African Emerald Cuckoo Chrysococcyx cupreus. ([johncaddick.co.uk](http://johncaddick.co.uk))

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