

A Rocha South Africa

Annual Review 2017



A Rocha South Africa

OUR COMMITMENTS

A Rocha is identified by five core commitments and to a practical outworking of each:

Christian – Underlying all we do is our biblical faith in the living God, who made the world, loves it and entrusts it to the care of human society.

Conservation – We carry out research for the conservation and restoration of the natural world and run environmental education programmes for people of all ages.

Community – Through our commitment to God, each other and the wider creation, we aim to develop good relationships both within the A Rocha family and in our local communities.

Cross-cultural – We draw on the insights and skills of people from diverse cultures, both locally and around the world.

Cooperation – We work in partnership with a wide variety of organizations and individuals who share our concerns for a sustainable world.

A Rocha South Africa vision

A Rocha South Africa is a national Christian organization which equips and mobilizes people to restore God's creation and live sustainably.

The A Rocha national organizations focus on:

- ♦ Scientific research
- ♦ Community-based conservation
- ♦ Environmental education
- ♦ Equipping the church
- ♦ Climate action

A Rocha South Africa

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A Rocha South Africa

Annual Review 2017



Annual review and Chairman's report to the 13th Annual General Meeting of A Rocha South Africa, May 2018

Dear members of the Board, Board of Reference, Members of A Rocha and Friends, thank you for being present at this 13th Annual General Meeting of A Rocha South Africa.

For the past two years I focused on water in the Annual Review. Nobody really thought that the drought would be as serious as it turned out to be in some areas of the country.

By June 2016 eight of the nine provinces had been declared disaster areas. Fortunately most provinces have since recovered with good rains falling in the summer rainfall areas. In the Western Cape however the drought has continued with ever tougher water restrictions being announced by the local authorities. In Cape Town residents now are only allowed 50 liters per day.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE 50 L LIFE



One is grateful for the generosity of churches and schools in the north of the country that collected water and had it shipped to the Western Cape. And we must mention those farmers that have shared fodder and maize with their counterparts in drought stricken areas.

I just wonder what conversations around water have taken place in churches during and even after the drought. Have churches and their members adapted? Do churches harvest rain water? Are churches now water-smart?

THE 2017 HIGHLIGHTS OF A ROCHA SOUTH AFRICA

FOOTSTEPS TO GOOD HOPE

Jacobus van der Linden, the 18 year old son of an Action Team member in Cape Town asked that his epic walk, ***Footsteps to Good Hope***, could be done under the auspices of A Rocha. The 977 Km walk from the border of Namibia along the coast to Cape Point was to create awareness among the youth and was completed in 40 days. He spoke at a number of churches along the way. Jacobus supported the research done by ARI on nurdles and marine pollution and monitored the African Black Oystercatcher along the walk. He found at least 18 sites with serious plastic pollution and three sites with nurdles along the coast. 450+ Oystercatchers were located at 94 sites. At least 11 sites had 10 or more birds, two sites had 30+ birds.



CONSERVATION SCIENCE

Bird ringing: Bird ringing at Rondevlei, Cape Town is done as a contribution to the SA Bird Atlas (SANAP2) and the conservation of birds.



Ringling happens every 2nd Saturday of the month and during 2017 8 ringling events took place. 58 birds were trapped, 44 were newly rung and 14 were re-trapped. On average 10 individuals attended each trapping and ringling.



COMMUNITY BASED CONSERVATION

River and beach clean-ups, Western Cape: Eight clean-ups took place along the Kuils River during the year. Members and youth of seven churches took part in the clean-ups. More than 1000Kg was removed from the river and its banks. In Kleinmond two beach clean-ups were done in conjunction with local churches and the nature conservation society. The number of cigarette butts, straws and plastic bottles and bottle caps on average doubled from the previous year. All data collected on International Coastal Clean-up Day is shared with Plastics SA and Ocean Conservancy.

Pathway project, KZN: An inner city park which serves as a major pedestrian thoroughfare had become neglected and overgrown with alien invasive vegetation and years of accumulated garbage. A Rocha supported and gave guidance to two work parties on the Pathway project. The clean-ups have resulted in a marked reduction in violent crime and an increased sense of safety felt by pedestrians in this area. The lead church was commended by the local mayor for the work that has been done.



Midmar Mile - Refuse bins: More than 10 000 people attend and participate in this popular open water swimming event. We sponsored 10 A Rocha branded refuse drums. A further four drums were sponsored at a farm stall.



Ferncliffe Nature Reserve, PMB: Some years ago A Rocha planted 2.4 ha. of trees in Ferncliffe. During the year two work parties were held where alien invasive vegetation was cleared. The site is becoming a real haven to retreat to. Recently more than 60 indigenous trees were planted in the area. *(See pictures on front and back cover)*

ENGAGING WITH CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Rosebank Methodist: The group arranged 2 worship services and participated in the Church in Creation outings. A sustainable supper was arranged by Rosebank Methodist and Rondebosch United Church and attended 90 persons. Prof Kevin Winter of UCT spoke on the water crisis in Cape Town.

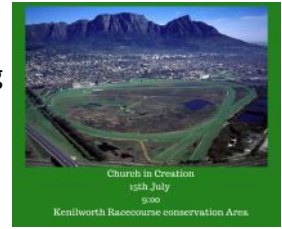


Kleinmond URCSA: To celebrate World Environment Day 2017 a walk in the mountain was arranged. A local youth care centre was invited to join. A group of 40 did the 6Km walk. Along the way a reading and a prayer was done. On the Sunday after the Int. Beach Clean-up a service was held focusing on our calling in this regard.

Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, Bettie's Bay: A group of elderly visited the gardens in October. Although they all live among the Fynbos many had never

been to the gardens. Staff members told stories about the use of herbs and other everyday use of Fynbos plants.

Church in Creation: Eight events were arranged during year. In total 230 persons attended. Some people attending these events have never before thought about faith and the environment.



Yellowwood Project: The Bible Study material broadly based on Dave Bookless's book *Planetwise* was ready for its first trial-run at the Creation Care and the Gospel conference.

Eco-Church: A Rocha UK developed a free online survey and supporting resources designed to equip churches to express their care for God's world in different area including worship, teaching, buildings and personal lifestyles of members. South Africa is negotiating with A Rocha UK to adapt the material to our church environment. We are for a number of scientists that have helped to rephrase the questions.

CREATION CARE AND THE GOSPEL CONFERENCE

The Lausanne Creation Care Network approached A Rocha to arrange its



Southern African conference that took place in February 2018. This would be the 9th in a series of worldwide conferences on the theme: **Christ is Lord over all creation**. Similar to previous conferences it would explore *God's Word* (the

Bible), *God's World* (the state of the planet), and *God's Work* (how Christians can and already are part of the solution).

Although the conference was scheduled for in February 2018 it took a large part of our time in 2017 to organize. We are very grateful to the Lord that 95 delegates from 12 African countries, UK, USA and Canada joined us at African Enterprise.

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"The earth is created, sustained and redeemed by Christ. ... If Jesus is Lord of all the earth, we cannot separate our relationship to Christ from how we act in relation to the earth. ... Creation care is thus a gospel issue within the Lordship of Christ."

Lausanne (Cape Town, 2010)

GOVERNANCE

I would like to thank the members of the board and of the action teams in KwaZulu-Natal and Cape Town for their enthusiasm and dedication. I am very grateful for your prayers, time, talent and treasure you shared with A Rocha.

We are looking forward to launch a Gauteng action team during 2018. Please support the cause.

Thank you to all donors and prayer supporters. Without you our efforts would have been in vain.

Staff: A Rocha has been without staff since the end of 2013. Over the past year or so there have been attempts to employ an intern in Cape Town in conjunction with the Green Anglicans. Unfortunately this did not materialize. In preparation for the CC&G conference the board contracted Melanie Rood to coordinate the planning and bookings. And recently it was decided contract Melanie for two days a week.

Funding: During the course of the year four funding applications were made to funders. One application for work on the Kuils River was successful.

Statistics: A Rocha had 15 volunteers involved in the actions teams in Cape Town and KZN. With Melanie now on board we plan to increase our regular donors. There are ±500 individuals on the database; we have 364 followers on the Facebook and 123 on Instagram.

We are grateful to A Rocha International for their ongoing support. I would like to mention **Sarah French**, the Director of Operations, for her guidance and participation in our board meetings. And **Dave Bookless**, Director of Theology - he was part of the team responsible for organizing the Lausanne conference.

CLOSING

I recently read Denise M Ackerman's **Surprised by the Man on the Borrowed Donkey - Ordinary Blessings**. In the final paragraph of the book she says:

When I look at "the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns", and yet are fed by the hand that made them (Mt.6:26), I take courage that all of life is held in that hand, that despite suffering and our inhumanity to one another, we are not alone. Now worrying can be put aside, says the man on the borrowed donkey. Strive for God's reign to come on earth "and all things will be given to you" (Mt. 6:33), he promises us. I will take my chance on the truth of his words for I have found that doing so makes life worth living.

Carl Swart

A Rocha South Africa, 5 May 2018

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A ROCHA SOUTH AFRICA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION at 31 December 2017

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2107</u> R	<u>2106</u> R
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	5 256	6
Current assets		741 664	503 802
Trade and other receivables		108 665	9 203
Cash and cash equivalents	3	632 999	494 599
Total assets		746 920	503 808

Equity and liabilities**Equity**

ARI Grant: National Director
Retained earnings

	737 785	498 453
	120 545	120 545
	617 240	377 908

Current liabilities

Trade and other payables

9 135 5 355

Total equity and liabilities

	746 920	503 808
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A ROCHA SOUTH AFRICA

DETAILED INCOME STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 December 2017

	<u>2017</u> <u>R</u>	<u>2106</u> <u>R</u>
Administration		
Revenue	143 235	97 314
General donations	139 560	96 934
Membership income	3 675	380
Other income	30 754	24 088
Interest income	30 754	24 088
Total Income	173 989	121 402
Operating expenses	(69 132)	(50 228)
Admin fees	1 750	1 500
ARI Global Service Fee	15 937	-
Audit fees	13 785	14 939
Bank charges	2 122	447
Books purchased	2 542	15 375
Depreciation	200	-
Exchange loss	102	7 430
Honoraria	1 477	300
Meeting costs	4 456	539
Publicity costs	11 329	-
Small asset acquisition	-	639
Sponsorship	5 000	-
Travel and accommodation	10 432	9 059
	104 857	71 174
Governance		
Revenue	138 574	-
Grant funding	138 574	-
Operating expenses	(3 471)	(1 090)
Travel and accommodation	3 471	1 090
	135 103	(1 090)

**Planting trees at Ferncliffe
during the Creation Care
& the Gospel conference, 2018**

