



A Rocha South Africa

Annual Review 2018



God's people caring for God's creation

A Rocha South Africa is a national Christian organisation which equips, motivates and mobilises people to care for God's creation, through theology, education, research and projects.

A Rocha South Africa is a part of an international family of A Rocha organisations focusing on:

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

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.



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.



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.

***our 5
commitments***

A ROCHA SOUTH AFRICA and the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On 25 September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted A/RES/70/1, Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) laid out in this Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, which all countries and stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement.

Much of the work of A Rocha South Africa reflects the goals of the SDG's and makes our work a part of a global initiative.



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A Note From the Chairman

As I write this, Tropical Cyclone Kenneth makes landfall in Northern Mozambique, bringing with it a brutal weather event. Sadly, this comes within weeks of Tropical Cyclone Idai impacting the same region: a cyclone which has been recorded as the worst tropical cyclone to impact Africa and the third deadliest tropical cyclone ever recorded. After the destruction of Idai, the former first lady of Mozambique, Graca Machel said, "It is painful to say that my country and [Beira] will go down in history as having been the first city to be completely devastated by climate change".

Closer to home, the mopping up continues around Durban after the Easter weekend floods which caused tragic damage to property and lives. Unfortunately, after the immediate disaster has been forgotten, the tons of plastic waste washed into the sea through the Umgeni River system will continue its silent ravage of our marine ecosystems, ultimately affecting the health of humanity.

One need not spend too much time watching news broadcasts or scrolling through social media to be bombarded by reports of environmental disasters and degradation: a fact that in itself is proving detrimental in a phenomenon that has become known as 'ecoanxiety'.

An American Psychological Association report entitled 'Mental health and our changing environment' (2017) defines ecoanxiety as "a chronic fear of environmental doom". This is the chronic fear felt by a villager anticipating the destructive effects of a nearing cyclone, a farmer watching his animals die from drought and hunger, or the existential threat of the environmental crisis causing a young wife to question whether she should even consider bringing children into the world. Perhaps ecoanxiety is most clearly seen in the young Swedish climate activist, Greta Thunberg's recent message to the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting (Davos) where she addressed world leaders with these striking words:

"Adults keep saying we owe it to the young people, to give them hope," Thunberg said, "but I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is."

But we do have hope...

A Rocha South Africa exists because of the hope we have: a hope grounded in our shared faith and built upon the knowledge that our Creator God loves his earth more completely than we ever could. Our motivation flows from a faith conviction that compels us to be good stewards of the environment, not only because of the value we place in ecosystems, nor the great value we place in people, but primarily because we value our Creator who has called us to care for the earth and everything in it.

As you page through this annual report you will be introduced to people, projects and initiatives that have been born out of hope. Join us in celebrating an extraordinary year of hope-induced conservation in which A Rocha South Africa has participated in 2018 and perhaps consider what part you can play in A Rocha South Africa's continuing mandate to conservation and hope.

Murray Tessendorf

April 2019

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Conservation Science

Bird Ringing at Rondevlei Nature Reserve

A Rocha South Africa contributes to the work of the South African Bird Ringing Unit (SAFRING) through a bird ringing programme at Rondevlei Nature Reserve (Cape Town). By recording scientifically important data and permanently marking wild birds with metal rings, important information is gained on the population densities and movements of wild birds.

Over 9 ringing sessions at the Rondevlei site, 79 birds were ringed of which 12 had been previously captured. Previously captured birds included a Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*) of 10.5g that had first been caught and ringed four and a half years previously at the same site.

In addition to the important scientific data gathered, the site was also visited by approximately 70 visitors, including school groups, who were introduced to the importance of bird ringing as a tool of conservation.



Community Based Conservation

Kuils River Rehabilitation Project

The restoration of the Kuils River (Cape Town) is an ongoing A Rocha programme to rehabilitate a 16 hectare area along the length of the Kuils River. In partnership with volunteers from churches and schools in the vicinity of the river, routine litter cleanups are organised and vast quantities of garbage are removed from the watercourse. This project, having commenced in 2014 and now in its 5th year, must surely be the longest running multi-denominational community conservation project in South Africa.



Pathway Rehabilitation Project

In Pietermaritzburg, A Rocha South Africa has partnered with Ps. Sam Groves (Church on the Ridge) and Duzi Umngeni Conservation Trust (DUCT) to continue the rehabilitation of a green space that serves as a pedestrian pathway over the Msunduzi River and into the city's central business district.



The project, in its second year, seeks to eradicate the excessive piles of garbage and remove alien invasive vegetation to restore ecosystems and improve the safety of pedestrians using the pathway.



Ferncliffe Forest Restoration



In 2008, A Rocha South Africa was allocated a 2,4 hectare portion of clear felled exotic timber plantation in the Ferncliffe Nature Reserve (Pietermaritzburg) to restore back to its original mistbelt forest habitat. Originally setup for carbon sequestration, the area now resembles an indigenous forest and is home to an extraordinary variety of biodiversity. A Rocha continues restoration work on this land with a volunteer driven programme of alien invasive plant removal and indigenous tree planting. We continue to strive to make this area the most pristine portion of the Ferncliffe Reserve.



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International Coastal Cleanup

As part of A Rocha International's 'An Ocean of ~~plastic~~ Hope' project, A Rocha organisations in Australia, Netherlands, Portugal, New Zealand, Kenya, UK, USA and South Africa participated in the 2018 International Coastal Cleanup, on a total of 29 cleanup sites. A Rocha South Africa hosted or participated in 12 of these cleanups on beaches in the Western Cape and KZN and rivers in KZN and Gauteng. Data of removed rubbish is recorded and contributes to a national picture of coastal health.



Church and Community

Church in Creation

A Rocha South Africa facilitates a monthly Church in Creation held at various venues in the Cape Town vicinity. Church in Creation takes Christian worship out of a church building and into the 'cathedral of creation' where participants can reflect on the splendour of God as seen through His creation. Uniquely, this experience provides participants the opportunity to explore biblical faith concepts that relate to environmental stewardship.

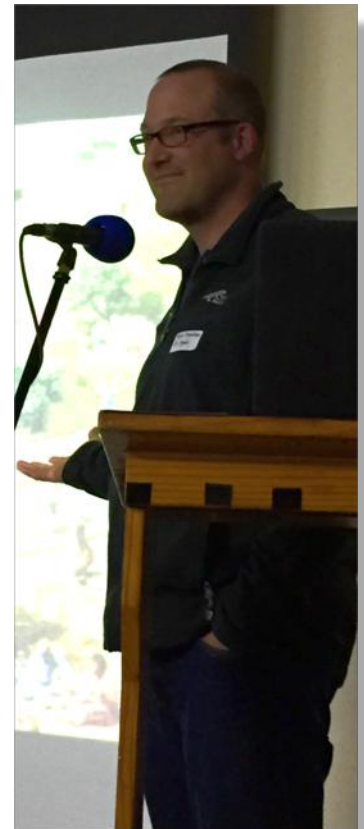


Sustainable Supper Evenings

The A Rocha Community groups linked to Rosebank Methodist and Rondebosch United churches (Cape Town) coordinate to host Sustainable Supper Evenings. The goal of these events is to educate participants on issues of sustainable food production and to fundraise for creation care projects.

Public Forum: Watershed Discipleship

In partnership with African Enterprise, a Rocha South Africa hosted a public forum on the topic, 'Watershed discipleship: another way to love your neighbour'. Guest speakers, Sue Viljoen and Peter Houston gave an audience of approximately 50 people insight into the conservation status and health of the catchment areas and rivers in KwaZulu Natal, and issues of water justice were discussed in relation to the second greatest command of loving your neighbour as yourself.



Engagement with Local Churches

During February 2018 the Theological Director of A Rocha International, Rev Dave Bookless, spoke at a number of churches in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, addressing topics relating to a Christian response to creation care. Approximately 350 people were challenged on this topic at these events.



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Creation Care and the Gospel Conference



Creation care is a “gospel issue within the Lordship of Christ” is the statement found in the Lausanne Movement’s Cape Town Commitment that was the rallying cry of the Southern African Regional Creation Care and the Gospel Conference. The Southern African Regional Conference was the 9th in a series of international conferences on the theme: Christ is Lord over all Creation.



The Southern African edition, held at the African Enterprise Centre in Pietermaritzburg during February 2018, was organised by A Rocha South Africa on behalf of the Lausanne Creation Care Network and the World Evangelical Alliance. The 95 Christian leaders attending from throughout Southern Africa and as far afield as Kenya and Nigeria were exposed to the theology of creation care and practical issues relating to environmental degradation, injustice and factors influencing climate change.



Exceptional international speakers including Ed Brown (Lausanne Creation Care Network), Dave Bookless (A Rocha International), Stephen Mbogo (African Enterprise), Seth Appiah-Kubi (A Rocha Ghana) and Ruth Valerio (TearFund), spoke of the hope that the church brings to creation that “waits in eager anticipation for the children of God to be revealed” (Rom 8:19). Field visits gave participants practical insight into aspects of urban conservation, reforestation and conservation agriculture.



Governance

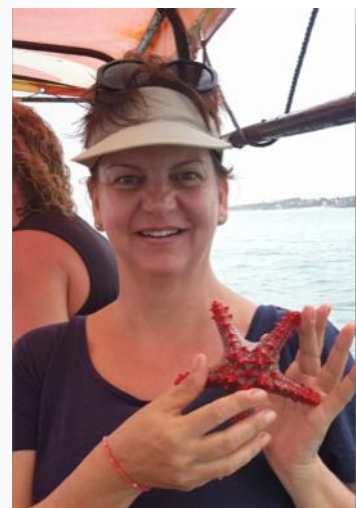
Meet the Board

A Rocha South Africa is overseen by a board of committed and hard working individuals who ensure the good governance of the organisation. The combined work of this team has seen a healthy increase in activity within the organisation during 2018.



Staff: Melanie Rood

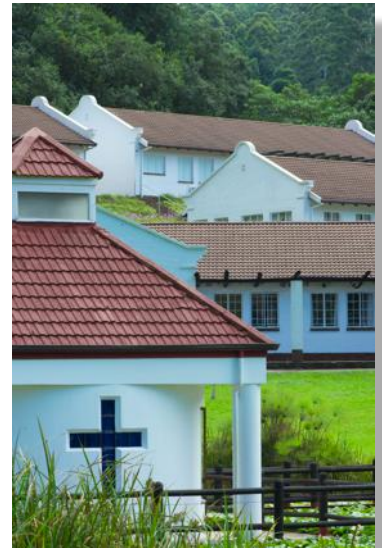
2018 saw the employment of Melanie Rood to an administration position within A Rocha South Africa. Melanie has a long association with A Rocha SA, having previously served on the national board and the regional action team in KwaZulu Natal. Melanie played an invaluable role on the organising team of the 2018 Creation Care and the Gospel Conference and following the success of this event, her skills have been enlisted to strengthen the administrative capacity of A Rocha SA.



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Enjoy our Premises

With the signing of a lease agreement with African Enterprise, A Rocha South Africa has office space and a new home at the African Enterprise Centre in Pietermaritzburg. In addition to working alongside the world class organisation that African Enterprise is, the site gives A Rocha SA access to useful conference and training facilities nestled between two beautiful streams, surrounded by forests and situated in the heart of the Maputo Pondoland Albany Biodiversity Hotspot. As such, we find our home strategically placed within a wonderful Christian environment and surrounded by incredible creation care opportunities.



Johannesburg Action Team



A Rocha South Africa has two established Action Teams in Cape Town (James Irlam) and KwaZulu Natal (Christine Ceunod) which organise activities in their respective regions. An exciting development during May 2018 saw the establishment of the Johannesburg A Rocha Action Team under the capable leadership of Kelly Taylor. Slowly but surely, an A Rocha presence is being birthed in Johannesburg with a number of successful activities having taken place in the region during the year.

A Rocha Strategic Planning

A very successful strategy planning workshop was held towards the end of 2018 which has resulted in a very focused, stretching but achievable plan of action for the next five years. Facilitated by Shari Cade, the strategic planning session has set the organisation solidly on a trajectory to be a national Christian organisation which equips, motivates and mobilises people to care for God's creation, through theology, education, research and projects.



In Memorium

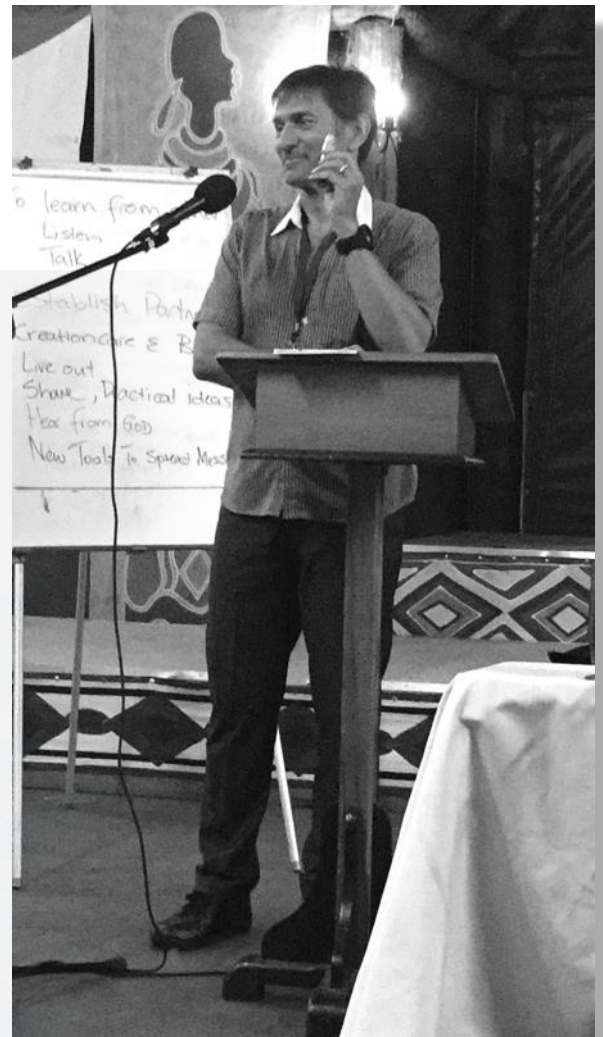
Myles Sinclair 13 October 1960 - 16 December 2018

2018 ended with the A Rocha South Africa family mourning the sudden and unexpected death of Myles Sinclair, who died of a medical condition whilst at home. Myles was a much loved and respected friend of A Rocha. He served on the national board in the capacity of treasurer between 2010 and 2016. Myles was a part of a small team that held the national organisation together during its most difficult years, steered the organisation on to a healthy financial footing, and encouraged and developed new leadership to continue A Rocha's work in South Africa.

Myles' love for his Creator compelled him in obedience to care for God's creation, something he became increasingly passionate about. His desire was that Christians would come to understand the biblical mandate motivating them to care for creation and, whether in conversation over a cup of coffee or in the compilation of literature, he invested a great amount of time in this task.

Myles has been an important part of the A Rocha family, greatly loved by many in A Rocha South Africa and highly respected by his compatriots in A Rocha International. Those who enjoyed conversation with him over a cup of his famous coffee benefited from his great wisdom, challenging perspective and deep love for Jesus. We are extremely grateful to have had Myles as part of the A Rocha family. We will miss him.

Our love and prayers go out to Myles' wife Nikki and his children, Kyle, Ian and Kirsty. We pray that they would continue to know the comfort of He who now holds Myles securely and tenderly in Glory.



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A Rocha International

A Rocha South Africa is privileged to be a part of the A Rocha International family. As such we work alongside 20 national A Rocha organisations, sharing common values and commitments to care for creation. A Rocha International directly assists our South African organisation through continued guidance from Sarah French (Director of Operations) who participates in board meetings from Switzerland via Skype. We are most grateful for her continued support.



Environmental Education Conference: Watamu, Kenya



The A Rocha Africa Region Environmental Education Conference was held during March 2018 at the A Rocha Kenya's Mwamba Field Study Centre. Murray Tessendorf of A Rocha SA joined delegates from A Rocha Ghana, Uganda and Kenya to share insight and experience relating to each country's environmental education programmes. The opportunity also afforded valuable training in such topics as the use of the Sustainable Development Goals, the A Rocha Micro-plastics Toolbox, sustainable vegetable gardening techniques and other useful topics. Thank you to David and Angela McKay (A Rocha UK) and Sarah French (A Rocha International) for affording us this opportunity.

A Rocha Partners Forum: Portugal

During June 2018, Carl Swart and Murray Tessendorf represented A Rocha South Africa at the A Rocha International Forum in Portugal. In addition to developing a more robust system of governance to ensure the growth of A Rocha globally, the opportunity also presented an enriching occasion to glean valuable insight into the creation care initiatives unique to the various A Rocha organisations around the world and to delve deeper into the theology of creation care.



A Rocha South Africa

Financial Trustee report for the year ended 31 December 2018

I Revenues

The A Rocha SA revenue of R 195,489, before interest, for the year is down by 32% from the previous year (R 286,979). The sources are:

	2018	2017
Donations (Admin. and Membership)	R 50 400	R143 235
Creation Care Conference	R 139 969	R 138 574
Conservation Science	R 2 900	R 4 200
Sales & Programs	R 2 220	R 970
Interest income	<u>R 31 956</u>	<u>R 30 754</u>
Total income	<u>R 227 446</u>	<u>R 317 733</u>

II Operating Expenses

The expenses for the year of R 444 934 is 570% higher than the R 78,401 of the previous year. Even if the expense of the Creation Care and the Gospel conference is excluded the expense is still 220% higher than in 2017.

	2018	2017
Admin. & Governance	R 173 291	R 72 603
Creation Care Conference	R 269 934	
Conservation Science	R1 260	R 3 780
Sales & Programs	<u>R 449</u>	<u>R 2 018</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>R 444 934</u>	<u>R 78 401</u>
Nett (loss) / profit for the year	(R 217 489)	R 239 332

The loss for the year amounted to (R 217 489). This decreased our retained income to R 520 296. Our cash and cash equivalents amounted to R 513 308 (2017 - R 632,999).

III Creation Care and the Gospel conference

The Creation Care and the Gospel conference that A Rocha arranged on behalf of the Lausanne Creation Care Network generated a profit of R8 600.

IV Recommendation

The A Rocha SA activities in the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng are run by volunteers.

The board needs to raise significant funds in the near future to ensure the sustainability of the organization. The donor mix should include individuals, churches, trusts and corporates.

You, Lord, are all I have, and you give me all I need; my future is in your hands. How wonderful are your gifts to me; how good they are! Ps. 16:5, 6

CJ Swart

30 April 2019

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<https://web.facebook.com/ARochaSA/>



<http://www.instagram.com/arochasa/>



A Rocha South Africa

NPO Number: 038-193

PBO Number: 930020406

Bank Detail

A Rocha South Africa

Nedbank

Br Code. 134025 (Hayfields)

Acc no. 1340 528 916



SOUTH AFRICA
ROCHA
Conservation and Hope