



The environmental charity, A Rocha, is St Michael's March charity. A Rocha is an international Christian organisation founded in the UK, but with a Portuguese title. It was named after a field station set up in the

Algarve in the late 1980s. A Rocha says that it is an 'international conservation organization working to show God's love for all creation'.

The work of the field station attracted attention internationally and became firmly established in the late 1980s. In the 1990s the charity received requests from elsewhere to set up Christian nature-conservation projects. At the beginning of the 21st century, A Rocha found itself preserving wetlands in Portugal and the Lebanon, working in a Kenyan forest, teaching in France, the UK and Canada. By 2014, A Rocha was involved with 19 organisation working throughout the world.

A Rocha believes that 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,' (Psalm 24:1) and helps communities with ecological schemes around the world – whether or not they share the Christian faith. It believes that



Learning to farm snails in Uganda. The snails are used to protect local mangroves. This skill will provide a sustainable livelihood.

we must understand the environment better and live in ways that enable wildlife to flourish.

A Rocha involves itself in problems such as how we are to feed the world in the future. Presently, world population is about 7.3 billion; the UN estimates that world population will reach 9.7 billion by 2050. A Rocha and other environmental organisations say that we eat too much red meat, which uses far too much of the earth's resources to produce. It says that we must reduce our consumption by 50 per cent.

A large part of A Rocha's work is in education. An environmental education programme is being developed for use by local schools. A Rocha Ghana works to establish woodlands in the grounds of 15 schools around Kumasi.

To read more about A Rocha's work, search for: 'A Rocha International'.