

A Rocha UK - Climate Emergency Declaration

At A Rocha UK we are committed to nature conservation in a time of climate and biodiversity crisis. We believe that Christians and the Church have significant assets with which to act themselves, and a potentially powerful voice to call for bold action, to safeguard our common home. We believe that we are stronger when we act and speak together and so, in that spirit, we now add our voice to all those local churches, denominations, businesses, and organisations who have formally declared a climate emergency.

We declare that:

- We are in a climate emergency. The science, and increasingly the evidence of our own lived experience, is clear that the world must cut greenhouse gas emissions with extreme urgency, to retain any prospect of keeping climate change at levels that avoid widespread catastrophe.
- The climate crisis is profoundly unjust, with the most devastating impacts often hitting communities who have done the least to cause the crisis and have the least means of protecting themselves or repairing the damage. It is also unjust to non-human creation, destroying wildlife habitat and food sources in a way that is adding to the decline in many species' abundance and accelerating extinction rates.
- The climate and biodiversity crises are inextricably linked, cannot be addressed in isolation, and require joined up action. Restoring our natural carbon sinks will contribute to the fight against climate change in the medium term. However it is vital to do this in conjunction with cutting fossil fuels and reducing emissions.
- We believe that God created the world and everything in it (Psalm 24:3-4), and that as Christians we have a biblical mandate to love our neighbours and to care for creation.
- Therefore, we call on individuals, churches, land managers, and governments to act on both issues by cutting emissions, and protecting and restoring nature.
- We further call on governments to urgently support those most climate vulnerable communities, our neighbours both locally and globally.

Through our work, we commit to pursuing the following goals (to be delivered by the end of 2026):

At least 75,000 acres of land owned by UK Churches, Christians organisations and individuals managed for nature.

1. At least 25% of churches in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland engaged in deliberate and on-going action to care for nature practically on church premises, in the community and by using their voice.
2. At least 50,000 individual Christians routinely caring for nature through their practical actions at home, in the community and by using their voice.
3. At least 500 emerging or established Christian environmental leaders equipped and supported to achieve faster action to protect nature within their own spheres of influence.
4. We also commit to a process of continued improvement that will pass through the equivalent of at least Eco Church Silver standard for our organisational practices by the end of 2023.

Further reading:

- On our work: A Rocha UK Environmental Policy framework. *[to be linked when online]*
- On nature and climate: [A Rocha worldwide position on Nature-based solutions to the climate crisis.](#)
- Root and Branch (forthcoming) Autumn 2022 on the Church action on the Environment.
- Root and Branch Spring 2020 on [Nature and Climate](#).
- Root and Branch Spring 2019 on [Nature and the Church](#).