



## Updates and Horizons

December 2022



**A report from our mission partner  
Reverend Dr Dave Bookless,  
Director of Theology, A Rocha  
International, Lausanne Global Catalyst for  
Creation Care**

I didn't attend COP27 myself, but of course I was keeping a close eye on developments there, and via the Christian Climate Observers Program (<http://www.copclimate.org/>), which A Rocha is involved in, we had a presence there. We're actually focussing far more on the 'other COP', which is [COP15](#), looking at biodiversity, which runs from 7<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> December in Montreal, Canada.

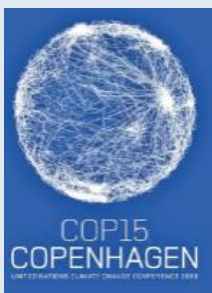
In terms of COP27, this was always going to be a transitional COP (conference of parties) after COP26 in Glasgow ratified the Paris agreement to keep global average temperature rise below 1.5C. Former UNFCCC (UN Climate Change Conference) Director, Christiana Figueres, said "The whole purpose of these yearly meetings. . . is actually to move from negotiation to implementation, and that is what this COP has **not** substantially delivered."

The one achievement, agreed after all-night negotiations, was to have a global fund for 'Loss and Damage', in other words to help countries worst affected by climate change but which have done least to cause it. However, there was no agreement reached about how much, who should pay, or who should benefit!

In other areas it was pretty bleak. 636 fossil fuel lobbyists were granted access, more than any national delegation except the UAE (itself a fossil fuelled state and host to next year's COP). The wording did not agree to phase out oil ... only to phase down, and actually talked up gas as a 'transitional' fuel.

So, we need to pray harder, particular about the demonic principalities and powers at work in muddying the science, bribing or bullying the decision-makers, and causing the deaths of untold numbers of people and animals.

In terms of COP15, there's an excellent [Guardian article](#) to summarise the issues. A Rocha will be well-represented, headed by our Canadian team and our International Operations Director, Sarah French, and with other A Rocha staff present from Ghana, Peru and India. We have a [webpage](#) talking about it and about those from A Rocha who will be there. We also have a good and clear statement ([A Rocha Policy Statement CPD COP15](#)) outlining our position on how to tackle biodiversity loss, climate change and global injustice together.



**More about COP15 as described by A Rocha.** Within our lifetimes, loss of species and habitats will have profound, potentially catastrophic impact on our ability to produce food and supply water. COP15, the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, takes place in December in Montreal, Canada. It will be attended by government representatives of 200 nations. The primary aim is to address the ongoing loss of biodiversity globally by agreeing a goal to halt its decline and start to restore nature by 2030. This would include committing to protecting 30% of land and sea for nature.

Nature loss is not just overseas. It is already severe in the UK; wildlife and habitats face multiple new threats including the removal or watering down of core environmental legislation, a failure to maintain and develop ecological subsidies for farmers (the Environmental Land Management Scheme), and the potential removal of incentives for property builders to consider biodiversity (the 'net gain' policy).

Globally, the abundance of all wildlife has declined by an average of 68% since 1970. According to the WWF Living Planet Report, not only are we losing a multitude of species on a daily basis, but, in some areas, entire ecosystems are at risk of being completely destroyed in the next 30-50 years. That means an end to glacial and polar ecosystems, the entire and permanent collapse of the Arctic ice sheet, and the collapse of our ocean systems as waters heat up and currents change, affecting ocean life. At the present rate of deforestation, all remaining rainforest biomes will be lost. The Amazon is already becoming a net emitter of carbon dioxide due to illegal burning.

Against this truly alarming global picture, COP15, much like COP27, must attempt the seemingly impossible. It must agree a rapid action plan to stop the decline of, and start restoring biodiversity by 2030. To be in any way credible, this needs to go beyond agreeing high level goals to agree time-bound targets and ways of keeping countries to them, such as a commitment to embed them in national laws. It must also agree on funding, particularly to help economically poorer countries protect the habitats we all increasingly depend on.

We need to be praying and urging our own government to back an ambitious and comprehensive agreement, with legally binding targets and funding. A good campaign where you can make your voice count is the RSPB's Urgent Conversation. This advises the public to sign a petition asking our own government to be ambitious for the outcomes at COP15 and to follow through at home. You can add your name [here](#).



### News from Peru – President impeached and Imprisoned

On 7<sup>th</sup> December, we received the following from our mission partners Penny and Juan Carlos Marcés:

“Pray for Peru. Just had a coup. President has JUST gone to Mexico embassy for refuge. He closed congress and then ALL his ministers resigned. Plus his lawyer. So he has run away...”

On 17<sup>th</sup> December, Juan Carlos sent us these prayer requests which reflect their current situation in Lima:



Peru has a female president for the first time, after ex-president Pedro Castillo was impeached on 7th December. Dina Boluarte, the former vice-president, was sworn in after Castillo was detained and accused of rebellion. He is currently in prison. Please pray for stability in the country and for wisdom and vision for those in positions of power and influence and especially for Penny and Juan-Carlos as they continue to do God's work.



There is currently no leadership at the Anglican Cathedral of the Good Shepherd in Lima where Juan Carlos officiates. The previous rector has stood down and we are asked to pray that God will raise up new leadership for the cathedral, especially with regards the English-speaking congregation.



Given the above, it has fallen to Penny and Juan Carlos to take on the extra workload at the cathedral in addition to running their local church of Jesus of Nazareth. This is especially challenging for Penny, and we are asked to pray that she will have the energy and support to continue this important work at what is a difficult time for Peru. For more details, see [Marcés Mailing December 2022](#).





This funding allows our mission partners to continuing with their amazing work in God's wonderful world, Click on the name of any of our partners in the blue box below for more details about them.

We are delighted that the following amounts will be sent from the St Paul's outward giving budget during 2023

Juan Carlos and Penny Marcés	£4,600
Centre de la Réconciliation, Lille	£4,600
New Hope Children's Centre, Kenya	£4,600
Oasis Mumbai	£4,600
Open Doors, Syria	£4,600
Stuart and Jenny O	£3,450
A Rocha (Dave Bookless)*	£2,300

\*With Kim and Kailean having left A Rocha, discussion is ongoing about continuing funding for Wolf Fields



**Great Lakes Outreach** (GLO) is an exciting charity which was formed when Simon Guillebaud felt a very clear call from God to Burundi, which was at that time regarded as the most dangerous country on earth. He set off with his savings of \$300. After 7 years, having survived civil war and genocide, Simon set up GLO with the vision of transforming Burundi and beyond through holistic mission, working with gifted local leaders of integrity to share God's love and Word and give practical support to those in need.



Simon married his wife Lizzie in the early 2000s and they and their three children lived in Burundi until 2018, when they returned for their children's education. Simon is still heavily involved in GLO as International **Director**. Today the National Director in Burundi is Bosco Mutebutsi. GLO has seen its work lead thousands of people to a living faith in our amazing God in spite of the impoverished conditions in which many of them live.

We will bring more details of the work of Great Lakes Outreach in future additions of Updates and Horizons but in summary they aim to:-

- Provide financial, logistical and advisory assistance.
- Encourage evangelism and discipleship through churches and schools, providing printing and teaching materials.
- Fight AIDS.
- Help street children and orphans.
- Encourage an informed dialogue between different ethnic and religious groups.



**SIMON GUILLEBAUD AND BOSCO MUTEBUTSI**



The work of GLO makes inspiring reading and is a real encouragement that God is at work today. We should be inspired to expect Him to do great things in our own lives and of those we love and to be encouraged to be bold in our faith because 'He is able'.

Burundi gained independence 60 years ago in 1962 and is the poorest country in the world with 87% of the population living below the World Bank's poverty measure of \$1.90 per day.

You can read much more by reading the GLO webpages.

[Great Lakes Outreach.](#)

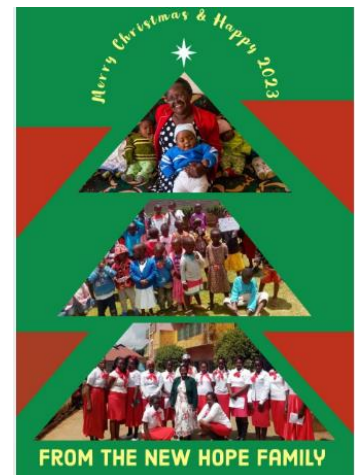
The World Church team are looking at ways to support GLO in the future.



Those of you who visited Kisumu, Kenya, in 2008, will recognise Joshua Opono and his wife Asha. Asha has just qualified as a nurse, and is pictured here in her graduation robe. On her knee is their new baby boy.

And we bring you another card from New Hope Children's Centre.

We wish them all well, and to all our mission partners and you, the church family, a wonderful Christmas and peaceful and blessed New Year.



For information about any of the above, please contact **St Paul's World Church Team:** Carlton Beasley, Annabel Blanch, Sally Hulbert, Jonathan Papworth, Elizabeth Shaw and Sue Swain-Fossey [worldchurch@stpaulsdorking.org.uk](mailto:worldchurch@stpaulsdorking.org.uk) More information about our Mission Partners: [Dave Bookless A Rocha](#), [Centre de la Réconciliation - Lille](#); [New Hope Children's Centre - Kenya](#); [Jenny and Stuart O; Oasis, Mumbai - India](#); [Open Doors - Syria](#); [Penny and Juan Carlos Marcés - Peru](#)