

INDIA
A ROCHA
Conservation and Hope



Urgent appeal for funds to buy land

AUGUST 2020

A Rocha is a Christian organization which, inspired by God's love, engages in scientific research, community-based conservation projects, environmental education and theological training. Our first initiative was a field study centre in Portugal, so our name is Portuguese and means 'The Rock.' We now work in 21 countries over six continents.

A Rocha in India

Bannerghatta National Park lies just outside Bangalore, India's third largest city. The park provides critical habitat for people and nature, including Asian Elephants, Tigers, Leopards and other endangered plants and animals. Yet the sprawling growth of the city has led to increasing conflict between humans and wildlife. A Rocha India has been working here since 2004, engaging communities in the conservation of the park through environmental education, outreach, citizen science and hands-on projects.

Achievements

- Our elephant proof barrier along the 285 km perimeter of Bannerghatta National Park and our recommendations for managing these fences has reduced crop damage in villages by 50%.
- We have discovered several rare and threatened species never before recorded in the park, including the Honey Badger, Tiger, Four-horned Antelope and Ruddy Mongoose.
- In 2019, our environmental education programmes reached over 900 students.
- We have published the first ever field guide to the mammals of Bannerghatta.



Our centre

A Rocha India's staff have been feeding over 900 locals struggling to survive during the COVID-19 pandemic, despite having no income from normal activities since lockdown was imposed in March.



All our activities from research, environmental education, training, eco-tourism and practical conservation are carried out from a centre which we have rented on a monthly basis since September 2015.

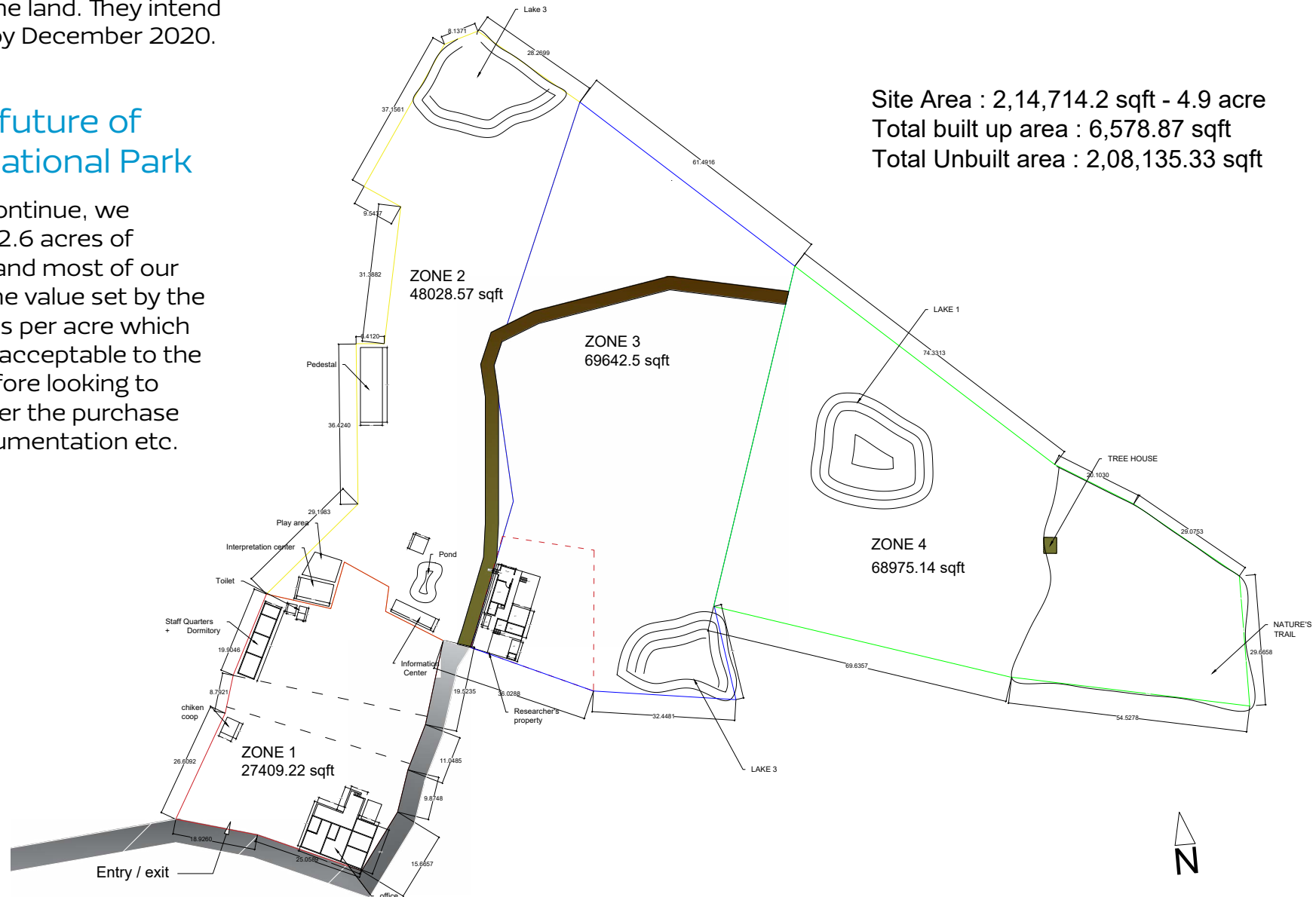
The property also includes a man-made lake used to supply water to the centre and surrounding villages. There are three little cottages on the land where our staff live, and a 700-sapling plantation planted by volunteers from Dell.

Our need

Due to COVID-19, the family that owns the centre and the 4.9 acres on which it sits, need to sell some of the land. They intend to complete the sale by December 2020.

Investing in the future of Bannerghatta National Park

For our vital work to continue, we need to purchase the 2.6 acres of land where our office and most of our activities are based. The value set by the government is 60 lakhs per acre which we are hopeful will be acceptable to the landlord. We are therefore looking to raise £174,286 to cover the purchase price plus all legal documentation etc.





Thank you

We are grateful for your interest in our difficult situation and would be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Please contact sarah.french@arocha.org for more information.



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