

Challenges in Community-based Conservation

A sunset over the ocean with silhouettes of people fishing on a beach. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and red clouds, transitioning to a darker blue at the top. The ocean is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of four people are visible on the beach, some holding fishing rods. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

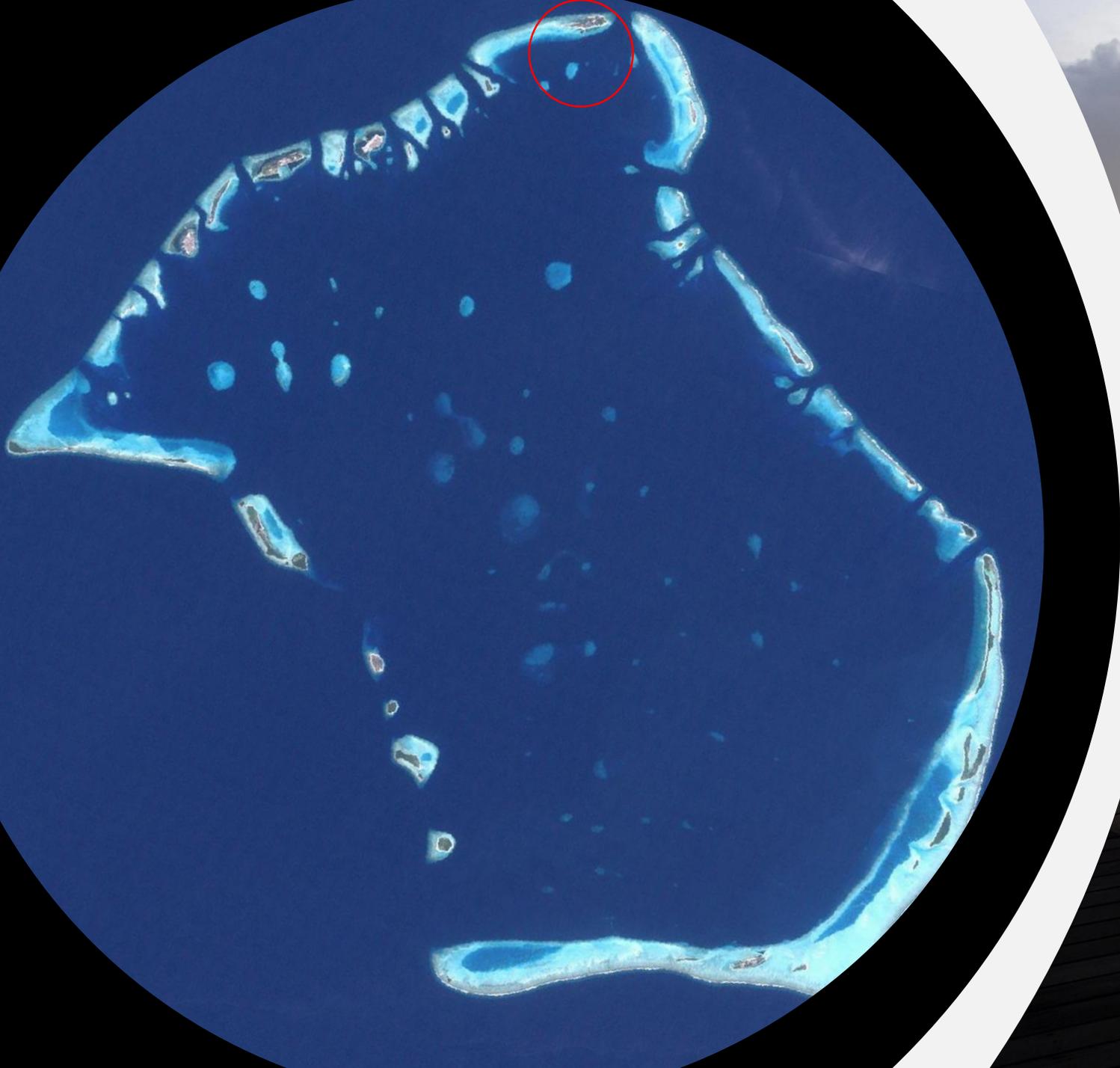
Cara Parrett

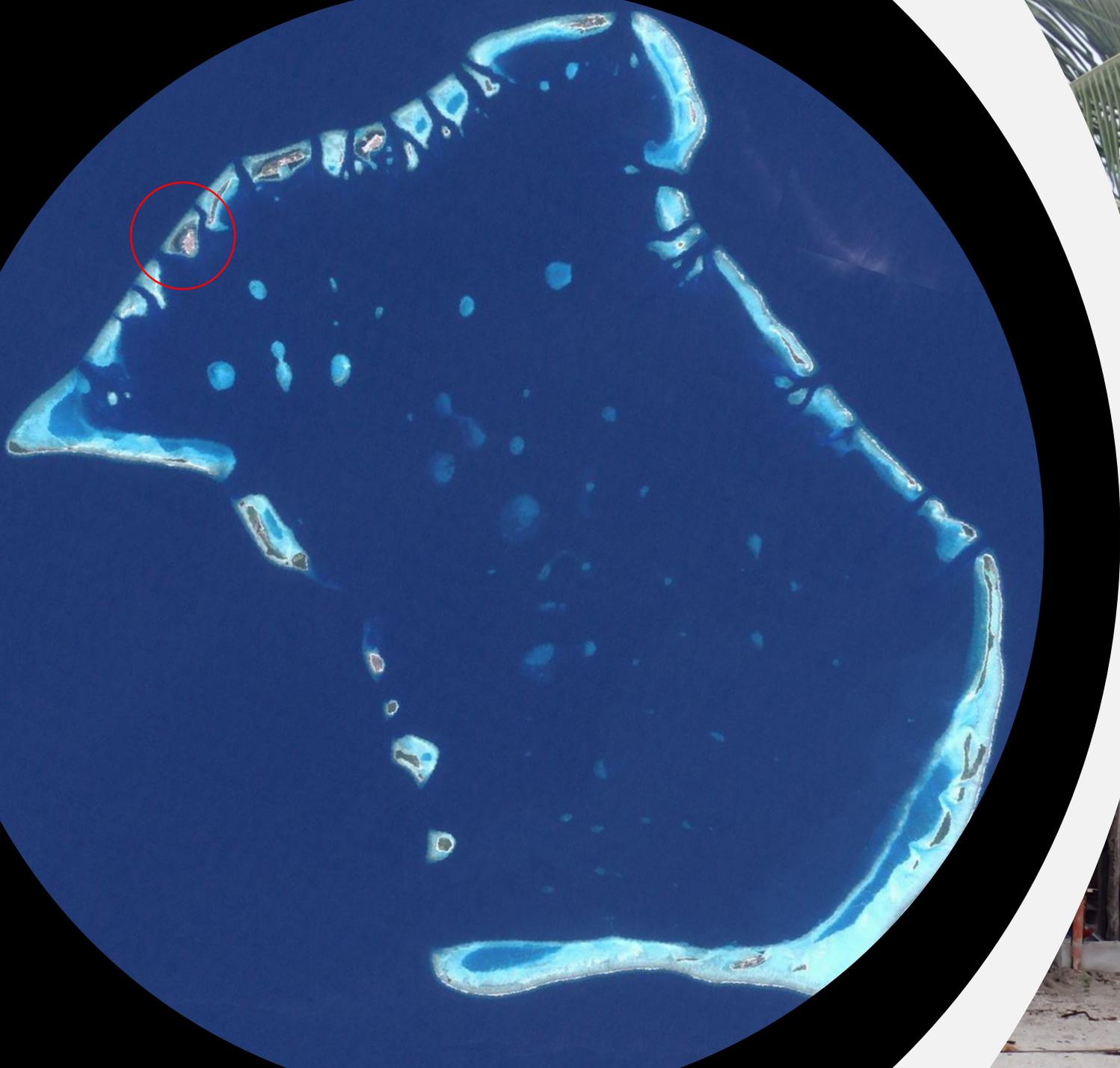


US Dept of State Geographer
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
© 2018 Google























For example:
Is this work worthwhile?

Questions of **MOTIVATION**

How do you approach, respect and educate a culture so different to your own?

Do you have a right to do so?

How do you make people care?

Questions of **GUIDANCE**

How to keep going...

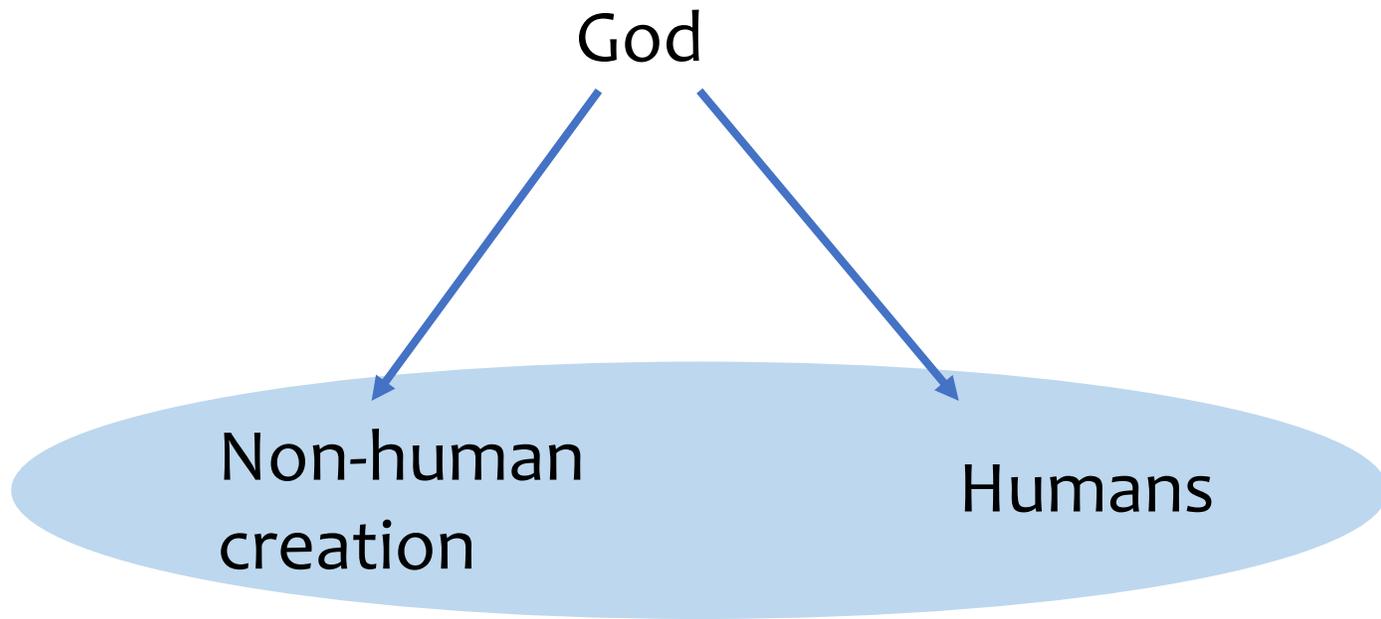
Questions of **HOPE & ENDURANCE**

MOTIVATION



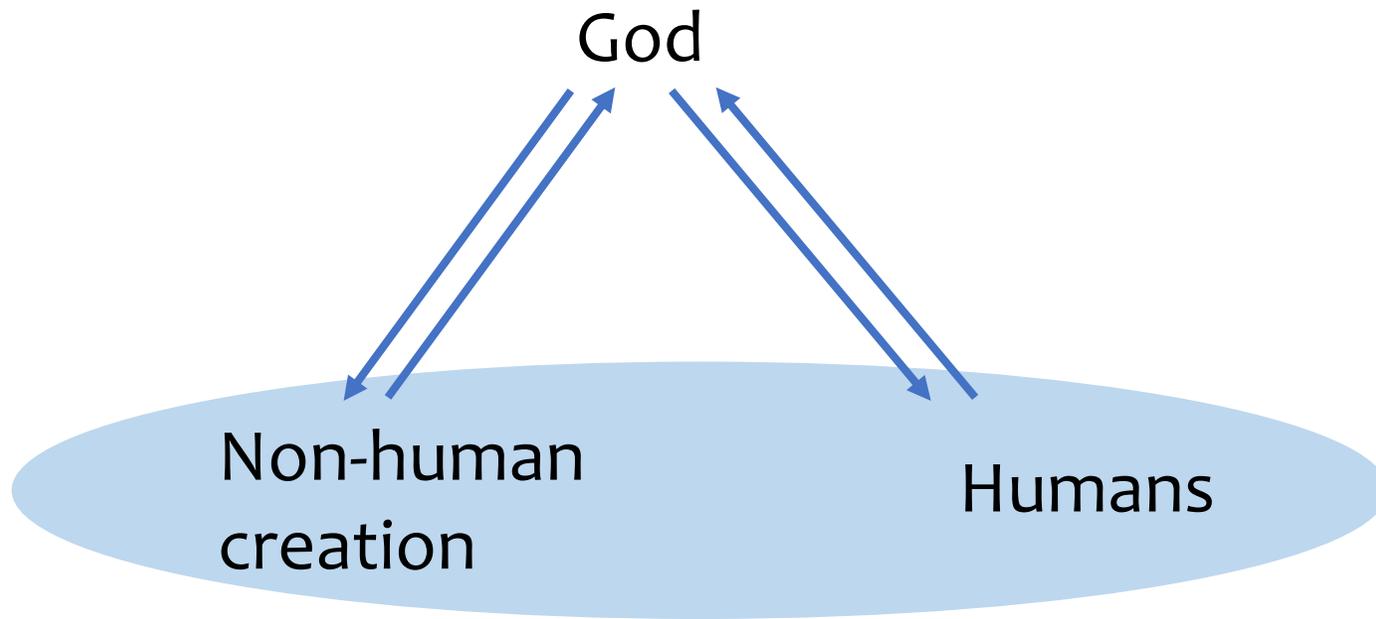
MOTIVATION

- God values Creation



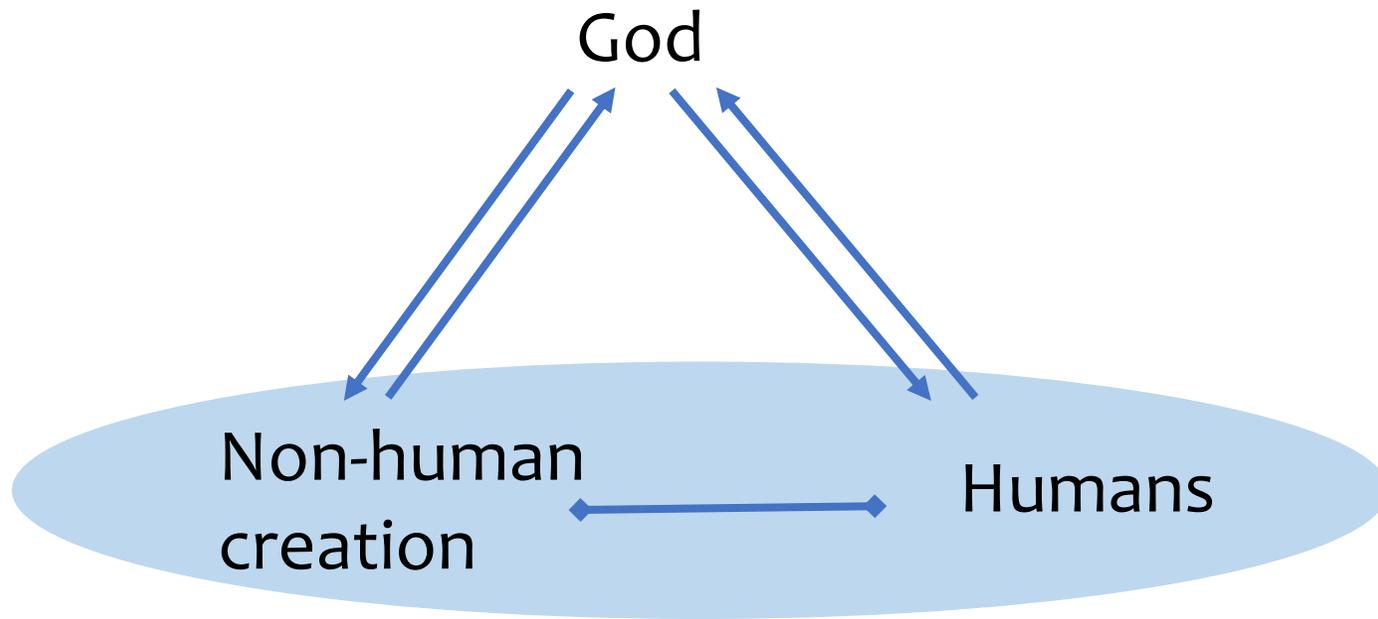
MOTIVATION

- God values Creation
- Creation praises God



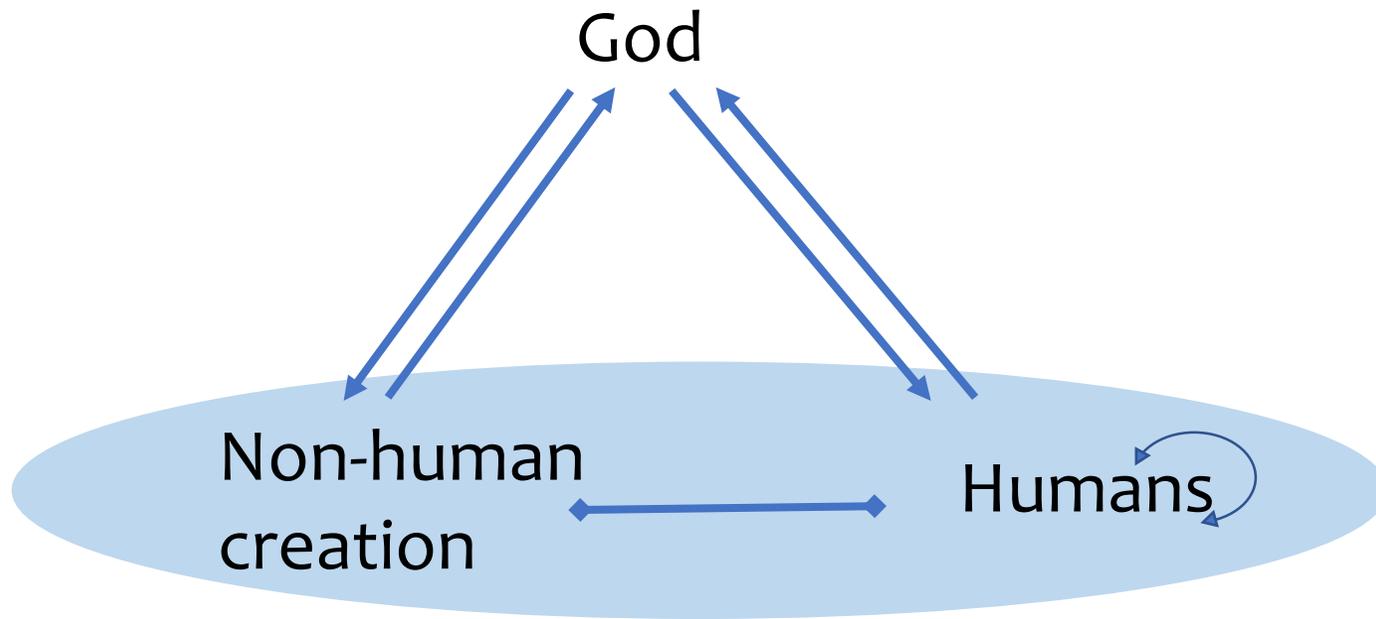
MOTIVATION

- God values Creation
- Creation praises God
- The Bible commands stewardship



MOTIVATION

- God values Creation
- Creation praises God
- The Bible commands stewardship
- Desire to relieve suffering





GUIDANCE



GUIDANCE

- Established way of life



GUIDANCE

- Established way of life
- Some environmental complacency



GUIDANCE

- Established way of life
- Some environmental complacency
- Law enforcement



GUIDANCE

- Established way of life
- Some environmental complacency
- Law enforcement
- Different priorities



GUIDANCE

- Established way of life
- Some environmental complacency
- Law enforcement
- Different priorities
- Cultural norms

GUIDANCE

- Established way of life
- Some environmental complacency
- Law enforcement
- Different priorities
- Cultural norms





GUIDANCE

- Integration



GUIDANCE

- Integration
- Education



GUIDANCE

- Integration
- Learning & building understanding
- Education



GUIDANCE

- Integration
- Learning & building understanding
- Education
- Action



GUIDANCE

- Integration
- Learning & building understanding
- Education
- Action
- Perseverance

“The solution to the ecological crisis we face is a *transformation in human values.*”

Dr Douglas Moo,

Creation in Crisis, ed.

Robert S. White (2009), 241

GUIDANCE

- Integration
- Learning & building understanding
- Education
- Action
- Perseverance



“In a way, you are evangelists too! You have a message you believe is important, knowledge you believe should change how people live, and you face obstacles as you try and help the people you are approaching.”

Dr Bob Sluka
Lead scientist, Marine
Programme, A Rocha

GUIDANCE

- Integration
- Learning & building understanding
- Education
- Action
- Perseverance



GUIDANCE

- Integration
- Understanding
- Education
- Action
- Perseverance



“Jesus’ own disciple-making pattern was to be intimately involved with others and allow life to rub against life.”

Greg Ogden
Discipleship Essentials

GUIDANCE

- Integration
- Understanding
- Education
- Action
- Perseverance

Humility



Therefore, as Christians, "we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet he did not sin."

Hebrews 4 v15

GUIDANCE

- Integration
- **Understanding**
- Education
- Action
- Perseverance

Humility
Empathy



“When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd and he felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.”

Mark 6:34

GUIDANCE

- Integration
- Understanding
- **Education**
- Action
- Perseverance

Humility
Empathy
Compassion



“For even the son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:45

GUIDANCE

- Integration
- Understanding
- Education
- **Action**
- Perseverance

Humility
Empathy
Compassion
Service



Feeling sorrowful and troubled before his crucifixion, Jesus prayed. “Abba, Father,” ... “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Mark 14 v33, 34a, 36

GUIDANCE

- Integration
- Understanding
- Education
- Action
- **Perseverance**

Humility
Empathy
Compassion
Service
Faithfulness

HOPE & ENDURANCE



Emotions

An underwater photograph showing a coral reef. In the foreground, there is a large, healthy-looking coral colony. The water is clear and blue. Several small fish, including a prominent black and white striped clownfish, are swimming around the coral. The background shows more coral and a sandy seabed. The image is partially obscured by a white, torn-paper-like border on the right side.

- Anxiety
- Frustration
- Deep Personal Loss
- Powerlessness



[Link to pastoral ministry](#)

“I believe that caring for God's creation is one aspect of Christian ministry. But is it any different from any other Christian ministry in terms of the sadness, pains, and apparent failure that often accompanies it? Isn't this part of what it means to be a disciple in this fallen world?”

Simon Stuart

Strategic Conservation Director,
Synchronicity Earth



[Link to pastoral ministry](#)

We “found that there are echoes of the character of **pastoral work** with that of a Christian in conservation.

For example, in pastoral work you are sometimes called simply to sit at the bedside of a dying friend.”

Peter & Miranda Harris

Founders,
A Rocha



Ministry not just a task –
it is born of a relationship

Christians "are not adhering to a system of thought but clinging to a relationship".

A Christian's relationship with God means "there is someone to whom I can take those things that cause me anxiety, despair, and bereavement."

Jeremy Lindsell

Director of science and conservation,
A Rocha



Ministry not just a task –
it is born of a relationship

"We have tried to find ways to persist in good work against a tide of rising destruction... we have to find those ways from the heart of our relationship with a loving God."

Peter & Miranda Harris
Founders, A Rocha



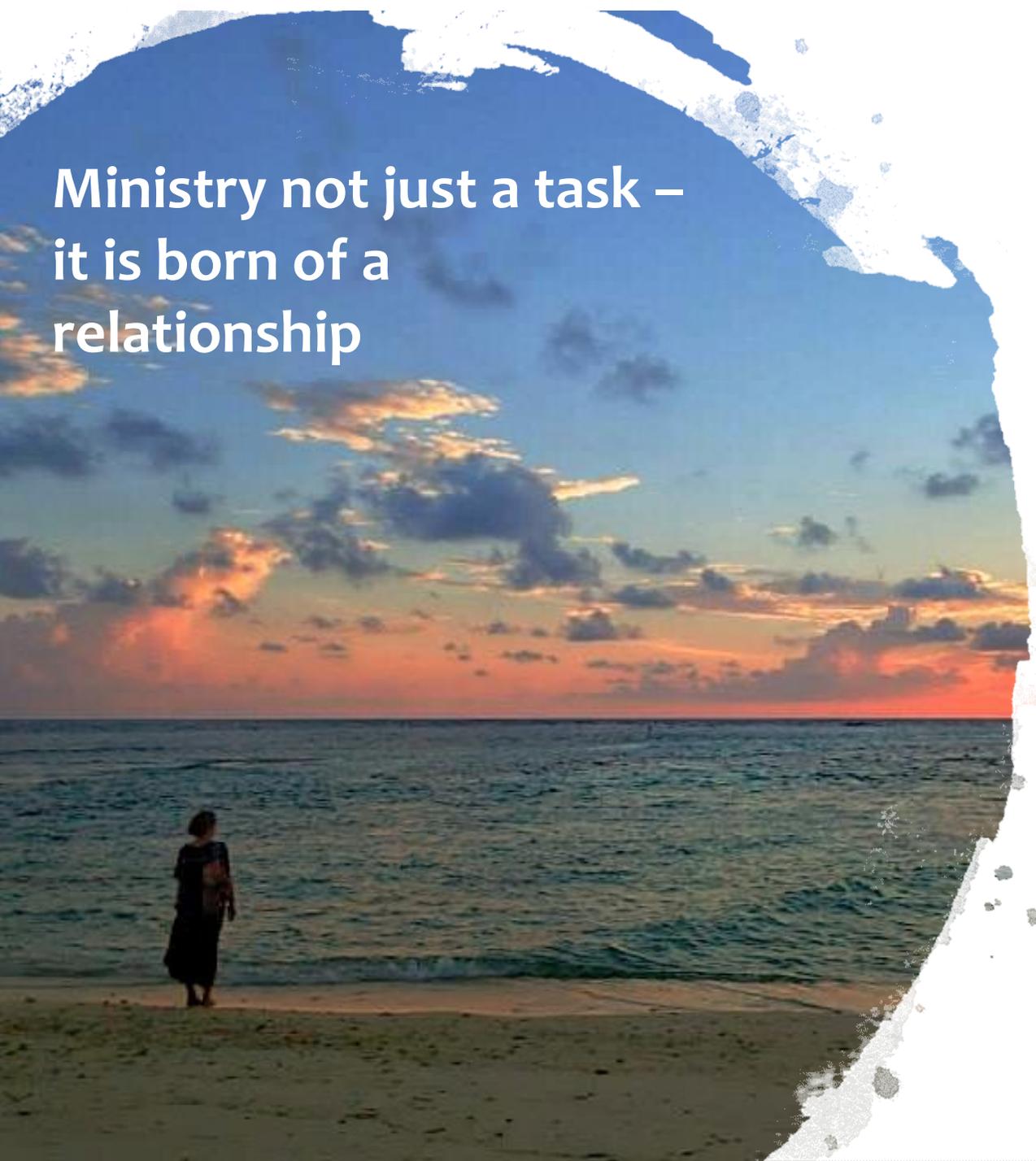
Ministry not just a task –
it is born of a relationship

“In the Bible we have a long record of people clinging to their relationship with God through hard times. There are resources of lament and even outrage in many scriptures that give language to those feelings...”

Peter & Miranda Harris

Founders

A Rocha



Ministry not just a task –
it is born of a
relationship

“... However they establish a trajectory of final hope for creation that rests not in our efforts, but in God’s willingness and commitment to redemption and salvation.

Peter & Miranda Harris
Founders, A Rocha



Foundations for hope - God's character

- Broken relationship with creation – sign of the fall
- God's salvation plan to reverse fall – Jesus
- Ultimate redeeming solution not in our hands
- Cooperate in God's redeeming work

Paraphrased from **Jeremy Lindsell**
Director of science and
conservation,
A Rocha

Foundations for **action** -
God's character



“It may be the case that the day of judgement will dawn tomorrow; in that case, we shall gladly stop working for a better future.

But not before.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer,

Letters and Papers from Prison, ed.

E. Bethge (1953), 16-17

Foundations for **action** -
God's character



There is ‘no more reason for Christians to give up caring appropriately for the earth than there is for them to give up praying, pursuing virtue, proclaiming the gospel, or helping the poor...’

Dr Jonathan Moo,

Creation in Crisis, ed.
Robert S. White (2009), 261

Foundations for **action** -
God's character



“... all such activity finds its ultimate fulfilment in the complete realization of the new creation, but its value and importance in the present is not thereby diminished...

It is in fact the future hope reaching back into the present that lends all work done ‘in the Lord’ its true weight and significance.”

Dr Jonathan Moo,

Creation in Crisis, ed.
Robert S. White (2009), 261

Foundations for **action** -
God's character



"Those who are in Christ are expected to bear witness by their lives and their actions to God's in-breaking kingdom, trusting that God's faithfulness to his creatures and to his creation means that their labour will not be in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58



Biblical motivation ○ Evangelistic guidance ○ Pastoral hope

An underwater photograph showing a coral reef. In the foreground, there is a large, branching coral structure. Several small, striped fish (likely clownfish) are swimming around it. The water is clear and blue. The image is partially obscured by a white, torn-paper-like border on the right side.

Emotions - lament

“even Jesus wept over
Jerusalem.
Sometimes you need to
grieve. Even, perhaps,
lament.

Dr Bob Sluka

Lead scientist,
Marine Programme,
A Rocha



Ministry not just a task –
it is born of a relationship

"It is okay to cry out to God
for help"

Simon Stuart

Strategic Conservation Director,
Synchronicity Earth

Foundations for **action** -
God's character



“When Jesus talked about the coming of the Son of Man ‘like a thief’... he immediately followed this with parables about the responsibilities incumbent upon servants who are awaiting their master’s return.”

Dr Jonathan Moo,

Creation in Crisis, ed.
Robert S. White (2009), 268

Foundations for **action** -
God's character



“... In Paul’s view, it is in fact the future hope reaching back into the present that lends all work done ‘in the Lord’ its true weight and significance.”

Dr Jonathan Moo,

Creation in Crisis, ed.
Robert S. White (2009), 261

Foundations for **action** -
God's character



"CS Lewis in the Great Divorce points to the idea that even the weakest of things on earth can be transformed and multiplied into beautiful things in heaven if submitted to God.

I look forward to seeing what even our weakest efforts and failures for nature can be transformed into in heaven if we submit them to God."

Sarah Chiles

Wildlife conservationist

