

## Project Update: April 2014

We have so far interviewed 210 people in the community. Respondents mentioned visiting bat caves for the following reasons; religious activities, recreation, hunting, and guano collection. Most people visited the caves for religious activities. Preliminary results indicate that the young (12 – 20 years) mostly visited the caves more often. Bats are generally hunted from the cave mostly by adults (>31 years). We did not find evidence that smaller bat species such as *Hipposideros jonesi* are hunted but larger species. This however pose a threat to all the bats using the caves. Many respondents (123 people) responded eating bat meat but this was predominantly males (70%).

We have also conducted our community education programme through Powerpoint presentation about the importance of the caves and the role bats play in the community. To protect the caves, the community selected four people as a watch dog committee to protect the caves. Findings from our questionnaires indicate children (between the ages 12 – 20 years) made frequent visit to the caves and our last community education is going to target these children who are mostly school children.



Left: Administering questionnaires. Right: Community education



What do we have on the menu?