

### Project Update: August 2013

We have successfully conducted three field surveys at the Forikrom bat caves. Prior to mist netting, the cave was visually surveyed for the presence of *Hipposideros jonesi* roosting in the daytime. Mist nets were later installed in front of the cave to capture bats at night. Nets were opened after flyout and bats were captured on return. We continuously monitored the nets till morning. Contrary to our expectation, we are yet to record *Hipposideros jonesi*. However, we found that this cave hosts other threatened species. We have repeatedly captured several individuals of *Hipposideros* aff. *ruber*, *Hipposideros abae*, *Nycteris* spp. and *Lissonycteris angolensis*. We also recorded one individual of *Rhinolophus landeri*. Although it is too early to conclude, we believe our target species in the Forikrom bat cave is probably rare, or perhaps the population here does not depend entirely on the cave like the other recorded bats. In view of this, the team is considering capturing bats on farmlands and various vegetation types around the cave in our next survey. Also, we will be administering questionnaires in September to help us design good conservation outreach program in the village.

