

## Project Update: December 2017

### **Project Update for Activity 1: Securing Existing Habitat (Oct. 2017 to December 201).**

By the end of this activity, we had achieved the target plan for the identification of key habitats and the requirements to maintain their conduciveness. Habitat management guidelines were developed and with the support of the Ekona Bat Conservation Club and a working group of ambassador famers, the community was educated on these guidelines.

### **Methodology**

5 key biodiversity areas comprising 100 hectares were secured by identifying, qualifying, prioritising and safeguarding them to ensure we have a dedicated place where conditions will be created to ensure longterm survival of bat species. A task force drawn from the Ekona Bat Conservation Club created during the first project supported in documenting potential sanctuary information and data around geographic coordinates, dimensions, physical features, existential threats, known bat species and physical boundaries to be implemented.



*Figure 1 Field worker demarcating one of five biodiversity areas.*

The information compiled at this stage was shared with the Regional Delegate for Forestry and Wildlife Protection and we are still waiting on the necessary authorities and approval for orders to be issued on the areas as protected. Working on getting the so that an official government order is passed to declare the identified areas as protected.



Left: One of five key biodiversity areas clearly marked. Right: Ekona Bat Conservation Club task force responsible for collating sanctuary information.