

## Project Update: June 2018

During the course of the project, we caught 1317 bats in Limpopo Province (Meletse near Gatkop cave) belonging to six families and 12 different species. We caught 27 bats in Gauteng Province (The Cradle of Humankind) belonging to two families and five different species. The bias in captures between these sites can probably be attributed to Gatkop cave being a maternity roost and strict access at The Cradle of Humankind limiting capture effort. Further analysis is being conducted to depict which monitoring methods are effective over a temporal period.

The complete bat monitoring station has been donated to AfricanBats NPC and with collaboration, it was deployed in The Cradle of Humankind. This will allow monitoring of bat populations within the region over extended periods of time.

The project was proposed and discussed at the Meletse Symposium during September 2017. We discussed the awareness of bat population monitoring and its feasibility.



Left: Monique Shanahan holding a *Scotophilus dinganii* that was caught in a mist net. ©M. Shanahan. Right: Mist nets being set up by Monique Shanahan and Tedson Nkoana before sunset. ©M. Shanahan.



Left: Tedson Nkoana looking at the wing epiphysis of a *Myotis tricolor* that was caught in a mist net. ©M. Shanahan. Right: The Cradle of Humankind bat detector set up with the new Anabat Swift. ©E. C. J. Seamark.