

Project Update: December 2022

The primary goal of this project is to contribute to the conservation of *Scotophilus nucella* at the national and global level. To achieve this, the project is attempting to understand the species foraging ecology by means of mist netting and acoustic monitoring, while gathering conservation support at Amantia community.

The project has fully completed its social survey to gather conservation evidence for the species. We wanted to know if conservation education at Amantia is beneficial for the conservation of *Scotophilus nucella*, and bats in Amantia community. A female university student was selected and assisted by the project to carry out this study. The project carried out conservation activities such as education at local information centres and with farmer groups. A total of 100 questionnaires were issued before and after conservation education. The social survey revealed very important findings. For example, nearly 40% of the community members interviewed at Amantia did not know there were different species of bats. Before conservation activities, up to 83% community members did not think bats have a positive impact in the ecosystem. After conservation activities, 72% of interviewed members were able to reveal the importance of bats, with 79% expressing keen interest in joining bat conservation programmes to protect them. The survey showed that conservation education is vital to the success of bat conservation of *Scotophilus nucella* at Amantia. This survey has produced an undergraduate thesis and results are being prepared for publication.

Final fieldwork for bat survey and acoustic monitoring is currently underway and details will be provided in the main field report.



Team leader issuing Rufford branded T-Shirt to participants during conservation education.



Female university student issuing questionnaires at Amantia.