

Project Update: July 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 mistnetting and acoustic monitoring while gathering conservation support from forest-fringe communities. The project has achieved considerable results since project inception. Contrary to project expectation on field surveys for *Scotophilus nucella*, we have recorded only six individuals of this rare species. The survey has however yielded 12 species with two new to the reserve. Acoustic monitoring has also been implemented which has generated acoustic data but are yet to be analysed.

One important activity the project has embarked on is the training of university students. We have so far trained 10 undergraduate students of whom four have begun their student projects and receiving support from the project. Our wet season sampling is over, and we hope to begin the dry season sampling in November 2022. The project is also gathering conservation evidence for bat conservation education. One hundred questionnaires have been issued in Amantia before conservation education was started. Currently, conservation education is still ongoing at Amantia community, and the next set of questionnaires will be issued after education has ended. The conservation evidence is being gathered by a female undergraduate student.



Scotophilus nucella caught at the forest.



Team leader installing Audiomoth bat detector in a nearby farms around the reserve.



Students learning how to use the EchoMeter Touch 2 Pro bat detector to record bat calls.



Trained students processing bats in the forest during field surveys.