

Project Update: August 2023

Aim and objectives.

Our work seeks to create awareness for the conservation of straw-coloured fruit bats in northern Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

- 1) To assess the population of the bats.
- 2) To assess their roost site characteristics.
- 3) To assess the local perception of the species.
- 4) To carry out conservation awareness campaigns in communities surrounding the identified roost sites.

We have now concluded the second phase of the project (social survey).

Methods used.

At the two study sites we conducted one on one interviews with people on the sites and in communities surrounding the sites. We used digital questionnaire forms to assess the knowledge, attitude and perception of people living and working around the roost sites towards bats.

Observation during field work

During the interview, we encountered people who hunt and sell bats to local restaurants for bushmeat. We did not make them feel guilty about what they were doing yet because we did not want to influence their answers to our questions.

Important next steps

According to our activity time scale, the next items to carry out are data analysis and conservation awareness/campaign in communities surrounding the identified roost sites. Results from the data analysis will inform us of the direction we will take in our education campaign. It will also make it easy for us to track the knowledge, attitude and perception of people towards bats, before and after our conservation education. Since we will also take a brief survey after the campaign as a step towards short term monitoring.

Table 1. Updated activity time scale

S/N	Event	Old Date	New Date	Status
1	Consulting with community leaders and relevant stakeholders to commence study	1 st week Nov 2022	2 nd Week Feb 2023	Done
2	<i>Eidolon helvum</i> population estimation	Nov to Jan 2022	Feb to Apr 2023	Done
3	Assessment of <i>E. helvum</i> roost site characteristics	Nov to Jan 2022	Feb to Apr 2023	Done
4	Assessment of local perception of bats through questionnaire surveys	Feb to Apr, 2023	May to Jul 2023	Done
5	Data analysis and Report writing	May to Jun 2023	Aug to Sept 2023	Ongoing
6	Preparation of outreach materials	Jun 2023	Sept 2023	

7	Conservation education	Jun to Jul 2023	Sept to Oct 2023	
8	Writing and sharing report with stakeholders	Aug to Sept 2023	Nov to Dec 2023	
9	Writing of manuscripts for journal publications	Oct 2023	Jan 2024	



Joshua, an intern at APLORI interviewing a student during a survey around the roost at Jos Museum



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