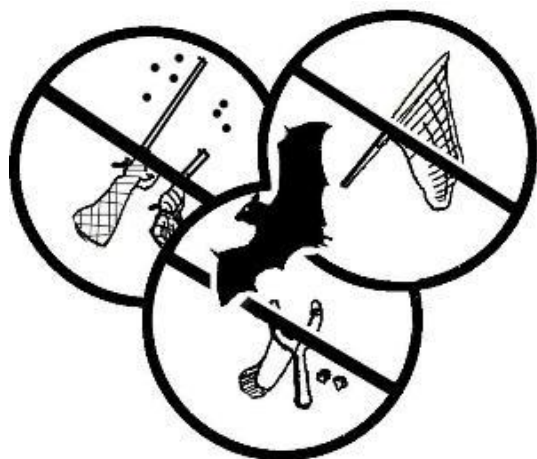


THREATS AND CONSERVATION

BATS AT RISK

HUMANS ARE THE BIGGEST THREAT TO BATS!

- Disturbing or killing of bats
- Targeted persecution for food and medicines
- Habitat loss from deforestation and mining
- Use of pesticides causing loss of insect prey



BATS NEED PROTECTION

Bat populations are declining. Help save bat homes and lives –

Ban hunting of bats for food or medicine

Protect caves, tunnels, old monuments and tree hollow roost sites from human disturbance and unchecked tourism

YOUR SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT!

GET RID OF MISCONCEPTIONS - Neither hunt bats for meat nor use traditional bat medicine. Do not disturb or kill the harmless bats occupying spaces near your house.

DO NOT HURT BATS! -Never catch bats out of curiosity. Bats are very delicate and improper handling may lead to their death. Never shine bright lights in caves with bats.

Discourage others involved in activities destructive to bats.

SPREAD THE GOOD WORD- Educate yourself and your friends, relatives and neighbours with scientific information on bats. Respect bats for their importance in our environment, don't hate them.

CONTACT for more information

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Illustrations by Sumit Sinha

Admiring bats

Our silent helpers



WHY UNDERSTAND BATS?

Bats are unique flying mammals that bear young ones and feed them milk. Bats fly with wings not made of feathers, but of modified skin membranes.

Bats help disperse and germinate seeds of fruit trees and protect our farms by eating insect pests. Yet, as bats are nocturnal, they are unfortunately neglected by us. Myths and lack of awareness put bats in serious danger especially in India.

There are about 1100 bat species in the world. India has about 120 species and the Western Ghats have about 50 species of bats!