

## **1. Project Details**

- Project Title: Prioritizing Underground Roosts for Bats of Kenya
- Grant Reference Number: 42704-1
- Grantee Name(s): Millicent Jepkorir Bungei
- Project Location(s): Rift Valley, Kenyan Coast
- Reporting Date: 22/03/2025

### **Purpose of the Project**

This project aims to prioritize underground roosts for bats of Kenya by identifying and protecting critical habitats essential for their survival. By conducting acoustic sampling and recording various parameters indicative of human disturbance, the project seeks to assess the current state of caves and the threats they face.

The primary objectives include:

- (i) Preparing a comprehensive checklist of bats known to roost underground in Kenya.
- (ii) Assessing differences in species richness and abundance across selected caves

Schedule: Minor adjustments made

Resources: On Track

Budget: on Track.,

Scope: on track

### Bat surveys:

Echolocation calls were recorded using two SM4 bat detectors (Wildlife Acoustics, Massachusetts, USA) to record for free flying bats near the caves and in the foraging sites



Fig.1 Setting SM4 Bat Detector to record bat echolocation calls







Documenting threats to caves and foraging areas.



Sacks of Guano harvested from Mdenyenye cave (Fig. 2).





Figure 3;plastic waste in the caves showing presence of human activities





Fig.4 Trapping bats to take photographs



Fig.5 Picture of the threatened *Taphozous hildergadae* tomb bat ,Mdenyenye cave





Fig.6, a photo of *Otomops harrisoni* , Guano cave ,Chyulu hills

**Outputs:**

**Species recorded**

***Triaenops afer***

***Macronycteris vittata***

***Macronycteris gigas***

***Taphozous hildergadae***

***Rhinolophus mauritanus***

***Coleura afra***

***Rhinolophus deckenii***



**Rhinolophus eloquens**

**Rhinolophus acrotis**

**Rhinolophus simulator**

**Rhinolophus webalai**

**Miniopterus spp**

**Miniopterus minor**

**Otomops harissoni**

## **Challenges**

### **1. Delays in Obtaining Permits**

One of the significant challenges faced during this reporting period was the delay in acquiring the necessary permits required to conduct fieldwork. This setback was caused by lengthy bureaucratic procedures and additional requirements from local authorities, which were not initially anticipated. The delays impacted the project timeline, particularly the commencement of key activities such as field surveys.

### **Adjustments to Field Activities**

The delays in permits also necessitated a rescheduling of planned field activities to ensure that project milestones could still be met. While this allowed the project to progress within the reporting period, it required flexibility from the team and increased logistical costs due to reorganization.

### **Lesson learnt**

Allocating more time in the project timeline for administrative procedures is crucial to avoid disruptions.

### **Planned accomplishments -**

Key project activities expected to be executed for the project phase include the following

Documenting the threats to bats and caves in the remaining caves

Caves will be mapped to show the distribution of caves across the study areas

Data analysis

Report writing

Publication