

## Project Update: January 2025

### Roost monitoring

We are currently monitoring 36 fruit bat roosts in the Mangochi District, comprising 32 trees and 4 buildings (Fig 1). This effort aims to better understand the distribution, habitat preferences, roost selection, and foraging ecology of fruit bats in the region. Additionally, we are documenting any new roosts discovered during the monitoring period and incorporating them into our database.

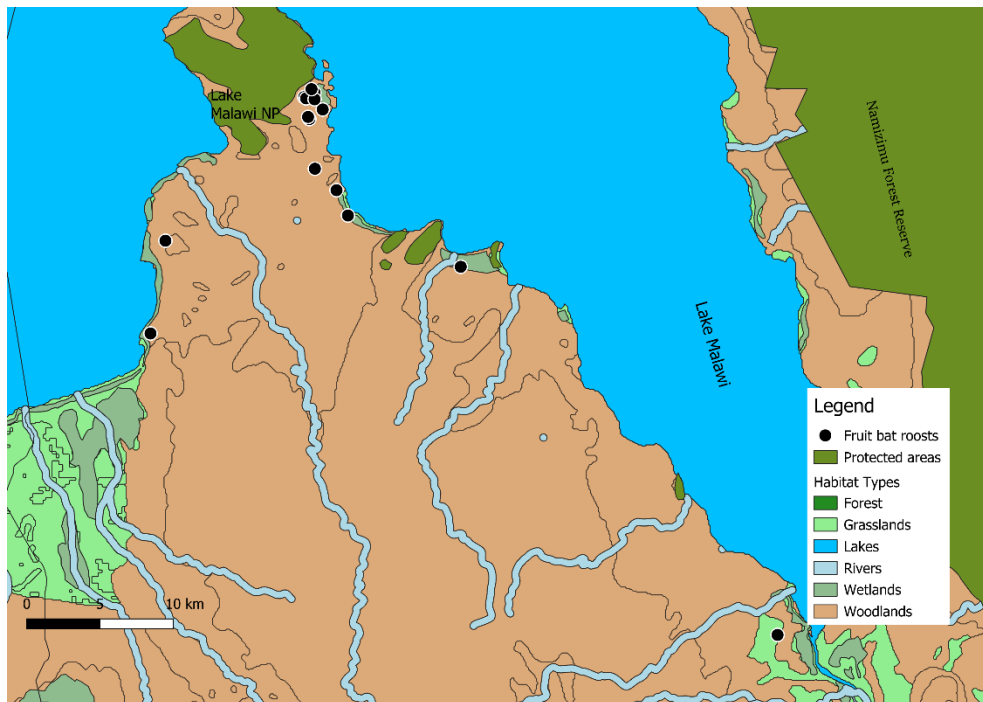


Figure 1: Map showing the location of roosts found

### Training & Engagement with Lake Malawi National Park

We have been collaborating with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), specifically Lake Malawi National Park, based in Mangochi. As part of this partnership, we conducted training sessions at two camps within the park (Fig 2). These sessions covered:

1. An introduction to bat ecology and conservation
2. The role DNPW can play in fruit bat conservation
3. Methods for conducting fruit bat surveys and monitoring

To reinforce the training, we carried out a practical survey demonstration at a roost (Fig 3). Building on this, we are now working alongside park staff to survey Lake Malawi National Park, aiming to assess fruit bat activity within the park boundaries.



*Figure 2: Training at Cape Maclear - Lake Malawi National Park*



*Figure 3: Monitoring roost together with LMNP – Monkey Bay camp*