

# BATS WITHOUT BORDERS



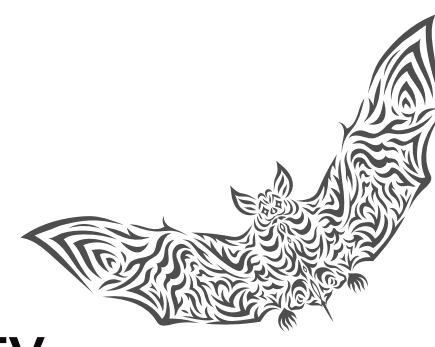
APPLIED RESEARCH | CAPACITY STRENGTHENING | ENGAGEMENT | CONSERVATION ACTION

Bats without Borders is a small NGO with a focus on southern Africa, although we support pan-African events and students where we can. We are largely a volunteer-run organisation, which allows our funding to go far. Thanks to our funders and supporters we have been able to support internships, student projects, early career workshops, conferences, lecturer and teacher training, ranger training, in-country partner support as well as community engagement and impactful livelihood projects.



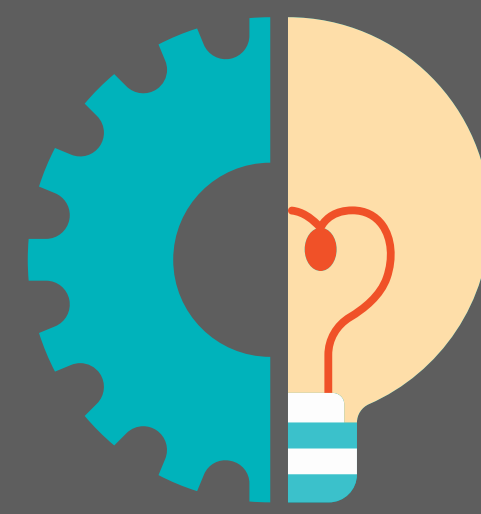
## OUR MISSION

Bats without Borders is dedicated to conserving bats, biodiversity and healthy ecosystems within southern Africa's changing landscape. We aim to achieve this by supporting and conducting applied research that informs targeted conservation action, strengthening local capacity and promoting a positive attitude towards bats through public engagement and conservation advocacy.



## OUR VISION

Bats and their habitats in southern African are valued, protected and conserved for the well-being of bats, biodiversity and people.



## IMPACT

- 11 FUNDED INTERNSHIPS**  
Support early career development through work placements and training opportunities with Bats without Borders and in-country partners.
- 9 STUDENT PROJECTS**  
Provide training, equipment and/or co-supervision for students carrying out bat projects.
- 8 WORKSHOPS**  
Organised five training workshops and supported an additional three workshops organised by other partners.
- 32 #WINGEDWEDNESDAY WEBINARS**  
Thanks to the international bat community, we've had 1,395 people join our online talks (even more people catch up on YouTube).
- 3 CONFERENCES ORGANISED**  
We organised the first southern African Bat Research Conference in partnership with SANBI and SABAA in Cape Town (funding students from five countries to attend), the Rufford Foundation Namibian Conservation Conference and the first AfriPopo student symposium. Collectively, these events engaged 105 participants from 21 countries!
- 18 SCHOOL VISITS**  
Engaging learners in activities to promote the importance of nature – of course we may focus on how awesome bats are and use our lovely PR bats to win over some hearts. This year we also launched eight online lessons for learners, parents or teachers to download.
- 20+ BAT WALKS, TALKS AND OTHER EVENTS**  
We have been involved in a range of engagement activities from wildlife group talks, environment day events, bat walks, student lectures, and stand up for science, and promoting girls and women in STEM.



Our work contributes towards the following Global Goals:



## CAPACITY

Some of our in-country capacity strengthening highlights:

Kasanka Trust Guides, Rangers and Education team and community members trained in bat ecology and conservation and how to lead a bat walk and carry out acoustic surveys.

First bat research students at Chancellor College (Malawi)!

GBIF bat data mobilisation project – two Zambian graduates trained in taxonomy, GIS, molecular and data mobilisation techniques in collaboration with Livingstone Museum and Copperbelt University (Zambia), University of Stirling and Harrison Institute (UK) and CIBIO-InBIO (Portugal).



Workshop for Malawian early career ecologists funded through Global Research Challenges Fund, in partnership with the University of Stirling and the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi.

GIS training for Copperbelt University lecturers in collaboration with Dr Hugo Rebelo, CIBIO-InBIO (Portugal).

Michiru Ranger trainer – an introduction to bird and bat ecology and conservation, in partnership with the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

African bats need more friends! Please follow us on social media or sign up to our newsletter (and our #WingedWednesday webinars).



## Acknowledgements

Our work would not be possible without the support of some of our partners and we would like to take the opportunity to thank them for their ongoing collaboration and support!



## RESEARCH

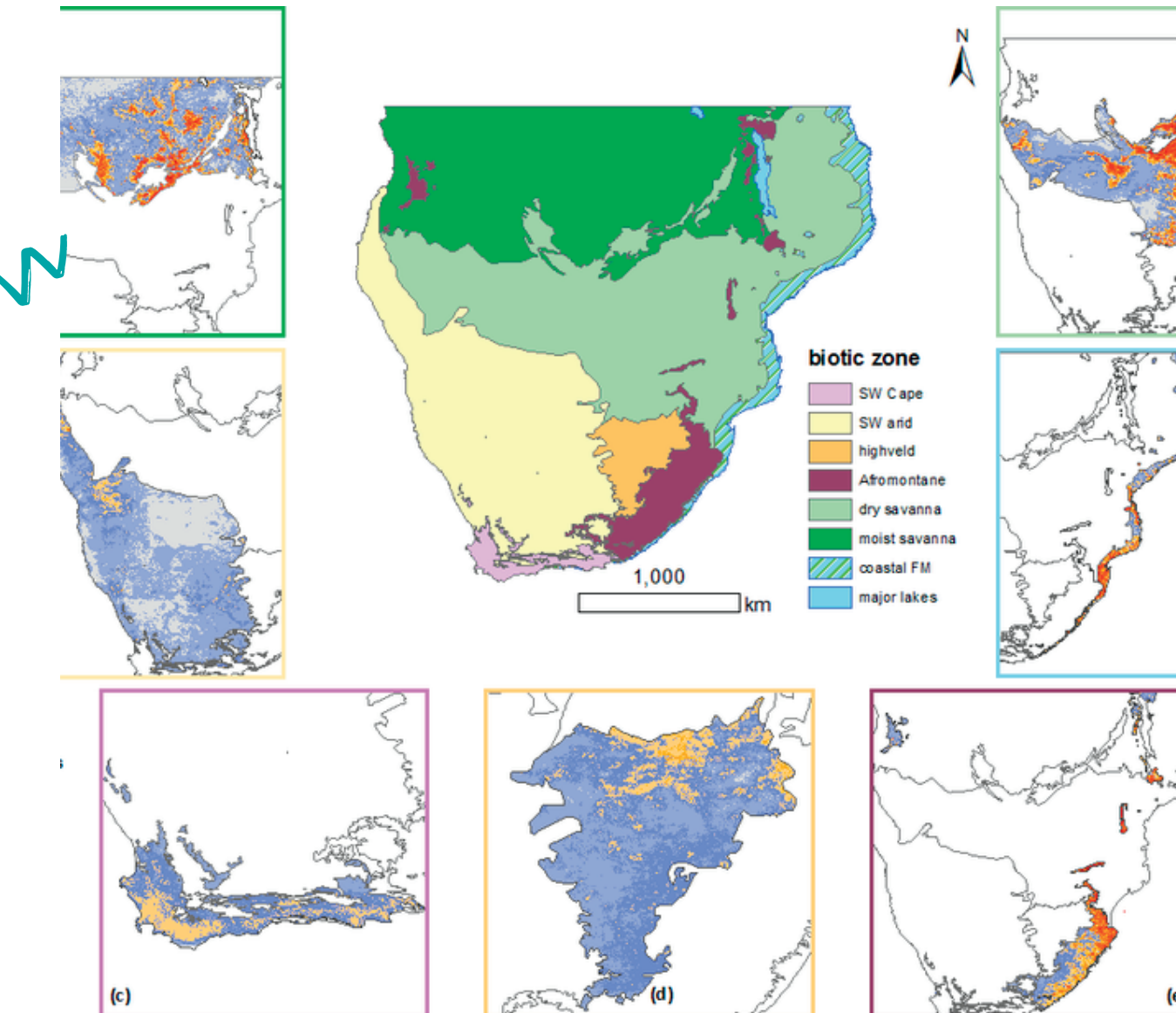
Projects, collaborations and dissemination:

### Southern African Bat Research Conference Cape Town (South Africa)

We welcomed 47 delegates, together representing 15 countries, to the first southern African bat research conference. Thanks to conference sponsors we were able to provide five funded places for students across Africa.

Two projects on human-bat interactions:

- Completed student project – understanding public attitudes to bats in Blantyre and Zomba (Malawi).
- Copperbelt bats – new public engagement project using focus groups and household surveys to inform mitigation measures to resolve human-bat conflict.



Species distribution models (SDMs) are widely used to predict potential bat distributions. In this study, we combined SDMs to better understand species richness patterns across different biotic regions in southern Africa. In addition to directing fieldwork priorities, models can be used for conservation planning (e.g. to set up a monitoring programme for long-term monitoring or to better understand the impact of climate change or agricultural expansion).

### The Rufford Foundation Namibian Conservation Conference Windhoek (Namibia)

We welcomed 19 delegates, together representing 6 countries, funded by the Rufford Foundation as a networking and research sharing conference for Rufford Foundation grantees.



Ongoing student projects:

- Helen Taylor-Boyd is doing her PhD project on bats in an agricultural landscape in Zambia through the University of Stirling.
- Alison Simpanzye (Conservation Intern) is working with the team at Kasanka National Park (Zambia) to set up a bat monitoring programme.
- Wangani Sibande (Conservation Intern) is carrying out a study on palm trees and their use by birds and bats across Monkey Bay (Malawi).
- Bernard Kangwa (Bats in Zambia Project and part-time Conservation Intern) is carrying out an acoustic survey at farms in Lusaka and carries out roost visits.

Cave-dwelling bat projects:

- Surveyed 14 caves, mines and sinkholes across four southern African countries.
- In partnership with Bat Conservation Africa and the University of Stirling, we have funded a desk-based research project and to-date the project has mapped out over 326 cave, mines or sinkholes across Africa. Funded by the Rufford Foundation and Santander Universities.



Pan-African student-led symposium to provide a supportive and inclusive environment to share research presentations, attend workshops and network.

14 student presenters | 4 workshops | 6 student leaders | 39 participants

## IMPORTANT!

Our work is only possible thanks to the generous time of our operational volunteers, Ambassadors, Board and Advisors!

## OUR #CHANGEMAKERS

Our funded interns and volunteers together represent 18 countries!



Thank you!!