

If it is believed that a protected, endangered or listed species is about to cause damage to land crops, domestic animals, buildings, equipment or other material property, the facts should be reported to a police officer.

A police officer receiving a report should assess the threat posed by the reported animal and may undertake any necessary action he considers fit in the circumstances. While attempting to minimise property damage caused by the animal, the status of the species should be carefully considered before attempting to kill it, which should only be undertaken as a last resort.



If any animal is perceived to be threatening or about to threaten human life or property, any person may request assistance from a police officer to reduce or prevent the threat, who should act as soon as is practicable.

Do you need advice or assistance with bats at your property?
Call our experts to get advice or arrange a home visit.

Call us on: +265 99 025 1320
Flash call & we'll call you back!

For more information about bats and ABC visit
www.africanbatconservation.org



Bats and the Law: What you need to know

Since 2017 **The National Parks and Wildlife Act (NPWA)** has been in effect, which increased the protection offered to wildlife and increased the maximum penalty for wildlife crime to up to 30 years in prison. The Act lists species in three categories: Protected Species; Endangered Species and NPWA Listed Species.

Anyone who is not licensed under the NPWA commits an offence by:

Making, using, preparing, buying, selling or possessing any item used for the purpose of hunting or taking protected, endangered or listed species, including traps, snares, nets, poison, birdlime and any other substance or device capable of killing or wounding.

Making or preparing for use any enclosure, excavating tools or device affixed to plants or the ground which is intended for or capable of killing, wounding or capturing any protected, endangered or listed species.

If accused of having undertaken any of these actions, it is the accused person who must prove that the actions are licensed under the NPWA and therefore lawful.

This means that blocking or fumigating a bat roost, even in a residential property, is a criminal offence.



Protected Species

This includes **any** species (mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, invertebrate, fish, fungi or plant) – in a protected area (a national park, wildlife reserve or forest reserve). This means that in protected areas, all bat species are protected by law. Killing, injuring, possession or dealing of a protected species holds a penalty of a fine of up to K5,000,000 and/or up to ten years in prison

Why are bats protected?

Due to declines in bat populations over the last century and their importance to our ecosystems. Did you know bats pollinate over 300 different foods?



Endangered Species

Endangered species are protected anywhere in Malawi, this means outside protected areas as well as inside them. Under the NPWA many species are recorded as endangered including:

- (1) Any mammal species categorized as endangered in the IUCN Red list of Threatened Species.
- (2) Any mammal species listed in Appendix II of the CITES.
- (3) Any of the mammal species listed in the NPWA



NPWA Listed Species

Under the NPWA many species are Listed including:

- (1) Any mammal species categorized as critically endangered in the IUCN Red list of Threatened Species.
 - (2) Any mammal species listed in Appendix I of the CITES.
 - (3) Any of the mammal species listed in the NPWA under Section III
- The penalty for killing, injuring, possession or dealing of an endangered species is up to 30 years in jail, with the option of a fine of up to K15,000,000, but no option of a fine if it is listed.

Anyone who performs the following wilfully and without just cause commits an offence:

> Provokes or disturbs any wild animal to a point that would likely lead to its destruction

> Causes unnecessary or undue suffering to any wild animal regardless of whether the animal lives in the wild or in captivity.

> Anyone who kills a protected, endangered or listed species by accident must report the facts to an officer and surrender the carcass or remains if asked.

Failure to report a forementioned accident is an offence, unless the accident happens under an NPWA licence.

In addition to pollination, bats aid pest control and help with forest regeneration through seed dispersal!