



AFRICAN BAT CONSERVATION

Research Assistant

Recruitment Pack

Registered Charity Number: 1170640

About Us



African Bat Conservation (ABC) is a non-profit conservation research project based in Malawi, operating under UK Charity Conservation Research Africa (CRA) and in partnership with Bath University. ABC works in collaboration with and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Malawi (DNPW) to conduct three core activities:

1. Applied research for wildlife conservation management to determine and monitor bat population trends, assess species threats and provide conservation recommendations; as well as a number of smaller student projects to facilitate and inform long-term conservation management of bat populations and their habitats. Project results are used to update IUCN species status reports and assist Government in long-term population monitoring and management.

2. Education and awareness of bats and biodiversity and related issues through comprehensive community based education programmes and human-wildlife conflict outreach.

3. Capacity building to increase project effectiveness and long-term success by building capacity in ecological research, biodiversity monitoring and management for DNPW through training courses, attachment programmes and postgraduate research projects at MSc and PhD level.

Summary:

African Bat Conservation conducts research on bats across Malawi both at field sites and in urban areas of Lilongwe as part of our long term applied conservation research project. We conduct bat monitoring and research (mist netting, roost surveys and bat box programmes, and at certain times of year radio tracking bats in the urban environment) in Lilongwe and community outreach visits to respond to calls for assistance with human-bat conflict, providing advice and practical human-bat conflict mitigation. We are currently recruiting for a research assistant to assist our programme across sites in Malawi.

About You

We are looking for someone with:

- **Inspirational Leadership skills:**

You will need to be a great leader, able to inspire and motivate others.

- **Organisational skills:**

We are looking for someone who is highly organised and practical, with an eye for detail.

- **Management skills:**

You must have excellent interpersonal and management skills and experience of dealing with students and volunteers in a professional manner.

- **Maturity and Professionalism** is a must, as well as the ability to work maintain the motivation and research output despite the many daily challenges of working in Malawi.



The position requires that you work at any of our sites as per project needs. This includes in Lilongwe and Kuti Wildlife Reserve.

Work is on demand, with long hours, working a 6 day week. Being a conservation organisation we do not have regular office hours, so you will be required to conduct work as required by the project demand, including night work.

Therefore you will need to be willing to work in the field at night, out of hours according to the programme need and have a positive can do attitude.

This post offers an excellent opportunity for career development for a researcher who is interested in applied conservation biology, bats and human-wildlife conflict.



Person Specification & Contract Conditions

● The post-holder will:

Work under the supervision of our Research Manager and alongside our ABC Community Outreach team

Conduct field work at night and in the day including:

I. bat harp trapping and mist netting

II. bat acoustic surveys (SM3/4 detectors)

III. roost surveys (internal, external and emergence counts)

IV. community site visits and outreach, to educate communities regarding bat conservation and management and install/advise regarding conflict mitigation

V. tagging and radio tracking bats (at certain times of year)

VI. bat box surveys

VII. vegetation surveys

VIII. and any other field work as required

IX. Conduct some acoustic analysis of bat calls

X. Maintain, summarise and store data in a specifically designed Microsoft Access database

XI. Create and edit habitat and roost maps in ArcGIS

XII. Manage volunteers and volunteer schedules

XIII. Attend and contribute to project meetings every week

XIV. Be flexible in the hours worked to fluctuating demand

XV. Work closely and co-operatively with other team members and partner organisations

XVI. Fulfil all administrative and budget requirements on time and accurately

XVII. Maintain accurate records of work activities and data entry

XVIII. Contribute to project reports, newsletters, bulletins etc as required



Requirements

● Essential

Positive can do attitude with mature approach

BSc in conservation biology, zoology, biology or related field

Experience of working and living in field based environments, preferably in Africa

Experience of field research, particularly with bats

Driving licence

A confident communicator who is able to relate well to people from diverse backgrounds and cultures

Experience of working with volunteers from diverse backgrounds

Proven experience of working co-operatively as part of a team

Maturity, and a positive mental attitude, resilient, ability to muck in and get on with it

Ability to work independently under minimal supervision

Experience of data collection under minimal supervision

Hard work ethic, flexible and conscientious approach

Enthusiasm and self motivation for working on applied conservation research

● Desirable

MSc or PhD in ecology, zoology, biology

Experienced in radio tracking, tagging, harp trapping and mist netting bats

Experience in dealing with human wildlife conflict

Experience of off road driving with 4x4

Experience of managing own workload and taking responsibility for projects

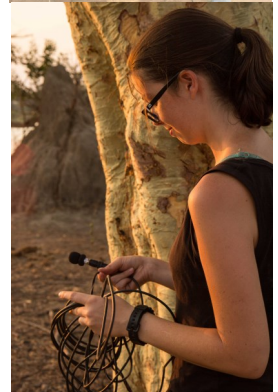
Experience of ArcGIS mapping, digitising and home range analysis

Contract Conditions

● Timing - This is an 8 month position commencing March / April 2024

● Hours - Full time flexible working hours, 6 days per week, with night work.

● Location - The location is flexible according to our project needs so you will be based at either our research camp in Lilongwe, Kuti Wildlife Reserve or any other site as required.

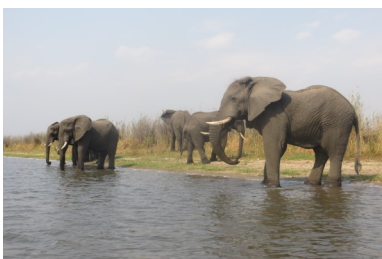


- **Accommodation** - In Lilongwe the post holder will be based at the ABC research offices and staff house in a shared room. There is a living area, kitchen, showers toilets. In the field you will be sharing a walk in safari tent with beds with another staff member.



- **Conditions** - ABC will provide 3 basic meals a day, accommodation and bills, work related travel, airport transfers and limited personal use of a project vehicle. You will be required to cover your own flights, food, visas, insurance and vaccinations.

Explore Malawi



While you are with ABC you will have time off to venture further afield to explore Malawi. Malawi is an amazing country; known as the "Warm heart of Africa" it is culturally and ecologically diverse with plenty to see from mountain rainforests to the lake of stars, you won't be disappointed.



A trip to Malawi would not be complete without snorkelling in the crystal clear waters of Lake Malawi, infamous for hundreds of endemic cichlid species. Relax on the beach or kayak out for a stay on one of the remote islands in Lake Malawi National Park. A visit to Nyika plateau when the orchids are in bloom or down to Mount Mulanje at 3000m high with its endemic upland rainforests are also a must.

How to Apply

Application process

To apply please send a completed Research Assistant Application Form and Covering Letter (outlining why you think you would be suitable for the post) and a CV if you wish to Angelena at

angelena@africanbatconservation.org

Further project information: www.africanbatconservation.org

