

# 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.

### 10 WORKSHOPS

Organised five training workshops and supported an additional three workshops organised by other partners.

### 46 #WINGEDWEDNESDAY WEBINARS

Thanks to the international bat community, as of April 2024 we have hosted 46 webinars since they started in May 2023.

### 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 AfriPolo student symposium. Collectively, these events engaged 105 participants from 21 countries!

### 25 BAT GROUP TRAINEES

Thanks to funding from Bat Conservation International we ran our first 'How to start a bat group' training in April 2023. The four month course was completed by 25 bat group trainees from 11 southern African countries. We continue to support quarterly training, networking and support to our trainees and are delighted to announce we have 2 new bat groups recently set up, more to follow.

### 40+ BAT WALKS, TALKS AND OTHER EVENTS

We have been involved in a range of engagement activities from school talks, wildlife group talks, environment day events, bat walks, student lectures, and stand up for science, and promoting girls and women in STEM.



## 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).

In 2022 we launched a one year funded Conservation Internship programme with in-country partners and were delighted to welcome Wongani Silonde (Malawi - left) and Alison Simpazye (Zambia - right) to our colony.

Thanks to Kasanka Trust and Merlin Tuttle's Bat Conservation Wongani and Alison got to join in some exciting fieldwork!



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 training - 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!



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Events, training, collaborations, engagement and conservation:

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

2022 Pan-African student-led symposium to provide a supportive and inclusive environment to share research presentations, attend workshops and network.



2024 We are delighted to announce the 2nd AfriPolo Student Symposium will be held this October.

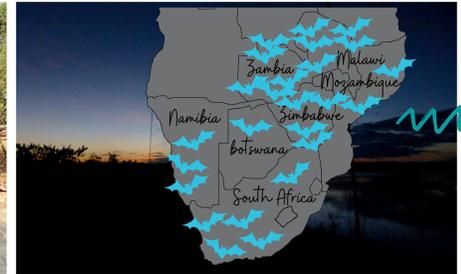
### The Rufford Foundation Namibian Learning Event Otjiwarongo (Namibia)

In September 2023, The Rufford Foundation funded this event bringing together Rufford grantees from 7 southern African countries. The grantees came together to network and take part in four workshops over four days.



### 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.



### Bat group training

In 2023, thanks to funding from BCI we organised a four month online training course on 'How to set up a bat group'.

25 trainees from 7 southern African countries completed the course. All graduates are carrying out public engagement activities and two new bat groups have started, with more to come...



### Classrooms without Walls

Our Education team developed 8 engaging bat lessons to engage young people in a fun and participatory way. These resources are now available in English and six other languages.



### IMPORTANT!

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

## OUR #CHANGEMAKERS

Our funded interns and volunteers together represent 18 countries!



Thank you!!

Our work contributes towards the following Global Goals:

