



AFRICAN BAT CONSERVATION

Urban Bat Research & Conservation Assistant – Malawi

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 the University of Bristol, UK. ABC works in collaboration with Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT) 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, human-wildlife conflict outreach in collaboration with LWT and their Eco-schools programme.
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 in the urban environment of Lilongwe as part of our Urban Wildlife Project. We conduct bat monitoring and research (mist netting, roost surveys and bat box programmes) 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 and conservation assistant based at our research office in Lilongwe, to conduct the field research and outreach in partnership with our community outreach workers under the supervision of Dr Emma Stone.



Person Specification Summary:

We are looking for someone with:

Inspirational Leadership skills: You will need to be a great leader, able to inspire and motivate the team.

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.

Maturity 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 is based in Lilongwe, and requires field work at night and in the day. Therefore you will need to be willing to work in the field at night, out of hours. This post offers an excellent opportunity for career development for a researcher who is interested in applied conservation biology, bats and human-wildlife conflict.

The post-holder will:

- Work under the supervision of Dr Emma Stone 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 (AnaBat and SM2 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
 - VI. vegetation surveys
 - VII. and any other field work as required
- Conduct acoustic analysis of bat calls using AnalookW and song scope
- Maintain, summarise and store data in a specifically designed Microsoft Access database
- Create and edit habitat and roost maps in ArcGIS
- Manage volunteers and volunteer schedules
- Attend and contribute to project meetings when required



- Be flexible in the hours worked to fluctuating demand
- Work closely and co-operatively with other team members and partner organisations
- Fulfil all administrative requirements on time and accurately
- Maintain accurate records of work activities and data entry
- Contribute to project reports, newsletters, bulletins etc as required

Requirements:

Essential

- 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
- A confident communicator who is able to relate well to people from diverse backgrounds and cultures
- Experience of working with volunteers from diverse backgrounds and ages
- Proven experience of working co-operatively as part of a team
- Enthusiasm and self motivation for working on applied conservation research
- 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
- Driving licence

Desirable

- MSc or PhD in ecology, zoology, biology
- Experienced in 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 in August 2016 extendable to 1 year.

Hours: Full time flexible working hours, on average 6 days per week, with night work.

Location: The position is located in Lilongwe city, based at our urban research office. The post holder will get the opportunity to train and work with our field teams in our field sites in our field research camps in Liwonde, Kasungu, and Nyika National Parks.

Accommodation: The post holder will be based at the ABC research offices and staff house in Lilongwe. The staff house is a shared 3 bedroom house with living area, kitchen, hot showers and flushing toilets. Accommodation may be shared with other staff and volunteers at certain times of year.

Costs and contract conditions: ABC will cover all work related accommodation and travel costs including airport transfers. The post-holder will be required to cover flights, food, visas, insurance and vaccinations.

Application process

To apply please send a completed application form and covering letter (outlining why you think you would be suitable for the post) and a CV if you wish to Dr Emma Stone on emma@conservationresearchafrica.org

Further project information: www.africanbatconservation.org/vacancies.html